



10th Annual Celebration & Scholarship Banquet

Sunday, May 4, 2014
two o'clock in the afternoon

Jacksonville Marriott
4670 Salisbury Road, Jacksonville

Celebrates the 10
...through the years

From the Executive Director & Founder



As founder and executive director of Empowerment Resources, Inc. (ERI), allow me to thank you for joining us at our 10th Annual Journey Into Womanhood™ Celebration and Awards Banquet. The young ladies participating in Journey Into Womanhood™ (JIW), ERI's signature program represent 10 years of our dedicated service to Jacksonville youth, thus the theme for today's program, Celebrate the "10"...Through the Years.

The concept of Empowerment Resources was born when I saw the need for gender relevant programming for at-risk girls in the Jacksonville community. A pilot "rites of passage" program for girls began in 2003, and this eventually became our flagship program, Journey Into Womanhood™ (JIW).

Over the years, we developed attributes that together are unique to our organization:

- One of the region's few gender-based rites of passage programs
- Programs that address the needs of the whole child- social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual
- A leadership development approach to positive change
- A focus on building core life skills that lead to self-sufficiency and self-empowerment
- Workshops and seminars offered where community members already congregate

We must be on the right path - the demand for our programs and services outpaces our capacity. There is a waiting list for Journey Into Womanhood™, and local schools, churches, and community groups constantly inquire about our parenting seminars and life skills workshops.

To date, JIW has graduated 26 girls from the program with 92% entering college! Because of your support, our two graduating seniors will be awarded scholarships to benefit them on their college journey. In addition to our seniors, all the ladies of JIW will demonstrate today what they have learned throughout the year. We're proud of them as well as the overall JIW accomplishments over the years.

Our ultimate goal as an organization is to become a whole-family system that supports the achievement of children and their parents. When the community's people reach their highest and best potential, the result is stronger neighborhoods and cities.

Over the past 10 years, Empowerment Resources has awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarships to OUR local girls. It's hard to believe that we started meeting a decade ago at a small church with just 20 girls. Our success wouldn't be possible without our dedicated family of parents, mentors, volunteers, sponsors, and presenters, who heed the call to offer their time, talent, and treasure to ERI. If you're interested in supporting ERI and its programs, please refer to page 8 for details. We would love to have you as a part of the ERI family.

Thank you for spending a part of your Sunday with us. Sit back, relax and enjoy an unforgettable afternoon with the young ladies of Journey Into Womanhood.™

Sincerely,

Elexia Coleman-Moss
Executive Director and Founder

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

Drugs and Alcohol

Focuses on preventing the effects of drug and alcohol abuse

Concepts of Beauty

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

A is for Academics

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

Health & Fitness

Focuses on the importance of exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle

Relationships & Social Skills

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

Our Society & Social Constructs

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

Food & Nutrition

Focuses on learning healthy eating habits and selecting nutritious foods

Employment and Career Skills

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

Community Building

Focuses on hands-on learning the importance of volunteering

Abstinence & STD Prevention

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

Investments & Savings

Focuses on understanding the difference and importance between the two

2013-2014 Leadership

Board of Directors

Daphne Colbert, MBA

Oare' Henry, Ed.D

Maurice Martinez, B.S.

Samanthia Paris, LCSW

Advisory Council

Stephanie Allen

Carla Flowers

Honorable Audrey Gibson

Patricia Hannan

Sanitra Livingston, JIW alumna

Kim Miller

Cherrise Wilks

Journey Into Womanhood

Youth Advisory Council

Janae Byrd

Morgan Ford

Samantha Giggetts

Nyla Stanford

Arden Ward

2013-2014 Year in Review

September 2013: Parents Win the Old School V. New School Dance Off 4 Years in a Row!

Each year, parents are encouraged to attend at least one parent/youth workshop. JIW participants and their parents attended the kick off to the Jacksonville Jaguars Honor Rows Program, which featured a fitness workshop with Zumba instructors from Studio Jear Group Fitness and the return of the old school vs. new school dance off.

November 2013: 25 JIW Participants Earn a Ticket to a Jacksonville Jaguars Game.

The Jacksonville Jaguars Honor Rows program gives the girls an opportunity to attend a Jacksonville Jaguars home game. 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. 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.

In order to attend the game, the girls had to complete several tasks including: participating in a Food and Nutrition workshop; pledging to remain alcohol, tobacco and drug free; set goals; and perform community service.

Congratulations to the young ladies who successfully participated in the Honor Rows program:

Leila Adams, Johnquell Allen, Zoë Avrett, Deyona Burton, Janae Byrd, M'Kayla Carter, Sydni Cloyd, Mya Clowers, Morgan Ford, Mantha Giggetts, Arrington Grant, Ayanna Gray, Shaniya Harris, Ka'Maya Holley, Charis Holt, Shalaya Jackson, Taylen Jones, Nyla Stanford and Tierra Walker.

December 2013: JIW's Bring Joy to Nursing Home Residents in Annual Service Project.

The annual service project, led by JIW participants featured musical performances, dance, poetry and skits to bring holiday joy to the residents at JAX Rehab Nursing Home. All JIW participants are required and encouraged to give back to the community through volunteerism.

