

Empowerment Resources, Inc.  
presents the

7th annual  
**journey**  
*into Womanhood*



pearls of  
*wisdom*



Saturday, June 4, 2011  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Deerwood Country Club  
10239 Golf Club Drive



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John Peyton, Mayor

June 4, 2011

Dear Friends:

As mayor of Jacksonville it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Journey Into Womanhood Banquet. This is a special event that celebrates a wonderful group of young women, and their parents and mentors.

We live in complicated times that force young people to mature at an early age. By participating in Journey Into Womanhood, girls and young women learn about both the responsibilities and joys of making the journey from childhood to adulthood. They are taught to take the time for important introspection, and are to be commended for offering their abilities to the community and involving themselves in a variety of volunteer activities.

I applaud Empowerment Resources, Inc. for the work it does to strengthen our community by investing in our youth. I'm confident that the young people participating in Journey Into Womanhood are well on their way to successful and fulfilling futures.

Sincerely,

John Peyton, Mayor

## *From the Executive Director and Founder*



Welcome to the Seventh Annual Journey Into Womanhood Celebration and Scholarship Banquet. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for taking the time to support our event. Today, we celebrate and showcase the growth of the young ladies participating in Empowerment Resources, Inc.'s (ERI) Journey Into Womanhood (JIW) program and to congratulate our graduating seniors, as they begin a new journey—college.

We have so much to be thankful for this year. Despite an economy where families are experiencing a reduction in income, we have seen many of our families come together because of your generosity. The donation of your time, talent and treasure impacts more than 425 children and 100 parents that we have served to date through our programs, JIW, Parenting Education Seminars and Coaching and Life Skills Workshops. Please refer to page 5 in this program book to read our 2010-2011 success stories.

I am delighted to share a few JIW program statistics.

- All seniors have successfully completed high school and entered a college or university.
- JIW participants proactively take part in community activities where they can develop their leadership skills. Opportunities include serving as Jacksonville City Council pages, the Jaguars Community Scholars program and Teen Court as attorneys. Additionally, 100% of JIW girls participate in community service projects such as visiting senior citizens and collecting clothing and toys for the less fortunate.
- Since 2006, at least one JIW program participant has been recognized as a Jaguar Community Scholar. Only 20 students are selected within Duval County annually.

As Founder and Executive Director of this grassroots organization, I am grateful for the amount of community support that has been given to ERI, year after year. A tremendous amount of hard work is performed by dedicated volunteers who keep the organization operating. The JIW program is supported through donations, fundraisers, grants, in-kind donations and a nominal application fee. Thank you to the numerous individuals and organizations that support us financially, with in-kind support, or by facilitating JIW workshop presentations. These supporters and volunteers are recognized throughout this program book.

I would be remised if I didn't thank JIW participants, parents and mentors who give up time to take part in this program.

I hope you enjoy today's program as the keynote speakers and girls share their pearls of wisdom!

# Our History

Empowerment Resources Inc. (ERI) is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, established in 2002. Our mission is to make children and their families stronger and empower them to become successful leaders in the community today, for a better tomorrow. We rely on volunteers to run the organization. Our signature programs include Journey Into Womanhood, Life Skills Workshops for teen boys and girls and Parenting Education Seminars and Coaching.

Journey Into Womanhood (JIW) began in 2003. This 25 week 'rites-of-passage' program for girls ages 9-17 focuses on their healthy transition from girl to young woman. It addresses the real issues youth are faced with today. A unique and inspiring program, JIW is facilitated by experienced leaders and volunteers, who help the participants cultivate their self-awareness, develop leadership skills and put them on the path to positively impact the communities in which they live. Participants engage in journal writing, community service projects, and enrichment trips.

The Journey Into Womanhood program focuses on gaining understanding of the twelve vital aspects of life:

## **The Value of SELF**

Focuses on understanding the need to love oneself

## **Our Society & Social Constructs**

Focuses on understanding racism and prejudice, and learning to respect other cultures

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

Focuses on preventing the effects of drug and alcohol abuse

## **Food & Nutrition**

Focuses on learning healthy eating habits and selecting nutritious foods

## **Concepts of Beauty**

Focuses on caring for self, defining beauty, and personal hygiene

## **Employment and Career Skills**

Focuses on preparing a resume and learning how to get the career you want

## **A is for Academics**

Focuses on learning proper study habits, college preparation, and public speaking

## **Community Building**

Focuses on hands-on learning the importance of volunteering

## **Health & Fitness:**

Focuses on the importance of exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle

## **Abstinence & STD Prevention**

Focuses on learning the pros of waiting, and how to avoid risky behavior

## **Relationships & Social Skills**

Focuses on respecting elders, understanding friendships, and developing social skills

