

Golden Heart Group



13th. Annual
Awards Banquet
Honoring “Unsung Heroes”

August 9, 2008

Williamson’s Restaurant, Horsham, PA

Welcome!

There are many award winners this evening who are examples of courage and going above and beyond the call of duty to serve their fellow man.

We are honored to have local heroes such as: James Binns, who began the Hero Plaque program for fallen firefighters and police officers, such as Daniel Faulkner; CB Kimmons, a community activist against drugs and violence, known for his white hat of peace and presence throughout Philadelphia.

The award winners tonight are living their lives serving the community day in and day out. We are honored to have with us Police Commissioner Ramsey, Senator Shirley Kitchen, Senator Leanna Washington and Dr. Donald Clark, President of the Willow Grove NAACP chapter, who have all come to honor our “unsung heroes”.

It is the 13th year of the Golden Heart Award Banquet for Unsung Heroes in the Community. We are delighted to have with us men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve their fellow man, and this wonderful show of support from friends, family and colleagues for their efforts.

Jana

Dr. Jana Mallis
The Golden Heart Group

Acknowledgements

The Golden Heart Group is very appreciative of all the people who have helped to make this evening possible. A special thank you to:

Dr. Donald Clark
Representative Jon Fox
C.B. Kimmins
Senator Shirley Kitchen
Julie Mallis
Senator Leanna Washington

Booklet design and musical entertainment provided by Bruce Fagan

Golden Heart Award Winners 2008

Takia Adams
Abdul Malik Aziz
Antoinette Jackson Aziz
James R. Binns, Esq.
David Bivins
Charlene Blogmon
Malinda Bookman-Hester
Faith Brown
Veronica Brown
June Burris
Charlie Collazo
Heather Collazo
Lois Crossman
Shirley Diggs
Katie Dunn
Jeanne Edwards
Dr. Paul Fink
Daisy Fisher
Martha Francois
Arlene Freeman
Raymond Gant
Joyce Gordon-Moody
MaryAnn Hart
Kevin Horne
Dorothy Johnson-Speight
Andee Kimmins
Brielle Kimmins
C.B. Kimmins

Golden Heart Award Winners 2008

Bryn Kimmins-Cox

Edgar Lee

Paulette Lewis

Phyllis McCain

Joy McLauren

George McVaugh

Nan McVaugh

Yvette Minter

Amina Mobley

Myrna Montgomery

Joseph Nash

Shirley Nash

Connie Oliver

Samuel Porter

Edward (Darnell) Ryans

Ruth Saunders

Jamika Smith

Rose St. Rome

Marietta Tanner

Ruth Taylor

Deborah Trogdon

Valerie Odele Ward

Cindie Watkins

Lynn Wexler

Robert Wexler

Carolyn Wheeler

Yvonne White

Special Guest: Charles H. Ramsey Police Commissioner, City of Philadelphia



Charles H. Ramsey was appointed Police Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department on January 7, 2008 by Mayor Michael Nutter. Commissioner Ramsey leads the fourth largest police

department in the country with 6,700 sworn members and 830 civilian members. He brings the knowledge and experience of nearly forty years in the law enforcement profession.

A nationally recognized innovator, educator and practitioner of community policing, Commissioner Ramsey is known to refocus police departments on crime fighting and crime prevention through a more accountable organizational structure, new equipment and technology, an enhanced

strategy of community policing and, since September 11, 2001, new approaches to homeland security and counter-terrorism.

Commissioner Ramsey holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the National Executive Institute. He completed the Executive Leadership Program at the Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security in February 2008.

Commissioner Ramsey has lectured nationally on community policing as an adjunct faculty member of both the Northwestern University Traffic Institute's School of Police Staff and Command and Lewis University. He is seen as an expert in the area of policing and homeland security.

