

*Celebrating 5 years...
Empowerment Resources, Inc.
presents*



JOURNEY INTO
Womanhood
Scholarship Banquet

Happy 5th Birthday JIW!

Saturday, June 6, 2009

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Jacksonville Marriott - 4607 Salisbury Road



LETTER FROM MAYOR JOHN PEYTON



On behalf of the great citizens of Jacksonville, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the **5th Annual Journey Into Womanhood Banquet**. I would like to praise the many individuals whose hard work made this afternoon's event possible. I commend *Empowerment Resources Inc.* and its *Journey Into Womanhood* program for its efforts to enrich the lives of female adolescents, and congratulate you on reaching your 5th anniversary.

The voyage into adulthood can be challenging, and I am pleased that this program seeks to empower young people to become successful leaders in the community.

As you know, one of my top priorities as mayor includes ensuring the safety and success of our young people of Jacksonville. The good work of this program has a ripple effect on Jacksonville, helping to advance those priorities in the community and I commend your organization for its vital contribution to Jacksonville. Again, welcome - and please enjoy this afternoon's speakers, entertainment and well-deserved celebration.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Peyton".

John Peyton

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the **5th Annual Journey Into Womanhood (JIW) Scholarship Banquet**, on behalf of myself and the board of directors. We thank you for taking time out to support our event.

We are here to celebrate and showcase the growth of the young ladies from the *Journey Into Womanhood* program and to congratulate our graduating seniors, *Courtney Hammond* and *Talia McClain*.

We have had many success stories, and for that many thanks and praise are due to numerous individuals and organizations that support us. We operate by donations, a small application fee, fundraisers and tons of volunteer support. Most importantly, thank you to the participants, parents and JIW mentors who give up time to take part in this program.

All youth in the JIW program are required and encouraged to give back to the community through volunteering. Statistics and data shows that giving back is one of the key elements to leadership, but more importantly a volunteer is a person who becomes nurturing and sensitive to others. We see firsthand the growth and leadership potential in these young ladies. Please praise these participants and other youth in the community for doing good. After all they are our future, so why not invest in them with free words of praise.

Your participation is crucial to the success of our organization and the youth and families that we seek to empower.

Thank you for attending, and we hope to see you next year!



OUR HISTORY

Empowerment Resources Inc. (ERI) is a private 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 2002. The mission is to focus on making children and their families stronger while empowering them to become successful leaders in the community today, for a better tomorrow. We rely on volunteers to run the organization. We have four programs *Journey Into Womanhood*, life-skill workshops for male and female teens, mini retreats and parenting consulting/education classes!

Journey Into Womanhood (JIW) began in June 2003. This rites of passage program has been designed with concepts targeted specifically for female adolescents and addresses the issues that plague girls and their voyage into womanhood. Journey Into Womanhood promotes leadership development in teen girls ages 9-17 and addresses the real issues youth are faced with today. The sessions include workshops, enrichment trips and community service projects. Some workshops are co-facilitated with community agencies and businesses. These businesses and leaders dedicate their service on a volunteer basis. This unique and inspiring program cultivates young ladies and in addition to increasing their self-awareness, leadership development and understanding of twelve vital aspects of life which includes:

The Value of SELF: Understanding the need to love thyself

Our Society Social Constructs: Understanding racism and prejudice, respect for other cultures

Drug and Alcohol: Prevention the effects of drug and alcohol abuse

Food & Nutrition: Learning healthy ways of eating and how to select nutritious foods

Concepts of Beauty: How to care for self, what is beauty, personal hygiene

Employment and Career Skills: Preparing a resume, how get the career you want

"A" is for Academics: Learning proper study habits, college preparation & public speaking

Community Building: Hands-on learning of the importance of giving back by volunteering

Health & Fitness: Learning the importance of exercise & maintaining a healthy lifestyle

Abstinence/STD Prevention: Learning the pros of waiting, how to avoid risky behavior

Relationships/Social Skills: Respecting elders, understanding friendships, and developing social skills

Investments and Savings: Understanding the difference and importance between the two

2008-2009 ERI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Waters, *President*

Sylvia Burgess
Susan Burroughs, MHA
Daphne Colbert
Oare' Henry, Ed.D

Chealsea Howze
Samanthia Paris, MSW
Jevetta Stanford
Ex-officio
Tasmia Henry, M.D.

2008-2009 ERI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Toni Chadwell
Christy Jackson
Geretha Mayers
Angela Mack
Michelle Simkulet
Chantel Waters
Kaylah Norris, *JIW Representative*

2008-2009 4-H OFFICERS:

Jessica Polote, *President*
Kaylah Norris, *Vice President*
Monique Young, *Secretary*
Jasmine Flournoy, *Treasurer*



MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

ANGELA SPEARS



Angela Spears is an Anchor/Reporter for First Coast News NBC 12/ABC 25. She is up bright and early every morning doing live reports for Good Morning Jacksonville. She also anchors First Coast News at Noon.

Angela grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin. She is a very proud Texan and Longhorn!

In her spare time, Angela enjoys reading, watching TV, listening to music and shopping. (She absolutely love shoes!) She also enjoys giving back to her community. She volunteers her time with various organizations. She reads to kids and talks with young people about career choices. Angela truly believes it is important to give back to others, especially young people. "I had people who helped me out along the way. Now, it's my turn to help others when I can."

She is passionate about many issues, including organ donation awareness. Hundreds of thousands of people are on the waiting list for a life saving organ. Angela feels fortunate to be a living donor. The best thing she has ever done was to give her dad a new lease on life. She donated a kidney to him in May 2005.

Angela is on the Board of Directors for the St. Andrew's Lighthouse. She is also a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

JACKSONVILLE
BROTHERHOOD OF
FIREFIGHTERS
CENTURY PLAZA
QUALITY SUITES
OCEANFRONT JAX BEACH
SUSAN BURROUGHS
RAIL AMERICA INC.
D. MOR INC.
AASYS GROUP INC.