## **Investments & Savings**

Focuses on understanding the difference and importance between the two

## *2010-2011 Leadership*

### **Board of Directors**

Daphne Colbert  
Angela Johnson  
Dr. Oare' Henry  
Samanthia Paris

### **Advisory Council**

Stephanie Allen  
Sylvia Burgess  
Carla Flowers, parent advisor  
Jabari Jones  
Kim Miller  
Michelle Simkulet  
Cherrise Wilks

### **Journey Into Womanhood**

#### **Youth Advisory Council**

Tia Clark  
Mia Flowers  
Alexis McCoy



# Year in Review

## Highlights from the 2010-2011 Program Year

### September 2010

JIW participants and their parents attended a health and nutrition workshop by 4-H EFNEP followed by an invigorating Zumba workout session led by Zumbajear and an old school vs. new school dance off. Each year, parents are encouraged to attend at least one parent/youth workshop.

### November 2010

JIW participants attended the Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Houston Texans football game. Attendees completed tasks such as, participating in a 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition workshop, pledged to remain alcohol, tobacco and drug free, and set goals and performed community service work as part of the *Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation's Honor Rows* program.

### December 2010

JIW participants were exposed to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) during a *Tri-IT STEM Day at Florida State College at Jacksonville*. Some of the highlights were the Science of Scent, an activity where the girls learned how to develop fragrances. They created their own scents and marketing campaigns that were judged by members of the community. Participants also toured Colomer, Inc., a manufacturer of beauty and cosmetic products, including nail polish, bath products and hair products like Cream of Nature and Crew.

JIW participants took part in its annual group community service project, the Mayor's Holiday Festival, where they assisted with meal preparations and served over 1,000 senior citizens. All JIW participants are required and encouraged to give back to the community through volunteerism.

### March 2011

JIW members traveled to Orlando, Florida, for a college tour of the University of Central Florida (UCF) campus. The Female Development Circle, an empowerment group at UCF, lectured the girls on the skills necessary to be an effective leader, as well as how to balance grades and college life. Day two was spent at Universal Studio's Islands of Adventure, where the girls discussed the rides, design, and the application of science and physics, while having fun at the theme park.

Women and girls participated in the *Keepin' It Real 3: Women and Girls Conference and Slumber Party*, hosted by Empowerment Resources, Inc. and the Duval County Health Department's Family Planning Division. JIW girls attended with their moms, grandmas, or were linked with a positive female adult. Girl talk included real talk on topics such as healthy relationships, Internet safety, self esteem, HIV/AIDS education as well as free health screenings and HIV testing.

### May 2011

High school junior Mia Flowers was selected to serve as a presenter during the inaugural *Executive Women's Day at The Players Championship*, to support our partner, Junior Achievement's JA Girl\$ program.

2010-2011 High school graduate, Ashley Irven earned a coveted spot in both the UNF/Jaguars Foundation's Honor Rows Mentoring and Teen Court Attorney programs.

## 2010-2011 Fidelity Investments - Making a Difference

Empowerment Resources, Inc., (ERI) would like to thank Fidelity Investments and its associates for making a difference in the lives of our JIW program participants. Fidelity is a valued community partner. Special thanks to Jacqueline Lowe, of Fidelity Community Relations, and Fidelity associate, Jennifer Watson, for their unwavering support. Below are just a few of the many contributions the company has made to ERI's JIW program.

- **Career Job Shadow** - The girls spent a half day at Fidelity, where they toured the facility, took part in interactive breakout sessions, and listened as Fidelity associates talked about their jobs, entrepreneurship and finances.
- **Mock College Fair** - A mock college fair was held during a JIW meeting. Eight colleges were represented, with Fidelity associates manning the tables. The girls were given passports that were stamped as they visited each booth. Those who turned in completed passports were entered into a raffle for a \$25 Target gift card.
- **College Tour and Islands of Adventure** - Through a Fidelity Investments' grant, JIW participants and chaperones toured the University of Central Florida and visited Universal Studio's Islands of Adventure.

Since 2002, Empowerment Resources, Inc., a private 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, has empowered more than 525 youth and adults in Duval and surrounding counties through its signature programs, Journey Into Womanhood, Life Skills Workshops and Parenting Education Seminars and Coaching. Our programs help meet the needs of the community by exposing families to valuable community resources.

This year is dedicated in memory of

Tamika S. Stewart and Soloman Stanford, two angels who continue to watch over us.

*Hope is like the sun, which as we journey toward it, cast the shadow of our burden behind us.* -Samuel Smilies



# Jacksonville Jaguars Honor Rows Program

In the fall of 2010, 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 student to participate.

The 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.

