



The Connection

The Charmettes, Incorporated Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1, December 2019

In this issue, you will find:

The President's Message (Page 2)
Information from the Chapters:
Atlanta Metropolitan (Page 3)
Broward County (Page 4)
Hillsborough County (Pages 5-7)
Leon County (Pages 8-9)
Memphis Metropolitan (Pages 10-11)
Miami Dade County (Pages 12-13)
Palm Beach County (Pages 14-16)
Richmond County (Page 17)
South Carolina (Pages 18-19)
St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler (Pages 20-23)

The President's Message



Greetings Charmette Sisters:

As we come to the end of this year, I am deeply grateful for the productive and successful work Charmettes contributed to our communities in 2019. We know that what we do makes a difference to others and our members. This time of the year inspires us to count our blessings and delightful Charmette Sisters like you, are most important among them. This Christmas, as you reflect on your blessings, continue to think about those who we work to support and encourage.

On October 13th I represented us as one of the Honorary Chairs of the Howard University Cancer Center's 6th Annual Rosemary Williams Breast Cancer Brunch in Washington, DC. On behalf of The Charmettes, Inc. At this time, I also presented Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, President of Howard University and Dr. Carla Williams, Interim Director of the Cancer Center (HUCC) with our 2019 cancer donation in the amount \$56,330.00. I am excited to share that The Charmettes, Incorporated will be featured in the HUCC's Annual Report, which will be distributed throughout their network. The HUCC remains committed to being good stewards of the funds our organization entrusts to them and I am committed to our continued partnership.

In November, I represented The Charmettes, Incorporated at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) National Affiliates Assembly in Washington, DC. As a national affiliate organization we also sit on the NCNW Executive Board. Our membership in the organization provides us with interesting and important networking opportunities and access to important information on a number of national concerns. Look for more highlights and details of the Assembly in our upcoming convention, including information.

Charmette Sisters, enjoy the articles featured in this edition of The Connection newsletter. The Chapter information is informative and inspiring. We are working on our 65th Annual Convention in Los Angeles at the LAX-Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The Convention Pre- Planning Committee will convene in Los Angeles, California in January to so be sure to respond to all requests for Chapter suggestions. As we shared earlier, we are expecting an application from an interest group in LA for your consideration at Convention.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Sisterly,

Catherine D. Lewis

National President

Information from Atlanta Metropolitan



June 1, 2019, the Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter Charmettes visited and donated toiletries to the women, men and children of 7 Bridges to Recovery. The Charmette sisters were grateful to be a blessing to this ministry that assists with transitioning our sisters and brothers off the streets of Atlanta whom are recovering from homelessness, alcohol, drug additions, prostitution, abuse and more.



The Chapter also enjoyed another year of success serving lunch to the patients of Hope Lodge Atlanta on July 20, 2019. It is always a pleasure to serve, support and converse with the patients and their families during their road to recovery.

Information from Broward County



The Broward County Charmettes presented its annual Cancer Awareness Breakfast at the Golden Corral on October 19, 2019. This superb program was chaired by Charmette Dr. Bennie Moultry. The speaker, Dr. Nicholas Tranakas., M.D. made an awesome presentation on Tips and Myths of breast cancer. A Memory Recognition Tea Sip was led by Charmette Tara Pasteur, Charmette Veronique Skinner, decorations chairperson and photos taken by Tanika Francis, captured the essence of the occasion. Broward Charmettes' President Felicia Armstrong concluded this informational and beautiful program with closing remarks.



Information from Hillsborough County

The Hillsborough County Chapter members celebrated and welcome three lovely ladies into the chapter. The Installation Ceremony was held on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at ReBirth M.B. Church. The new members are Charmettes Cynthia Brooks, Faye Hatcher, and Anitris Burns. Janice S. London, President, installed them. A lovely reception was held after the ceremony in honor of the new sisters. In addition to their Charmettes' local and national documents, each one of the ladies received gifts from the membership.



During their four weeks of orientation, the ladies selected a *“Book Bag Give-Away”* as their community service project, which they initiated, coordinated, and funded with their own personal funds. The group purchased \$300 worth of school supplies and donated them to The Pentecostal Church of God for 25 youth ranging in ages from pre-K to 12th grade. A job well done.

