



Out & About
Let's see who's
out this week
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New Pittsburgh Courier

LIFESTYLES

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Rev. Thomas
celebrates
45 years at
Faith Center
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Debbie Norrell

Lifestyles
Report

Good in the world

Just when we think that the world is full of uncaring people something happens to change your mind.

I had to put my car in the shop last week for inspection and I felt like I needed a new battery. When I dropped it off I told the mechanic to test the battery. My suspicions were right—I needed a new one. When the car was finished I picked it up and headed to the grocery store. Before I could get there the car stopped and continued to stall. I called the mechanic and they told me they would come and get me, which I thought was pretty cool. While I was waiting for them on this warm November Saturday, numerous people asked me if they could help me. One man offered me the use of his cell phone, another asked if I wanted to be pushed to the side of the road, yet another wanted to know what they could do to help. At least six people offered assistance. Not one person honked on me, gave me the finger or shouted "get out of the way."

When the mechanics arrived, they did everything they could do to try and fix the car. They elected to take it back to the shop. One drove my car back and I rode with the other. They deducted that removing the battery without backing up the computer was the problem and I would have to wait until Monday to talk to someone at General Motors. I got on the Internet to find a fix, boy that Internet is something. I found a mechanic on line for \$18 that would give me the answer to my problem. I learned all about "idle strategy and idle learn." I called the mechanic back and told him to come to my house to help me and he did. I read the instructions and he did the work. He tried so hard. I need my car, I have pictures to take and parties to attend. I called a friend, told them my plight and they chauffeured me to the party, thank you LaMont.

Once I got there I scouted for people who lived in my area, within minutes I had lined up three rides, thank you Peggy and Cordell, Misty and Fred, and Sylvester and Rhonda.

The next morning it was back to the Internet to look for another solution. I found a new set of instructions and called AAA. They sent out a battery tech and together we tried the new instructions. It seemed like the car would run without stalling, it must be fixed. He left and I once again headed to the grocery store. As soon as I get there the car stops and would not start again. I called AAA again and this time the flat bed comes out and we decide it's time to stop the madness and take the car to the dealer. At 7 a.m. Monday I called in the problem and I was told they can't fix it until Wednesday. At 10:30 a.m. Monday the dealer calls and says problem is identified and will be ready at 1 p.m. The experience of a bad situation shone a bright light on the good people in the world.

(Email the columnist at debbienorrell@aol.com.)



ALL SMILES—Lee Grace Jones, Lynne Hayes-Freeland and Dr. Catherine Udekwu



CHAMPIONS—Sylvester Pace, Tracy Lawless (accepting for Marcia Martin) and Carmen Anderson

Champions for Gateway Medical Society Scholarship Gala

by Debbie Norrell
Courier Staff Writer

On Oct. 29 at the Marriott City Center, The Gateway Medical Society held their annual Physician of the Year Gala. Instead of honoring one physician, this year they honored nine individuals who have been champions for Gateway Medical Society (GMS).

The theme of the Scholarship Gala was "Closing the Gap." Hundreds enjoyed an evening of dining, dancing and honoring the champi-

ons. Also recognized were the young men who are part of the Journey to Medicine Mentor Program. These youngsters start the program in the sixth grade and are mentored by members of the Society with hopes that they will stay on course to become physicians. Scholarships were awarded to Cynthia Grady, Enyima Nwachuku, Dahlia Raymond and Sharamee Taylor. Each one of these students is currently well on their way to a career in medicine.

A stunning video presentation introduced the champions; Carmen Anderson, senior officer Endowments Children, Youth and Families Program; Dr. Barbara Barnes, MS, associate vice chancellor for continuing education and industry relationships, associate dean for CME at the University of Pittsburgh and vice president of sponsored programs, research support, and continuing medical education for UPMC; Robert Connamacher, PhD, after 15 years of retirement he is

active in teaching medicine to underrepresented students; Yvonne Cook, president of the Highmark Foundation and vice president for community affairs; Marcia Martin, vice president of Gateway Health Plan; Sylvester Pace, president and CEO of NEED; Anna M. Roman, PhD, MPA, senior vice president of administrative services and physician relations in the UPMC Physician Services Division; Dr. Loren Roth, MPH, associate senior vice chancellor for clinic policy and

planning, Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh; and Aaron Walton, retired health insurance executive, most recently serving on Highmark's Executive Leadership Team. Lynne Hayes-Freeland made a return appearance as the emcee and Deejay Sly Jock rocked the house. The GMS is a component society of the National Medical Association (NMA). The NMA's objectives are to promote the science and the art of medicine and the betterment of public health.



AT THE HELM—Dr. Rhonda Moore-Johnson, MPH, president GMS, and Dr. Cedric Bright, president of the National Medical Association



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—Shamee Taylor, Enyima Nwachuku, Dahlia Raymond and Cynthia Grady



CHAMPIONS—Yvonne Cook and Aaron Walton



CHAMPIONS—Dr. Loren Roth; Anna Roman, PhD, MPA; and Dr. Barbara Barnes, MS



ON THE JOURNEY—Seated: Roman Ramsey, Andre Miller, Gregory Talbert, Lamar Todd. Standing: Anthony Miller, Odell Minniefield, Rashid Bolden, Dr. Cedric Bright, Jordan Rawles, Jerimiah Jones and Langston Brentley



CLOSING REMARKS—Dr. William Simmons, vice president, GMS