## 2010 Program Participants

Everia'l Boss  
Gabriele Brown  
Janae Byrd  
M'Kayla Carter  
Tia Clark  
Deryn Dabney  
Niyah Fisher  
Mia Flowers  
Caylin Grant

Ashley Irven  
Sierra Jones  
Teshara Laster  
Bridarra Lovett  
Brianna Major  
Alexis McCoy  
Mitchell Mikeia  
Dejah Mobley  
Kiana Moore

Kayla Orr  
Jazmin Russ  
Akilah Sadiq  
Nyla Stanford  
Danielle Thomas  
Tierra Walker  
Arden Ward  
Deja Williams  
Monet Yarbrough

An optional oral report competition was also implemented in which participants made a presentation before a panel of peers and judges. The following participated in this oral report:

Deryn Dabney  
Dejah Mobley

Kayla Orr  
Nyla Stanford

Danielle Thomas

**Congratulations to our winner, recipient of \$50....Tia Clark!**

## Our Wish List

In order to serve the community, support from the private sector and other organizations is critical. Currently, we are in need of:

- Equipment (MacBook, Software, Overhead Projector)
- School Supplies, Books, Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Flip-Cam Video Recorder
- Stamps
- Journals, Pens, Day-Planners/Agendas
- Gift Cards (to provide lunches/snacks for incentives)
- Laser Jet Ink Cartridges (Lexmark: Color - 41 and Black-42)
- Mentors or Volunteer Speakers
- Monetary Scholarships
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Office Space

## Why Donate?

Fulfilling our mission relies on the generosity of community businesses, organizations, individuals and private donors. Your donation will further enhance the quality of service we provide to youth and families. All donations, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online at [empowermentresourcesinc.org](http://empowermentresourcesinc.org). For more information, please call 904.268.8287.

# Program of Events

Welcome  
Angela Spears, Mistress of Ceremonies

*Entrance of Young Ladies and their Escorts*

Blessing  
Alexis McCoy

*Lunch is Served*

Introduction of Speaker  
Mia Flowers

**Teala Milton Johnson**  
Guest Speaker

Introduction of Speaker  
Tia Clark

**Nannye “Ms. Nann” Fletcher**  
Guest Speaker

*Talent Showcase*

Awards Presentation  
Elexia Coleman-Moss  
Founder and Executive Director

Closing Remarks  
Elexia Coleman-Moss



# Mistress of Ceremonies & Speakers

**Angela Spears** is the Community Liaison at DaVita and enjoying a change in careers. Angela spent the last 11 years as an Anchor/Reporter for First Coast News NBC 12 / ABC 25. She grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas and graduated from The University of Texas. She is a very proud Texan and Longhorn!

She is passionate about many issues, including organ donation awareness. “Being an organ donor saves lives. I’m a witness. I was able to donate a kidney to my father, which has enhanced his life. It was the best thing I’ve ever done!”

Angela also enjoys giving back to her community as she volunteers her time with various organizations and enjoys working with young people. She believes they are our future! Angela sits on the Board of Directors for the St. Andrews Lighthouse, a hospitality house for transplant and cancer patients and their families, and she is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.



**Teala Milton Johnson** is the former vice president of government relations for JEA. She assumed responsibility for JEA’s Public Affairs in February 2002. Before she came to JEA, she served as vice president – state government relations division of Citigroup Inc. in Jacksonville, and was responsible for state government relations issues for ten states in the southeast region. Teala has also served as vice president, law and government affairs of AT&T Universal Services in Jacksonville, as vice president, corporate development of AccuStaff Inc. in Jacksonville, and as senior vice president of public affairs of Florida National Bank. Active in community service, Teala has also been a member of numerous boards of various civic organizations and trade associations. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in political science from Florida Community College at Jacksonville and a certificate from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Senior Managers in Government Program at Harvard University.



**Nannye “Ms. Nann” Fletcher** was born on her family’s farm in Bainbridge, Georgia, and wouldn’t trade anything for her time there. After graduating high school, Ms. Fletcher worked briefly as an adult education teacher before entering the Brewster Hospital School of Nursing. While attending Brewster, she interned at Howard University’s School of Nursing. She graduated from Brewster with a bachelor’s degree and did post graduate work in Premature Baby Nursing at Charity Hospital as well as Public Health Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina College at Durham. She also earned her Master’s in Education from the University of North Florida.

Her vast work experience includes serving as supervisor of the maternity department at Brewster Hospital; staff nurse for the City of Jacksonville Public Health Department; and a Duval County Public School teacher. While teaching, she created and organized the Health Occupation Education curriculum for high school students. Forty-two years later, the program is still offered in most Duval County high schools.

Ms. Fletcher has a love for health care, teaching and God. She appreciates how He allows her to serve through the church. Ms. Fletcher attends Historic Mount Zion A.M.E. church, where she plays an active role in numerous ministries. When she’s not giving time to the ministry her community, she enjoys writing. Ms. Fletcher wrote *Waving from the Balcony* and is currently working on her second book, *This Child*. She is finding the research for her second book great fun, as she gets to spend time with the “young” people, and that really delights her.

