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THE CHARLOTTE POST

"The Voice Of The Black Community"

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Charlotte's Black Community Unites

By Jalyne Strong
Post Managing Editor

It's a simple concept. It's a wonder it wasn't thought of before. And it's easy. It puts a strain on no one.

But from such an uncomplicated beginning the results can be staggering, a myriad of benefits unfolding.

"Show Our Strength In Dollars" (S.O.S.I.D.) is a Charlotte community program that is asking each and every black resident of the city to give one dollar to a massive fund raiser. With an estimated 100,000 black citizens in Charlotte, the goal is to raise \$80,000 or more.



Laura McClettie (center), coordinator of S.O.S.I.D., collects dollars from two Charlotte Post reporters, LaShun Lawson (right) and Russell Clark (left). S.O.S.I.D., a community-

wide fund raising campaign that will reveal the solidarity and economic strength of Charlotte's black community, is gaining momentum.

The total amount raised will be divided among four to five black community service organizations, such as: the Urban League, the Afro-American Cultural Center, Sickle Cell Anemia, the McCrorey Branch YMCA, and Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School.

However, while the monetary end results are commendable and needed, there remains a more meaningful and farther-reaching outcome of S.O.S.I.D.. At one time, the program shows the solidarity inherent in, and the economic capabilities of one city's black community.

"S.O.S.I.D. is the beginning of a never ending mission for the betterment of blacks as a people," affirms Laura McClettie, founder and one of the coordinators of the program. "We must support our own to gain financial independence and stability."

The logistics of the campaign are still forming under McClettie and the program's two other coordinators, Sharon Waters and Jalyne Strong, but the S.O.S.I.D. concept has already caught the interest, and sparked the imagination of Charlotte's black citizens.

In one week, 77 black citizens have responded, without question, to the request, "Give a dollar to S.O.S.I.D."

And as a part of the campaign these 77 individuals will have their names listed in the Charlotte Post, as will every black person who gives a dollar to the program.

The list of names that appears in the Post will include every individual of every household, including children, who gives one dollar to S.O.S.I.D.

McClettie relates, "The purpose of the program is to introduce a fund raising concept targeted at the black population of Charlotte to show the economic strength that we have amongst ourselves;

and how we, the blacks of Charlotte, can pool our dollar resources and allocate those funds to five major black non-profit organizations.

"It hurts no one to give one dollar to a cause," maintains McClettie. "But when all these dollars are added together we have the means to help many."

All funds raised for S.O.S.I.D. will be deposited in Mechanics and Farmers Bank, a location that is also availing itself as a station for donors to give their dollars and add their names to the list.

Every week, along with the list of individuals who've given to the campaign, the total amount of money raised will appear in the Post.

The duration of the S.O.S.I.D. program is three months, ending August 30. As the program grows, the assistance of Charlotte's black churches, groups and organizations will be enlisted.

For more information on how you can get involved in S.O.S.I.D., call McClettie at the Afro-American Cultural Center, telephone 374-1555.

It's as simple as giving one dollar and as great as revealing for once the unity of Charlotte's black citizens.

Following is the list of the first contributors to "Show Our

Strength In Dollars:

- LINDA CANNON
- LEON HADLEY
- JOHN BROWN
- LARRY RANDOLPH
- BRIDGETTE CANNON
- CHARLES PARKER
- TYRONE CANNON
- REGGIE PARLER
- ELLA HORTON
- EVERLYN BYRD
- JANICE MCLILLY
- JAMES BYRD
- KIMIKO MCLILLY
- FRAN FARRER-BRADLEY
- BOB JOHNSON
- JAMES YARBOR
- MARY TAYLOR
- PAULINE TILLERY
- JUDY DIAMOND
- JOHN RICHARDSON
- CHAD DIAMOND
- WESLEY JAMES
- PATRICK DIAMOND
- JAMES E. TILLERY
- CATHLEEN JOHNSON
- MALIA PERRY
- JACOD UNDERWOOD
- T. MICHAEL TODD
- LAURA MCCLETTIE
- GARY ALEXANDER
- DAKS MCCLETTIE

- JALYNE STRONG
- MAURICE McCLETTIE
- RUSSELL CLARK
- RAYMOND HOOK
- LASHUN LAWSON
- ALMA HOOK
- GERALD JOHNSON
- ROSIA BLUE
- LORETTA RICHARDSON
- DUANE BLUE
- BERNARD GALLOWAY
- MADINE HESTER FAILS
- JOHNNY WALLACE
- TINA WALLACE
- JOHNNY WALLACE III
- KIMBERLY WALLACE
- OTIS ROBERSON
- KENNETH ROBERSON
- DOROTHY ROBERSON
- JAMES McPHAUL JR.
- JAMES McPHAUL SR.
- BRENDA McPHAUL
- FELICIA CROWDER
- KATHELEEN WINGATE
- JANET HUNTLEY
- JANILLE PARKS
- DOMINIQUE HUNTLEY
- VARITA KING
- MAMIE BARNES
- RICHARD LEE BARNES SR.
- RICHARD LEE BARNES JR.

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We Think As A Person, Not As A People

At one time in history, we were told as a people, "You need to learn to read." ... and you could then get ahead.

WE LEARNED TO READ

We were then told that as a people, in addition to reading, "You need an education." ... and you can get ahead.

WE GOT THE EDUCATION

We were then told that as a people, in addition to an education, "You need a degree." ... and you could then get ahead.