Honoree: C.B. Kimmins



In 1986 the former teacher helped start Mantua Against Drugs, a community policing program named for its area of origin. Now MAD's director, he

works 20 hours a day, seven days a week. He and his colleagues chant outside crack houses, stare down dealers and find role models to speak at schools. Paid no salary, he survives through donations and a "compassionate" landlord. Though he's been shot at, he says, "If I die doing this, it's the right way to die."

The program receives no funding and operates on no budget. Staffed by volunteers, MAD supplies recovering drug addicts or alcoholics for school assembly programs

and classroom interaction to give children a chance to meet people who have overcome tremendous problems no matter what the odds.

The program has links to community services designed to meet the various needs of youth. In addition to the program in schools, volunteers go to block parties and other programs for youth in the summertime. The program also acts as a resource to provide help to neighborhoods that are having drug problems. Program staff meet with neighborhood representatives to determine the nature of neighborhood drug problems and devise plans for addressing them. "Red tape" is kept to a minimum. Those who seek help from the program are not charged any money, and there are no forms or waivers to fill out.

Honoree: James J. Binns



James J. Binns is a Philadelphia lawyer who specializes in litigation. Mr. Binns is the former Pennsylvania Boxing Commissioner and a

member of the Pennsylvania Boxing Hall of Fame. He portrayed himself as Rocky Balboa's lawyer in the motion picture "ROCKY V" and portrayed himself as the Pennsylvania Boxing Commissioner in the motion picture "ROCKY BALBOA."

Mr. Binns makes substantial contributions to charitable institutions. In addition to endowing scholastic scholarships at St. Paul's Parochial School, Roman Catholic High School, and LaSalle University, where he also endowed the James J. Binns Fitness Center, he has served as a director of the Prisoners' Family Welfare Fund, Boy Scouts of America, Lyric Opera Company, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Police Athletic League, Indian Rights Association, Catholic Historical Society, Berean Institute, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and The Alliance Française de Philadelphia. He is currently a Director Emeritus of the Philadelphia Charity Ball. He served as President of St. Luke's Hos-

pital and has chaired the Organized Crime Task Force of the Citizens Crime Commission of Philadelphia.

His Hero Cop Plaque program, commemorating police officers who were killed in the line of duty, has received national acclaim. In addition to commemorating the 273 deceased Philadelphia police officers he has dedicated plaques in Margate City and Atlantic City, NJ. Mr. Binns has initiated an identical program to commemorate the lives of 285 Philadelphia firefighters who were killed in the line of duty. As in the case of the police officers, the plaques are placed at the location where they met their death.

He hosts an annual golf outing in memory of Police Sgt. Mike Taylor, which raises scholarship funds for St. Joseph's Prep and Northeast Catholic High School. He is the Chairman of the Hero Thrill Show, which raises money to ensure the education of children of deceased police and fire fighters. Mr. Binns chairs a program for the replacement of 65 Harley Davidson motorcycles of the Philadelphia Highway Patrol. He has been repeatedly honored by the Fraternal Order of Police and the Police Chief's Association of Southeast Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. In 2006 he was inducted as a lifetime member.

Honoree: Raymond Gant

Prior to co-founding and becoming President of The Ray of Hope Project, Ray worked for several years as a heavy equipment operator. He is also a Landmark Education graduate and has attended classes in the D&A Counseling certificate program at Philadelphia Community College.

Ray devotes the majority of his time to The Ray of Hope Project now, where he administers the day-to-day activities of the

group, oversees all job projects, manages the financial aspects of the organization, recruits, enrolls and supervises volunteers and paid personnel, and acts as the Public Relations spokesperson.

Ray has exceptional knowledge of all aspects of volunteerism and community support combined with great enthusiasm for and experience in helping the disadvantaged.

Honoree: Marietta Jones Tanner



As a little child, Marietta Jones Tanner helped her father, a dedicated activist, She carried pamphlets urging action and went door to door to help get out the vote.

