

Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated Newsletter



501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

The mission of Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated is to support the Maryland Communities of Charles and St. Mary's Counties. We aim to enhance the socio-economic condition of our environment by providing educational, charitable, financial, cultural and health-related resources and events.

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President's Message



Denise Barnes, President

**Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland
Community Charities**

Greetings IPSMCC Members:

It has been said that “When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened.”

Many of you fall into the second category- those who make things happen. In spite of the logistics of life in a pandemic, this has been a very productive year. This is evidenced by the numbers of you who have stepped up to provide service to the community. We also provided scholarships to those who wish to pursue their education. It has been rewarding to see members overcome their fear of technology to embrace participation in Zoom meetings, and to change the way we do business to continue to serve our communities. I look forward to having in-person or a hybrid of virtual and in-person meetings soon. I'm hopeful that I will see each of you over the coming months.

Fall is here and the best is yet to come!

Executive Director's Message

Greetings Members:

Thank you for all of the support that you have provided this year. We have been able to operate essentially with no fundraisers. You have been our support and we are grateful. I have listened to representatives from other organizations who have not fared as well and we have been able to weather the storm. However, understand that we are fiscally prudent, and we are all volunteers. There is no paid staff, we have kept our operational costs at a minimum as a result. A special thanks to our leads for grants, Arin Bonner and Carol Cawthorne, for working on the annual report. These two items are continuing projects. Special thanks also to President Barnes for working to make sure that all of our paperwork is in order. Each one of the program chairs have worked diligently to sponsor events. Finally, thanks to Yolanda Penn, who has spent a great amount of time addressing items from the audit and Sharon Bond for leading the effort.



Carmella Watkins, Executive Director

**Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland
Community Charities**



Community Impact Day: MLK Prayer Celebration and Day of Service



Chairman: Francine Dove Hawkins
Co-Chairman Rochelle Savoy
January 18, 2021

COVID-19 was no match on Monday, January 18, 2021 for **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. ®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter** as it honored Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy by impactfully serving the St. Mary's County community. In fact, for the 5th consecutive year, the Sorority assumed a premier role in the **MLK Holiday's "National Day On" Campaign** by serving as a sponsor of the **St. Mary's College of Maryland's Virtual 17th Annual MLK Prayer Celebration** and as the host and lead sponsor of the **MLK Day of Service**.

St. Mary's College, the Sorority, and 4 other sponsors of the event (St. Mary's County Public Schools, the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission, the St. Mary's Branch of the NAACP, and the College of Southern Maryland) modified rather than cancel the annual affair by substituting a **Virtual Prayer Celebration** for its Annual Prayer Breakfast with more than **280 logins** noted for the event.

The **Virtual Prayer Celebration** kicked off an uplifting duet performed by **St. Peter Claver Catholic Church choir duet** (Stevie-Mari Starks, a member of the Sorority, and Denisha LaFleur) with music provided by **Roy Johnson**, an alumnus of St. Mary's College. **Dr. Tuajuanda C. Jordan**, President of St. Mary's College, introduced the keynote speaker, **Dr. Crystal M. Fleming**, a noted American sociologist, professor of sociology and Africana studies, and author of two books about race and white supremacy. Dr. Fleming challenged the audience to soul search and strive to realize in the community "what matters most to them."

Also performing at the **Virtual Prayer Celebration** were **St. Mary's Ryken** students providing an inspiring modern dance to the Beatles hit "**Imagine**," the **Spring Ridge Middle School Rhythm Club** bellowing with the beats of their instruments, and **St. Mary's Ryken** students providing a beautiful rendition of "**The Black National Anthem**." **Madam Basileus, Denise Barnes**, invited the audience to participate in the **MLK Day of Service** activities following the Virtual Prayer Celebration. The powerful opening and closing prayers were provided by **Rev. Dante Eubanks**, pastor of **New Covenant Christian Worship Center**.

Following the Virtual Prayer Celebration, the **MLK Day of Service** kicked off with the showing of a breast cancer awareness video focused on "**Breast Cancer Health Disparities, Life Saving Tips, and Tribute to Cancer Survivors**" sponsored by **Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC)**; and the **Rural Maryland Council**.



Pictured from the left President Denise Barnes, St. Mary's County Wrap Arms Round Many Secretary Dolly Griffin, St. Mary's County Wrap Arms Round Many Treasurer Philip Horne, Carmella Davis Watkins, and Francine Dove Hawkins, Chairman MLK



Pictured from the left: Executive Director Carmella Davis Watkins, The Mission Director Richard Myers, President Denise Barnes



Community Impact Day: MLK Prayer Celebration and Day of Service



Chairman: Francine Dove Hawkins
Co-Chairman Rochelle Savoy
January 18, 2021

The **MLK Day of Service** continued with the **Community Drive-By Donation Collection Program** being simultaneously held at the three sites: **St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's Ryken High School, and St. Peter Claver Catholic Church**. Transporting the donated items from the three sites to a single site, the **Global Village**, was completed by the **Knights of St. Jerome** and **Anthony and Adrina Allen (Southern Maryland Top Lady of Distinction)**. At the Global Village, the donations were sorted, counted, boxed, and ultimately sent out to the community organizations for distribution.