The ladies of the Hillsborough County Chapter welcomed the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year with their Annual Weekend Retreat, September 6 - 8, 2019, held at The Inn At Little Harbor, on Old Tampa Bay in Ruskin, Florida. The theme was *"Celebrating The New Year Caribbean Style"* at the Harborside Suites. Members enjoyed bonding together after the summer, playing Pokeno, listening to good music, and dining on a large assortment of foods and drinks, catered by Charmette A. Mona Newsome, Hospitality Chairman. The attire for the evening was Caftans. After displaying and modeling of their beautiful gowns, the members voted Charmette Margaret Fisher to receive the prize for the most beautiful Caftan.



(L-R) Margaret Fisher, Betty Kinsey, Jacqueline Wilds, Luvator Nelson, Delores Williams, Evelyne Keeton (Seated)

On Saturday morning, members enjoyed a lovely breakfast together. After breakfast, President Janice London called the chapter's first business meeting of the New Year to order. During the first session of the meeting, the chapter outlined their Calendar Of Events for the year.

During lunch, the guest speaker, Ms. Desiree Jackson gave an outstanding and motivational speech on the importance of a great *"Sisterhood"*. After lunch the second session of the meeting was called to order. During this session plans for the upcoming holidays and the chapter's holiday ball *"Puttin On the Ritz"* was discussed. All members received a lovely door prize for their participation.

Saturday evening the members dined at the Sunset Grille on the bay. Seafood dinners were served and enjoyed by everyone. The highlight of the dinner, was watching the most beautiful Florida sun set on the horizon.



(L-R) Margaret Fisher, Mona Newsome, Jacqueline Wilds, Evelyne Keeton, Betty Kinsey, Delores Williams, Juanita Cannon, Janice London, Ruby French, Luvator Nelson, (Front Row) Lejoan Franklin, Vivian Kitchen

On Sunday morning the members attended the chapter's Inspirational Service. Charmette A. Mona Newsome, Chaplain conducted the service. Charmette Newsome delivered a very inspirational and moving message. The service ended with a prayer for travelling Grace, and the Charmette hymn.



(L-R Front) Delores Williams, Juanita Cannon, Margaret Fisher, Janice London, Vivian Kitchen, Luvator Nelson, Ruby French (Back Row) Betty Kinsey, Mona Newsome, Evelyne Keeton, Cynthia Brooks, Jacqueline Wilds, Lejoan Franklin

Information from Leon County

Members of the Leon County Chapter are making huge strides to combat cancer and shining in their professional careers.



Last month, we donned our pink polos for the “Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk” in Cascades Park, Tallahassee’s version of Central Park. The Chapter participated in this event for the first time and made a \$1,000 financial contribution to the American Cancer Society to continue our collective quest for a cure.

While sisters made strides during a community walk, Charmette Diane Sheffield was the “showstopper” draped in a gold gown and pink train for a separate outdoor runway called the 2019 Patrol Stroll, another ACS fundraiser.

The festive event assembled public service professionals from numerous agencies who served their best catwalks. Fundraiser netted a grand total of more than \$22,000.

Charmette Sheffield raised the most for the Patrol Stroll with a rousing \$6,360, respectively.

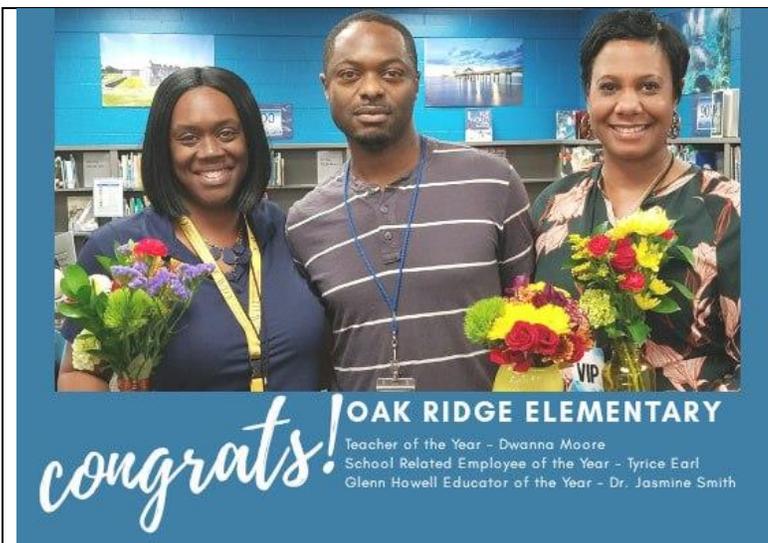


Recognizing Community Leaders



Charmette TaMaryn Waters was one of a dozen honorees recognized during the Third Annual Community Appreciation Banquet – a worthy event benefiting the Ready4Work Re-entry Program that provides job training, job placement and other services for ex-offenders returning to communities and employment in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties.

