



Friday, April 8, 2016
Martin's West
Baltimore, MD
7:00PM-11:00PM

2016 Acts of Kindness Awards

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The Acts of Kindness Awards™, a signature event produced by ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC, is a premier awards and recognition gala to celebrate the **EXCELLENCE** in People. Rewarding and recognizing the Excellence in People not only makes the person feel great, it promotes behavior that we expect from everyone. People need to sense that they are valued by others and feel that they are making a contribution to the world. Being nominated and selected for a recognition award can play a role in fulfilling this need.

In an era where more attention is given to negative publicity and the ills of the world, ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC understands the need and importance of setting special time aside to recognize and show appreciation for the good things people do. ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC, strives to meet this need, while especially focusing on workers in the service, public safety and health care industries, but also your “average Joe and Jane” who display Acts of Kindness.

Simply put, ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC strives to follow, in spirit and in deed, Philippians 4:8 – “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things” (NIV).



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April 8, 2016

There is something truly wrong, when the bad stuff is more what you hear about than the good stuff. The media sensationalizes it to boost their ratings, and feeds it to the public. You'll start to believe that's all there is. It will desensitize you and you'll even start to think it's the norm and to be expected.



Let me tell you, it's not the norm. It's not to be expected, and it's not all there is. There is a lot to be gained from hearing about the positive. It boosts morale, releases stress, encourages good behavior, inspires, releases our endorphins (our body's natural happy drug), and motivates us to want to do better.

That is why my mission is to have a positive impact on society by **Celebrating the Excellence in People**, and that is what the *Acts of Kindness Awards* is meant to do.

I'd like to personally welcome you to the inaugural *Acts of Kindness Awards*. I am so happy that you decided to attend.

Congratulations to this year's *Acts of Kindness Award* winners. What they do for others inspires us to want to make a difference in our communities. I encourage each of you, as our guests tonight, to meet and greet the award recipients at the reception which immediately follows the awards ceremony.

In closing, I'd like to thank each of you for attending the *Acts of Kindness Awards*. We could not accomplish what we do without your support, and I look forward to seeing you again at next year's awards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wanda L. Adams'.

Wanda L. Adams
CEO/Event Producer
ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC

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STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



April 8, 2016

A message from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake:

It is my great privilege to welcome the attendees of the Acts of Kindness Awards™ Gala, produced by ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC. My congratulations to tonight's honorees.

As mayor of Baltimore, I am very aware that our city is full of many unsung heroes, who work selflessly in their communities on behalf of their neighbors and those less fortunate. They seldom toot their own horn, but their contributions to our great city and its quality of life are priceless, so I am happy to take any opportunity to acknowledge the many unseen hands serving others in our communities.

Tonight is their night to be appreciated, and as you hear their stories, I hope you will reflect on them and be inspired to make a difference in your own communities. Baltimore is a city of doers and dreamers, and by honoring the deeds of others, we open our hearts and minds to our own limitless capacity to serve.

Once again, congratulations to the honorees, and best wishes for a very enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Rawlings-Blake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a vertical line separating the first and last names.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
City of Baltimore

Acts of Kindness Awards Program

Doresa Harvey
Mistress of Ceremonies

Invocation.....	Reverend Frances W. Stewart
Song Selection.....	The Northwestern High School Performing Arts Choir
Outstanding Community Service Award.....	Wanda Adams, CEO, ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC
Song Selection.....	The Northwestern High School Performing Arts Choir
Humanitarian Award.....	Fran Allen, Office of Congressman Elija Cummings
Song Selection.....	The Northwestern High School Performing Arts Choir
Closing Remarks.....	Doresa Harvey



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Lyft utilizes a mobile-phone app to facilitate ridesharing by connecting passengers with drivers.



Taylor Properties services residential and commercial real estate in Maryland, Virginia, and DC.



Templarmill Classic Toy Train is a fantasy display designed for kids of all ages. The layout includes circus themes, tin toy items, antique treasures and a Christmas display.



Uber Technologies Inc., is a multinational online transportation network company that develops and markets the Uber mobile app, which allows consumers to submit trip requests.

Doresa Harvey, Mistress of Ceremonies



Ms. Doresa Harvey currently reigns as the number one midday Gospel personality on WCAO Heaven 600 - the number one rated Gospel contemporary station in the country. You can hear this Midday Gospel Diva on the air Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Doresa came to WCAO in

1991 as an intern and was hired as a board technician while still completing her studies in radio broadcasting. In November of 1991, "Heaven 600" was officially launched. Doresa was the first female board technician hired. After two years of "board teaching," Doresa was promoted and worked as Public Service Assistant for a year. In 1994, Doresa was again promoted, this time, to programming as weekend personality and host of "Melodies of Inspiration;" Sunday mornings, 9 a.m. - 11a.m. on V-103 FM. Doresa was added to the AM staff of Heaven 600 as a fill-in announcer. Soon after, she was added to weekends on Heaven 600, holding down two air shifts back-to-back on Sunday mornings on V-103 FM, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Heaven 600. Doresa began her quest to become the best female announcer on the East Coast. A co-host was added on V-103 FM and the show was transformed to "True Victory." After four years of holding down weekends as fill-in announcer, while maintaining two full time jobs, Doresa was promoted in October '98 to middays. With a very personable and laid back personality, and strong God fearing faith, Doresa is a deaconess at the Greater Hope Church of God In Christ under Pastor Elder Stephen Jones.