SANTIAGO & SHIRLEY
LIVINGSTON
CARLA MARLIER
MASSAGE ENVY
J. ALEXANDER'S
TIJUANA FLATS
ORIGINS
&
FOR: YOU & YOURS

SPEAKERS

JACQUI LOWE

Jacqui Lowe is the community relations coordinator for Fidelity Investments. As the community relations coordinator, one of Jacqui's primary responsibilities includes recruiting volunteers and managing the Fidelity Cares program. She is passionate about working with her colleagues in the monthly volunteer program to help enhance the quality of life for underserved residents on the First Coast. Born and raised in San Jose, California, Jacqui graduated from Allen D. Nease High School in 1999 before going on to attend the University of North Florida. Prior to her role at Fidelity, she was the public relations specialist for Hubbard House, a domestic violence shelter in Duval County. Beyond JCCI *Forward*, Jacksonville's program for aspiring community leaders, Jacqui is a member of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and the IMPACTjax government affairs committee. When she is not working, Jacqui enjoys cooking, dancing and cheering on her favorite football team.



ZANDRIA CONYERS



Zandria Conyers is Senior Counsel for the Ladies Professional Golf Association. In this capacity, she advises the LPGA on business issues ranging from merchandise licensing to the growth and development of the LPGA's global intellectual property portfolio. Since joining the organization in 2008, she has drafted and negotiated television rights representation deals, sponsorship and partner contracts, complex service provider agreements, and player representation and golf course tournament contracts, among others. This year, Zandria was appointed to represent the LPGA on the board of an industry-wide committee charged with enhancing diversity in the golf business both inside and outside of the ropes. Zandria's previous experience includes serving as an attorney in the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs for the state of Georgia and practicing in Washington, D.C. in intellectual property, antitrust and mergers and acquisitions. She lives in Palm Coast, FL with her husband Marcel and their two children.

THE HONORABLE JUDY HAWKINS

Judge Judith Hawkins serves in Tallahassee, Florida as a Leon County Judge. In 1996, she was the first African-American Leon County Court Judge. Prior to her election, she developed her own law firm and became one of the few attorneys in the State of Florida who were board certified in marital and family law. Judge Hawkins' passions are traveling and service, and it shows in both her professional and personal lives. In March 2003, she participated in the Judicial Law Delegation to South Africa, People to People Ambassador Program. And, in September of 2004, she was a delegate to Panama with the Florida Law Related Education Program. Since her 50th birthday, Judge Hawkins has combined her passion for travel and service to do international mission trips. She helped build a school in Costa Rica, January 2001, and has conducted evangelistic campaigns for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 7 countries in 7 years and is scheduled to go to Brazil, November 2009. Since December 1972, Judge Hawkins has been married to James E. Hawkins, Dean of the School of Journalism, Florida A&M University. Their son, Jason, and his wife, Dionne, have blessed them with Keira, born Easter weekend 2008.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Journey Into Womanhood 2008-2009 Success Stories/News:

JIW attended a Jacksonville Jaguar Football game by completing several tasks including; a workshop on food and nutrition from 4-H EFNEP, pledging to remain free from tobacco, drugs and alcohol use, goal setting and community service.

JIW viewed the documentary, "Africa's Daughters," directed by Natalie Halpern, a story of two Ugandan girls who dream of moving themselves and their families out of the hands of poverty. After a question and answer session with Halpern, JIW members put their thoughts on paper and wrote letters to the girls featured in the documentary to share how much the film impacted them.

JIW travelled to Tallahassee, Florida for the *College Tour* of Florida A&M University and Florida State University. Upon setting their feet on Tallahassee's soil, they were greeted by District 14's House of Representative, Mia Jones.

Sophomore, Ashley Irven earned a place in UNF/Jaguar Foundation Honor Rows Mentoring program.

Alumni Erica Mitchell and Sanitra Livingston participated in the UNF/Jaguar Foundation Honor Rows Mentoring Program with a scholarship to UNF.

JIW sponsored its group community service project, the "Mayor's Holiday Festival". All youth are required and encouraged to give back to the community through volunteerism.

JIW adopted six families from Community Connections. Members agreed to donate a few dollars from their allowance and paychecks to buy gifts for families in need.

JIW participated in the 2008 election process by volunteering to get people registered to vote, making calls encouraging people to vote and making posters about voting.

JIW Alumni Erica Mitchell earned a scholarship to study abroad in Ghana, West Africa, for 18 days from May 7-28, as a part of the Ghana Project 2009 from UNF. Her journey was made possible thanks to the generosity of a \$3,000 scholarship from the Jaguars Foundation, \$1,500 scholarship from UNF, as well as a donation from ERI.

JIW Alumni Sanitra Livingston was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship luncheon, at UNF, from Dr. Ben Carson.

ERI served over 400 youth and families year-to-date with the JIW program, outreach, and contract work with churches and other agencies.

This year is dedicated in memory of *Tamika S. Stewart* and *Soloman Stanford*, two angels who continue to watch over us.

*There are two things one should know about the direction of life:
First is: Where am I going? Second is: Who will go with me? ~ Elie Wiesel*



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

KEVIN WATERS, Board President
Welcome

ANGELA SPEARS, Mistress of Ceremonies

ENTRANCE of Young Ladies and Their Escorts

KELSEY SMITH
Blessing

~

LUNCH is Served

~

NAKIYAH BROWN & GABRIELE BROWN
Speaker Introduction

JACQUI LOWE
Speaker

JASMINE FLOURNEY
Speaker Introduction

ZANDRIA CONYERS
Speaker

MONIQUE YOUNG
Speaker Introduction

JUDGE JUDITH HAWKINS
Speaker

~

TALENT Showcase

~

ELEXIA COLEMAN-MOSS, Executive Director
Awards Presentation

ELEXIA COLEMAN-MOSS
Closing Remarks

OUR GIRLS...



