



★ ★ ★ *Acts of* ★ ★ ★

KINDNESS AWARDS™

CELEBRATING THE EXCELLENCE IN PEOPLE

★ ★ ★

April 28, 2018

Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Dr. | Greenbelt, MD



April 28, 2018

No good deed goes unpunished. This age-old adage can mislead the kindhearted into believing good deeds backfire. The reality is good deeds often go unnoticed. ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC was founded to celebrate those who take it upon themselves to help another, purely out of kindness. With so many everyday people doing such wonderful things, it would be a shame not to roll out the red carpet and acknowledge them.



The Acts of Kindness Awards Gala honors members of the community for selfless acts that have brightened a stranger's day, made a difference in someone else's life, or brought hope and promise to dismal circumstances. This is our 3rd annual event.

Tragic events around the country are growing more disturbing. Regardless of what goes on in politics and society, there is so much good in the world. We work to remind people of that, as often as we can.

Congratulations to this year's ***Acts of Kindness Award*** recipients. What they do for others inspires us to want to make a difference in our communities. I encourage each of you, to meet and greet the award recipients following the awards ceremony.

Thank 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 ***Acts of Kindness Awards***.

Sincerely,

Wanda L. Adams

CEO



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 28, 2018

The Acts of Kindness Awards Gala
Accolade Celebrations, LLC

A Message from Governor Larry Hogan

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Annual Acts of Kindness Awards, hosted by ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC! I am honored to provide this message to you on such a wonderful occasion.



Founded in 2014, the members of ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC organize and host an annual awards and recognition gala, the Acts of Kindness Awards, in celebration of the excellence in people. Awards are presented to workers in the service, public safety, and health care industries, as well as those individuals in the community who have demonstrated remarkable acts of service and kindness.

I would like to congratulate everyone involved with ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC, and all of the outstanding individuals being recognized here tonight for dedicating their time and energy to improving the lives of those in their communities. On behalf of the State of Maryland, I commend you for extraordinary accomplishments.

Again, I welcome you to this event, extend my gratitude for all those who made it possible, and offer my best wishes for many more years of success.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor



The Acts of Kindness Awards

Saturday, April 28, 2018

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).

ACCOLADE Celebrations, LLC

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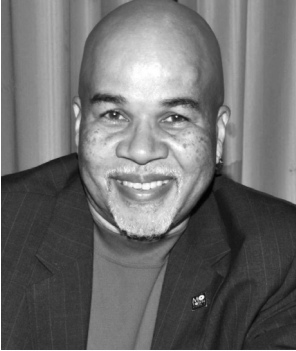


Program

Dr. Nick Johnson - Host

7:30 p.m.	Welcome
7:40 p.m.	Invocation/Food Blessing Dinner
9:00 p.m.	Song Selection Takoma Academy Choir
9:15 p.m.	Outstanding Community Service Award
9:30 p.m.	Song Selection Takoma Academy Choir
9:45 p.m.	Outstanding Human Service Award
10:15 p.m.	Song Selection Takoma Academy Choir
10:30 p.m.	Good Samaritan S/Hero Award
10:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks / Meet & Greet

* Times are approximate



Nick Johnson "Dr. Nick"

Acts of Kindness Awards

Host

Nick "Dr. Nick" Johnson is a native Washingtonian and a graduate of Anacostia High School. He retired from the Federal Government in 2006 after a 38 year career in Air Traffic Control, serving as a controller, a training specialist, a supervisor and a division manager.

As music has always been his passion, in the late '90s, he began laying the foundation for his "second career" as he began working at WPFW producing a weekly radio show. This eventually led to a weekly co-host position with D. C. radio legend, Bobby Bennett.

Eventually, he would get his own show and as "Dr. Nick," hosted the morning show on XM Satellite Radio's Channel 60, "SOUL STREET". The focus of "SOUL STREET" was classic R&B and soul oldies spanning from the mid '50s through the mid '70s. Wednesday afternoons, he and long-time friend and mentor Bobby Bennett served up soul music's tastiest treats on "Potluck Wednesday". On Sunday evenings he hosted the SOUL STREET DOO WOP SPECIAL, featuring 2 hours of vocal classics from the '50s.

When SIRIUS purchased XM Satellite Radio, the XM programmers were terminated and he returned to WPFW-FM, where he now hosts "Southern Soul Rumpin'" every Saturday afternoon, a 2 hour show featuring the best in Southern Soul & Blues.