"Incredibly successful" is the label attached to the **MLK Day of Service**. It was perhaps the most productive MLK Day of Service ever in terms of the total amount of donations collected in the face of the COVID pandemic, which required donators to drive out in the community in the cold to donate. Collected were a total of 1659 donated items at the 3 sites: 245 pairs of shoes for **Soles4Souls**; 571 canned goods delivered to **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's Food Pantry** and 60 canned goods to **St. Mary's College of Maryland's Pantry**; and 64 pairs of eyeglasses to the **Lions Club International**; 178 coats to **The Mission**; and 65 Gloves; 139 Hats; 282 Socks; 44 Scarves; and 11 Blankets to **WARM**.

In addition to the collection of material goods for the community, **IPSMCC** collected monetary donations that totaled \$1,281.34. The money collected was equally divided and donated to two County non-profits who work with the homeless: **The Mission and Wrapping Arms Round Many (WARM)**. Checks were presented to the two organizations by the President of Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, Denise Barnes, and Executive Director of IPSMCC, Carmella Watkins.

The MLK Prayer Celebration and Day of Service drew community-wide attendance, including Congressman Steny Hoyer, local government officials, religious leaders, businesspersons, community activists and other members of Nu Zeta Omega Chapter participated in this year's event.

The success of **MLK Holiday's "National Day On" Campaign** was attributed to a powerful coalition of organizations coming together to work for a single purpose-to serve the community both because of and despite COVID. The major hosts, sponsors and partners of the day in addition to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter included the following: College of Southern Maryland, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Charities, Inc.; St. Mary's Branch of the NAACP; St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission; St. Mary's College of Maryland; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Knights of St. Jerome; St. Mary's Ryken High School; St. Peter Claver Catholic Church; Southern Maryland Top Ladies of Distinction; The Mission; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Alpha Lambda Chapter; and WARM.



Collection of donated items
at one of the three sites in
St. Mary's County



Webinar Series: “Having a Healthy Heart: Do You Know Your Heart Disease Risk? Do You Know Your Breast Cancer Risk?”

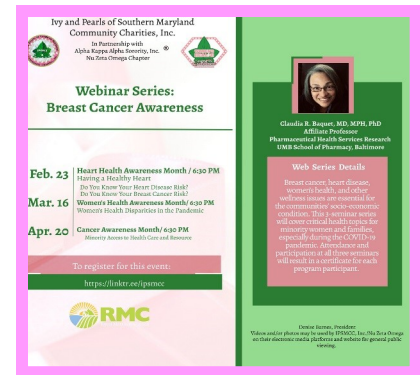


Chairman: Cynthia Thomas
Co-Chairman: Diane Parker

The Target 2: Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Subcommittee in partnership with Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. in support of the Rural Maryland Council Grant presented a three-part Zoom webinar series during the months of February, March, and April 2021.

The first webinar presented was in February, Heart Health Awareness Month. “*Having a Healthy Heart: Do You Know Your Heart Disease Risk? Do You Know Your Breast Cancer Risk?*” was held on February 23.

The goal was to present information relating to both heart health and breast health because the two can have some overlapping factors. The guest speaker was Dr. Claudia Baquet, a renowned researcher and health advocate, whose research laid a foundation for what is now called “cancer health disparities research and social determinants of health.” The successful program was viewed by 127 participants. A survey was taken and 93 of the viewers participated. 92.5% found the information presented relevant and helpful. 87.1% were highly satisfied and would attend the next two webinars in the series.

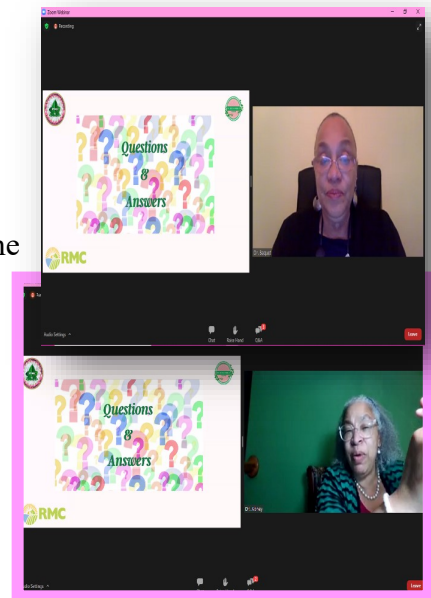


Webinar Series: “Women’s Health Disparities”

Chairman: Soror Cynthia Thomas
Co-chairman: Soror Diane Parker
March 16, 2021

The second webinar, “*Women’s Health Disparities in the Pandemic*” was held March 16 with two Guest Speakers: Dr. Claudia Baquet and Dr. Dianna Abney, who has recently returned as a Health Officer for the Charles County Department of Health. For the past two years, she worked at Children’s National Hospital in the Pediatric Health Network as the Medical Director for Network Management. During her leadership as Health Officer for Charles County during December 2012 through August 2018, the health department offered a wide range of public health services and decreased disparities by increasing access to dental, behavioral health, and primary care services.