In 1949, she moved to New York City. There she met distinguished personalities like Paul Robeson, Julius Nyerere, A. Phillip Randolph and W.E.B DuBois who spoke at the radical political meetings

After receiving her Masters from the City College of New York she served as a teacher, directed a head state program, and was manager of a NYC Board of Education consortium of five colleges and four public school districts. She directed an after-school study program, wrote a column for the Amsterdam News, and was a community organizer who ran for political office, held party offices and was a delegate to two Democratic conventions. She was in Chicago at the infamous 1968

convention waving a “No More War” flag, and voting for Julian Bond as the first Black person nominated for U.S. President.

Marietta received awards from the New York Urban League, OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Centers), the NY Board of Education and other governmental and community organizations.

She is a life member of the NAACP, a former member of Metropolitan Jack and Jill of NY, a board member of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia, Robeson House, the Schomburg Corporation of NY, Rho Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; and the Unitarian Society of Germantown.

Since retiring in 1992, Marietta has written several grant proposals for scholarships and a mentoring program for junior and senior high school students. She intends to make youth achievement the focus of her energies until the energies are no more.



The Golden Heart Group Welcomes New Members

Join Our Group

The Golden Heart Group meets for guided visualization/meditation stress management and interfaith prayer on a weekly basis on Friday evenings at 7:00PM at various locations in the Philadelphia area.

The group is open to all levels of ability. There is a free potluck dinner following the session and there is no admission charge.

“Unsung Heroes” Wanted

The Golden Heart Group is looking for “Unsung Heroes” to be honored at next year’s banquet. Let us know if you have found someone who has made a difference in the lives of others, unselfishly and above and beyond the call of duty!

Contact by email:
janamallis@aol.com

Contact by phone:
Golden Heart Hotline: 215-695-0201

Honoree: Antoinette Jackaon-Aziz



For Antoinette Jackson-Aziz, becoming a role model for youth and an advocate of formally incarcerated people was not in the game plan, until after her own release from

prison. Upon her return she has immediately enrolled in Community College of Philadelphia where she graduated with Highest Honors holding dual degrees in Behavioral Health and Human Services and Liberal Arts General Studies.

Antoinette continued pursuing her education by enrolling in Chestnut Hill College where she remained on the National Dean's List, graduating again with Highest Honors receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Human Service Administration.

She served as case manager at Carson Valley School's Adolescent Violence Reduction Partnership (AVRP) program. Along with her husband Abdul Malik Aziz, who is the founder of Men United For A Better Philadelphia,

Antoinette serves as Executive Vice-President of Ex-Offenders Association of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the EXHOODUS Tour and the National Organization of Human Services.

She received the Lucien E. Blackwell "Guiding Light in the Community" Award in 2007 and holds memberships in Delta Epsilon Sigma Academic Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and Tau Upsilon Alpha National Organization for Human Services Honor Society.

Honoree: Abdul Malik Aziz



Malik Aziz's decision to obey God and his mother by no longer participating in criminal activity was one that changed the outcome of his life. He has dedicated his life and

career in helping to end the violence in the city of Philadelphia, also striving for a more positive out-look for ex-offenders in the community and workplace. He is the Executive Director of Ex-Offenders Association of Pennsylvania, which he founded while incarcerated. The organization advocates for the rights of ex-offenders.

Mr. Aziz has strong roots in the city of Philadelphia and has chosen a career that is dedicated to improving the community. With the belief that men should take back the streets and be re-educated through positive activities, he founded Men United For A Better Philadelphia. Through this

organization he has also committed himself to helping inner-city youth by teaching conflict resolution and promoting a Safer Schools, Safer Community initiative. For the past eight (8) years, he has sponsored and organized a week-long summer camp for at-risk youth. This camp features celebrities appearances, anger manager and conflict resolution workshops and more.

His extensive service to the community has earned him numerous citations and awards. He was awarded a City of Philadelphia Hero Award. He is a Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Council Certified Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Trainer, and a member of the Philadelphia Branch of the NAACP.