Ms. Fletcher’s zest for life and passion for helping others is evident in all of her works. They are her mission and ministry. The Jacksonville community is all the better for her contributions. The Bible scripture that inspires her is Psalm 34:7.







## Johnquell Allen

Age: 14

Grade: 8

School: Southside Middle School

*I am interested in...* dancing, singing and socializing with friends

*Motto:* Be who you want to be, not what others wish to see.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Wish to attend FAMU and become a stylist.



## E'verial Boss

Age: 10

Grade: 4

School: Reynold Lane Elementary School

*I am interested in...* Church Choir, Modern Dance and Violin

*Motto:* Keep believing in your dreams

*Goals:* Pediatrician



## Gabriele Brown

Age: 13

Grade: 7

School: Fort Caroline Middle School

*I am interested in...* reading, gymnastics, softball, trying new hobbies and having fun

*Motto:* "Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:8

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attending Albany State or University of Central Florida to study forensic science and possibly become a lawyer.



## Paris Brown

Age: 11

Grade: 6

School: Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School

*I am interested in...* stepping and piano

*Motto:* Do your best and never give up.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Help animals and become a hair dresser.



## Janae Byrd

Age: 14

Grade: 9

School: Stanton College Preparatory School

*I am interested in...* sports, music and fashion

*Motto:* Live, Love, Laugh

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend college at University of South Florida or University of Central Florida and become a successful fashion designer.

# Our Girls



**M'Kayla Carter**

Age: 11

Grade: 5

School: Normandy Village Elementary

I am interested in...drawing

Motto: Never give up.

Goals and plans after high school/ career path: Going to college at the University of Central Florida or the University of Miami and becoming a lawyer.



**Tia Clark**

Age: 15

Grade: 10

School: Paxon School for Advanced Studies

I am interested in...playing softball; listening to music; Facebook and hanging out with friends

Motto: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and learn not to thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Goals and plans after high school/ career path: Attend the University of Central Florida or the University of South Florida and obtain a degree in graphic design.



**Deryn Dabney**

Age: 15

Grade: 9

School: Faith Christian Academy

I am interested in...dancing, singing, reading literature and writing.

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

Goals and plans after high school/ career path: I plan to attend College at Spellman and major in journalism and mass communication.



**Niyah Fisher**

Age: 14

Grade: 8

School: James Weldon Johnson Middle School

I am interested in...running track, sewing and meeting new people.

Motto: Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles.

Goals and plans after high school/ career path: Attend college, medical school and become a doctor.



**Mia Flowers**

Age: 15

Grade: 10

School: Paxon School for Advanced Studies

I am interested in...music, math, Forever 21, and volunteering.

Motto: "Each of us must be the change we want to see in the world." Mahatma Ghandi

Goals and plans after high school/ career path: Attend college, perhaps at Florida State University, and pursue a career in psychology.



## Caylin Grant

Age: 10

Grade: 4

School: Crystal Springs Elementary

*I am interested in...*poetry and song writing and photography.

*Motto:* Light will always follow me without darkness.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend college at the University of Central Florida or FAMU and major in photography and writing.



## Aiyahna Jones

Age: 10

Grade: 4

School: Pine Forest Elementary School of the Arts

*I am interested in...*electronics, singing, painting my nails and spending time with family.

*Motto:* Be true to yourself.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* After graduating from high school, attending a good college and becoming a computer technician.



## Sierra Jones

Age: 16

Grade: 11

School: Atlantic Coast High School

*I am interested in...*fashion.

*Motto:* No regrets, just lessons learned.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* I plan to become a well-known Forensic Psychologist after attending Florida A&M or UCF. Later, I would like to start a fashion line.



## Teshara Laster

Age: 16

Grade: 10

School: Frank H Peterson Academies of Technology

*I am interested in...*blogging, graphic design, basketball, music and fashion.

*Motto:* "For every dark night, there's a brighter day" Tupac

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Enter the Air Force for 4-6 years, then attend college to major in marine biology and minor in sports management.



## Bridarra Lovett

Age: 15

Grade: 9

School: First Coast High School

*I am interested in...*art, Spanish, anatomy, cardiology, socializing and JIW.

*Motto:* "I'd rather be hated for who I am, then loved for who I'm not." Tyga

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Staying focused on the important things in life and being a better daughter/aunt/sister/grandchild. Keeping my grades up, attending college (Duke University, FAMU, MIT, Boston University) and becoming a pediatric cardiologist.

# Our Girls



## Brianna Major

Age: 15

Grade: 10

School: Andrew Jackson High School

*I am interested in...* writing poetry, and dancing.