More than 500 guests, including judges, elected officials, family members and friends, attended and heard inspiring testimonies from men and women helped by the program. Charmette Waters was selected as an honoree for her long-time, award-winning work as a journalist for the Tallahassee Democrat, where she writes about a diverse mix of issues centered around business and economic development.

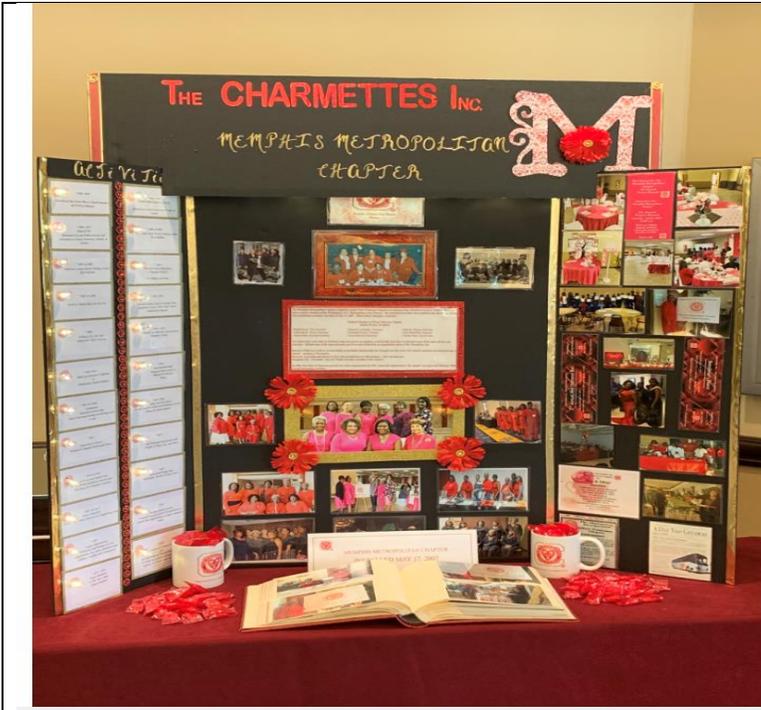


Charmette Dwanna Wanton-Spencer was named “Teacher of the Year” at Oak Ridge Elementary School, where she’s been a teacher for two years.

God bless our educators

As the daughter of the late Dr. Eva Wanton, she continues to build on her family’s legacy of molding young minds. Charmette Wanton – a founding Leon County Charter member who served as president for the local Chapter and The Charmettes Inc. – was a professor and the founding dean of the now-defunct School of General Studies and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Florida A&M University. Charmette Wanton often told her family about her “love obsession” with FAMU and Charmette Wanton-Spencer, a veteran educator, inherited that lingering love of education and excellence, which will surely manifest in her students.

Information from Memphis Metropolitan



The Memphis Metropolitan Charmette Chapter was on point at the 2019 Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida. Charmette Dr. Angela Douglas, Barbara Earle and Andrea Earle created a breathtakingly stunning historical display.



Charmettes: Demetrice Rufus, Tomonsa Mckinney, Barbara Earle, Dr. Angela Douglas, Julia Williamson and Andrea Earle.



Charmettes: Demetrice Rufus, Andrea Earle, Julia Howard, Dr. Angela Douglas and Barbara Earle.

These strong, confident and courageous sisters graced the audience with several Accapella selections at the luncheon. This is just another reminder of the inspiration to channel our desire in support of one another, in the name of sisterhood.

Our Goal.....

.... is to provide a foundation of power, grace, wisdom, creativity and hope to others as they see Gods love in us. These sisters have taken intuition, patience, emotional focus, compassion and their networking ability to another level when it comes to task. We thrive on one another's endless strength. Just when you think a challenge has reached its limit, these sisters become relentless in showing their inner strengths and capabilities. Embracing one another is our goal; therefore, these strong Charmette sisters continue to inspire one another and approach every task with confidence. The Memphis-Metropolitan Charmette Chapter's goal in 2020 is with hope, ambition, faith and strengths; to awaken this desire in others. Just as diamonds are one of the most precious stones on earth spewed hundreds of miles from the inner surface of volcanic lava, may we continue to strive for such perfection as the diamond in our lives to finish what we start, stay pure in our oath, giving each task our utmost attention and let other be significantly influenced by our work with a desire to become one of us.