PORTIA AKINS

AGE: 11 GRADE: 6TH

School: Darnell-Cookman Middle School

Interests: Reading and writing

Motto: Be yourself for yourself and nobody else but yourself.

Goals in life/School: I would like to receive all A's in school. In life, I want to accept myself for myself and not worry about what other people think of me.

Escort: Tyson Wright



KELLEY BARNES

AGE: 11 GRADE: 6TH

School: Oceanway Middle School

Interests: Cheerleader since the age of 4, Dancer, and I love to sing in the youth choir.

Motto: Be the best that you can be and do it with the best attitude.

Goals in life/School: I would like to become a nurse. I will attend Florida A&M University and be on the cheer squad. I will be a Rattler forever. I would also like to volunteer and give back to the community.

Escort: Kelvin Barnes



AKIA BATTLE

AGE: 16 GRADE: 10TH

School: Father's Harbor Academy

Interests: I like to dance. I participate in modern, tap, jazz, hip hop, West African, and lyrical. Pointe is my favorite.

Motto: Always look your best.

Goals in life/School: I want to attend Alvin Ailey's School of Dance in New York City, New York.

Escort: Charles Burgess



JOCELYN BENFORD

AGE: 15 GRADE: 9TH

School: Father's Harbor Academy

Interests: Dancing, singing, drawing, painting, playing instruments, doing hair, spending time with little kids and modeling.

Motto: Stay true to myself and my style and strive to be an original.

Goals in life/School: I plan to go to Julliard School of the Arts for Dance. Establish my own arts studio, hair salon and school and become one of the best Christian fashion models in the world!

Escort: Derrel Turner

OUR GIRLS...



GABRIELE BROWN

AGE: 11 GRADE: 5TH

School: Parkwood Heights Elementary School

Interests: I like gymnastics. It is fun and it's exercise. I run track, like fashion and one day want to design clothes. I enjoy watching forensic shows like CSI. I like to crochet and recently made a blanket for my sister.

Motto: I believe I'm smart in all ways.

Goals in life/School: I want to go to college. I am thinking about either FAMU or FSU. I also want to succeed in life so I can get my dream career and life. I would like to have a career as a film director or actress.

Escort : *Elijah Labordeaux*



NAKIYAH BROWN

AGE: 10 GRADE: 4TH

School: Oak Hill Elementary School

Interests: I play on the Westconnect Softball team, second base and outfield. I like cheerleading because I can be with my friends. I express myself through writing and enjoy dancing because it's fun exercise.

Motto: Do your best and your best will take care of the rest.

Goals in life/School: To maintain A's and B's on my report card and attend Spellman College and one day become a doctor.

Escort: *Antwan McCloud*



JANAE BYRD

AGE: 12 GRADE: 7TH

School: Darnell Cookman Middle School

Interests: I like to swim competitively and I have won a first place medal with Harts Road Swim team

Motto: Live life to the fullest.

Goals in life/School: I want to own my own boutique and I plan to attend FAMU, majoring business.

Escort: *Lamar Byrd*



DERYN DABNEY

AGE: 12 GRADE: 7TH

School: Christian Heritage Academy

Interests: I like to sing to Gospel, R&B, and Hip Hop. I like to play classical and jazz on the piano. I like to write long stories about things I observe. I like to travel with my mom and sisters.

Motto: I'm not what you think of me, but what I think of myself.

Goals in life/School: To get my degree in journalism, grow my book club, and start several writing camps for girls. I want to be successful and someday have younger girls look up to me.

Escort: *Jeremy Brown*

OUR GIRLS...



NIYAH FISHER

AGE: 12 GRADE: 6TH

School: James Weldon Johnson Middle School

Interests: I like to sew and recently entered 4-H talent show and placed 2nd in the fashion review division. I enjoy going to school and my favorite subject is science.

Motto: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Goals in life/school: I want to go to college, possibly FAMU and become a fashion designer.

Escort : Sean Fisher



JASMINE FLOURNEY

AGE: 17 GRADE: 11TH

School: First Coast High School

Interests: Music, arts and sports

Motto: Always believe in yourself.

Goals in life/School: I want to own my own business and attend college.

Escort : Jakey Moss



ASHLEY IRVEN

AGE: 16 GRADE: 10TH

School: Bolles

Interests: I like literature, poetry, and acting because it allows me to be creative and gives me the opportunity to express my thoughts.

Motto: Why must we create this figure to look up to when we already have so much to live for?

Goals in life/School: I would like to have a career in literature/writing.

Escort : Adral Fortune



TESHARA LASTER

AGE: 14 GRADE: 8TH

School: Jefferson Davis Middle School

Interests: I sing for small audiences, which most people don't know. I like to research new dance techniques and try them with my friends.

Motto: It's always time for a change.

Goals in life/School: I plan to graduate from high school, attend either FAMU or UGA, majoring in sports management. I would like to own a clothing store in the future.

Escort : Adrian Brantley

OUR GIRLS...



BRIDARRA LOVETT-WILLIAMS

AGE: 13 GRADE: 7TH

School: Oceanway Middle School

Interests: Enjoy spending time with family and friends and reading the "Twilight" series.

Motto: We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. ~Martin Luther Kings, Jr.

Goals in life/School: To become a cardiologist and be successful in life. I'm interested because a family member has been diagnosed with heart disease at an early age. I have been selected to take the SAT test this spring. If I do well, I will be able to attend Duke University during their summer program.

