

THE CROWN



TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.®

Summer 2025

LADY EDDIE LEE MARSH
NATIONAL PRESIDENT & CEO
2023-2025

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE IN ACTION



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Greetings Ladies, Teens, Lords and Supporters

It is with sincere gratitude to welcome you to the 2025 Syn Lod of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., held in the colorful city of New Orleans. The city is known for its unique culture blend, rich history and vibrant music.

Syn Lod 2025 is designed to highlight the accomplishments of Chapters, Ladies, Teens and encourages networking opportunities for members from across the country and managing the business of the organization. The programs will address techniques through valuable workshops to foster successful chapters.

Reflecting on our eight visionary Founders who were aware of issues affecting youth; were committed to establish a program that offered an outlet for Teens to function positively. Today, after sixty years, Top Teens of America remains the focal point of Top Ladies of Distinction. The Teens schedule will include experiences placing emphasis on leadership, competing in the Dorothy Chimney Black History Bowl, Essay and Speakers Tournament, recognizing the 2025 graduates, introduction of Mr. & Miss Top Teen, cultural experiences and networking with other Teens from across the country. TLOD Ladies continue to mentor and provide experiences that encourage Teens to achieve academically, morally and socially. They will also participate with the Ladies in joint events. The schedule includes business sessions, workshops, community night, induction of Honorary Members, celebrating program and project participants, recognizing new members, blood drive and so much more.

TLOD members realize it's not about the titles we wear, but it's about the privilege of participating in service that impacts our communities positively. **Continuity of Service in Action** is more than a theme; it is a diagram for chapters to follow for success.

As President and CEO of this noteworthy organization, I am excited to reflect on our accomplishments and salute each of you with appreciation to continue working in harmony under the "Continuity of Service" banner.

Yours in Service and Action,

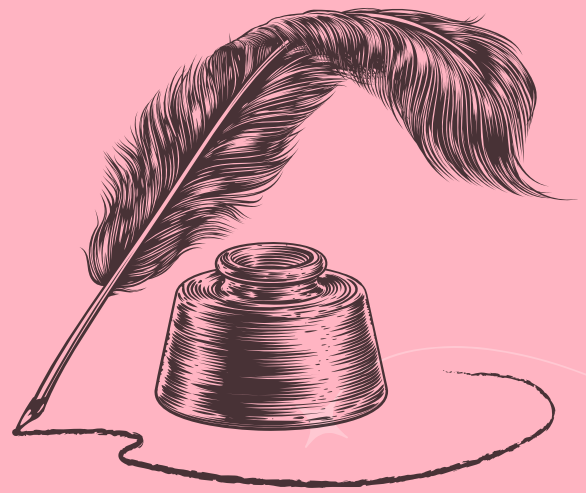
Lady Eddie Lee Marsh

Lady Eddie Lee Marsh
National President & CEO
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.





Letter from the Editor



Dear TLOD & TTA Family,

Happy 60th anniversary TLOD! As members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., our aim is serving youth and adults through purposeful programming and impactful community service.

It has been an absolute honor to serve as the National Editor of *The Crown*. Each article submitted reflects the heart of our organization – compassionate, impactful work executed by Ladies, Teens, and Lords across the United States and the Bahamas. It is so important that we continue to tell our stories and document our experiences—not only to celebrate the present but to inspire the future. It is my hope that *The Crown* will give the next generation of Top Ladies and Teens an insight into our legacy and a spark for innovation in their own communities.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our National President and CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, and the distinguished members of ParliamenTOP for their sisterly support during my son's illness. TLOD is my extended family, and I am truly grateful for every call, text, and card received. I also want to acknowledge the unwavering friendship and mentorship of National Area IV Director Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, National Director of Operations Lady Adrienne Boner, and National TTA Director Lady Crystal C. Pittman.

A special thank you to my Crown Editorial Board—National Public Relations Chair Lady Michelle Smalls, Lady Gwendolyn B. Peart, Ed.D., and Lady Nicola McIntyre—for your expertise, commitment, and contributions to this publication. Lastly, I would like to thank my son, Teen Chandler Green, for his encouragement throughout this editing and production process of *The Crown*, and the incredible Ladies of the Atlanta Peachtree Chapter for being my chapter home. I truly hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The Crown* featuring inspiring stories of Ladies, Teens and Lords in action.