The Charmettes,Inc.



Information from Miami Dade

The Miami Dade County Chapter, Charmettes, Incorporated, held their Annual Awards/Scholarship Breakfast "Spring Fling". The Chapter acknowledged the accomplishments of humanitarians and other outstanding citizens in the Miami-Dade County Area. This year's event was held at The Rusty Pelican, Key Biscayne, Florida on April 13, 2019. The Theme: "Bridge to Brilliance". This was a spectacular morning consisting of breakfast, presentations to recognize millennial award recipients, and a fashion show. This was also the time to recognize our scholarship recipient.



The Chapter welcomed four new members and one returning member at an Induction Ceremony on August 24, 2019 at Sole' on the Beach Hotel. The new members are Charmettes Vencella Glasford-Burnett, Lynette Lawson, Shereese Bennett, Charade Horton and returning member, Dynise Perry.

The 2019-2020 Chapter Year has kicked off with a fabulous Pink Hat/Pink Tie Prayer Luncheon honoring those who have survived cancer. This event was held on October 27, 2019 at the Church of the Open Door. Here prayers were sent up by pastors from the community for those who are battling cancer, survivors of the disease, families of cancer patients, children with cancer, and the community as a whole. It was a rewarding, uplifting, celebration in the Lord.



Information from Palm Beach

On July 27, 2019, Charmettes Keturah and Patricia Howard attended with Charmette Anna Davis their 18th Annual scholarship fundraiser Ladies Brunch sponsored by the women of Grace Episcopal Church, West Palm Beach



A Simple Thank You Is Hardly Enough for the gratitude and appreciation, I have for each one of you, my Charmettes sisters. To all members of the National Chapters as well as The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., my heart is overjoyed for your unwavering support! For it was your encouragement and endorsements that helped me to win the 2020, **Eunice W. Thompson Merit Award.** I promise to uphold this historic award with the highest integrity! For all these reasons and more, I am most grateful and deeply honored to be called your loving Charmette Gertrude S. Battle!



Madame President Audre'L Davis Jones

On August 23-24, 2019, The Charmettes had a fun-filled Retreat in West Palm Beach, Florida Theme: "Create and Sip"

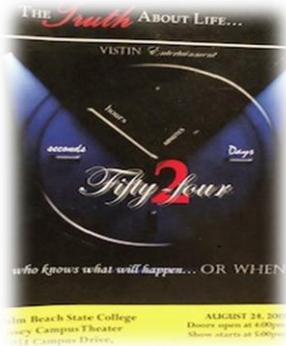


Our Create and Sip was just a beautiful time to eat and drink! But the most fun was creating our piggy banks. This was such a wonderful idea by Charmette McCurdy who really is passionate about collecting those pennies! Of course, some stayed up late talking and getting to know each other better.

The business part of the retreat lasted until 2:30p.m on August the 24th. Then we all began exiting the vacation home and went to our Sisterhood Activity at Palm Beach State College. We all wore our Charmette shirts! We had a great time supporting our Charmer Anthony Stubbs in his first acting performance in 2FiftyFour. It was a fitting and uplifting end to our retreat. This was inclusive in our retreat fee!



On August 24, 2019, Charmer Anthony Stubbs was featured as Isaiah in the play “The truth about life Fifty-2-four who knows what will happen or WHEN.” The play was presented at the Palm Beach State College, Eissey Campus Theater



Information from Richmond Metropolitan

Induction of New Members The Richmond Chapter welcomed 3 new members and 2 returning members ~ September 7th



Gayle Heath-Clarke, Joyce Oliver, Brenda Burwell, Bonita Grant and Marsha Meekins-Cheatham



Joyce Oliver, Bonita Grant and Brenda Burwell

COMMUNITY SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

Richmond Metropolitan Chapter partners with the Sisters Network, Inc. September 28th "Community Health Forum" for Breast Cancer Awareness



Sitting: Ernestine Bennett, Francis Scott, C Rena Gardner
Standing: Shirley Gault, Pre. Edna Rodwell, Gloria Wilkins and Sala Powell-Dabney