*Motto:* "True intelligence is know what is appropriate, rather than what is simply right or wrong." Unknown

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend UCF and study nursing or astronomy.



## Alexis McCoy

Age: 15

Grade: 9

School: Jean Ribault High School

*I am interested in...* shopping, hanging with friends, writing, learning about my future.

*Motto:* Live your life for yourself, and not anyone else's.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend the University of Tennessee and major in forensic science, earn my master's degree and become a medical examiner.



## Mikeia Mitchell

Age: 15

Grade: 10

School: Robert E Lee High School

*I am interested in...* basketball and cheerleading

*Motto:* Never settle for less, but achieve the greatest.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Graduate from high school with all As and Bs and get accepted to FAMU.



## Dejah Mobley

Age: 11

Grade: 5

School: Gregory Drive Elementary

*I am interested in...* dance, fashion, art, math and helping people.

*Motto:* I don't care what people say or what they think, because I love myself the way I am.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Graduate high school and attend University of Central Florida, University of Tennessee or University of North Florida and major in science.



## Kiana Moore

Age: 15

Grade: 9

School: First Coast High School

*I am interested in...* singing, dancing, sketching, poetry, Spanish, science, reading, pharmacy.

*Motto:* "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." Maya Angelou

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend Florida State University, medical school and become a pharmacist. Make good grades and continue to success throughout my life.



## Kayla Orr

Age: 14

Grade: 8

School: Paxon Middle School

*I am interested in...*dancing, singing, meeting new people and learning all that I can.

*Motto:* Be yourself, never anyone else.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend an outstanding college and become nothing less than a pediatric cardiologist.



## Jazmine Russ

Age: 16

Grade: 10

School: Robert E Lee High School

*I am interested in...*dancing, shopping, listening to music, and volunteering to help others.

*Motto:* Things happen and life goes on; and everything happens for a reason.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend UCF; study hard and learn to speak Spanish fluently. Be the best person I can be; focus on important things and waste less time. Become a mentor and be a strong, independent, confident and caring young woman.



## Akilah Sadiq

Age: 15

Grade: 9

School: Edward E White High School

*I am interested in...*fashion.

*Motto:* Live, Love and Laugh!

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend college and become a lawyer.



## Nyla Stanford

Age: 13

Grade: 8

School: Paxon Middle School

*I am interested in...*reading, writing, hanging out with Deryn and Ashley, signing and watching Mtv, VH1 and Spike.

*Motto:* Don't let anyone tell you who you are.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* I want to attend Columbia College of Chicago, with a major in fiction writing and poetry and a minor in photography and non-fiction writing. My goal is to have 3 books published by the age of 24.



## Reina Thayer

Age: 11

Grade: 5

School: Dinsmore Elementary

*I am interested in...*writing and reading.

*Motto:* Be who you are in every situation.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend college, become a teacher and write children's books.



# Our Girls



## Danielle Thomas

Age: 16

Grade: 10

School: Paxon School for Advanced Studies

*I am interested in...*music, fashion and volunteering.

*Motto:* The life you live is more important than the words you speak.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend college to study sociology and psychology.



## Tierra Walker

Age: 12

Grade: 6

School: Jefferson Davis Middle School

*I am interested in...*dance, modeling.

*Motto:* Never say "never."

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend the University of North Florida.



## Arden Ward

Age: 12

Grade: 7

School: LaVilla School of the Arts

*I am interested in...*piano, creative writing, music, dance, acting and swimming.

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

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend the University of Miami or Clark University. Own an entertainment studio and TV show.



## Déja Williams

Age: 14

Grade: 8

School: Southside Middle School

*I am interested in...*football, basketball, track, reading, friends and family.

*Motto:* Never be afraid to succeed. Money doesn't change you, it changes the people around you.

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Attend college at the University of Miami or Edward Waters College and become a successful veterinarian.



## Ashley Irvan

Age: 18      Grade: 12

School: The Bolles School

*I am interested in...* writing fiction stories and poems; reading fiction, fantasy and horror novels; Japanese culture; Cartoons; Advocacy; and Theatre.

*Motto:* "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude." - Ralph Waldo Emerson (Self Reliance)

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Majoring in creative writing at the University of Miami then working in the literary field.

*Colleges accepted to/applied to:*

- University of Central Florida
- Columbia University
- Hofstra University
- University of Miami (attending)

*Scholarships awarded or offered:*

Bright Futures; Presidential Scholarship (Hofstra); Pell Grant (UM); Coral Grant (UM)

*Activities and Honors:*

Epilepsy Foundation of Florida H.O.P.E. Mentor/teen support group facilitator; National Epilepsy Foundation Kids Speak Up Participant; National Achievement Finalist; Spanish National Honor Society; Japanese National Honor Society; Duval County Teen Court Attorney; MLK Breakfast Leader of Tomorrow

*My Most enjoyable JIW experience:* Winning the Next Top Journey Into Womanhood award



## Mone't Yarbrough

Age: 18      Grade: 12

School: Wolfson High School

*I am interested in...* creative writing, talking and hanging out with my friends and family.