January 2014: Deyona Burton Recognized as a Tomorrow's Leader Award Recipient.

At the City of Jacksonville's 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, Deyona Burton, a 5th grade student and JIW participant, was recognized as one of six Tomorrow's Leaders award recipients for exemplifying the ideals and principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Deyona, a determined young woman with over 350 hours of volunteer experience spoke to the audience of over 2,500 people about her desire to grow up to be a great woman, a leader, and an achiever who makes life easier for others.

February 2014: JIW's Meet Inspiring Community Leaders.

JIW participants learned the value of civic and community leadership when they met the president of the Jacksonville chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers and Florida Senator Audrey Gibson. The Buffalo Soldiers overcame rejection and adversity to fight the wars ranging in the 1800s. Hot Wings, president of the Jacksonville chapter shared his journey to find his inner spirit to never give up. Additionally, JIW participants received an insider's perspective on how a bill becomes a law when Florida Senator Audrey Gibson visited the JIW Program. The participants were split into two groups to debate the merits of requiring school uniforms. After careful consideration, the JIW Senators concluded uniforms should be worn in school.

March 2013 – Career Readiness in Public Relations, Financial Advising and Videography

JIW girls received workforce preparation where they learned the good, bad, and ugly from four local women in business at the JIW Career Day. The day was a lesson on career preparation and entrepreneurship skills. This year's annual career exploration day also brought these four females to help the girls refine their messages for the E-Apprentice campaign as explained on page 5.

March 2014: JIW's Go to College!

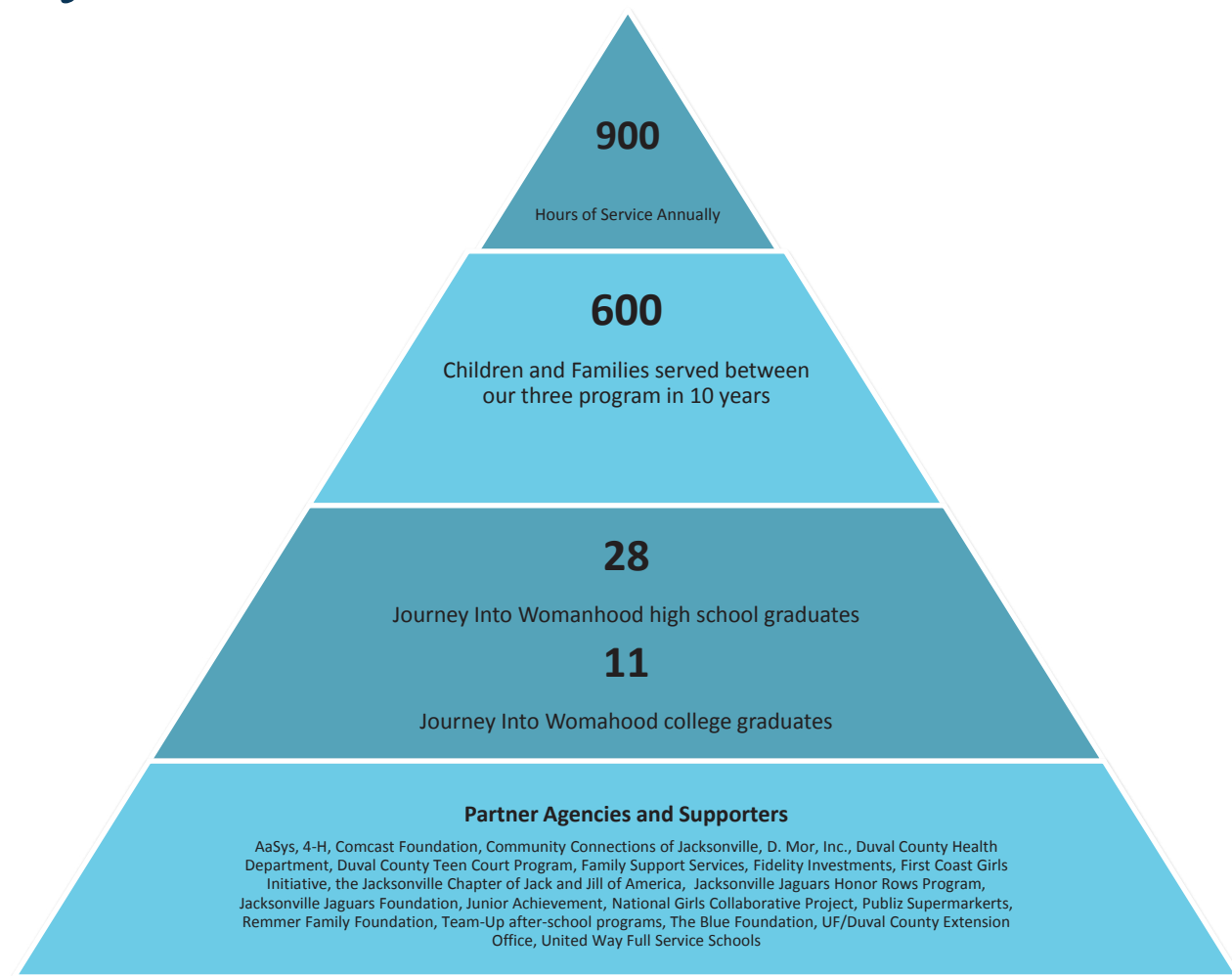
Earlier this year, JIW participants traveled to Bethune-Cookman University and Stetson University to get a glimpse of the college life. The annual college tour trip, held over spring break, is open to youth who earn enough points through documentation of their most recent report card, leadership, and commitment to volunteerism.

