NEWS/ The Charlotte Post

Cities In Schools celebrates 10th

By John Minter THE CHARLOTTE POST

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Charlotte's Cities In Schools program is showing its age, all 10 of its years.

After growing up working with individual students and maturing to run alternative school sites, such as Wesley Uptown Alternative to help students negotiate the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, the organization is branching out.

Cities In Schools sponsors Community Haven, a program designed to bring the program in contact with the Historic North Charlotte community around Highland and Tryon Hills elementary schools.

Community Haven is funded with a federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, one of five programs to receive such an award.

"Community Haven is one of the most outstanding things we have done," said Cynthia Marshall. "That's what we are going to be about in the next decade, reaching out to the families of our students and their neighbors. What we recognize is that parents are chil-

dren's most important teachers and that they are a vital critical member of the team of adults who gather to address the needs of each child."

In honor of CIS's birthday, Bill Milliken, founder and president of National Cities in Schools, will be the featured speaker at the annual awards luncheon Thursday at the Charlotte Convention Center. As many as 1,600 students, parents, teachers and volunteers are expected to attend. Tickets are \$20.

"The Student Awards Luncheon is always a special occasion because it is the time when we tell the stories of our stars - our students," said Dee Dee Dalrymple, president of Cities In Schools' board of directors. "Last year, 97 percent of Cities In Schools students stayed in school, 89 percent earned promotion and this year we have 92 seniors who will graduate."

Malik Miller, a senior at Garinger High School, will deliver his winning speech from the Evergreen Media/WPEG Speaking for Success Scholarship contest, from which he won \$1,500. Miller's topic is "Why Staying

in School is Important To Me." WPEG has made a scholarship available for four years, an example of growing community and business support of the Cities In Schools program.

Choirs from West Charlotte High and Cochrane Middle Schools, under the direction of Arnie Epps, will perform during the luncheon. Cities In Schools students will perform an original skit.

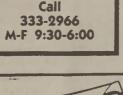
Cities In Schools served 3,500 students this school year.

The program works to keep students in school and reducing drop outs by using community resources and working with the school systems staff to deal with underlying problems students face, including family conflict, poor selfesteem, drug and alcohol abuse, juvenile crime and illiteracy, as well as poor health and teen pregnancy.

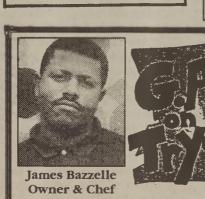
Cities In Schools serves 21 sites in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools and is funded by Mecklenburg County, United Way of Central Carolinas, corporate and individual support and a grant from the Charlotte Merchants Foundation.



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Thompson leaves

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was newsworthy. She didn't come to a morning meeting, which is mandatory for reporters, and was suspended for a day. After that suspension, she just quit. That happened about a week ago yesterday. She left Wednesday morning and hasn't worked since."

WSOC station manager Bruce Baker said the station wishes Thompson the best.

"Samantha came to us just out of college, basically," Baker said Wednesday afternoon. "We trained her and worked with her and are real proud of her development.'

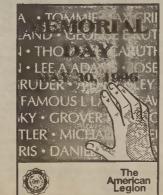
Baker said Thompson filled a position left when Tracy Neale, also an African American moved to Washington, D.C.

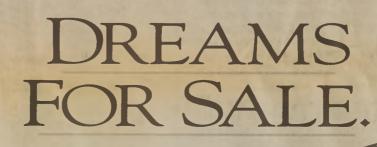
"We will look for a weekday reporter and weekend anchor, within the station and in other markets," Baker said.

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Belmont Center

Saturday, May 18, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm Monday, May 20, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

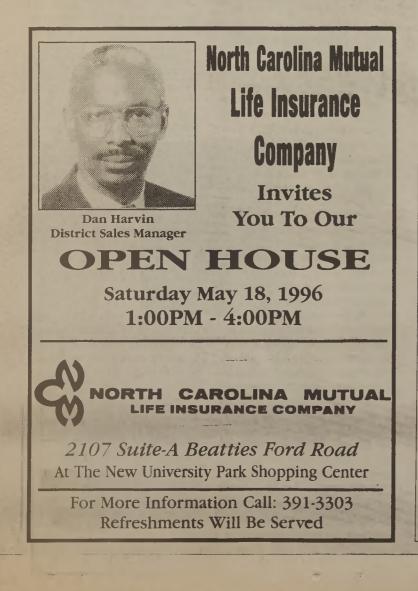
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