Yours in Service Always,

Lady Kimberly Willis Green

National Editor of *The Crown*

2023-2025

The Crown Editorial Team



Lady Michelle
Smalls



Lady Gwendolyn
B. Peart, Ed.D.



Lady Nicola
McIntyre

THE TLOD STORY

TLOD: A 60-Year Legacy of Commitment and Service

Motto: “Serving Youth and Adults”

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was chartered in the state of Texas on September 8, 1964 as a non-profit educational, humanitarian organization with the following as charter members: Mrs. Franchell Boswell, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. Ina Bolton Brown, Houston, Texas; Mrs. Augusta R. Cash, Memphis, Tennessee; Major Ozell M. Dean, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Willie Lee Glass, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. La Verne R. Madlock, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. Ruth Payne Smith, Navasota, Texas; and Mrs. Georgia B. Presswood Nelson, Dallas, Texas. The vision and service of these eight dedicated women created the TLOD Story.

In 1964 while serving as “first lady” at Texas College in Tyler, Texas, Mrs. Willie Lee Glass was the recipient of a luncheon invitation from Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson, “First Lady” of the United States of America and a fellow Texan. Mrs. Glass, with her wisdom, summoned a former student, a Texas College graduate and a Major in the United States Air Force, to represent her at this power luncheon. Major Ozell M. Dean, a resident of Washington, D.C., answered the call to represent one of her mentors; and she was among a multi-disciplinary bevy of outstanding women from all over the world to attend the luncheon.

Major Dean was impressed and inspired as a result of what took place at the luncheon. She shared her enthusiasm with Mrs. Glass and also contacted a relative in Tyler, Texas, Mrs. Franchell Boswell. These trailblazers assisted Major Dean in contacting other persons to ascertain if enough concern, interest, and strength could be generated among distinguished women (who would agree to work cooperatively) to help alleviate the myriad of problems confronting youth in our respective communities. A group of distinguished and respected women answered the call. It is from this idea and nucleus that Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. has developed into an internationally known and respected public service organization.

The first meeting to establish policies and to enact governing laws for the organization was held June 4, 1964 at Texas College in Tyler, Texas. The purpose of the organization was to marshal the talents, energies, and skills of women nationally in a collaborative effort to help alleviate the moral and social problems confronting our youth in the mid-sixties. Thus, the organization was born.

Since its inception, the organization has expanded its objectives to include its focus on youth (known as Top Teens of America), improving the status of women, service to senior citizens, community beautification, and community partnerships. Chapters nationwide support the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and the awarding of national scholarships to at least one in each of TLOD’s six geographic areas. Moreover, TLOD has included in its program, a cooperative peer education facet with Top Teens of America and the National Foundation, March of Dimes.

Membership in TLOD has grown to include thousands of dedicated, concerned, hardworking members. The Ladies represent a cross-section of resourceful woman power, all of who work in the interest of the more than 4,000 Top Teens. Top Ladies support other major thrusts of the organization geared toward enhancing the quality of life for our fellow human beings. Ongoing programs and projects are important to the fulfillment of TLOD’s mission. As “shapers of change,” members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. have, through each administration, continued their efforts toward “Serving Youth and Adults.”

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.®

Founders



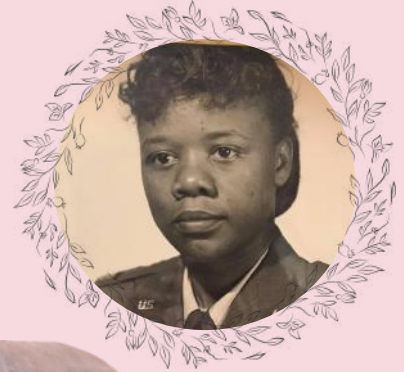
Clockwise from top left:
Lady Willie Lee Glass
Lady Franchell Boswell
Lady Laverne R. Madlock
Lady Augusta Latham
Lady Ruth Payne Smith
Lady Ozell M. Dean
Lady Ina B. Brown
Lady Georgia Presswood Nelson