Additionally, as a professional announcer, he has served as Master of Ceremonies for various concerts, shows and award ceremonies. He currently is the weekly MC for "Blue Monday Blues" at Westminster Church in southwest D. C., and the MC for the D. C. Blues Society events. He has also provided voice-over narrations for government and industry training films.



The Takoma Academy Choir

Under the direction of Lulu Mupfumbu, the Takoma Academy Choir has received national recognition in their pursuit for excellence, all while actively engaging in service projects to give back to the community. The choir has performed at the White House for the First Lady Michelle Obama, for the opening ceremony of the 2016 Miss World competition at the U.S. Capitol and participated in the Columbia Union Choir Festival. The choir has also volunteered at homeless shelters, collected and distributed backpack supplies for needy students and help with relief aid to hurricane victims.

The choir was recently selected to represent the United States in the upcoming World Choir Games. In July, the Takoma Academy Chorale and Camerata will compete in the World Choir Games, the largest choral competition in the world. This event occurs every two years on a different continent, and is based on the Olympic ideals, which aim to peacefully unify people and nations connected by song in a fair competition. It attracts upwards of 25,000 individuals and represents hundreds of choirs from around the world. For the first time, it will be held in Africa, in Tshwane, South Africa.



Award Finalists

Outstanding Community Service

Dajuan Gay

This 20-year-old student at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore returned home for Summer vacation. Learning many of his neighbors in Eastport Maryland in Annapolis had to endure the heat wave and sweltering 100-degree weather without air conditioning, he partnered with other neighbors and launched a crowdfunding campaign, raising over \$11,000 for those who needed units. Next, the college student entered the race for Alderman of Annapolis's Ward 6. "It's not in me to see people hurting or without, and turn a blind eye."

Kristine Davis

Kristine Davis, a 20-year member of the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company, organized a successful donation drive for those devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Ms. Davis rounded up toiletries, baby food, other non-perishable foods, and pet food, as well as walkers and wheelchairs for the elderly, sending these items to residents in the Houston area. "Responding to emergencies and lending a helping hand is my first instinct."

Minister Maurice Winn

Minister Maurice Winn of First Baptist Church of Glenarden started the Lion's Den Program, which teaches life skills to boys, grades 6 thru 8. He also voluntarily coaches three youth boys' soccer teams for the Greater Laurel United Soccer Club. "When I am in service to others, it's like ripples in an ocean."



Award Finalists

Outstanding Human Service

The Re-Entry Roundtable for Prince George's County, MD

This diverse group of individuals and organizations is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of formerly incarcerated individuals returning to citizenship. They provide resources and opportunities, as well as the support and services needed to become productive citizens. "We help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully reintegrate into society."

The Arc Southern Maryland

The Arc Southern Maryland promotes community involvement, independence, and personal success for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "We advocate for improving the quality of life for people with different abilities."

The Society for Girls, Inc.

The Society for Girls is a group of bright, business savvy, passionate young women, determined to empower the next generation of girls to be smart, resourceful, and confident. Through community involvement and volunteerism in their communities, they help build the confidence in young women and prepare them to make a positive mark on the world. "Empowering young girls and building strong women is what we do."

TheWISEorg

TheWISEorg, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (serving the Mid-Atlantic area) focused on women's development, providing resources and educational development to women in crisis through social, community and self-development. "Hard times come to us all—you and I are not alone, nor are we stuck there."

United Communities Against Poverty, Inc.

UCAP, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the leading advocate for communities of people facing deficiencies in education, affordable housing, economic stability, and adequate health care access. "We work to maximize self-sufficiency for people in Prince George's County, MD."



Award Finalists

Good Samaritan-S/Hero

Ann Dahms of Frederick, Maryland

After reading about a woman who'd lost most of her belongings in the devastating aftereffects of Hurricane Harvey on Houston residents, Ann Dahms reached out to help the stranger replace some of her lost valuables. "I'm an example of how kindness, between strangers, can unfold in ways unimaginable."

Officer Bennett Johns of the Laurel Police Department, city of Laurel, MD

Officer Johns, while responding to a report of a woman shoplifting, decided to take matters into his own hands. Upon learning the woman was stealing diapers because she could not afford to buy them for her baby, he selflessly paid for them out of his own pocket. "I felt compelled to help so that the young child would not suffer."