Escort : Carlton Williams



BRIANNA MAJOR

AGE: 12 GRADE: 8TH

School: Paxon Middle

Interest: Reading, Modeling, and Track & Field

Escort: Charles Burgess



DAVESHIA MCCLLOUD

AGE: 14 GRADE: 8TH

School: Northwestern Middle School

Interests: I run track: 100 hurdles, 4 x 1, and 4 x 2. I improved my record for the hurdles from 18.2 to 13. I like cheerleading because it is energetic and I get to attend all the games, I find math is fun and challenging.

Motto: Don't be afraid to chase your dreams.

Goals in life/School: I would like to attend Xavier University to become a Pediatrician and one day work at St. Jude's Hospital. I would also like to graduate valedictorian from my high school.

Escort: Kamren Stowers



KIANA NICOLE MOORE

AGE: 13 GRADE: 7TH

School: Oceanway Middle School

Interests: Taking care of animals (dogs), writing, drawing, singing and dancing

Motto: If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always gotten; Live life to the fullest.

Goals in life/School: To become a veterinarian or a teacher. To continue to make A's and B's, make many friends, join clubs, and get into a very good college.

Escort : Jesse James Moore, Jr.

OUR GIRLS...



KAYLAH NORRIS
AGE: 15 GRADE: 10TH

School: Paxon School for Advanced Studies
Interests: I like soothing music because it calms me down.
Motto: Tomorrow has it worries of its own!
Goals in life/School: To either enlist in the military or attend college and become a pediatrician.
Escort : Fred Hamilton III



KAYLA ORR
AGE: 12 GRADE: 6TH

Interest: Team-Up afterschool program
Escort: Kamren Stowers



CHRISTINE PITTMAN
AGE: 13 GRADE: 8TH

Interest: Teen Court and Volley Ball
Goals in Life: Attending Law School and learning new things.
Escort: Charles Burgess



JESSICA O'NEAL POLOTE
AGE: 17 GRADE: 11TH

School: Paxon School for Advanced Studies
Interests: Saving money, gardening, and helping others.
Motto: If you love the sight of a beautiful rainbow, you'll have to be prepared to put up with the rain. So open your umbrella, go outside and enjoy stomping through the puddles of life.
Goals in life/School: To become a Speech Therapist and travel the world with my family.
Escort : Michael D. Brown

OUR GIRLS...



TIJANA ROGERS
AGE: 12 GRADE: 6TH

School: Paxon Middle School
Interests: Playing with pets, gardening, computers, Wii's, and cooking
Motto: The work isn't hard, you're just lazy and can I help?
Goals in life/School: To get all A's on my report card and maintain my A/B honor roll. To open a giant park/pet shop.
Escort : Tyree Harris



KELSEY SMITH
AGE: 12 GRADE: 6TH

School: Lakeshore Middle School
Interests: I like swimming and playing flag football.
Motto: Approach life as if it were a banquet.
Goals in life/School: To do well in school, but have fun. I plan to go to college and swim professionally. I hope to, one day, swim in the Olympics.
Escort : Donnie Freeman



NYLA STANFORD
AGE: 11 GRADE: 6TH

School: Paxon Middle School
Interests: I like to sing, write my own songs, and create dances. I read dramas and mysteries and enjoy writing my own stories. I like swimming because I like to be around the water.
Motto: Life is what you make it.
Goals in life/School: To attend Yale and become an Entertainment Lawyer. If I don't become a lawyer, I would like to write poetry.
Escort : Robert Stanford Sr.



AZHANAY WALKER
AGE: 15 GRADE: 9TH

School: Potters House Christian Academy
Interests: Cheerleading, dancing, stepping, and computers.
Motto: Knowledge is Power
Goals in life/School: To become a successful lawyer. To also pass every grade making the "A" honor roll and to attend a University such as Yale.
Escort : Charles Burgess



OUR GIRLS...



ARDEN WARD
AGE: 10 GRADE: 5TH

School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
Interests: I like to act and I have been in Shakespearean plays. I dance with my church group. I like competitive swimming.
Motto: Nothing less than my best.
Goals in life/School: I want to pass the FCAT and be promoted to the 6th grade; I want to become a CSI Agent; I want to become an actress and appear on Broadway.
Escort : Marcus Williams



KAILA WHITE
AGE: 16 GRADE: 11TH

School: Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Interests: Music, dancing, traveling, and relaxing.
Motto: *I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.* ~Bill Cosby
Goals in life/School: I would like to attend the University of Central Florida and dual major in Financial Analysis and Health Administration. I would later like to open a performing arts center for all children to learn and master various arts.
Escort : Kamren Stowers



DELEISA WILLIAMS
AGE: 13 GRADE: 8TH

School: Darnell Cookman Middle/High School
Interests: Enjoys spending time with family, journal writing, and text-messaging friends. Also enjoys going to Georgia to spend time with her grandmother during school breaks and summer vacation.
Motto: Work hard, play hard, and get right back to work.
Goals in life/School: Graduate high school and attend Pharmacy School at Florida A & M University.
Escort : Hasan Welch



MONIQUE YOUNG
AGE: 17 GRADE: 11TH

School: First Coast High School
Interests: Hanging with friends, singing, reading, being with family, running track, modeling, and shopping.
Motto: I can do all things through Christ.
Goals in life/School: To become a pediatric nurse.
Escort : Watt H. Young, Jr.

OUR GIRLS...

UNABLE TO ATTEND



SIERRA JONES

AGE: 13 GRADE: 9TH School: Mandarin High
Interest: Science and Track & Field,

AMARI MONDY

AGE: 13 GRADE: 7TH School: Highlands Middle
Interest: Movies, working with children, and writing.

MIKAYLA MONDY

AGE: 12 GRADE: 6TH School: Mandarin Middle
Interest: Horseback riding, ice skating, and spelling.

Special thanks... to our table sponsor **Century Plaza** who provided lunch for **ten** of our girls' escorts.



