

Helping A Child's Place



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Pat Carter, president of the Charlotte Civic League (left) presents a check for \$2,000 to Debbie McKohn, executive director of A Child's Place. Marlo Mathis, chair of the Civic League's bachelor's auction that raised money for A Child's Place, is on the right.

Izzy has Carolina connections

Continued from page 1A

masters in sports management from N.C. State University this year.

It was only natural that she would end up in Atlanta working with her cousin.

And Izzy's visit to in Charlotte in February was, of course, coordinated by Brenda Height, an instructor at University Meadows Elementary School.

Being Izzy is demanding because of the amount of travel involved and the half hour sessions inside the 25-pound suit.

The huge tennis shoes are size 22.

"Izzy is a happy personality, so he has to be bouncy and fun," Bullock said. "You just can't be Izzy and be in a bad mood."

Oddly, Izzy is billed as a male, a teenager who wants to make it into the Olympic Games. As the story goes, Izzy must collect the five Olympic rings to earn his spot.

Bullock spends her time coordinating the appearances of 18 volunteer Izzy's around Atlanta, mainly making sure two never



Bullock

show up at the same time.

After the Olympics, Bullock plans to tour with Raven Simone of 'Cosby Show' fame as a backup dancer and

hopes to work some day at a television network or record label as an artist manager.

Diamond brings polish to YWCA

Continued from page 1A

ational background, topped by strong business experience.

"Judy's extensive experience at IBM and various school systems makes her a great match for our needs," said YWCA board president Linda Lockman-Brooks. "She has helped from vital private/public partnerships to support services for children and families in need, and she has energetically established progressive initiatives to enhance those services."

"We are very happy to have such an extraordinary, talented woman as our new leader," said Lockman-Brooks, the second African American woman in recent history to lead the local YWCA board.

Diamond, who spent 15 years at Big Blue in marketing, training and management positions, follows Stephanie Counts, also an African American woman, in the Y's top administrative position.

"The opportunity to be an executive director at this particular YW will give me the opportunity to combine what I have learned from both sides," Diamond said. "I started as a teacher. That's my first love."

The two interests are needed to effectively manage a non-profit organization, Diamond said.

"Our mission revolves around serving and empowering women and families," Diamond said. "We have a very large educational mission as part of that."

"But this is a business. We have nearly 200 employees and a \$4 million budget. It is a business. You have to understand something about management to make those programs run. And you need to understand education so when people talk about programs you know what's needed."

I don't see how you can do one without the other. It would be hard. It is somewhat of a balancing act."

Diamond admitted measuring success is not as easy at a non-profit human service organization as at a company that sells a product.

"We have a very versatile diverse mission," she said. "Along with mission comes a lot of versatility and diversity. We are dealing with preschoolers through senior adults. There are a lot of challenges. I think we

know we are successful when our clients say we are doing a good job.

"And they say we are doing a good job. We have a volunteer board of women who govern the organization and set goals for us as well. We are doing a good job when we meet those goals."

"We get lots of feedback from the community. The way I know we are doing well is when there is a need in the community people call us. Just in two weeks, I've gotten three or four calls from people needing us. That makes us feel good. We can always say yes, but people recognize what we do."

Diamond left Charlotte about three years ago when her husband Kenneth, a Duke Power employee, took a transfer to Winston-Salem. That gave her time to concentrate on the doctorate she had begun three years earlier.

She has also been working as an educational consultant, including some work with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Taking over the YWCA job is a bit of a homecoming for Diamond.

"I grew up in the YW in New York City," she said. "I've served as a volunteer with the YMCA. I've had a connection with either the YW or YM most of my life"

"I'm real excited to have the opportunity to be here," Diamond said, noting the long days. "I expected that. It is really so stimulating. The mission is what keeps me going. It is really so eventful. No two days are ever really alike."

"The fact that we serve children and we serve families and you can see the activities, makes you understand and appreciate what we do and why we do what we do."

Correction

A story in the July 18 Post incorrectly stated that Ike Heard is a former member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission. Heard is chairman of the commission.

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