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

*Goals and plans after high school/ career path:* Enlisting in the US Marine Corp, becoming a mortician; getting married and starting a family.

*Colleges accepted to/applied to:* Enlisting in the Marines or attending University of Central Florida

*Activities and Honors:* Wolfson High School Chorus; ushering at Sunday services

*My Most enjoyable JIW experience:* The college tour to University of Central Florida and the fun day with everyone at Islands of Adventure in Orlando.



# Their Senior Year





# Our Supporters

**Congrats**  
to all the young ladies of JIW  
From Jake and Kathy Moss

**Congratulations**  
to my dearest Ashley. Your  
mother is so proud.  
Go seniors - Class of 2011!!



**To the ladies of JIW,**  
Always remember -  
Success is a Journey  
Love, The Anderson Family

**Mia- Mia,**  
You make me so proud.  
Love, Aunt, Cynt

**Elexia**  
Bless you and yours!  
-Aunty Betty and Michael



**Ashley, Mone't**  
and all JIW participants -  
Ms. Traci is so proud of  
all of you!  
"Do not follow where the path  
may lead- go instead,  
where there is no path and  
leave a trail."  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

To our daughter  
**"Jazzy"**  
you have grown into such a  
lovely lady. Stay focused and  
keep your eyes on the rainbow  
as you continue your journey  
through high school.  
Love you! Leonard and  
Rosalind Russ

**Mia**  
Best Wishes to Mia Flowers  
June Latney



Wishing  
**Aunty Lexy**  
and  
**the girls of JIW**  
well on the banquet.  
Love, Thenias Moss, Jaaron  
Moss, Jai'Ona & Ja'Barri  
Moss, William Mitchell.

**Brianna-**  
We are so proud of you and  
your success this year.  
Love, your family



Wishing  
**Jasmine Russ**  
great success in your upcoming  
Junior Year!  
Love, Grandma



**Mia**  
Best Wishes  
Love,  
Aunt Annette

Re-writing a generation's future one day at a time"  
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small businesses, and individuals with the preparation and  
implementation of strategic planning, program design, grant  
research, grant writing, grants administration, program  
evaluation, operations management, business start-up, and  
scholarship searches. -Cherrise Wilks, CEO  
Affinity Consulting Group



**Jasmine**  
Congratulations on  
completing your first year of  
JIW. Wishing you continued  
success!  
With Love, Brenda Newby

**Mia**  
I know that you are a young  
lady with a promising future.  
I encourage you to continue  
on the pursuit to excellence in  
whatever endeavor you choose.  
Keep your focus and remember  
you can do all things through  
Christ strength within you!

**I Love You!**  
God Mother, Rochelle  
Ogletree-Ford

# Our Supporters

**Danielle-**

We are so proud of you and the young woman you are becoming. Keep up the good work. We love you Noonie. Love always, Mawmaw and Pawpaw



**Niyah**

Best wishes and much success!  
Love-  
Nita and Resa



**Tia**

We love you and I'm blessed to have you as our loving daughter.  
Love Wayne & Karol Clark

**Gabriele**

Congratulations on your success! Continue to build on this opportunity to learn what it truly means to be a woman.  
Love, Tiffanie, Dad,  
Demarion, Khari II, and  
Braxton



Congratulations  
**Danielle!**

I am so proud. Keep up the good work.  
Love, Tee Tee Iceicna



**Niyah**

You have become such a beautiful young lady inside and out.  
Love Naajia

**Tia-**

Always Remember to keep Christ 1st in your Life and always Trust Him. He will never fail you.  
Love Mama & The First Timothy Baptist Church Nursery Ministry.

**Gabby,**

Good luck again! Love you lots!  
Aunt Louise, Jackson  
Michigan



**Danielle,**

I am so proud of you!  
With love, Mom



**Niyah & Reina**

We love you both so very much!  
Love -  
Mommy and Daddy

**Tia**

I just want you to know I love you and wish you the best.  
Love, your brother,  
Wayne Clark Jr.



Love and Best wishes Always to  
**Gabrielle**  
Love- Aunt Pat.  
Philippians 4:13



**Niyah**

On your journey, remember to always put God first.  
-Mrs. Wilma J. Santos



**Gabby,**

Never forget how much you are loved. I'm proud of you.  
Hugs and kisses from Granny in Jackson Michigan.

**Tia**

Wishing you must success in your future,  
Love, your Sister Tracy & Nephews, Trai & Zi



**Tia**

I'm so proud of you Baby Girl,  
Love Daddy.

