



NCBW 100 News

Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter

PRESS RELEASE

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100 Black Women of Metropolitan Atlanta Salute Forty-nine Young Women Graduating from *Teens on the Move*

Seniors at Grady High School and Washington High School represent largest class and highest percentage of students in pursuit of higher education.

Atlanta, GA (June 1, 2010). *Teens on the Move* (TOM) has been a signature mentoring program of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (MAC-100BW) for approximately twenty years. Currently the program serves 49 girls at Booker T. Washington and Henry Grady High Schools, both schools are a part of Atlanta Public Schools.

This year is cause for celebration and special recognition of the program and the women of MAC-100BW who have nurtured the program and the girls from Henry Grady High and Booker T. Washington High who participate in the weekly sessions. Forty-one of the forty-nine graduating seniors have received scholarships to attend college. **Sabrina Finch**, who leads the program and works with the girls, says “Many of the young women who have come through our program face tremendous odds. Some achieve with the lack of family support and peers dropping out of school all around them. They see their friends get pregnant, seduced by drugs, and without ambition to achieve. These girls are sometimes criticized for trying to rise about their family expectations. We are so very proud of their achievements.”

The Gates Millennium Scholarship has been awarded to five of the members of TOM including **Kamalia Blunt (WHS)**, **Shaeroya Earls (WHS)**, **Chelsea Falcone (WHS)**, **Mia Philpot (WHS)**, and **Quanteshia Tennyson (WHS)**. This scholarship, awarded under a strenuous selection process, gives the recipients a full ride through college and a PhD program providing the student keeps good grades, remains active in their communities, and is a productive citizen.

Teens On The Move was established in 1990 as a mentoring program for 13 at-risk girls ages 10 to 14 who were resided in Perry Homes public housing community. In 1994 the program moved from Perry Homes to Archer High School and Pitts Elementary School and provided in-school speakers, field trips, and tutoring to over 70 girls. The program expanded to include one class of both males and females at Westlake High School in 1995. As our teens grew up, *Teens On The Move* continued to provide mentoring, social development, and career guidance. In 1997, *Teens On The Move* recruited a group of ninth grade students from Harper Archer High School and mentored them through their senior year - with scholarship assistance for those who successfully completed the 4 year program and continued their education at colleges or vocational schools. Seventeen graduates from Harper Archer High School continued their education at colleges or vocational schools, and none became pregnant or dropped out of school. During the past years, the *Teens On The Move* settled into a program of mentoring girls from 13 - 18 years of age.

These young women in TOM face many challenges in maintaining their studies, home life, and other community involvement. MAC-100BW holds biweekly meetings in the schools, designed to broaden the girls' horizons through various activities and field trips. The focuses of these meetings include college preparation, life skills, creative influences and personal responsibility. Each teen is matched one on one with a member of ACNCBW where the member serves as a springboard for ideas as well as an advocate and encourager.

About the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of NCBW

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to community service, leadership development, and advocacy through delivering highly effective programs and services that benefit families, women and youth.

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Photo Tag:

Students from Teens on the Move and members of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter o 100 Black Women gather to celebrate another successful year together. Some of the members include:

(Seated on the floor) l-r: Jeanette Kimber, 100BW; Kamalia Blunt, a TOM Gates Millennium Scholar; Tiffany Brown, TOM; and Shekera Parker, TOM.

Seated (second row l – r): Markeda Smith, Sylvia Harris, Tomika Jones, Cynthia Williams, Sabrina Finch – members of 100BW; Shantoria Butts, Rebecca Dorsey, Destinique Smith, members of TOM

Standing: members of Teens on the Move and members of 100 Black Women