2013-2014 Year in Review

Journey Into Womanhood™ Calendar

August 24, 2013	“A” is for Academics and Goal Setting, Presented by: the Journey Into Womanhood Mentors
September 14, 2013	Jacksonville Jaguars Honors Kick Off/Parent and Youth Family Fun Day for Health and Fitness Presented by: the Journey Into Womanhood Mentors and Studio Jear
October 12, 2013	Healthy Food and Nutrition Day, Presented by: Preferred Nutrition
October 26, 2013	Value of Self, Presented by: the Journey Into Womanhood Mentors
November 2, 2013	Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Presented by: Ken Jefferson, Jefferson Consulting Group
November 17, 2013	Jacksonville Jaguars Honor Rows Football Game
December 7, 2013	Journey Into Womanhood Community Service Project, Benefiting: JAX Rehab Nursing Home
December 14, 2013	Journey Into Womanhood Holiday Gathering, Presented by: the Journey Into Womanhood Parents
January 11, 2014	Hygiene and Girl's and Women's Health, Presented by: Nurse Elaine White
January 25, 2014	Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying Presented by: William Jackson, Nationally Syndicated Blogger & Educator
February 8, 2014	Intro to Black History Month and Civic Leadership / Mock Debate Presented by: Jacksonville chapter of the Historic Buffalo Soldiers and State Senator Audrey Gibson
February 22, 2014	Investment and Savings/ Career Development and Personal Branding Presented by: Sherry Bond, JA Girl\$ and Angela Spears, City of Jacksonville
March 8, 2014	Abstinence “Plus” & STD Prevention, Healthy Relationships Presented by: Gloria McNair, Florida Department of Health in Duval County and Juanita Forman with Girls Inc.
March 20 – 22, 2014	JIW College Tour to Bethune Cookman University and Stetson University & Cummer Museum and Gardens Arts Enrichment Trip
April 12, 2014	Our Society and Social Constructs Presented by: Selena Webster-Bass, Jacksonville System of Care Initiative
April 26, 2014	Etiquette Presented by: Carolle Wells Vargas, Your Etiquette Style
May 4, 2014	Journey Into Womanhood 10 th Anniversary Celebration

ERI by the Numbers



Volunteer Opportunities

Empowerment Resources, Inc., is looking for community members who wish to share their time and talent in order to assist us with our programs. Individuals and businesses are welcome to volunteer in variety of ways. You can commit to as a little as few hours a month to a lifetime. Empowerment Resources is seeking volunteers to assist with the following:

- Mentoring
- Tutoring in reading, writing, science, math, history
- Computer Training and or Instruction
- Marketing and Communications
- The Arts-music, dance, drama, photography and filmmaking
- Guest Speakers
- Advisory Council Member
- Administrative, mailings and phone calls

For more information please contact us at 904-268-8287 or by email at info@empowermentresourcesinc.org.

Year In Pictures



Bethune-Cookman College

Our Wish List

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

We are in need of:

- Equipment (tablets, Overhead Projector)
- School Supplies, Books, Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Stamps
- Journals, Pens, Day-Planners/Agendas
- Gift Cards (to provide lunches/snacks for incentives)
- Laser Jet Ink Cartridges (HP 950 XL/951)
- Mentors or Volunteer Speakers
- Monetary Scholarships
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Office Space



Why Donate?

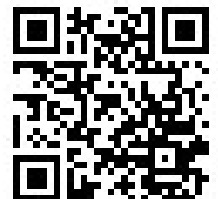
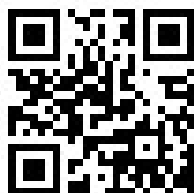
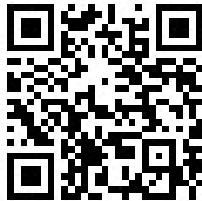
Fulfilling our mission relies on the generosity of community businesses, organizations, individuals and private donors. Your donation will further enhance the quality of service we provide to youth and families. All donations, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online at

www.empowermentresourcesinc.org. For more information, please call 904.268.8287 or email us at info@empowermentresourcesinc.org.



ERI Gets Social!

ERI is a part of many social networks. You can follow our events, updates and programs on our website, Twitter, and facebook.



Our Supporters

Empowerment Resources Inc. would like to acknowledge and thank the following companies and people for their ongoing support. Without your support, our program would not be as successful.

