

Dreamer's Entrepreneurial Club gets \$10,000 grant

BY CINDY BEAMON
The Daily Advance

A local program to teach girls how to start their own businesses won new financial support last week.

Royal Neighbors of America presented Lena Council a \$10,000 check on Thursday to expand her Dreamer's Entrepreneurial Club.

Council, a Hertford native and the Dreamer's director, said the contribution will double the number of middle school girls who can

benefit from the program. It's run by the Northeastern North Carolina chapter of the National Council of Negro Women.

Council was one of 10 recipients who received \$10,000 each from the philanthropic arm of Royal Neighbors of America, a women-led life insurance company.

Council said the Northeastern North Carolina chapter of the National Council of Negro Women has sought and won grants from vari-

ous organizations over the years to fund programs that benefit youth and women.

Council was born in Hertford but moved with her family to New York, attended college there and taught elementary school for 30-plus years. During those years, she joined the National Council of Negro Women and remained active in helping the community.

Council, 80, helped found the group in 1997 after she moved back to the area. Last year the program was

kicked off with 25 girls and hands-on lessons about how to run a company. Then the girls formed teams, created their own business, selected a product and came up with a plan to sell and promote it. Those newly formed businesses then sold T-shirts, jewelry, decorated hats and other items at the Elizabeth City Downtown Waterfront Market.

Council said the program's BizWorld curriculum is a starting point for children who may not have

been exposed to one of their future options. Because participants come from families who do not own businesses, they may not be aware of all that is involved, she noted.

Council said this year, the program will be offered twice, once starting in November and then starting in March. The 13-week Saturday morning sessions are designed to help the girls learn while also having fun, said Council.

"The thing is to have fun, give respect and learn at the

same time," said the retired educator.

She said the girls also take trips and invite guest speakers to expose them to the business world.

Council said program leaders will be speaking at area schools and churches in October to recruit participants. Interested students will be invited to fill out an application with their parents' permission. Most of past participants came from minority, low-income families, she said.

'REAL WORLD'

Continued from 1

get. The "job" came with a salary. Based on one person's slip that was working in agriculture or natural resources with a high school diploma the gross annual salary came to \$20,050. Doesn't

sound bad to a teenager, but once taxes, Social Security and Medicare is deducted it falls to a net of \$1,358 a month. That particular job had no medical benefits.

Aples said each were then told they had to deduct \$200 monthly for food and \$25 for miscellaneous medical expenses.

Only then did they head out to one of the 25 booths to shop for things like housing, a phone, a car or even a pet.

Nysheeke Clark just got a job paying \$2,135 a month. He started out with a nice car, a dog and phone when he got a visit from the lady handing "Life Happens" no-

tices. Clark wasn't smiling when he was asked about how much money he had left. He looked down and held up his hand and with his thumb and index figure he made the figure for zero.

"I'm broke," he said. There was also a "Life Happens" wheel participants could spin. Sometimes you'd land on something good, like a graduation gift. Sometimes it might be bad, like your glasses broke and it will cost \$250 to replace them.

Participants were encouraged but not required to put some of their earnings away in a savings account. That provides a cushion when you get a flat tire or an injury.

How people react with others can also be a factor. The session on social skills addressed that.

"If you go into a business with a bad attitude they might not give you a break, but if you go in there with a positive attitude and explain your situation they might be able to work with you on a solution," Aples said.

Aples said the Commission will put on the "Real World" program again.

"I wasn't expecting such a great response from the schools," Aples said. Seven school systems sent students and some had to be turned away because of lack of space. Perquimans County High School had about 10 students attend. Some of the other six school districts

sent far more.

"Next time I think we'll put a limit on how many each school can attend."

Julie Solesbee with PNC Bank attended the program and applauded the effort.

"This is what students need to learn, she said. "At this age they don't understand how life is."

Sgt. Lamont Butts and Deputy Lamond James from the Camden County Sheriff's Office were there to help. One of the issues getting a "Life Happens" note is you get a traffic ticket. That means spending money that you probably hadn't budgeted for.

Sgt. Butts said he was glad to play a role.

"If we get them at a young age, it makes a difference."



PERQUIMANS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EXPO '16

PERQUIMANS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS PUTTING THE EXPO TO BED UNTIL APRIL 27TH, 2017

Due to the threat of continued inclement weather and the desire to protect your investment & your customer's experience we are rescheduling the Expo to April 27th, 2017

HURRICANE

Continued from 1

many areas," the weather statement said. "In addition, due to the wet ground, trees may be more susceptible to being downed even from moderate winds."

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce wasn't taking any chances. It's rescheduled the Business Expo that has been set for Oct. 13 until April 27 because concern over the weather.

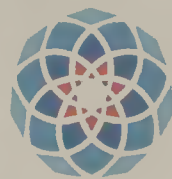
At least one local horse stable is making plans to move their horses further inland if needed. Carla Bundy said New Hope Stables boards about 15 horses and can transfer them to the Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Agriculture Center in Williamston. It has the capability to house more than 500 horses.

On Monday afternoon Gov. Pat McCrory declared a State of Emergency for 66 counties to allow the movement of any resources that may be needed to respond

to the storm. It also waives truck weight, size and hours of service restrictions so that farmers can quickly harvest their crops before the storm hits.

"Although this storm may change course, we are monitoring the situation closely, and are working proactively because of the amount of crops still in fields," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We urge everyone to take this situation seriously and take precautions as the storm moves toward North Carolina."

An Evening Among The Stars



COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE
Foundation

Thank you to our generous 2016-2017 Community Partners!

President's Club

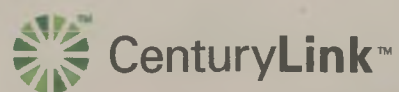
Technology Sponsor

Dolphins Club



SENTARA®

Dr. Zack D. Owens & Martha Anderson Owens Trust



Blue & Orange Advocates

Premier Partners

Gala Event Sponsors



Gala Event Patrons

Friends of COA



Carolina Furnishings & Designs
Derek Waters Construction
Friends of Edenton
Gary and Kandi Deitemeyer
Hornthal, Riley, Ellis & Maland
Winborne & Associates
J. H. Miller, Jr. Land Surveying
SAGA Construction & Development
Taylor Mueller Realty
Todd's Pharmacy
Twiddy Realty