

# Family fun day set in York

YORK - S.C. - Youth members of New House AME Zion Church worked on a carnival event to entertain under privileged children.

Forty-five youth members of the church devoted time, energy, and money to have a Family Fun Day Carnival for children.



Mack

"Too often people say that young black kids only get into trouble and they are not doing anything constructive with their time," said assistant project director Rickey Williams. "Our director, Richard Mack, CEO of Lee Mack Cosmetics, believes differently and he wanted to give the youth an opportunity to do something constructive in their community in York.

"We have youth who want to do good, but as adults, we have to provide the outlet for them to show their skills."

"There is a bleak picture that is painted of our children with the focus being on them when it comes to teen pregnancy and teen violence," Mack said.

Having the carnival is a culmination of the Bible School program at the church. "Usually the students will have a party at the end of the program, but this year the trustees and the stewards of the church decided to do something a little different," Williams, 30, said. "They decided to have a carnival and let the students help with it." "The people in the church really care about these children," Mack said. "They spend a lot of

time working with them to show them that they too are important members of the church."

The young adults were a part of the carnival project from the beginning.

"This carnival helped the children to gain an understanding of what it takes to accomplish something," Williams said. "They worked very closely with me and Vivian Hart (Williams' assistant) to make sure that this carnival was a success."

Youth members selected the type of carnival package and games they wanted, and went door-to-door collecting donations.

"While working on this event, the youth learned how to talk to and work with people in corporate America and I believe they enjoyed this more than robbing or hurting someone," Mack said. "These days you can tell a child only but so much, but you need to work with them and show them how to do things properly."

Putting on the carnival cost over \$9,000. Youth raised \$4,900 and Mack provided the rest of the money. "The media is always saying negative things about our children. We need to start praising them for the good things they do," Mack said.

"This is something that we look forward to doing again next year," Williams said.

"We need more people like Richard Mack to be supportive of our kids and to be good role models for them."

The youth members also developed committees for clean up crews and security. It took three months to put the event together.

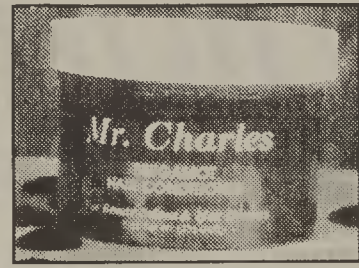
"The objective of the church and Richard was to instill in the youth to do their best and to see that goals are attainable," said Williams. "The carnival will be held at the church and it is free and open to the public and children of any age," Mack said. "If we bring only one more soul to God because of this carnival, then I feel that we will have been successful."

# Family Fun Day

June 15, 1996  
10:00AM - 3:00PM  
Highway 49 at Paraham Rd. • York, S.C.

Entertainment,  
Carnival Rides, Games  
& Refreshments  
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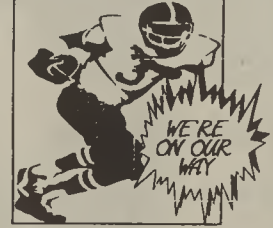
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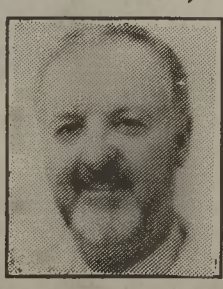


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