CENTURY PLAZA

Managed by Florida Executive Realty Management Corp.

DAVID A. NEEDLE, P.A.

*North Office: 3733 University Boulevard West #208
Jacksonville, FL 32217 Cell: 904.626.0006*

*South Office: 5201 Village Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33407 Cell: 561.723.8727*

Email: fermc@earthlink.net
www.fermc.com

Check out our **Raffle Table** to take your chance to win fabulous prizes sponsored by *Quality Oceanfront Suites, Massage Envy, Coach, For: You & Yours, J. Alexander's* and **MORE...**

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A TICKET!!

OUR SENIORS...



COURTNEY HAMMOND
AGE: 17 GRADE: 12TH
Escort : Anthony Hammond

School: Orange Park High School

Colleges accepted to or Colleges applied to: Bethune Cookman University, University of Central Florida and Florida State University; I have decided to attend Bethune Cookman University.

Scholarships awarded or offered:

Women of Power Book Scholarship, Bright Futures Scholarship

Activities and Honors: I am a member of the Spanish Honor Society and National Honor Society. I have also received awards in Marine Science and soccer. I received the highest grade out of all the Marine Science classes at my school. My GPA is 3.95.

Interests: Playing soccer, reading, and marine science

Motto: I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

Goals and plans after high school/career path:

Attend college and major in Health Service Administration with a minor in Linguistics.

JIW: My most enjoyable JIW experiences were going to the Jaguar's game, doing role-plays, and making a collage of my life. JIW has taught me how to be a better person --- a strong phenomenal woman.

OUR SENIORS...



TALIA McCLAIN

AGE: 17 GRADE: 12TH

Escort : Phillip Thomas

School: Englewood High School

Colleges accepted to or Colleges applied to: Bethune Cookman University (accepted), Florida A & M University (accepted), and University of North Florida

Activities and Honors: FCCJ Talent Search Program, FYOPP Olympics, Volunteered with the Barack Obama campaign, Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville with Rail America/FEC Railway

Interests: I like volunteering with things in the community including feeding the homeless and cleaning up the local communities.

Motto: Never stop believing in yourself and anything is possible.

Goals and plans after High School/ Career Path: Attend College to become a Forensic Scientist/ Registered Nurse

JIW: Being a member of JIW showed me leadership and mentor skills. The influence of Mrs. Elexia has empowered me to become a strong willed young lady moving into adulthood and setting goals along with my mother. Another meaningful JIW experience was seeing the documentary entitled *Africa Daughters* by Natalie Halpern. This empowered me to work harder and take advantage of the education in America. We saw how there are girls that are less fortunate than us in other countries and who would like to better themselves, but cannot. The impact was powerful, and allowed me to see that education is important for women throughout the world. This allows us to have a strong voice to dictate our future.

OUR SUPPORTERS...

**AUDREY GIBSON
FOR STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 1**
1038-5 Dunn Avenue #46 Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904)631-2032

Congratulations!

*Arden Ward
on your participation in
The 5th Annual Journey Into Womanhood*

Best Wishes & Good Luck!

Political advertisements must be pre-approved by the Office of Public Relations for State Senate District 1

Proud Sponsor of Arden

Off: (904) 726-6314
Pager: (904) 818-0044

RICHARD STUBBS JR
General Agent

RICHARD STUBBS AGENCY
2829 Chilton Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218



COLUMBIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE: CHICAGO, IL
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE: VESTAL PARKWAY EAST
OFFICE: BINGHAMTON, NY 13902
(800) 524-2472

Congratulations to Arden!



Valerie Dixon
Tailor

1841 City Station Dr., Ste. 101
Jacksonville, FL 32218
904-686-6162

lms.com

Comments? Call George at 1-800-851-8744

Valerie Dixon, Tailor
2329 W. 16th St., Jacksonville, FL 32209
Home: 353-7164 Cell: 403-6644
• ALTERATIONS • REPAIRS • DRESSMAKING

Congratulations to Ashley!



**Bennie Mac's
Barber Shop**

6137 Powers Avenue

"Hands Anointed for Perfection"

BENNIE McDUFFRE/OWNER

Tues. - Fri. 9:00-6:30
Sat. 7:00-4:00

Cell: (904) 635-2696
Phone: (904) 738-0831
CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS

Proud Sponsor of Gabriele

Something Epic Ent.



Jerome LeBonneux (C.E.O.)
(904) 545-1234

TaRhonda Brown (President)
(904) 651-5397

www.myspace.com/somethingepicent

*With love to my beautiful and
talented wife, Eleavia!*

JAKEY MOSS
Financial Services Representative

Compass Bank

Deerwood Banking Center
8730 Baymeadows Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32256
jakey.moss@compassbank.com



OUR SUPPORTERS...

*Congratulations Jessica Polote on a
another successful year with JFW!*

Love, Mom & Mike

AVON...The Company for Women

Jacqueline Brown
(904) 859-4167
Jackieo123@bellsouth.net

Independent Avon Representative

Congratulations Nylah! Love, Mom

New Creations Hair Salon

Franshawn Thayer
Licensed Cosmetologist
franniestyles@msn.com
2807 W. 45th St.

(904) 768-0116(x)
(904) 451-1230(x)

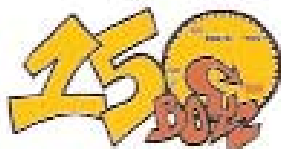


Proud Sponsor of Tijana

NOW ENROLLING OPEN 24 HRS.
CHILDREN'S GIVING CIRCLE
1561 Cassat Ave. Jacksonville
FREE REGISTRATION VOUCHERS
SUMMER CAMP
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
V.P.K. School Readiness Program
Higher Reach Learning Curriculum

Enroll Today (904) 476-7691

Congratulations Teshara!