Past Presenters

Angela Spears, City of Jacksonville
Carolle Wells Vargas, Your Etiquette
Style
Gloria McNair, DCHD
Historic Buffalo Soldiers
Juanita Forman ,Girls Inc.
Ken Jefferson, Jefferson Consulting
Group
Nurse Elaine White
Preferred Nutrition
Selena Webster-Bass, System of Care
Initiative
Sherry Bond, JA Girl\$
State Senator Audrey Gibson
William Jackson

Banquet Committee

Daphne Colbert (chair)
Joyce Artis
Sylvia Burgess
Keri Dillet
Marsha Grant
Carol Hall
Jasmine Harris
Ebony Johnson
Sanitra Livingston
Jacqui Lowe
Angela C. Mack
Gail Patterson
Michelle Simkulet
Ashley Trapp Woodard
Ale'ta Tuner
Molly Wahl
Veronica Ward
Nikki Young

*ERI volunteers & JIW Mentors**

Renee "Stephanie" Allen
*Joyce Artis
*Sylvia Burgess
Keri Dillet
Carol Hall
Jasmine Harris
*Ebony Johnson
Andrea Kemp
Sanitra Livingston
Jacqui Lowe
Angela C. Mack
*Gail Patterson
Chiquita Powell
Dr. Jevetta Standford
*Ashley Trapp Woodard
Ale'ta Turner
Cherrise Wilks
*Nikki Young

In-Kind Donations

Affinity Consulting Group
(grant writing assistance)
Clinton Paris
(legal)
Community Connections of Jacksonville
(meeting room)
D. Mor Inc./McDonald's
Jacksonville Children's Commission
(meeting room)
JCCI
(meeting space)
JIW Parents and Caregivers
Jon Scherf
(Graphic design of JIW logo)
MyGani Design
(branding and company logo)
Molly Wahl
(banquet program and invite design)

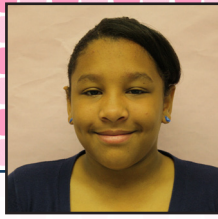
Supporters and Friends

Abdullah-Bolden Family
Alicia Smith
Andi Kemp
Andy Toelle (4-H)
Angela C. Mack
Annette Williams
Bettie Scott
Cherrise Wilks
D'Andrea Isabel
David and Paula Shigley
Debbie Moreland
Duval County Teen Court Program
Erica Downs
Herbert & June Latney
Jack and Jill of America- Jacksonville
Chapter
Jacki Singleton
Jacqueline Brown
Jake and Kathy Moss
Jakey G. Moss
James Coleman
Jason and Laquita Looney
John and Susan Ryzewic
Kim Ogletree
Kyle Dillet
Livingston Family
Matt Thompson
Michael Brown
Michelle Brock
Minnie Coleman
Natasha Clayton
Nokturnal Escape
Northrop Grumman
Pink Lady Charities
Rivera Promotions
Tracy Alladice
WIO1.5 FM and 93.3 FM
Val Brown
Veronica Ward
Y. Thomas
YMCA

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

Celebrate the 10...through the years!

Our Girls



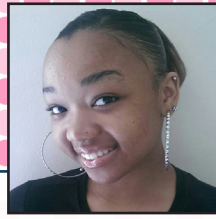
Leila Adams

Age: 11 5th Grade
The Potter's House Christian Academy

Interests: Singing, Song Writing, and Playing with Toddlers

Motto: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

Goals for the future: I plan to attend FAMU and major in Drama Education.



Johnquell Allen

Age: 17 11th Grade
Terry Parker High School

Interests: Dancing and Styling Hair

Motto: "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

Goals for the future: I plan to join the Air Force after college and use the GI bill to pay for me to complete a degree in Business Administration. My goal is to own my own hair salon by the age of 30.



Zoe G. Avrett

Age: 11 6th Grade
Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School

Interests: Dentistry, math, editing videos and filming movies

Motto: "Nobody else can bother you but you. Don't let anybody get to you because you are stronger than the real you."

Goals for the future: To become a general dentist, to succeed in life to make a lot of money so that I can help others.



Nevaeh Blake

Age: 10 4th Grade
Somerset Academy

Interests: Reading, writing and skating

Motto: "Be responsible and intelligent."

Goals for the future: To go to college and become a pediatrician.



Deyona Burton

Age: 11 5th Grade
Hendricks Ave. Elementary School

Interests: Music, sports, volunteering, and art

Motto: "If you believe it, you can achieve it."

Goals for the future: I plan to attend college and start a nonprofit foundation.



M'Kayla Carter

Age: 14 8th Grade
Lakeshore Middle School

Interests: Spoken word, stepping, and music

Motto: "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

Goals for the future: I plan to go to college and become an entrepreneur.

Our Girls



Mya Clowers

Age: 12 6th Grade
Waverly Academy

Interests: Singing, dancing, drawing, and gymnastics

Motto: "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." - *Maya Angelou*

Goals for the future: I plan to go to college. I aspire to become a journalist.



Sydni Cloyd

Age: 12 7th Grade
St. Pius Catholic School

Interests: I enjoy singing, playing volleyball and being with my family and friends. I also enjoy being a part of JIW - it has helped to boost my self-confidence.

Motto: "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

Goals for the future: I plan to attend college.



Michaela Evans

Age: 11 5th Grade
Biscayne Elementary School

Interests: Singing and dancing

Motto: "The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity" - *Amelia Earnhart*



Morgan Ford

Age: 13 8th Grade
Trinity Christian Academy

Interests: Singing in the junior high chorus at Trinity, singing in the church choir and junior high cheerleading squad, gymnastics, music, and dance.