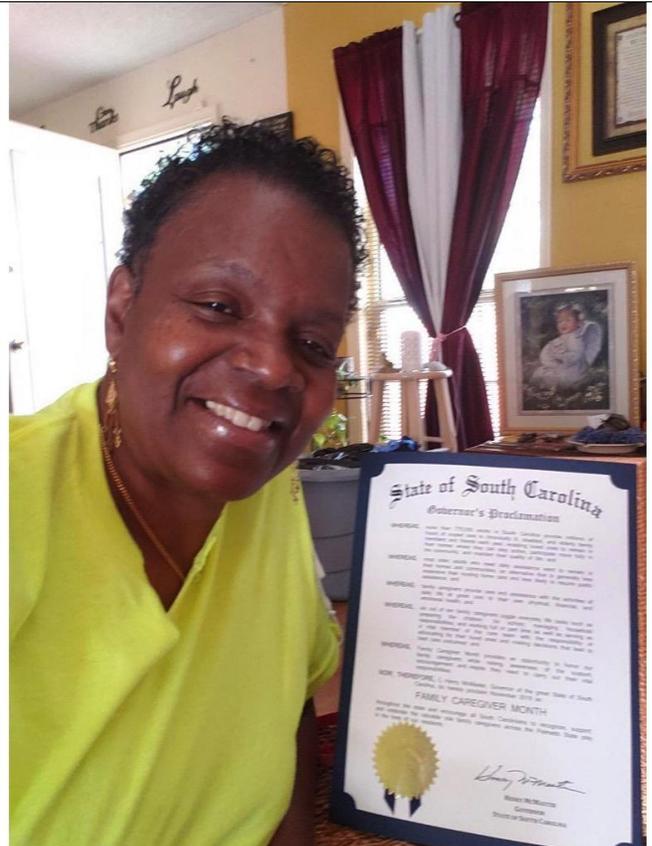
Dr. Margret Jones, Edna Rodwell and Frances Scott
"The We Care Festival Wellness Expo" Aug 17th

Information from South Carolina

The SC Midlands Chapter inducted three new members in September: Beverly Gist, Patricia Jones Meyer and Annette Hammond. Newly inducted member, Charmette Annette Hammond, received a Proclamation for Family Caregiver Month during October from Governor Henry McMaster. With humility and excitement, Charmette Hammond honored her family and friends, all who are and have been caring and giving to others.



National President Catherine Lewis and Charmette Annette Hammond



Charmette Annette Hammond / Proclamation for Family Caregiver Month

On October 12th, the chapter participated in the 2019 Annual Breast Cancer Walk for Life at Segra Park. Nearly 5,300 walkers and runners, sponsors and supporters helped Prisma Health Midlands Foundation raise more than \$500,000 for Prisma Health Breast Center. Proceeds will fund a ninth 3D mammography unit at Prisma Health Breast Center's Northeast Diagnostics location.

Also, during the entire month of October, the Chapter did a Stay at Home Tea in honor of "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" The event was a huge success and proceeds will benefit Cancer Research.

National President Catherine Lewis, along with, members of the SC Midlands Chapter, attended the 6th Annual Rosemary Breast Cancer Brunch in Washington, DC. President Catherine Lewis, representing The Charmettes, Inc. served as an Honorary Chair for the event. Members of the Washington DC Metro Chapter joined us.



Pictured Standing (L-R): Shirley Williams, Beatrice Richardson, Catherine Lewis, Joan Douglas Jordan, Barbara DeVeaux, Frances Blanding, and Dr. Gloria Myrick

Up and Coming

In December, the chapter will host “In the Spirit of the Holidays Wine Tasting” featuring Jazz Musician Jonathan Jones. Proceeds will benefit cancer research. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

Information from St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler

The St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Co Chapter of the Charmettes Inc. "Walked for a Cure" in the 6th Annual Dothea H. Smith Cancer Walk that was held Saturday Nov. 2nd at Mt. Tabor First Baptist Church in Palatka, Fla. The 2 mile walk was named after Smith, a longtime leader in the Putnam County community and a founding member of the SJPF County Chapter of the Charmettes with more than 40 years of service. Charmette Smith's husband, Johnny and daughter, Angelita S. Fells and other family members and friends participated in the walk. 14 members of the chapter participated in the walk.