The goal was to present information on Black women, the pandemic, clinical trials, and health disparities on the national and county levels. The program was successful and was viewed by 110 participants. A survey was taken and 71 of the viewers participated. 69.01% found the information presented extremely useful and 26.76% found the information very useful. 81.69% thought that the program was excellent and 15.49% thought that it was very good. Certificates of participation were given to participants who attended all three webinars.



Special Thanks to Members Laura Dunk and Wualanda Thenstead, Technology Committee, and Ivy and Pearls Community Charities, Inc. Executive Director, Mrs. Carmella Davis Watkins and President, Mrs. Denise Barnes. The third webinar was held April 20, 2021.



Target 3 – Building your Economic Legacy Personal Financial Planning and Asset Accumulation Understanding and Managing Credit



*Chairman, Starlisha Anderson
Co-Chairman, Tami Davis,*

Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, in collaboration with Ivy & Pearls of Southern MD Community Charities and the Industrial Bank of Washington, D.C., the only minority-chartered bank in the DMV, held a virtual webinar via Facebook live on Friday, June 11, 2021 entitled “Understanding and Managing Credit.” The webinar was facilitated by Industrial Bank’s Senior Vice President of the Retail and Operations Banking Division, Ms. Jacqueline Boles who provided information and resources on managing credit and understanding your credit report and impact of credit history. We had over 55 participants join the webinar.

Personal Financial Planning and Asset Accumulation. Financial Freedom Legacy Workshops were conducted in partnership with local certified financial planners who shared information on saving, investing, and retirement planning. Chapters trained community residents on ways to perform financial assessments to achieve their financial goals.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.[®]
Nu Zeta Omega Chapter
in conjunction with Ivy & Pearls Southern
Maryland Community Charities, Inc.
Denise Barnes, President

Presents a **FREE** Virtual Webinar

**UNDERSTANDING
& MANAGING CREDIT**

JUNE 11 | 6:00-7:00PM

Building Your Economic Legacy:
Understanding and Managing Credit
presented by
Industrial Bank Senior VP, Ms. Jacqueline Boles
Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/ManagingCredit>



THE IVY & PEARLS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND COMMUNITY CHARITIES, INC. &
NU ZETA OMEGA CHAPTER PRESENT:

SATURDAY
JUNE 12, 2021
AT 7 PM

A Time to Remember: A Musical Journey of Song & Dance



\$10 DONATION | MUSICALJOURNEYIPSMCC.EVENTBRITE.COM

DENISE BARNES, PRESIDENT



IPSMCC and Nu Zeta Omega Chapter in conjunction with Charles County Arts Alliance brought the performing arts to Southern Maryland. The performers included professional dancers, a violinist and an eight piece jazz band. The community had the opportunity to listen to contemporary jazz and enjoy a modern ballet. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Kristia N. Watkins



amazon smile





Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®
 Nu Zeta Omega Chapter
 In Partnership With



Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc.

FUN IN THE SUN

FREE

JUNE 26.2021

11:00 AM
 with

Hoops and Flow

VITURAL HULA HOOP CLASS



Denise Barnes , President

Register Here:



Videos and/or photos may be used by Nu Zeta Omega and IPSMCC on their electronic media platforms and website for general public viewing



IVY & PEARLS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND
COMMUNITY CHARITIES, INC.
AND
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.®
NU ZETA OMEGA CHAPTER



POP-UP
COMMUNITY
**HEALTH
FAIR**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 2021

9:30 AM- 3 PM

LIFESTYLES CENTER, WHITE PLAINS

10453 THEODORE GREEN BOULEVARD
WHITE PLAINS, MD 20695

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3D Mammograms*
(Should be scheduled
by October 1st)

*Limited Sponsorship for Uninsured
Participants

To Pre-Register for :

3D Mammograms : <https://bit.ly/3A0nL0z>

COVID-19 Vaccine: Debborah Collins at
Dcollins@lifestylesofmd.org or 301-609-9900 ext. 203

**Be Sure to Donate to
our Canned Food &
Eyeglasses Drive!**

FREE HEALTH SCREENING

- Blood Pressure
- COVID -19 Testing
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Diabetes/Prediabetes
screening

EVENT PARTNERS:



"Dedicated to service
through service"

IVY AND PEARLS OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND COMMUNITY CHARITIES, INC.

Mrs. Denise Barnes, President

HBCU VIRTUAL 5K RUN/WALK



**GRAB A
FRIEND
&
GET YOUR
WALK IN**

**\$35
DONATION**

Donate via PayPal:
IPSMCCFINSEC@GMAIL.COM

FAMILY FUN!

ALL WELCOME!

It's Homecoming Season! #Rep your favorite HBCU #HBCU4LIFE

BENEFITS

Did you know walking or running - Is a good way to relieve stress, strengthen your muscles, build self confidence, improve blood pressure & burn calories.

**SATURDAY
OCT 23RD**