As a strong voice in the community, he co-hosts with his wife "From The Streets To The Boardroom" radio show on WURD 900 AM.

Honoree: Valerie Odele Ward



Valerie Odele Ward attended West Chester University where she earned a B.S. in elementary education and Arcadia University, where she earned a Master's degree in 1979. She

spent thirty-five years as a teacher with the Central Bucks School District, retiring in 1997. Early in her career she spent eight years as a playground supervisor for Abington Township Parks and Recreation.

Valerie's time is spent with many service, civic, and other community organizations, such as: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Top Ladies of Distinction, Visiting Nurse Association Board of Directors, Abington Memorial Hospital Women's Board, Willow Grove NAACP, Roslyn Town Watch, Police Athletic League, Youth Aid Panel,

Citizen's Police Academy, Abington High School Alumni Association, African-American Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Briar Bush Nature Center. For many of these organizations, Valerie holds an administrative position, such as vice president, secretary, chairman, coordinator, or director. She is also very involved with her church, New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Crestmont where she is Superintendent of the Church School.

Valerie received the Service Award Youth Branch from the Willow Grove NAACP, the President's Volunteer Service Award for 500 hours with the Abington Township Police Department, the Silent Strength Award from the Roslyn Town Watch, the Black Women's Education Association Honoree Award, and the President's Award from the Willow Grove NAACP for outstanding community involvement.

Honoree: Edward (Darnell) Ryans

Edward (Darnell) Ryans began his community leadership career after receiving his Bachelor of Business Administration from Temple University in 2001.

Highly motivated, he made continuing advancements within the community at the West Philadelphia Community Center instructing youth and adults in technologic studies. These skills lead to his promotion to Assistant Director – responsible for overall daily operations, event programming, service delivery, supervision and training of staff, community relations, and membership administration.

Ryans' dedication established successful gang prevention/interventions, health,

physical and education programs, and partnership development.

Ryan expanded his passion in developing youth developmental programs as the Executive Director of the Mantua Haverford Community Center. He is currently a Board Member of the Adopt a Neighborhood For Development Program, Executive Director of the Mantua Cares Project and Program Director of Techie Kids, a youth based technology program..

Recently, Ryans received the American Cities Foundation "Men Making A Difference Award" and the "Lucien E. Blackwell Guiding Light" Community Award.

Cindie's Helping Philosophy

by Cindie Watkins

Growing up, I always felt that I was “different”. Other children lived with their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, in my little world in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. My parents separated and my mother left Pennsylvania when I was six months old, so I lived, alternately, with my Godmother, who was in her late 70’s, and then, after her death, with my father, and later with my aunt, uncle, and cousins.

I learned, early on, that sometimes people had negative opinions about others who seemed “different” from them – the elderly, single parents, children who didn’t come from “traditional families”, inmates, and the disabled. The list goes on and on. Oftentimes, I saw,

and experienced firsthand, that those outside the so-called “norm” were singled out for disparate treatment.

I gravitated towards “those people”, because I was, and am, “one of those people.” My love of community service and helping comes from knowing that we are all equal in the eyes of the Creator. Each and every one of us has the potential for goodness and greatness despite the backgrounds we come from. I believe it’s not “where you come from, but where you are going.”

I have been blessed in my life with mentors along the way, and in being so blessed, I feel it is my duty and obligation to pass the blessing along by

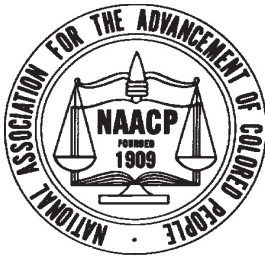


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*I promise to try to respect ALL people, including those who are different from me.
I promise to do my best to make our community no place for hate.*

If you are over 18, please fill out the following:

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For you, my unsung hero
And I know it’s not easy
To walk in your shoes.
Day after day
You continue to amaze me.
Now I sing this song
Of love for you.”

from the song “Unsung Hero”
by Tina Arena