The St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Chapter of the Charmettes participated in two Halloween events on Saturday Oct. 26, 2019. The Palatka Fall Festival and the St. Johns Co. Recreation Dept Trunk or Treat. The Charmettes that participated were: Sylvia S. Jones, Willie Willis, Rhoda Ferrell, Patricia Robinson. The Charmettes had as much fun as the kids that were in attendance.



The SJPF Chapter of the Charmettes participated in the Palatka Halloween Trunk or Treat at the Palatka Mall. Charmettes that participated were: Linda Wesley, Sylvia Jones, Willie Willis, Latice Polite and D'Arcy Miller.



Articles from Palatka Daily News reporting on the St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc.



Charmettes members passed out school supplies to area children during the Palatka Police Department "National Night Out" on Aug. 6 at Booker/Lefty Turner Park. .

Caring Community

Special to the Daily News
The St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County Chapter of the Charmettes participated in the Palatka Police Department "National Night Out" on Aug. 6 at Booker/Lefty Turner Park.

The Charmettes handed

out school supplies and provided hot dogs to the many children and their parents who attended. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our

neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live.

The Charmettes Inc. is a sisterhood of dedicated women committed to improving the quality of life within our communities through advocacy, education, service and support for cancer research.



Charmette Lattice and Charmer Darrell Polite prepare to grill hot dogs for the event.



Charmettes Evelyn Vazquez, Sonya Hughes, Rhoda Ferrell and D'Arcy Miller participated in handing out school supplies.

20 PALATKA DAILY NEWS • SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019

St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County Chapter of Charmettes, Incorporated

Dear Putnam County resident:

La'Toya Lockhart has been a member of the Charmettes since 2014 and has served in the office of recording secretary for the chapter for two years. She will continue to serve in this role for the 2019-2021 years.

LaToya is a positive asset to the chapter. Her humble spirit and willingness to serve in whatever capacity that is needed, is an example of her commitment to this organization. This past year, along with a committee of members of the chapter, LaToya was the chairperson for the Women in Red Luncheon. This event is an annual affair hosted by the St. Johns Putnam Flagler County Chapter of Charmettes. She also served as the Bowties and Pants Affair, a function also for the chapter for the Bowties and Pants Affair, a function that will take place on Dec. 28, 2019, at the Savan Gardens State Park in Palatka. This function is open to the public. For details or to purchase tickets, contact any Charmettes.

LaToya has been a special education teacher for 14 years, working in Putnam and Flagler county school districts.

LaToya attended the University of Florida, where she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. She later continued her education and received a master of arts degree with a specialization in exceptional student education and reading from Saint Leo University.

She currently attends Calvary Christian Center in Ormond Beach.

LaToya has a great love for exercising, gardening and, of course, shopping. In her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time with family and friends.

She is married to Charmer Donald Lockhart Jr. and is the mother of four children, Jr Kelvin, Deanna, Austin and Bear Don.

Rhoda Ferrell
Rhoda Ferrell
Chapter President
St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County Chapter of Charmettes, Inc.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Shining Star

La'Toya Lockhart

The Applause highlighted St. Johns-Putnam-Flager County very own Ethel Reid McNeil

LIVING TESTIMONY



"As a community we need to do all we can to promote early cancer detection and the Dothea H. Smith Cancer Walk is one of the means of doing that."

- Ethel Reid McNeil
San Mateo

Ethel Reid McNeil of San Mateo was diagnosed with renal cancer in 2009 and wound up losing one kidney and having to have a transplant to replace the other one. A member of The Charmettes, McNeil promotes early cancer detection and screening to the community. Charmette members adopted a national thrust to eradicate cancer in their lifetime.

Ethel Reid McNeil believes God sustained her from being a child who wasn't supposed to live beyond 13 years to living her life today at age 75

By TERESA MURPHY
Palatka Daily News
tmurphy@palatkadailynews.com

It was 2003, turned out to be a milestone in the life of Ethel Reid McNeil.

Not only did the San Mateo resident retire with 38 years of service as an educator from St. Johns County School District, where she served as Hastings Elementary principal, but she also was diagnosed with renal cancer.

"I was born with a rare birth defect and I was

sure how cancer would affect it," said the now 75-year-old.

With no recognizable symptoms, McNeil was periodically having MRIs done because of blood tumors and that's when the cancer detected.

