

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association to hold Annual Community Giveback Program



Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Association, Inc.'s "Annual Community Giveback Program" is our way of thanking the Savannah-

Chatham community for its support and generosity. This is our nineteenth year of honoring Dr. King's legacy with this program. The 2009 program will give back to local organizations

for the outstanding services they provide to the community and the tremendous contribution they make in keeping Dr. King's dream and legacy alive. This celebration will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at the St. Luke Baptist Church, located at 418 West 38th Street, Rev. Lexcie E. Aiken, Pastor. Music will be provided by the youth choirs of the church. We realize that without the tremendous support we receive from this community the Association could not honor our community friends and partners in this manner. We cordially invite everyone to join us as we honor these most worthy recipients. For additional information, please call the Association's office at 912. 234.5502 or President Carolyn S. Blackshear's office at 912.341.0042.

SSU Gospel Choir Earns Second Runner Up Position in Competition

The Savannah State University (SSU) Wesleyan Gospel Choir earned second runner-up in the Competition of Black College Gospel Choirs, which was held as part of the 23rd annual National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation weekend in Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 25-27, 2009.

The Competition of Black College Gospel Choirs, hosted by legendary gospel music pioneer Bobby Jones of BET's Bobby Jones Gospel Hour, gives HBCU gospel choirs a showcase for their musi-

cal talents. As the second runner-up, the choir received a \$1,000 cash prize and the opportunity to perform at the 23rd annual Bobby Jones International Gospel Industry Retreat which is scheduled to be held in Nov. in Las Vegas, Nev., or Nashville, Tenn.

Since its inception in 1971, the SSU Wesleyan Gospel Choir has cultivated a special niche for itself in the local gospel music arena. Well-known for its "fire-brand" style of gospel, the choir's repertoire includes everything

from soul-soothing sounds to the foot-stomping, rousing contemporary sounds of many contemporary gospel artists.

Established in 1890, Savannah State University is on the move to become the best value-added university in the nation.

The university's approximately 3,800 students are enrolled in 23 undergraduate degree majors and five graduate programs in three colleges: Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Business Administration and Sciences and Technology.

SCCPSS' 21st Century Community Learning Center Receives Grant

SCCPSS' Academic Affairs division is proud to announce that its 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant has been awarded by The Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) in the amount of \$350,000.00 for the 2009-2010 school year.

The money awarded from the new 2009 grant will establish three new 21st CCLC after-school programs for students at White Bluff Elementary (Grades 3-5), Hubert Middle School Risers

Academy and Scott Alternative Learning Center.

The original 2008 grantees will continue to operate their programs at the following sites: East Broad Elementary (Pre-K), Haven Elementary (Pre-K), and Thunderbolt Elementary (Pre-K), Garrison Elementary (Grades 3-5) and the new schools at Savannah High (Grades 9-12).

The grant application was made in partnership with the YMCA of Coastal

Georgia and the Chatham Savannah Youth Futures Authority (YFA). The goal of the grant is to improve schools by providing academic enrichment activities that will support student learning during non-school hours and provide family literacy and educational development activities.

For more information about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), contact Aldric Dekle at 395-5686.

YMCA Playground to Strengthen Community and Benefit Children

More than 200 volunteers from The Home Depot, the West Broad Street YMCA, and organizers from the nonprofit organization KaBOOM! will join together to build a state-of-the-art, 3,000 square foot playground in one day. The playground will provide a safe, fun environment for the children in the community.

The playground is funded through a \$61,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation along with a \$7,500 contribution from the City of Savannah. As a founding partner of KaBOOM!, The Home Depot provides financial support, materials and numerous volunteers for play space projects across North America as part of its ongoing commitment to give back to the communities its stores serve. In 2009, The Home Depot became the official Sustainability Partner of KaBOOM!. Both organizations will work together to make sure each playground project is as environmentally friendly as possible as well as educate children and communities about this important issue.

For this project, all materials will be recycled and any unused materials remaining after the completion of the build will be donated to other organizations. In addition, volunteers plan to plant several gardens surrounding

the playground.

The Y also announces that an anonymous gift to the West Broad Street YMCA will provide full and partial scholarships for qualifying families for its early learning for children 6 weeks to 5 years.

The gift will cover registration fees for all families and others will receive scholarships based on family size and income. The target is for families who are trying to find work or continue their education and need childcare to do so. These funds, anticipated to only last a short time, will help families get back to work and school so that they can move ahead.

For more information contact Peter Doliber at 233 1951 or stop by the West

Broad Street YMCA at 1110 May Street.

Founded in 1947, the West Broad Street YMCA was formed to serve Blacks in then legally segregated Savannah. While this is no longer its purpose, the West Broad Street YMCA is located between two Housing Authority Neighborhoods, and it continues to serve by building strong kids, strong families, and a strong community.

One of the key programs offered by the West Broad Street YMCA is an early learning center for children from six weeks to five years, as well as a before and after school program for children Pre-K to middle and high school.

Savannah Association for the Blind, Inc. Sponsors Big Thrift Sale and Bazaar

Savannah Association for the Blind, Inc. will sponsor a Big Thrift Sale and Bazaar October 16 and 17, 2009 at 214 Drayton Street.

You can help the blind and visually impaired by shopping for slightly used treasures, or by renting a space for only \$25.00 and selling your own items.

A Bazaar, featuring handmade items made by the visually impaired clients, will be held Friday, October 16, 2009 from 9:00A.M.-5:00P.M.

The Big Thrift Sale

will be held Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 8:00A.M.-2:00P.M.

New and slightly used items will be on sale.

If you would like to rent a space and sell your own items, or donate items for the sale, please call (912) 236-4473 or (912) 232-6048.

The Knights of Columbus will support this effort by selling hot dogs during the Thrift Sale on Saturday.

The agency is urging the entire community to

come and have a fun-filled day shopping and and/or selling.

Savannah Association for the Blind is located at 214 Drayton Street (just pass

Liberty Street - next to Parker's Market). Just follow the One Way sign to the parking lot at the back of the building.

All proceeds will benefit Savannah Association for the Blind's visually impaired clients.

Please come and support this worthwhile cause.