DON'T JUST LIVE...ACCELERATE

Kenneth Floyd	President	904.669.4762
Sean Glass	Vice President	904.377.6321
James Wesley	Road Captain	904.540.4366
Dave Becker	Communications Officer	386.931.2072

buck150boys@yahoo.com • myspace.com/buck150boys

Proud Sponsor of Nyla

**I can do all things through Christ which
strengthens me. Phillipians 4:13**

Asia Peek
Vocalist- Actor- Model-Lyricist

*Gospel *R&B *Neo-Soul *Special Requests
Contact Sharwonda Peek (manager) for bookings.
(904) 234-2307-cell
(904) 693-4422-home
sharpeek2001@yahoo.com

OUR SUPPORTERS...

Proud Sponsor of Tijana

Specializing in Healthy Hair & Creative Styling



MONEA'S HAIR SALON

1315-4 Lane Ave. E.

GLENDIA
Owner/Stylist

904-783-3312
Cell: 904-866-5595

Proud Sponsor of Tijana



Angela M. Cox
P: 904-483-8338
E: pictureitmore@yahoo.com
W: www.pictureitmore.com

Let us take care of your gift giving needs.

CONGRATS to ALL JIW Participants:

Jeremiah 29:11 reads:

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."*

Seek what God has for you to do and continue to follow His path to your destiny! - Christy L. Jackson

www.foryouandyours.com
Christy L. Jackson, Owner
christy@foryouandyours.com

for: you & yours!
"Communicate what's really important...
to those important to you!"

**Writing
Graphic Design
Event Decor
Illustration
Photo
Restoration
Gift Items
And more!**

Proud Sponsor of Tijana



MICHELLE A. BELL, M.D.

Practice Limited in the Diseases of Infants,
Children through Adolescence

Bell & Associates
2340 Sunset Dr.
Jacksonville, Florida 32208
(904) 924-7117

KELLY G. COOPER
Senior Paraplanner

3705 ATLANTA INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY
SUITE 101
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30331

MAIN • 404-514-4285
FAX • 801-840-1541
CELL • 904-589-8358

Proud Sponsor of Tijana

E-MAIL: kcooper@familygroupfinance.com
www.familygroupfinance.com



OUR SUPPORTERS...



Congratulations
Ashley Irvén
We are so Proud of You!!

Love,
Grandma Streater,
Traci and Sandy

To All
the JIW's:

*"For it is God
which worketh in
you both to will
and to do His
good pleasure."
Phil. 2:13*

Betty Anderson

CONGRATULATIONS

**Nyla &
Happy 5th
Birthday JIW!**

Love,
The Johnson Family
Vincent, Dana,
Vincent Jr. & Kendell

Courtney,

Congratulations Senior!

*I wish you all the best in your future
endeavors! The Sky is the Limit!*


Love and Best Wishes,
Daphne Thompkins



Nyla,

*I am so proud of you!
Keep up the good work,
and remember I love you.*

Love,
Daddy
Solomon Stanford




Sunrise:
November 3, 1976
Sunset:
December 24, 2000

Deryn:

*May you
be blessed now
and in all
your future endeavors.*

Angela Goldwire




Courtney,

I am very proud of you, Courtney!

*I wish you all the best and I
support you!*

Love,
Anthony
Hammond



Delesia

*The future belongs to those who
believe. We believe you are headed
toward greatness!*

You must believe it too!!!

Love Always,
Mom, Daddy "D" and Desmond

Congratulations!

Courtney

on your
Journey
into
Womanhood!

Travis Jackson


Congratulations!

**Arden
Ward**

(escorted by Marcus Williams)

*One's journey down the right
path leads to a road of many
wonderful opportunities.*

With Love,
Mommy



To our lovely
daughter
and sister,

Niyah

*May God
continue to Bless you
in all your endeavors.*

*Love Dad, Mamma T,
Lauryn, Terrod and Jaylon*



Gabriele,

*Congratulations of completing
your first year of JIW! We're
so proud of you. We know you
weren't into it in the beginning,
but we're glad that you're
enjoying yourself now.
Always know that we love
you.*

*Mommy, Elijah
and Kamrynne*

Congratulations,
Teshara!!!

Sam's Trucking
Fairfield, FL

Owner/Operator:
Charles Sams, Sr.
Brandon Sams, Sr.



Courtney,

Continue to
reach for
the stars!!

Corey Jones

Taila,

CONGRATULATIONS!!

*From your Brother
& Nephew*
Talmadge Patteson I,
and Talmadge
Patterson II, age 7



Congratulations to
my Baby Girl!

Way to Go
**Ashley
Irvén!!**

From your
Big Dad, Tyrone



OUR SUPPORTERS...



Congratulations
Ashley Irvén
on your "Journey into
Womanhood" program.
Mr. Lamar
Lamar's Car Wash and
Detailing Service
(904) 614-2375

Brianna
*I am so proud of you.
Best wishes on your
Journey into Womanhood.*
**Love Grandma,
Betty Anderson**


TO
Nyla:
We wish you the best
in all you do.
Love,
Mr. Oscar and
Grandma Latha

CONGRATULATIONS
Teshara!!!
*From your church family,
Little Lake Weir Prayer Hon.
14226 SE 100th Ave.
Summerfield, FL
Pastor: Cubit Malone, Jr.*



*Keep Up the
Good Work*
Nyla!
Love,
The McCoy Family
Robert & Lavetta

CONGRATULATIONS
Arden Ward
*Enjoy your
Journey into Womanhood!
We Love You,*
Grandma, Constance S. Faulk
and Aunties: Cynthia Benjamin,
Sheri Davis, Awanda Franklin
and Vivian Stubbs



Talia,
*I am so proud of you.
Continue to persevere and
recognize all God's blessings.*
Love,
Your Mom,
Margaret Patterson




Gabriele
No matter where you go or
what you do in this life,
always know that I love you
and that we're proud of you
Our baby girl is growing up
Love Always,
Daddy, Tiffany,
Demerion and Khari,
F. Stroussbourg, Penn.

