

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Ebony and Jet Magazines Are in Financial Trouble and Looking for Buyers



John H. Johnson, Founder of Jet and Ebony Magazines

(Taylor Media Services) and owner Johnson Publishing Company is looking for investors or buyers in order to stay afloat. Newsweek magazine broke the story reporting that company CEO Linda Johnson Rice had already approached media giants

Time, Inc. and Viacom to invest in or even buy the troubled firm.

Then the financial giant Crain's issued a report showing that revenue at Johnson Publishing Company fell by a whopping 28 percent last year.

Time, Inc. already owns the Black women's magazine Essence and Viacom owns Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Last May Johnson Publishing mortgaged its Chicago-based headquarters building in order to raise funds.

The company has been Black-controlled since its founding by John H. Johnson in 1945. However, sale to a mainstream company would almost assuredly end Black control but the Black-orientation would probably continue.

The company's problems appear to flow from two sources: Declining readership as African Americans turn to competing media sources and a decline in revenue as major firms have cut back on advertising during the current recession.

Georgia's Own Credit Union Awards \$15,000 in Scholarships

In today's economy, many organizations are scaling back when it comes philanthropic giving and community programming. Such however is not the case for one local credit union.

For a number of years, Georgia's Own Credit Union, one of the oldest and most trusted financial institutions in the state, has awarded \$10,000 in scholarships.

Today, the \$1.4 billion, not-for-profit cooperative announced the recipients of its \$15,000 in scholarships.

"As a strong corporate citizen, we feel it is our responsibility to provide additional assistance and opportunities during economically troubling times. While the scholarship is one way we are helping our members weather the current economic storm, we work everyday, during good and bad times in our state, to ensure that our members are able to make the most of their money," said Charlotte S. Ayers, President & CEO of Georgia's Own Credit Union.

A total of eight scholarships were awarded; \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000 and 5, \$1,000 allocations.

The 2009 winners are Michael Dawes of Johns Creeks, Alexandria Blevins of Sandy Springs, Elizabeth Darr of Alpharetta, Jennifer Hardin of Marietta, Grayson Baum of Sugar Hill, Benjamin Hilley of Marietta, Mackenzie Smith of Power

Springs, and Cara-Joy Wong of Atlanta respectively.

The recipients were selected by a panel of community leaders, including Joe Chandler with AT&T, Debbie Denechaud with WSB, Leisa Rowe with Q100, Walt Phelps with Jezebel Magazine and Kristin Davis with Junior Achievement of Georgia.

Georgia's Own Credit Union's scholarship program is part of its larger initiative for teens and young adults i[x]ga.

According to Ayers, i[x]ga is truly next generation finances.

The "i" in i[x]ga represents individuality, while the "x" stands for the unknown variable- that part of life that is out there for the individual

to define for his or herself."

To learn more about the i[x]ga program visit doyouix.com or georgiasown.org.

Georgia's Own Credit Union is a full service, not-for-profit financial institution founded in 1934.

With more than 140,000 members and \$1.4 billion in assets, Georgia's Own is one of the strongest, largest and most trusted financial institutions in the state.

In addition to the near 400 sponsor groups served by Georgia's Own, residents of Cherokee, Chatham, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Richmond and Rockdale counties are parts of the credit union's field of membership.

New Non-Profit Organization Joins in Plight to End Homelessness in Savannah

Divine Rest is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with a mission to assist homeless women in Savannah by providing a shelter for them, education, and healing through God's word with hopes of helping them become productive, contributing members of society.

Divine Rest is raising money with a large goal to not only rent or buy a building to house the women, but to give them the everyday supplies we all use....toothpaste, brushes, face wash, soap, deodorant, etc.

They have initiated what they call a "Bag of Love" Campaign in which the above personal items will be included in the bags. Donations from the general public are needed to fill these bags! Yes, that means we need you!

In addition, Divine Rest is doing what they can to help the women by collecting used blankets, coats and other winter items to distribute to homeless women throughout the upcoming cold months. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can go to their

web site at www.divinerest.org and do so through Pay Pal.

If you have items for the Bag of Love campaign or blankets or coats you wish to donate, please contact the founder, Georgette Jackson at (912) 441-5564, for further information.

We will come to you and pick up anything you are able to donate. No donation is too small!

Show some love by helping Divine Rest get a step closer to reaching their goal!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BOB BRYANT

Since my door is always open to each of you, I have listed the following information for your convenience:



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