The Northwestern High School Visual and Performing Arts Choir



Under the direction of Ms. Dawn Jones, the Northwestern High School Choir is in its eighteenth year of operations, having been founded in 1997. The vocal music program at Northwestern has become a nationally and internationally recognized, multiple award-winning program, that consists of an auditioned program of study and a non-auditioned program. The main Concert Choir and Women's Ensemble are non-auditioned groups, open to the entire general student population. The select Visual & Performing Arts Choir is part of an advanced program of study which is a component of the specialized Center for the Visual and Performing Arts program, at Northwestern. There is a competitive pre-entry requirement for this ensemble, which is dual administered by the school district and CVPA staff. The largest choir is the auditioned Visual & Performing Arts (VPA) Choir. Enrollment in this Choir has been as high as 135-members in the past. More recently, enrollment in the Choir has averaged around 85-members.

Acts of Kindness Outstanding Community Service Award Recipient



Cheriss May is a visual journalist and educator. She is passionate about history, culture and storytelling through photography and graphic design. Cheriss has a long history of serving the community and lending a hand when help is needed. As an adjunct professor at Howard University, she works with students beyond the classroom to provide them with opportunities to build their portfolios

and connect them to internships and jobs, giving them advice and assistance even after graduation. Cheriss has always had an entrepreneurial spirit that was encouraged by her parents and family. As a young girl selling her Great Grandmother's discarded jewelry, delivering phone books, working in her aunt and uncle's BBQ restaurant, adding soap and counting quarters at her dad's carwash, selling cakes and cupcakes in junior high and high school and when a college student, selling snacks out of her dorm room when the vending machine in the lobby broke. Cheriss has a heart for the youth and tutored kids at the Anthony Bowen YMCA while a student at Howard University. Cheriss' professional work experience as a journalist includes work for: Gannett, European-Pacific Stars & Stripes, The Washington Post, and USA Today. As an educator, Cheriss was an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, and is currently an adjunct professor at Howard University. Cheriss is also a freelance visual journalist covering the White House, news, history, culture and entertainment (www.cherissmay.com). To celebrate and encourage diversity in individuals and communities, Cheriss founded Unified Soul, an on-line boutique offering "Love Who I Am" statement t-shirts & other fashion apparel.

Acts of Kindness Humanitarian Award Recipient



Cynthia

Brooks, daughter of the late Bea Gaddy, is Executive Director of the Bea Gaddy Family Center, Inc., in Baltimore, MD. The late Bea Gaddy founded the Patterson Park

Emergency Food Center in 1981. When Bea Gaddy died in 2001, determined to continue the dinner tradition, Cynthia took over the center. She and six other volunteers operate the center. Today, the Bea Gaddy Family Center serves thousands on Thanksgiving Day. With the help of donations from the public, partnerships with major corporations, and numerous volunteers, each year, the Bea Gaddy Family Center prepares and provides meals to as many as 50,000, who are poor, homeless, elderly, shut-in, or just in need. The Center also provides help and assistance through Aids education, a clothing closet, food pantry, furniture bank, baby rack, housing, a juvenile justice program, shelter for women and children, and so much more. Through these humanitarian efforts, Cynthia Brooks has made far-reaching and long-term impact on society.

Invocation by Reverend

Frances W. Stewart



Reverend Frances

Waldren Stewart

became full time Pastor to Metropolitan UMC in Severn, MD on July 1, 2011. MUMC's mission is defined by it's vision "To be more like Christ". The church has various ministries within and outside the church to help attain this mission. Reverend Stewart is a grad-

uate of the Local Pastor Course of Study School at Wesley Theological Seminary and was elected as an Associate Member of the Baltimore Washington Conference in 2010. Previously she served as part time local pastor at Elijah UMC in Poolesville, MD. She also served as Pastor of Friendship United Methodist Church on the Damascus-Friendship Charge in Damascus, MD for 14 years. Pastor Stewart has organized and directed many retreats for youth and women. She has served on several Volunteers in Mission teams to support communities in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, New Orleans, and South Africa. She is a Stephen Ministry Leader and serves on the Commission on the Status and Role of Women for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Reverend Stewart is committed to making disciples for Jesus and witnessing God's marvelous works throughout the world.

Thank You

Donation:

JoAnne Poole

Berkshire Hathaway Homesale Realty
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Acts of Kindness Awards Nominees Honorable Mention

Bishop Tony Medley, Sr. Deborah Shipman
Teresa Rigby-Menendez

Acts of Kindness Awards Production Team

Alicia Adams	Christopher Queen
Larry Adams	Kabrina Queen
Monica Adams	Kendrew Queen
John Griffin	Shawn Queen
Lauren Jones	Trevor Rogers
Camden Queen	Jeredine Williams