To
Talia
"In all your ways
acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct
thy path."
- Proverbs 3:6
Best wishes and much success!
Linda Jackson

Dearest
Dee Dee
*Shine your light
and be wonderful
in the way that
is uniquely you!*
Love,
Big Mama



CONGRATULATIONS!!
Nyla
and the JTW girls!
Love,
The Deas family
Darnell, Cheryl,
Darnell, Jr.,
Amiyah and Malyah



Courtney,
*Celebrate your successes
and continue to dream!*
*You've got a bright future
ahead of you!*
Congratulations!
John Williams

Ashley,
Congratulations and
Best Wishes
on your wonderful
"Journey into Womanhood",
Mr. Mike Harris



Nyla,
*I am so proud of you
and all that you do.*
*Keep up the good work,
and remember I love you.*
Love,
Ms. Sonia

Congratulations to
Courtney
on your
Journey into Womanhood
Steve Hussey



To
Niyah.
*We love you dearly.
May you always allow
God to lead your
Journey into Womanhood.*
Love,
Daddy, Mom
and your
brothers and sisters



OUR SUPPORTERS...



Congratulations
Nyla
and the JIW Grls!

Love,
The Bass Family
Lester, Selena,
Spencer, Trinity & Micah

To
Taila.

May you have
many blessings in
life and keep
God first.

Mrs. Patsy Albritton



Good luck
Taila
on all your endeavors!

Nathaniel Whitten

We love you,
Nyla!



Love,
Auntie Nah-Nah,
Dee, Tee-Tee,
Todjay & Tierra

Gabriele,

I am so proud of you on the
beginning of your Journey into
Womanhood. I am pleased that
you have found something that
you enjoy doing and has opened
your mind to new possibilities.
Always remember that
Grannie Loves You.

Love,
Your Grannie,
Laura New
Jackson, Michigan

Way to go!!

**Ashley
Irven**

Love,
Grandma Pat
and
Grandma Elvise



Dee Dee
We love you!

You make
us proud!
Auntie Lisa, Uncle Chris,
Leila and Gabby



Deryn

May all your days be very
special, excellent and very
starlike -

for no reason other than the
obvious...you're a star!

Love,
Cousin Michael
and Vanessa Hofsey



**Taila
McClain**

May success and
happiness fill your
future years.

Veronica Alvares

Gabriele,

Sending love from
Uncle Calvin "Tweet",
Aunt Annie Doris
and your cousin, Toy.

Jackson, Michigan



CONGRATULATIONS
Courtney!


You have a bright future ahead
of you, young lady.

Go for your dreams!

Benjamin Whitfield

Azhany:
Princess,

We are very proud of you and your
achievements. May you continue to
grow and become the prosperous leader
your Father has created you to be.
Take the path of strength and endurance
throughout your walk, through life.



From the heart of your
Sister and Mother,
Grace & Cinaya Walker

Gabriele,

Just wanted to let you know
that we're proud of you.

Love,
Uncle Kirk and Aunt Sandie
from San Antonio, Texas

Dee Dee,

You're growing
into a beautiful
young lady.

We love you!
Hugs and Kisses!

Daddy, Margie, Alexis and Jayden



Hey Gabo!

Papa and Grandma are very proud
of you. Even though we miss you
being here with us, we know that
this has given you different
opportunities.

We love and miss you.

Papa &
Grandma Margie,
Crestview, FL



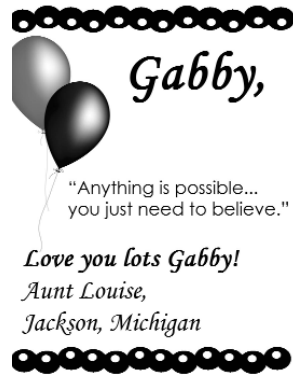
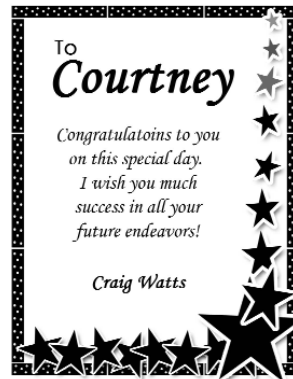
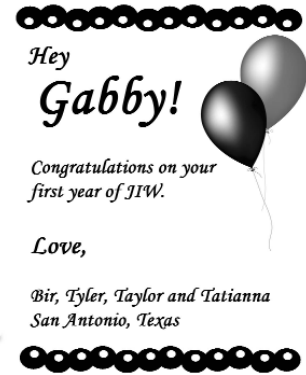
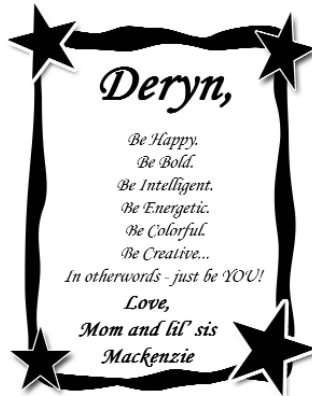
Courtney

Best wishes to you
in all that you do!

You're a shining star!

Love,
Gail Haines

OUR SUPPORTERS...



Our Wish List...

In order for us to serve the community, the support of the private sector and other organizations is critical.

Current needs include:

- Equipment (Program Software, Overhead Projector)
- CD player
- Karaoke Machine with Microphone
- School Supplies, Books, Arts and Craft Supplies
- Camcorder
- Stamps
- Gift cards (to provide lunch/snacks and for incentives)
- Laser jet ink cartridges (Lexmark Color 41 and Black 42)
- Mentors or Volunteer Speakers
- Monetary scholarships for youth
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Office Space

Why Donate?