Motto: "Life is a work of art, so create it to the best of your ability."

Goals for the future: I would like to attend college and pursue a career in the medical field.



Tamia Foston

Age: 11 6th Grade
Waverly Academy

Interests: Running Track and Fashion

Motto: "You only live once."

Goals for the future: I plan to attend college and open my own business in fashion.



Samantha Giggetts

Age: 14 8th Grade
Arlington Country Day School

Interests: Drama, public speaking, singing, reading, culinary arts, and serving as a JIW Youth Advisory Council leader and a JIW participant

Motto: "Show me your friends and I can predict your future."

Goals for the future: I strive to continue being an accomplished young lady while pursuing my artistic passion in theatre arts.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Kumasi Aaron Kumasi grew up in Sebring, Florida, and graduated from Florida A&M University with a degree in accounting. But she knew in her heart that accounting wasn't her passion; journalism was.

After graduating, Kumasi received an internship at ABC News in New York City. That internship led to a position at WABC-TV, where she worked on the assignment desk, and with just about everyone in the newsroom. She also worked as a camerawoman with NYI News, New York City's local cable station.

Kumasi later accepted a position at NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, where she worked with and learned from some of the best in the business.

Before coming to WJXT, she spent two years at KFSM in Fayetteville, Arkansas, anchoring and reporting. There she reported on everything from deadly tornadoes, to Joplin recovery, to a plane crash, and even had the chance to interview President Clinton.

In her spare time you'll find Kumasi volunteering, enjoying the outdoors, and hanging out with her family. She has aunts, cousins and more right here in Jacksonville.



ALVIN BROWN
MAYOR



OFFICE OF MAYOR ALVIN BROWN

May 4, 2014



Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 10th annual Celebration and Scholarship Banquet of Journey Into Womanhood (JIW), a program of Empowerment Resources, Inc. As you gather this evening to recognize the recent successes of participating students, I trust you will make many fond memories.

I am a firm believer in the power of mentorship to positively impact the lives of our young people. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the volunteer mentors, staff and parents who make JIW a reality for these young ladies. I am encouraged to know that you are focusing not only on personal confidence and community involvement, but on college readiness as well.

To those being honored this evening, particularly this year's graduates, I send my very best wishes and look forward to hearing of your future accomplishments, as I am sure they will be many. Even after tonight's celebration, I pray you will be encouraged by the words of former National Security Advisor and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, "The essence of America—that which really unites us is not ethnicity, or nationality or religion—it is an idea, and what an idea it is: that you can come from humble circumstances and do great things!"

Sincerely,

Mayor Alvin Brown

Program of Events



Welcome
Kumasi Aaron, Mistress of Ceremonies

Entrance of Young Ladies

Blessing

Lunch is Served

Celebrating the 10...through the Years

Talent Showcase

Awards Presentation
Elexia Coleman-Moss
Founder and Executive Director



Closing Remarks
Elexia Coleman-Moss

This year is dedicated in memory of
Carissa Flournoy, Kecia Love, Tamika S. Stewart and Solomon Stanford, four 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

Our Girls



Arrington Grant

Age: 13 7th Grade
Darnell Cookman Middle School of
Medical Arts

Interests: I enjoy having fun, spending time with friends and family, dancing and making people laugh.

Motto: "Go hard or go home."

Goals for the future: I plan to go to college to study to become a surgeon, since I like dissecting things in medical classes at school.



Ayanna-Rose T. Gray

Age: 10 5th Grade
Seacoast Charter Academy

Interests: Piano, tennis, golf, reading, running, modeling and Girl Scouts

Motto: "Go big or go home"

Goals for the future: After high school I plan to go to college and eventually become a veterinarian.



Lauren Harrell

Age: 14 9th Grade
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Interests: Theatre, reading, meditating and living life.

Motto: "My momma always told me to smile; it don't cost you nothing."

Goals for the future: To change the world in some type of way, shape or form.



Shaniya Harris

Age: 10 4th Grade
Sally B. Mathis Elementary School

Interest: Nursing, basketball, and computers

Motto: "Give yourself, if you wish to get others. Enthusiasm is the best protection in any situation."

Goals for the future: To go to college and nursing school.



Ka'Maya Holley

Age: 12 7th Grade
Bradford Middle School

Interests: Reading, writing and watching my favorite television shows

Motto: "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." - Henry David Thoreau



Charis A. Holt

Age: 11 5th Grade
Love Grove Elementary School

Interests: Art, creating, singing and music

Motto: "Love is not lost."

Goals for the future: I'm going to college to become an engineer. I also want to be a singer and artist.

Our Girls



Dahjia Hudson

Age: 10 5th Grade
Promise Land Academy

Interests: I like to dance and have fun with my friends. I enjoy making people laugh.

Motto: "You should always do what is right."

Goals for the future: I would like to go to college and become a veterinarian.



Shalaya Jackson

Age: 10 5th Grade
Pine Forest School of the Arts

Interests: Dancing and being creative

Motto: "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value" - Albert Einstein



Taylen Jones

Age: 11 6th Grade
Kirby Smith Middle School

Interests: Basketball, track, cheerleading and step dancing

Motto: "By believing in myself, all things are possible."

