



Fay Skidmore (center left), past president of a YWCA board of directors, presents Matilda Samuda, (center right), a brick from the old

Trade Street Y. Samuda represents the numerous women who were active at the Trade Street Y.

## YWCA Plans Child Development Center

A ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, February 22 signaled the start of construction for a new uptown Charlotte day care center. The Charlotte YWCA and Child Care Resources, Inc. hosted the noon event at the site of the former YWCA, 418 East Trade Street.

A "model" child development center for 148 children is planned. An Operations Committee, composed of representatives of the boards of the YWCA and CCRI, will oversee the development and construction of the new center. The facility is expected to open in early 1990.

Quality child care in uptown Charlotte is critically short, and

a study last year revealed that the new YWCA Uptown Child Development Center will increase child care by 70 percent. (The study also indicated that 80 percent of uptown Charlotte's workers are under 44 and more than half are female.)

Located four blocks from the Square, the new facility will occupy 14,705 square feet between Trade Street and East 4th Street. The YWCA located on the site was built in 1970. It has been demolished to make room for the new facility.

Funds for construction of the new day care center were derived from an anonymous \$1 million gift.

The quality child care program for infants to four-year olds is being designed to meet the high standards of the National Association For The Education of Young Children. The program will have low child/staff ratios, small group sizes, and teachers who have been trained in early childhood development. The curriculum model will focus on positive intellectual and social outcomes for the children, parent involvement, and sensitivity to the children's health and nutrition needs. The ratio will be one staff person for every four infants, increasing to one staff person for every nine children at the age four level.

Architect for the two-story facility is The FWA Group, and David M. Sidbury Inc. is the contractor.

City and County elected officials are expected to attend the ground breaking ceremony. They will join representatives of the Charlotte YWCA and Child Care Resources, Inc., along with two children representing the youth of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, in "turning the soil" marking the beginning of construction.

The YWCA Uptown Child Development Center will begin taking applications for enrollment in early fall, 1989.

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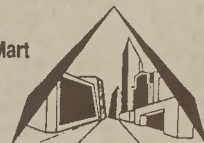
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Anthony Browder

## Community Bulletin Board

•The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League's Word Processing Training Center is accepting applications for their next class which begins April 3. For more information call 376-9834.

•The next session of PROJECT LEAD, which is sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of Links, Inc., is scheduled for Saturday, March 11 at Friendship Baptist Church Fellowship Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Health professionals will provide information and guidance on human sexuality with emphasis on the social and economic consequences of early parenthood and sexually transmitted diseases. For more information call 598-7060.

•The retail merchandising students of King's College will present their annual fashion show on March 2 at 12:45 and 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Presbyterian Hospital. Tickets are \$1.

•The Siddha Yoga Meditation Center will present an introductory program on Wednesday, March 8, 7:30-9 p.m. at the YWCA, 3420 Park Road. For additional information call 827-0853.

•The Charlotte Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. Call 336-0332 for more information.

•The Charlotte Women's Aglow Fellowship will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14 at the Idlewild Country Club.

•The Charlotte Association of Insurance Women will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Women's Club, 1001 East Morehead Street.

## Hornet Wives Meet Women's Caucus

What's it like to be the wife of a Charlotte Hornet? Find out Saturday at the Greenville Center at 1330 Spring St. when the wives of Hornets players and assistant coach Gene Littles address the Black Women's Caucus during the organization's meeting.

Scheduled to appear are players wives Diana Cureton, Keami Lewis, Sonya Curry and LaShell Holton, as well as Rita Littles, wife of Director of Player Personnel and assistant coach Gene Littles.

The public is invited to attend.



Spectacular plants at special low prices make Southern Spring Show visitors smile. This year's show, February 25-March 5 at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart, will have a large gardener's marketplace and at least 16 gardens bursting with spring flowers.

## Southern Spring Show In Town

CHARLOTTE - You're deep in the heart of the African rain forest, surrounded by exotic plants and colorful flowers. You can hear the sounds of wild animals off in the distance as you rest by a cascading waterfall. But here in the jungle, you can never really relax, as you never know what awaits you!

But this time, it's easy to get back to civilization. For you're visiting the African jungle exhibit at the 1989 SOUTHERN SPRING SHOW being held at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart through March 5.

The exhibit is the creation of the North Carolina Zoological Park in Asheboro, and at about 6,000 square feet, it is the largest such exhibit the zoo has ever created.

It took about 15 people a week to put the exhibit together. Three or four truckloads of tropical and blooming plants, about 2,500 altogether, will come into the Merchandise Mart to be carefully placed amid the exhibit's rolling topography to create a realistic and beautiful environment.

Building the 12-foot waterfall, stream and pool required a forklift to bring in concrete rocks. A circulating water system must also be assembled.

And all this is just the tip of the iceberg, as it took designers weeks and weeks to plan, coordinate and design this miniature piece of Africa brought to life in Charlotte.

"Actually, the hardest part is making African plants bloom in the middle of winter in Charlotte," comments Dwight Holland, curator of design at the zoo. "We want this to be visually dramatic, but we want it to be as authentic as possible. We also

want to show visitors that the world is about plants as well as animals--something we feel very strongly at the zoo."

Among the blooming plants in the exhibit will be gerberas, daisies, kalanchoes, African violets, celosias, impatiens and geraniums, and they will be joined by such tropical plants as bananas, areca palms, ficus, dracaenas, orchids and bromeliads.

Four 30-inch monitors will show videos of such zoo animals as lions, elephants, gorillas, rhinos, and tropical birds.

"We want people in the Charlotte area to know about the zoo and to realize that this is their zoo--we are part of the whole state," Holland said.

The zoo exhibit is one of 16 gardens the show will boast this year. Others include a natural garden with live rabbits and a Japanese garden. Each of the gardens is dedicated to making soaring its colorful best. Plus, there will be 14 designer rooms, an orchid pavilion, a complete standard flower show, gardener's marketplace packed with specially priced plants, crafts, products for sprucing up inside and outside the home, and more.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$4.50 in advance for adults, \$5 at the door. Students 6-12, \$3. Under six free with an adult, excluding groups. Group rates available.

For more information write or call Southern Shows, Inc., P. O. Box 36859, Charlotte, NC 28235, 704-376-6594.

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