As a non-profit community organization, we rely on the generosity of the community for our operation. Any donation that you can make will be used to underwrite the cost of programs and to improve the quality of service that we provide. All donations, small or large will be greatly accepted and appreciated. Donations to the organization are tax deductible. Please contact us at (904) 268-8287 for more information on making a donation or make a donation online at www.empoweringfamilies.org

OUR 2008-09 VOLUNTEERS

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following companies and people for their ongoing support. Without it, our program would not be as successful.

JIW Saturday Volunteers:

Alissa Adkins
Sylvia Burgess
Cherryle Felix
Sanitra Livingston
Chiquita Powell
Renee Simone
Nikki Young

Workshop Presenters:

Artesha Allen (DCHD)
Carol Young (Junior Achievement)
Chantel Waters (Focus on Flagler Youth)
Debbie Croasdaile (DCHD)
Deidre Lane (OneJax)
Extension4H/EFNEP
Gail Antione
Gloria McNair (DCHD)
Juanita Forman (Girls Inc.)
Kenneth Arnold (River Region)
Latonja Osborne
Natalie Halpern (Africa's Daughters)
Susan Burroughs (Junior Achievement)
Tancy Campbell (Girls Inc.)
Tarrell King (DCHD)

Supporters and Friends:

Blacksonville.com
Anthony Ragans

Abdullah-Bolden Family
Brian Harris
Circe LeNoble
Christy Jackson, For You and Yours
David Swain
Debbie Moreland
Debra Lewis and Friends
First Coast News
Florida Times-Union
Gertrude Peele
Jacksonville Advocate
Jacksonville Children's Commission
Jacksonville Marriott
Jake and Kathy Moss
Laquita Looney
LeAndra Padgett
Matt Thompson
Meobachi Salon
Mugwump Productions
Mike Jackson
Minnie Coleman
Natasha Clayton
Non Profit Center
Nokturnal Escape
Paxon area Full Service Schools (United Way)
Paula Shigley
Pride Bookclub
Print Express
Rivera Promotions
Ritz Theatre and Lavilla Museum
Sharon Wilburn
State Attorney Youth Offender Program
Tasmia Henry
Two and Fro
Tonya Smart
Tracy Alladice
V101.5 FM and 93.3 FM
Willie and Annette Williams
Willie Mae Sheffield

William Jackson
Women of Power (April Moore)
YMCA (Yates)
Val Brown

Banquet Committee & Volunteers:

Michelle Simkulet
co-chair
Toni Chadwell
co-chair
Tonisia Billups
Renee Simone
Nikki Young
Sanitra Livingston
Sylvia Burgess
Chiquita Powell
Jackie Brown
Kim Harris
Christy Jackson
Traci Irvin
Angela Mack
Geretha Mayers
Charles Burgess
Kamren Stowers
Jakey Moss
Jennifer Mansfield
Traci Pestine

In-kind Donations:

Jonathan Scherf
ZAG Advertising
Clinton Paris
D. Mor Inc./McDonald's
ELYK innovation Inc.
Jacksonville Children's Commission
Marcos Catering
Terry Harris
Yates YMCA

And to all other friends, volunteers and supporters ~ thank you!

JACKSONVILLE JAGUAR HONOR ROWS PROGRAM

In the fall of 2008, girls from the JIW program had the opportunity to participate in the *Jacksonville Jaguar Honor Rows Program*. This unique, nationally recognized program uses seats at Jaguar home games as an incentive to encourage children and youth to set and achieve ambitious, but realistic goals. The program consists of goal setting, academic achievement, and performing public service. Youth must be between the ages of 9 and 17 to earn a seat to the game, and do not have to be A-B honor roll students to participate.

JIW Honor Rows Program includes workshops on food and nutrition from 4-H EFNEP; pledging to remain free from tobacco, drugs and alcohol; goal setting education, community service; and completion of a final project. The following youth participated and successfully completed the program:

2008 Program Participants

Akia Battle	Ashley Irven	Jessica Polote
Gabriele Brown	Teshara Laster	Tijana Rogers
Nakiyah Brown	Bridarra Lovett	Kelsey Smith
Janae Byrd	Daveshia McCloud	Nyla Stanford
Deryn Dabney	Kiana Moore	Azhanay Walker
Courtney Hammond	Christine Pittman	Arden Ward

An optional oral report competition was also implemented in which participants made a presentation before a panel of peers and judges. Our winners are:

Jessica Polote (\$100 savings bond)
Ashley Irven (\$75 savings bond)
Azhanay Walker (\$50 savings bond)
Arden Ward (\$25 savings bond)

4-H TALENT COMPETITION

Each year 4H sponsors a talent showcase called *County Events Day*. This year the competitive opportunity for 4-H members took place on April 18, 2009. There are several categories including speeches, demonstrations, illustrated talks, talent performances or fashion modeling that are presented before a panel of judges. The following JIW's placed in the show:

Name	Talent	Ribbon
Gabriele Brown	Gymnastics	3rd
Niyah Fisher	Sewing	2nd
Nyla Stanford	Poetry	3rd





Empowerment Resources, Inc.
“Empowering youth to be successful leaders!”

Thanks to Our Supporters:



**girls
inc.**

Meobachi Salon & Spa



**It is the mission of Empowerment Resources, Inc.
to focus on making children and their families stronger
while empowering them to become successful leaders in the community
today for a better tomorrow.**



Empowerment Resource, Inc.
3832-010 Baymeadows Road, Suite 348
Jacksonville, FL 32258
Phone: (904) 268-2827 Fax: (904) 739-1364
Website: www.empoweringfamilies.org
Email: elxia@empoweringfamilies.org