Goals for the future: I want to go to college and become a social worker, scientist or play in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association).



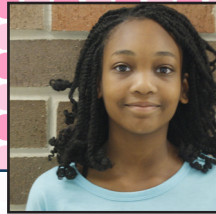
Samaria Little

Age: 15 9th Grade
Austin Christian Academy

Interests: I like to dance, play soccer, and spend time with my family.

Motto: "Think Positive, See Positive, Be Positive."

Goals for the future: I plan to attend college and become a heart surgeon.



Jazmane McCrae

Age: 10 4th Grade
Biscayne Elementary School

Interests: Modeling

Motto: "To be successful in life."

Goals for the future: I plan to go to college, to be a model, but if that doesn't work, I want to be a lawyer.



Ti'Jana Rogers

Age: 17 11th Grade
Robert E. Lee High School

Interests: I enjoy reading, writing, drawing, designing video game storyboards and game playing.

Motto: "Let her sleep for when she wakes, she will move mountains."

Goals for the future: To open and run a successful video game designing company.

Our Girls



Jonai Sanders

Age: 12 6th Grade
Somerset Preparatory Academy

Interest: I like to help at school and dance.

Motto: "The sky is the limit."

Goals for the future: I plan to go to college and become an event planner.



Kendra Santiago

Age: 13 7th Grade
Mandarin Middle School

Interest: Dancing, reading, and helping others.

Motto: "Never judge a book by its cover."

Goals for the future: I want to go to college to study to be a counselor, pediatrician, or psychiatrist.



Nyla Stanford

Age: 16 11th Grade
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Interest: Watching movies, writing and reading, and dancing while no one is watching,

Motto: "Calling someone else fat won't make you skinner. Calling somebody else stupid won't make you smarter. All you can do in life is try to solve the problem in front of you." - Mean Girls

Goals for the future: I want to double major in psychology and screenwriting.



Tierra Walker

Age: 15 9th Grade
Edward H. White High School

Interests: Doing Hair, Dancing, and Doing Nails

Motto: "God made only one me."

Goals for the future: I plan to go to Spellman College and study cosmetology and photography.



Arden Ward

Age: 15 10th Grade
Paxon School for Advanced Studies

Interests: Filming, Acting, Photography, Music, and Swimming

Motto: "What you allow is what will continue."

Goals for the future: I plan to study music and production at Louisiana State University or law at the University of Georgia.



Shalesia Whetstone

Age: 9 4th Grade
Pine Forest Elementary School of the Arts

Interests: Singing, creative writing, gymnastics, arts and fashion design, and just being a kid playing with my American girl doll, riding my bike and having fun.

Motto: "Perfect practice makes perfect."

Goals for the future: Maintain good grades A, B honor student and to continue to do my best.

Our Seniors



Janae Byrd

Age: 17

Years in JIW: 7

Atlantic Coast High School

Motto: "Rule number one, you don't have it, go and get it."

Interests: My interests include encouraging and motivating my peers and family members to have the boldness to pursue their dreams. My passion is fashion design and styling hair.

Goals and plans after high school/career path: To attend Savannah State University, majoring in Business Management where I will obtain the foundational skills to pursue opening my own business.

Colleges applied to or accepted: Savannah State University

Activities and Honors: I have been a member of Joint Heirs Christian Center Praise Team since I was six years old. Member of the 4H Club, Summer Lifeguard for the City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department where I served as lifeguard and instructor; Jaguar Honor Rolls; Mayor Brown's Learn2Earn Program 2012 ; Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) 2012; Atlantic Coast High School Step Team 2012, Atlantic Coast High School Track Manager 2012-2014; Atlantic Coast High School Winter Guard Team 2013-2014; participated in the Generation WOW Event 2013; Emcee for "Smart Women Make Change" event held at the Florida Blue Conference Center 2014; JIW President for the 2013-2014 year.

My Most enjoyable JIW experience: The opportunities that have been given to me, especially the annual college tours. We have a lot of fun and we meet new people.



Akilah Sadiq

Age: 18

Years in JIW: 3

Edward H. White High School

Motto: "You only live once but if you do it right once it is enough."

Interests: I'm interested in acting, and physical therapy.

Goals and plans after high school/career path: I plan to attend Florida A&M University and major in Physical Therapy in sports.

Colleges applied to or accepted: Accepted to Florida A&M University

Activities and Honors: Barbizon Modeling and Acting Program

My most enjoyable JIW experience: The college tour is my favorite part of JIW!