Please

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**Introducing the
2018 Acts of
Kindness Awards
Winners**



Award Winners



DaJuan Gay

Acts of Kindness Awards
*Outstanding Community Service
Award Recipient*

DaJuan Gay believes in taking action to improve the lives of residents in his community. Most recently, while home from college on summer break, he raised over \$11,000 to buy his neighbors new air conditioning units and received several donations of new and used ones. He says the most gratifying part was seeing how overjoyed his neighbors were to receive the air conditioners.

DaJuan is a full-time student at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, with a double major in Sociology and Social Work and a double minor in Public Policy and Political Science. He has also served as an intern in the Maryland General Assembly Legislative Program. In this role he provides research and staff assistance to legislators in order to gain educational and practical work experience in the Legislative Branch of State Government. Through this experience, DaJuan says he was able to envision the responsibilities of elected officials, including developing and maintaining positive relationships with constituents, actively engaging the community and inspiring citizens to have a positive impact on their communities. DaJuan is passionate about helping others, as evidenced by his unselfish regard for helping citizens and communities in need.



Award Winners



Officer Bennett Johns

Acts of Kindness Awards

Good Samaritan-S/Hero Award Recipient

In difficult economic times, there are tough choices to be made. Sometimes people make poor choices. Sometimes poor choices include breaking the law. If you shoplift, you are breaking the law. For a young mother caught shoplifting, the crime was not out of greed, but one seen as necessary for a mother trying to care for her child.

Officer Bennett Johns, of the Laurel Maryland Police Department, responded to a call at a local grocery store after a woman was accused of stealing diapers. The young mother ran out of money after buying groceries and did not have enough money left to purchase diapers. Officer Johns issued the woman a criminal citation for the theft, but he also wanted to help her out. Officer Johns, who was raised by a single mother, said the woman's struggle reflected much of his own upbringing. He was sensitive to the dilemma faced by the young mother. That is why he offered the woman assistance and made the decision to purchase the diapers on her behalf with his own money. Officer Johns' act of kindness towards a stranger exemplifies his selfless concern for the welfare of others. Each and every person is inherently valuable and deserves a hand-up when in need. If everyone in the world would do for a stranger what Officer Johns did, just imagine how much better the world would be.



Award Winners



"Changing The World by Empowering People"

**Acts of Kindness
Awards**
*Outstanding
Human Service
Award Recipient*

In 2009, US officials announced the end of the recession. While the big banks that had been bailed out by US taxpayers had speedily returned to making huge profits, millions of ordinary Americans were still out of work. Many more millions needed help to put food on the table. United Communities Against Poverty, Inc., is on a mission to alleviate poverty, improve awareness of the needs of low and moderate-income residents, and to maximize the quality of life for residents of Prince George's County, Maryland.

United Communities Against Poverty Inc., or UCAP, a non-profit 501(c) (3), was established in 1964 and designated as the official Community Action Agency for PG County in 1978. UCAP, is the leading advocate for communities of people facing deficiencies in education, affordable housing, economic stability, and adequate access to health care. The organization is dedicated to providing services to individuals and families whose quality of life has been negatively impacted by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, crime, and inadequate access to public health services.

Through UCAP's varied structured programs, the residents of PG County are able to obtain assistance to become self-sufficient members of the greater community. In a post-recession era, UCAP continues to be one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Prince George's County, Maryland, advocating and implementing services to improve the quality of life for people facing social and economic hardships.



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Thank You

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Congratulations
Accolade Celebrations

On your 3rd Annual Year of



*Recognizing all that is
GOOD and KIND in our communities.*



*Metropolitan United Methodist Church
548 Queenstown Road
Severn, Maryland 21144*

Reverend Frances W. Stewart, Pastor



ACCOLADE *Celebrations, LLC*

Our Guiding Scripture

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)
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.



The Ripple Effect of Acts Of Kindness

Acts of Kindness Awards - Featured Video

Whether it's holding an elevator open for someone or picking up litter on the street, even the smallest gesture can make a difference. In this four-minute video, bystanders witness a stranger performing a simple act of kindness, and are then inspired to turn around and do a good deed themselves. The staged video, set to the tune of Noah and the Whale's "Give a Little Love," posits that if we all spread kindness, eventually others will follow. Created by Krizovatka, a nonprofit Christian organization in the Czech Republic, the video was posted in 2013 and has received over 20 million hits on YouTube.



★ ★ ★ *Acts of* ★ ★ ★

KINDNESS AWARDSTM

CELEBRATING THE EXCELLENCE IN PEOPLE