From there, McNeil asked her doctor what she would need to do and how he planned to treat her.

It was decided she would have to have a kidney transplant.

"One kidney had to be removed because of

the cancer and the other was functioning at only 30%," she said. "I was put on a very strict diet and immediately put on the kidney transplant list."

McNeil had a dialysis apparatus implanted in her left arm preparing for her treatments because of her failing remaining kidney.

The week before she was scheduled to start dialysis, she received word of an anonymous kidney donor and she had her transplant surgery in 2007 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

"My transplant is doing fine," she said, add-

ing she has to take anti-rejection medicine for the rest of her life. "It will be 13 years March 6, 2020. God is awesome."

Today, McNeil is an active member of the Charmettes, who adopted a national thrust to eradicate cancer in their lifetime. The local group is sponsoring the annual Dothea H. Smith Cancer Walk 8 a.m. Saturday beginning at Mt. Taber First Baptist Church, 4909 St. Johns Ave. in Palatka.

See **MCNEIL**, Page 7B

ANNUAL DOTHEA H. SMITH CANCER WALK IS 8 A.M. SATURDAY IN PALATKA

McNeil

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Donations are being accepted the day of the walk with 50% going to the Howard University Cancer Center in Washington, D.C., to support cancer research and services and the other 50% to local cancer organizations or families in Putnam, St. Johns or Flagler counties. T-shirts commemorating the walk will be available for purchase the day of the two-mile walk.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to the fundraiser, can send checks to The Charmettes, P.O. Box 6, East Palatka, FL, 32131 or they can call Oliver at 503-0400.

The event was named after Smith, a longtime leader in the Putnam County community and Charmette member, who died Nov. 23, 2013, at age 74. The first walk was held the following November.

"She was a founding member of the Flagler-St. Johns-Putnam County Chapter of The Charmettes Inc. with

more than 40 years of service," said Monica Oliver, event chairwoman. "She also served as national executive director of The Charmettes Inc. for a 4-year period."

To date, The Charmettes have raised \$8,000 for cancer research.

McNeil has also taken an active part with The Charmettes since joining more than four decades ago, including being named national president. She is also active in her church, Lord's City of Refuge Ministries in Hastings, serving on the senior usher board and singing in the choir. She is also a volunteer administrator at the Bread of Heaven Soup Kitchen at the church where Bishop Thomas Cave III is pastor.

McNeil attributes her birth defect as the major reason she had to have a transplant instead of removing the cancerous spot from her kidney.

"I chose to remove the kidney all together instead of attending to the spot and I feel so blessed as it has been 13 years," she said.

McNeil said the walk this

weekend will hopefully raise awareness of cancer and the importance of early detection.

"We need to encourage people from all walks of life to go get checked," she said. "It's never too early and there are plenty of resources in our community."

McNeil, who never had any children of her own, but helped raise hundreds in the Hastings community, has a strong belief that cancer has affected people in every walk of life and it must be eradicated.

"It is touching every family in one way or another and we must continue to raise awareness with our organization and participate in events that draw attention to this dreaded disease," she said. "The Dothea H. Smith Cancer Walk brings attention to cancer awareness and that early diagnosis is crucial. As a community we need to do all we can to promote early detection and this walk is one of the means to doing that."

McNeil remembers Smith as a friend from the time they both joined The

Charmettes in 1975.

"She had a sweet spirit and she was truly a servant," she said. "Dothea was an awesome educator who helped our young children become successful citizens in our community and her legacy still stands today."

McNeil said her faith in God from a young child forward has always been what has sustained her in life.

"I have had so many challenges in life and this was another one that God took control of and his presence is always with me," she said.

"Being diagnosed with cancer doesn't mean your life is over. It has made me stronger as a person and more faithful in all aspects of my life."

She also wants to encourage others not to feel defeated when diagnosed with cancer and to know with early detection, survival rates have increased.

"I hope others can see how God sustained me from a child who wasn't supposed to live beyond 13-years-old to being a living testimony at 75," she said.

Note from the Reporter: Thank you very much for reading this issue of The Connection. In the next issue, we will have more highlights from our Chapters. If you would like to submit information to be included in an issue, you can email me at charmettheadrienne@gmail.com by the following deadlines: For the January Issue, January 5th; April Issue, March 25th; July Issue, June 25th; and for the October Issue, September 25th. Thank you again and have a wonderful day.