Our Alumnae

Katrice Oglesby, 2005 JIW: Florida State College at Jacksonville Graduate, Registered Nurse

Iva Ballou, 2006 JIW: Howard University Graduate

Amanda Phillips, 2006 JIW: College Graduate

Faridah Abdullah, 2006 JIW: University of North Florida Graduate, Communications Assistant at New York University

Shawntavia “Nikki” Young, 2006 JIW: College Graduate, Fourth Grade Teacher

Erica Mitchell, 2006 JIW: University of North Florida Graduate, Registered Nurse

Sanitra Livingston, 2007 JIW: University of North Florida Graduate, Florida State University - Masters in Social Work Graduate Student

Janay Badger, 2007 JIW: University of Central Florida Graduate, Provider Services Representative

Jasmine Harris, 2008 JIW: University of Florida Graduate, University of Central Florida - Masters in Non-Profit Management Graduate Student

Courtney Hammond, 2009 JIW: University of North Florida Student

Taila McClain, 2009 JIW: Bethune Cookman University Student - Class of 2014

Charla Hamilton, 2010 JIW: University of North Florida Student in Health Science - Class of 2014

Jessica Polote, 2010 JIW: University Central Florida Student, Speech-Language Pathology

Kaila White, 2010 JIW: University of Central Florida Student, Health Informatics and Information Management

Jasmine Flournoy, 2010 JIW: College Student

Monique Young, 2010 JIW: U.S. Navy Enlistee

Ashley Irven, 2011 JIW: College Student

Monet Yarborough, 2011 JIW: plans to attend Edwards Waters College

Sierra Jones, 2012 JIW: Florida A & M University Student

Tia Clark, 2013 JIW: Valencia College Student, Hospitality & Tourism

Mia Flowers, 2013 JIW: University of South Florida Student, Biomedical Sciences

Amber Harrell, 2013 JIW: Florida State University Student

Teshara Laster, 2013 JIW: Florida State College at Jacksonville Student, Sports Medicine

Brianna Major, 2013 JIW: Tallahassee State College Student

Jazmine Russ, 2013 JIW: Norfolk State University Student

Danielle Thomas, 2013 JIW: University of North Florida Student

JIW Graduates

In the Pursuit of Higher Education: Journey into Womanhood graduates actively pursue post-secondary degrees at many of Florida’s top colleges including: University of Central Florida, University of North Florida, Florida State College and University of Florida. Since the program’s inception, 24 out of 26 students have continued their journey with college.

A Giving Heart: JIW graduates frequently give back to the organization as mentors and behind-the-scenes volunteers. Since 2002, JIW graduates have donated more than 100 hours of service to the organization.

Time to Grow: On average, JIW graduates spend five years in the program. Over that time, the girls learn self-confidence, goal setting and the skills necessary to become poised, productive young women.

Our Alumnae

Class of 2005



Class of 2006



JIW has definitely impacted my life immensely. I feel like I am a more cultured young adult than most my age. It has empowered me to make smart goals and decisions on how to meticulously execute the plans I have for my life. Most importantly, JIW has shown me how to carry myself as a young woman and how to make memorable connections with people in the community

Class of 2007



Class of 2008



Class of 2009



Class of 2010



JIW gave me life skills without me even realizing I was getting schooled in life. In addition to my family, JIW prepared me for the real world and taught me things that I wasn't learning in my academic setting. As an alumni of JIW, I want to exceed expectations and set the standard for the other girls.

Class of 2011



Class of 2012



Class of 2013



Our Supporters

Congratulations Empowerment
Resources Inc., on a job well done for the
last ten years in your leadership with
the "Journey Into Womanhood program."
-Elzora Brown

Congratulations, Janae!
We wish you well in all the things you
desire.
Love, Auntie Lynn & family

Congratulations Janae-
I'm proud of you!
Love,
Grandad

Janae-

Congratulations Little Mermaid!

God's blessing upon you as you
"Journey Into Womanhood"

We are so proud of you!

My Dearest Granddaughter, Janae-
I am proud of you.
Love, Granny

-Love, Auntie Blond and Family

Love -
Cousin Bobbie & Rock

Congrats, 'Nae!

Love you!
Lance Byrd & Lamar Byrd

Congratulations Lump!!!
Love, Daddy

May your journey into womanhood be
pleasing to God and bring you great joy
in living for Him.

-Charles and LeVerne Hamilton

Janae,

Keep dreaming things that never were,
and keep saying why not. May your life
continue to be succesful!

Love, Helen Turner & family

Janae-
I'm proud of the young woman you have
become. May God continue to bless you.
Love -
Mom

Congratulations Janae,
I am so proud of you!
Keep God first in all you endeavor.

Love you much! from Mrs. Cynthia

Congrats, Janae-
We are proud of the young woman that
you have become.
Love, Andre & Shemica

Congratulations Janae-
We are proud of you!
Love - Uncle Doc & Auntie Carolyn

Congrats to the JIW girls and to
Empowerment Resources for
10 long and successful years with the
Journey Into Womanhood program
-Jake and Kathy Moss

Our Supporters

Ellexia, best wishes and congratulations
on celebrating the 10th Annual
Celebration and Scholarship Banquet.
-Sam Newby

Jonai,
You are blossoming and coming out of
your shell.
JIW has been a positive influence.
Congrats!!
Your Mom

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

Ellexia Coleman-Moss, thank you
for your dedication and commitment
to serving young ladies within the
community. I wish you much success in
the future.
- Reggie L. Brown, Council Member-
District 10

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

Arden,
Congratulations on your
10th 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

You are young, but do not let anyone
treat you as if you were not important.
Be an example (1 Tim. 4:12 ICB)
Kendra, I love you and am proud to call
you my daughter. I see great things in
your future.
Love,
Mommy