WE GOT DEGREES

We are now being told that as a people, "You need technical, analytical and verbal skills." ... and you can then get ahead.

WE ARE GETTING THOSE SKILLS

But the point is ... does the dictation ever stop?

You can get ahead only when you decide that you want to get ahead, and you won't need anybody else telling you what is needed.... because when you decide that you are going to do something, you make the rules as to how you are going to be successful....

YOU MUST BE YOUR OWN LEADER

The problem today is that we as a people are so confused, we are constantly trying to conform to someone else's requirements, to someone else's opinion of who we are.

Well, you must stop! Turn inward, and decide individually what you individually want out of this life and how you are going to go about achieving it.

These decisions are usually based on what you are good at, and what you enjoy doing.

Face it, you live in an economic society -- be it by choice or not, and it is not up to society to decide how you are going to fit in the economy. But it is up to you to decide how!

And when we individually get ourselves together, we will collectively be all right!

By Janis Strickland

Polk Appointed

RALEIGH--Governor Jim Martin announced the appointment of James K. Polk Sr. of Charlotte to the North Carolina Savings and Loan Commission. Polk replaces Bill Mullinix. He will serve until July 15, 1991.

Polk, 60, attended Johnson C. Smith University. He is the president of Management Manpower Associates Inc. He is a member of the board of directors for the Charlotte Uptown Development Corp., the Foundation of the Carolinas, Grier Heights Development Corp. and treasurer for the North Carolina Minority Business Association.

The 7-member board reviews,



James K. Polk

approves and modifies any action taken by the Administration of the Savings and Loan Division, if the action is appealed by any savings and loan association.

Public Meeting Planned For Greenville Area

A public meeting has been scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 15, at the Greenville Neighborhood-Center, 1330 Spring Street, to present a site development plan for a potential new City facility on Spratt Street and a draft redevelopment plan for the Greenville area.

The purpose of the meeting is to present the results of two studies performed by City staff.

The Engineering Department

will present a site development plan for undeveloped property on Spratt Street. Issues identified during a May 19 public meeting will be addressed and further public input and comments will be solicited.

The Planning Commission will present a draft redevelopment plan of the Greenville area and solicit public input. Other City staff will be present to address issues identified in previous public meetings. Copies of the draft redevelopment plan may be obtained at the Greenville Neighborhood Center June 8-12 or at the June 15 meeting.

For more information about the site development plan for a new City facility, contact Dick Williams, City Engineering Department, 301 S. McDowell Street, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28204. The phone number is 336-2291.

For more information about the draft development plan of the Greenville area, contact Tom Drake, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, 301 S. McDowell Street, Charlotte, NC 28204. The phone number is 336-2205.

Training Blacks For Political Leadership

Young People Recruited For Future Leadership Roles

Washington, DC - Funds from a highly successful second annual Bethune-DuBois Fund Dinner will be used to recruit and train young black professionals for future involvement and leadership in the American political process, according to C. Delores Tucker, president and founder of the Bethune-DuBois Fund, Inc.

A capacity crowd contributed more than \$100,000 at what some dinner guests described as a "very impressive...inspiring...exciting...very substantive and significant event."

The highlight of the evening and dinner was the honoring of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center For Nonviolent Social Change; Mrs. Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association; R. E. "Ted" Turner, owner of the Atlanta Braves and Hawks and president of Turner Communication Enterprises; and Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling of the Bahamas. A special Chairman's Award was presented posthumously to Bill Lucas, who was the first black named general manager of a professional baseball team, the Atlanta Braves, by owner Ted Turner.

Another special honoree was Ma. Ona Alston, president of the



SENATOR TERRY SANFORD, of North Carolina was one of the special guest and supporters attending the Second Annual Bethune-DuBois Fund Dinner held in Washington, DC, recently. Flanking Senator Sanford (center) are (from left) Lucille Rose, a member of the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus; Rev. Jesse Jackson, President, National Rainbow Coalition; and C. Delores Tucker, President, Bethune-DuBois Fund.

Howard University Student Association, who was named the recipient of the first annual Representative Augustus F. Hawkins Internship Award. A graduating senior, Ms. Alston, under the Hawkins internship, will work on Capitol Hill this summer.

Stated Bethune-DuBois President C. Delores Tucker, "As part of

an overall plan to facilitate black political empowerment, we have established an associate membership category for the involvement of thousands of young black professionals. Through a series of workshops and seminars involving members of the U. S. Congress, and elected officials, we plan to expose these young blacks to the virtues and values of poli-

tics, the benefits of political access and teach them how to acquire and use effectively political power to the good and benefit of our race."

Ms. Tucker added, "As we approach the critically important 1988 elections, we need to be prepared to have blacks involved in every level of the presidential campaign and we need to be prepared to increase our financial participation in electoral politics. Most important is the training of our young people for future leadership in party politics."

Special guests included: Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of the Rainbow Coalition; Rep. Mervyn M. Dymally, chairman, Congressional Black Caucus; Paul G. Kirk Jr., chairman, Democratic National Committee; Senator Terry Sanford (D-NC); Rep. Beryl Anthony (D-AK), chairman, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; Jesse Hill, president, Atlanta Life Insurance Company and chairman, Bethune-DuBois Fund; Rep. Mike Espy (D-Miss.); Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D-DC); Mayor Marion Barry, Jr.; Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD), among others.

At the first Bethune-DuBois Dinner, the seven black members of the U.S. Congress were honored for chairing full and select committees.

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