# Our Supporters

**Tia**

We Love you - Ultimate Looks  
Beauty Salon -  
Tracy Shabazz, Owner



**Gabby,**

We love you and we are very  
proud of you!  
Love always, Papa and  
Grandma Margie

**Danielle-**

We are so proud of you and  
the young woman you are  
becoming. Keep up the good  
work. We love you Noonie.  
Love always, Mawmaw and  
Pawpaw

**Mia- Mia,**

You make me so proud.  
Love, Aunt, Cynt



**Mia**

We are very proud of you.  
May the Good Lord Bless you  
in all your endeavors.  
Love,  
Uncle Manuel and Family



To my big sister,

**Gabriele,**

I love you!  
Love, Kamrynne LaBordeaux

Congratulations

**Danielle!**

I am so proud. Keep up the  
good work.  
Love, Tee Tee Iceicna



**Mia**

Best Wishes to Mia Flowers  
June Latney



**Mia**

Best Wishes and much success  
to Mia Flowers!  
Sean Owens and Family



**Gabriele,**

I am so very proud of you and  
all you've accomplished. I love  
you very much. You are one  
awesome and beautiful young  
lady and I am proud to be your  
mother.

Love always, Mommy

**Danielle,**

I am so proud of you!  
With love, Mom



**Mia**

Best Wishes  
Love,  
Aunt Annette

**Mia**

"To be yourself in a world  
that is constantly trying to  
make you something else is the  
greatest accomplishment"  
Ralph Waldo Emerson.  
Mia you have accomplished so  
much and we are so proud of  
you...Continue to be yourself,  
Love, Aunt Gina, Tre' Ana and  
Ari'Ana



**Gabby,**

You are growing into a  
beautiful young lady! I'm  
proud of you.  
Love Elijah LaBordeaux



**Niyah**

On your journey, remember to  
always put God first.  
-Mrs. Wilma J. Santos

**Mia**

I know that you are a young  
lady with a promising future.  
I encourage you to continue  
on the pursuit to excellence in  
whatever endeavor you choose.  
Keep your focus and remember  
you can do all things through  
Christ strength within you!

**I Love You!**

God Mother, Rochelle  
Ogletree-Ford



# Our Supporters

**Mia**

God Bless the child that has her own, many blessings to you and all the ladies in the program.

Much Love,  
Aunt Faye and Jamison

**Alexis-**

Best wishes for a successful banquet. Continue to strive for your goals. I believe that you have a great future ahead. I'm so proud of you! Love Aunt Taimiko

**Alexis**

To my beautiful daughter, I am so proud the gift that God has given me. Continue to strive for excellence.  
Love always, Mama

**Alexis**

I am so proud of all f your accomplishments. Watching you grow from being a little girl into the beautiful young lady that you are today.  
Love Daddy Chance

**Mia**

Light of Our Life,  
We love you more than words can say and we praise God for you daily.

Love,  
Mom, Dad and Nigel

**Alexis**

Silver and gold will fade away but a good education will never decay.

Love, Mr. & Mrs. Kirkland

**Alexis**

Anything is possible, if you just believe.

Love, Willie & Pam Moore

**Arden**

You are growing up to be such a beautiful young lady with such class. You are doing a great job as you mature into womanhood. Continue on your path and only prosperity will come your way.

Love you! Bernadette Brown

**Alexis-**

Congrats on successfully completing another year of the JIW program. Keep up the great work.

We love you.  
Kristine & Jasmine

**Alexis**

Sincere wishes!  
Luv ya, Brenda Williams

**Alexis**

I pray that God continues to bless you. May he give you the desires of your heart.

Love, Ms. Dorothy

**Arden**

Best wishes to a special young lady on a journey.

Love, Margie Witherspoon,  
Vivian Stubbs & Cynthia Benjamin

**Mia**

It seems like just yesterday that you were a baby. When we look at you today we see a bright beautiful, intelligent young woman and we couldn't be more proud of you!!! Wishing you continued success.

Love you always,  
Aunt Lorrie, Alyisa and Lorielle

**Alexis**

I hope your journey in womanhood provides love, happiness, joy and success. This day should be a good memory that leads to many wonderful life experiences.

Love, Grandma Joyce

**Alexis**

I don't think of myself as a poor, deprived ghetto girls who made good. I think of myself as somebody who from an early age knew I was responsible for myself, and I had to make good"- Oprah Winfrey  
Love, Horace and Brandi Robinson

**Arden**

I'm proud of you, you are doing a great job on your journey into womanhood. Keep the work up and continue the journey.