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

Arden,
My Sweet Daughter,
May God continue to
bless and keep you as you continue to
grow, mature and advance
into womanhood. I am extremely proud
of you! Always know that your mom
and dad
will always LOVE you.
Love Dad, Ralph Ward III

Kendra-
I am so proud of the girl that you were.
The young teen that you are.
And the young woman that you will
become.
Love you for life - Your Dad

Arden,
Much success and May God
Continue to bless you! "I can do all
things through
Christ which strengtheneth me"
Love, Debra, Tyrone Jr. & Marcus
Williams

Congrats to our "little lady" and super-
star daughter and niece
Mantha Giggetts
From Mom (Andrea) and Dad
(Nicholas)
Aunts: Jean, Jackie, Beverley, and
Gerrie
Uncles: Wesley and Ron
Friend: Robin
"We Love You!"

Jonai,
I am very proud of the young lady you
are becoming.
Love
Grandma Shirley

Arden,
Congratulations to my beautiful and
talented granddaughter!
Love, Grand pa
Perry Faulk

Our Supporters



SENATOR AUDREY GIBSON
9th District

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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Criminal Justice
Regulated Industries

SELECT COMMITTEE:

Select Committee on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



Empowerment Resources Inc. 10th Annual Journey into Womanhood Celebration and Scholarship Banquet May 4th 2014

Congratulations 2014 JIW participants!

It is again my pleasure to congratulate all the participants, parents and organizers of the 10th Annual "Journey Into Womanhood" Scholarship Banquet. I commend you all for your efforts and sacrifice of time, talent and treasure to make this event spectacular.

This program has been a success throughout the years and I trust all attendees will continue to embrace JIW as you take a look back at the successes of the program during the last 10 years. This is a great milestone!

I will continue to do all I can to support Empowerment Resources, Inc. in their endeavors to empower youth and families as the organization creates more and more journeys!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey Gibson".

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 9

REPLY TO:

- 101 E. Union Street, Suite 104, Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (904) 359-2553 FAX: (904) 359-2532
- 205 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5009

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

DON GAETZ
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore

Today's Chance Drawing

\$5 Ticket Chance Drawing Items

Men's Car Wash Gift Bucket – (Car Wash products & Certificate for Deluxe Carwash)

Donated by Community Connections & Beaches Car Wash Value \$31.67

Wine Gift Basket – (Wine, Accessories Kit, Trail Mix, Entertainment Crackers)

Jazz Festival Accessories & Wine (Insulated bag, Bottle of Moscato, 2013 Jazz Festival Coasters & Key Chain)

Starbucks Coffee/Coffee Mug/Gift Card Basket Value \$38.00

Regal Entertainment Popcorn Bucket (includes \$10 gift card) Value - \$18.00

2 weeks pass Johnson Family YMCA & (1) one month pass Zumba Jear Classes

Adventure Landing & Mimis Café Dining Package: Any Three (3) Attractions Pass for Two + Two Large Sodas
includes 18-hole miniature golf course; laser tag; go-karts; wacky worm roller coaster Value - \$17.00

Krispy Kreme Gift Certificate & Sticky Fingers Certificate - Value \$15.00

(2) Porcelain Dolls – The Irma Gheduzzi Collection

Donated by The Antique Shop – Taylor County

Gift Certificate for Dinner – Donated by The Flowers Family

Lunch for two at Clara's at the Cathedral

\$10 Ticket Chance Drawing Items

Cream of Nature Hair Care Gift Bags – Value \$80.00 each

Women's Gift Basket (Wine, Hair Care Products, Journal & ERI Ink Pen)

Donated by Shauntel Baker, Owner-Hair Days Value \$67.00

Cream of Nature Hair Care Gift Bags – Value \$80.00 each

Lion Country Safari Drive-through & Safari World Amusement Park (West Palm Beach) Value \$66.00

Donated by Community Connections & Lion Country Safari, Inc. Cream of Nature Hair Care Gift Bags – Value \$80.00 each

Cream of Nature Hair Care Gift Bags – Value \$80.00 each

Big Talbot Island State Park Photography Session & Three (3) One Day Passes to any Florida State Park

Donated by Community Connections & Cason Photography

Cream of Nature Hair Care Gift Bags – Value \$80.00 each

\$15 Ticket Chance Drawing Items

Jaguars "Jag" Pack – Male Golf Shirt (XL), Jaguars Hat & Miniature Helmet Value \$80.00

Complimentary greens fees for a foursome at Marsh Creek Country Club and Mimis Café,

Donated by Community Connections, Marsh Creek County Club & Mimis Café

Ripley's St. Augustine Attractions Package: Ripley's Sightseeing Train Family Pass & Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum Family
Pass for 4 – Value \$155.52

Jacksonville Suns Suite Tickets - Value: \$200

\$20 Ticket Chance Drawing Items

Private Wine Tasting (up to 12 people) & Mimis Café and Two (2) bottles of wine

Donated by Community Connections & PRP Wine International, Inc.

2 - One-Day Walt Disney World Hopper Passes Value \$258.00

2 - One-Day Walt Disney World Hopper Passes Value \$258.00

.... and many more!!!!



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