I love you!  
Aunt Verdelle B. Jones

# Our Supporters

## Arden

Congratulations and best wishes on your Journey Into Womanhood.  
Aunt Awanda B. Franklin

## Arden

Congratulations!  
Love Andrea Harris  
and Pop Up Parties  
335-8514  
www.popupparties.com

## Arden

Congratulations to our beautiful and talented niece!  
Love Laura, Linda, Brian,  
Rhonda, Felicia and Kelly

## Arden

Good Luck & Best Wishes!  
Love, Aunt Dot & Cousin  
Avetta



## Arden

Congratulations as you continue to enjoy your Journey Into Womanhood. God bless and keep you!  
Love Grand,  
Constance S. Faulk

## Arden

Sometimes it best to just watch other people and learn from their mistakes. Your journey will be filled with many peaks and valleys. Never be afraid to fail, never forego your better judgment, then you truly will be the seasoning of this earth to make it tolerable.  
God Speed, Uncle Reggie

## Arden

It's Arden, "Princess of the Arts"  
Before long she'll top all the charts  
In singing and dancing  
Performance enhancing  
I knew that the girl would go far...  
Love, Bergen "BC"



## Arden

Congratulations to my God-daughter! As you journey into womanhood...  
Love, Lawrence Tookes



## Arden

Congratulations on your annual banquet! Continue to be the young lady we can always be proud of and remember to always put God first in anything you attempt to do. Be Blessed.  
Love, Auntie Edna Corey

## Arden

My Sweet Daughter, May God always bless and keep you as you grow, mature and advance into womanhood. Always know that your mom and dad will always LOVE you.  
Love Dad, Ralph Ward III

## Arden

We are proud of you!  
Mrs. Cecil Wright,  
Mrs. Selma Rutledge & St.  
Stephen Cluster Girls Scouts



## Arden

Congratulations as you continue your journey. I am so proud of you!  
Love, Grandpa Perry Faulk



## Arden

Congratulations on your empowerment journey. You are an exceptional young lady. I am proud of you. I love you,  
Aunt Sheri

## Arden

We are so proud of you. You are a smart & talented young lady. Keep it up.  
We love you! Ralph Jr. &  
Emily Ward

## Arden

Make success be your goal. For Victory is already won.  
Love, Debra, Tyrone Jr. &  
Marcus Williams



## Arden

Much success and may God continue to Bless you! Always remember, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Love, Terri Morris-Jordan & Family



# Our Supporters



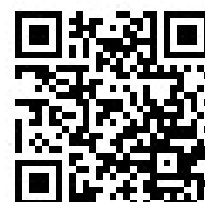
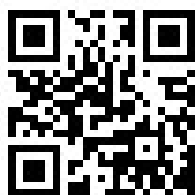
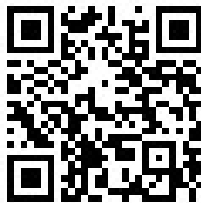
## *Arden*

*Always remember to put God first in everything you set out to do, and He will show you the path that leads to peace.  
Love always, Mommy*

*Congratulations **Arden Ward** on your continuous participation in Journey Into Womanhood! I am extremely proud of your willingness to commit and your commitment to be a part of a program that brings positive influence to your life,  
Continue to aim high!  
Rep Audrey Gibson*

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Andy Toelle (4-H)  
Carol Young (Junior Achievement)  
Fidelity Cares Associates  
Elizabeth Paulson  
(Junior Achievement)  
Gloria McNair (DCHD)  
Juanita Forman (Girls Inc.)  
Laquita Looney  
Madeline Scales-Taylor (Jack and Jill)  
Myeisha Miller (JCC)  
Michelle Rawls (Jack and Jill)  
Officer Greg Grant (JSO)  
Priscilla Wilkes (Jack and Jill)  
Shauna Allen (Jack and Jill)  
Shameka Brown (Jack and Jill)  
Stephanie Toelle  
(UF /IFASExtension)  
UCF Female Development Circle  
Rick Godke (4H)  
Zumbajear

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Molly Wahl  
(banquet program and invite design)

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## ***Banquet Committee & Volunteers***

Michelle Simkulet (co-chair)  
Daphne Colbert (co-chair)  
Alisia Martin  
Angela C. Mack  
Angela Spears  
Carla Flowers  
Danita Matthews  
Elaine White  
Jacqui Lowe  
Jasmine Harris  
Jevetta Stanford  
Kamren Stowers  
Toni Chadwell  
Tonisia Billups  
Monique Brown

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Christian Bryant  
Henry Chance  
Jimmy Cook  
Wayne Clark  
Sean Fisher  
Marvin Flowers  
Darius Harper  
Xavier Henderson  
Jamari Jones  
Daniel Kelly  
Terrell James Moore  
Jakey Moss  
Dedrick Reeves  
Desmond Thayer  
Dana Thomas  
Rhajhay Williams

## ***Ushers***

AJ Thompson  
Michael Braxton  
Thenias Moss

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



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