In Memory of Lady Ozell M. Dean



Tribute to Lady Ozell M. Dean

Amid the Civil Rights era, serving with grace,
At Texas College, in a cherished place,
Mrs. Glass was invited to The White House, but
couldn't attend,
So, she called on Major Ozell Dean, her trusted friend.
Major Dean, with the Air Force renown,
Impressed by the power she found.
She shared her excitement with Mrs. Glass,
They reached out to Franchell Boswell with energy
to amass.
These trailblazers, answering the call,
Rallied distinguished women, one and all.
To tackle youth issues, hearts sincere,
The mission of the Top ladies of Distinction was clear.
Chartered in Texas, September 1964,
An organization with service to youth and values
at its core.
Willie Lee, Franchell, Ina, La Verne, Augusta,
Ruth, Georgia, and Dean rounded out the team,
Their legacy to this day serves as a shining beam.
Each jewel on their crown, a symbol of pride,
Emeralds, rubies, diamonds, side by side.
Not just a crown but a beacon worldwide,
TLOD's mission is still our guiding tide.
From simple roots to global acclaim,
TLOD stands tall in honor and name.
Wear your crown with heads held high,
In the world's gaze, never shy.
For Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., we stand,
Embodying the spirit of Lady Dean, prayer cloth in
hand.



Written by Lady Shanita Baraka Akintonde
TLOD National Literacy Chair



PAST **TLOD** National Presidents



TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.®

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Lady Jacquelyn H. Parker, 6th National President

Lady Dorothy Allen Chimney, 8th National President

Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, 10th National President

Lady Jackie Pope, 11th National President

Lady Audrie L. Lawton, 12th National President

Lady Drema Lee Woldman, 13th National President

Lady Sharon J. Beard, 14th National President & CEO

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***Lady LaVerne Madlock, 2nd National President**

***Lady Faye B. Bryant, 3rd National President**

***Lady Vivian Crawley, 4th National President**

***Lady Marie Stellos, 7th National President**

***Lady Vivien Coe Richard, 9th National President**

****Deceased***

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Lady Pernessa Seele
Lady Juanita Sims Doty
Lady Johnnetta Betsch Cole
Lady Thelma Thomas Daley
Lady Val Demings (SynLOD 2025)
Lady Edna Jackson (SynLOD 2025)

*Deceased



TOP LADIES OF *Distinction*, INC.

Meet our National Officers



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National 1st Vice President



Lady Kendra Gillespie

National 2nd Vice President



Lady Regina Dickson

National Recording Secretary



Lady Cheryl Buckhanan

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Lady Tonette Echols

National Assistant Financial Secretary



Lady Kala Walton

National Treasurer



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National TTA Director



Lady Catherine Miles

National Assistant TTA Director



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National Editor of the Crown



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National Area II Director



Lady Vynessa Alexander

National Area III Director



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National Area IV Director



Lady Marsha Wells

National Area V Director



Lady Yolande Bankston

National Area VI Director





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Patterson-Richardson**
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DeLay**
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Progrmas



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Johnson**
National Sickle Cell
Awareness Chair



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Akintonde**
National TLOD Literacy Chair



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Chambers-Norwood**
National UNCF Chair

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McBride**

1.9.6.4 Co-Chair



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**Lady Patricia
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& Resolutions Chair



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IT Director



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Gregg**

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Visual Lead



**Lady Vauchel
Miller**

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Communications Support



**Lady Jacqueline
Issac**

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**Lady Keisa
Heard**

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**Lady Andrea
McCoy**

National Webmaster



**Lady Nneka
Hobbs**

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Mentor Chair



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Jeffery**

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**Lady Diana
Raynor**

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Development



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Best**

Vivien Coe Richard
Academy Dean

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National TTA Director



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National TTA First Vice President



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Teen Kendall Tolbert
National TTA Corresponding Secretary



Teen Andre Gadson
National TTA Financial Secretary



Teen Jasmine Watson
National TTA Treasurer



Teen Taylor Mack
National TTA Parliamentarian



Teen Karter Franklin
National TTA Assistant Recording Secretary



Teen Hailey Hayden
National TTA Historian

TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

2023-2025 National Officers



Teen Ethan Dean
National TTA Chaplain



Teen Jadan Swindle
National TTA Sergeant-At-Arms



Teen Makayla Brooks
National TTA
Director of Operations



Teen Kendall Burns
National Logistics

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Sickle Cell Chair	Teen Bryan Kasongo
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Status of Women Chair	Teen McKenzie Young
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Immediate Past National
President & CEO



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*Founder



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County Chapter
National Area II Director



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National Area III Director



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Ladera Heights Chapter
National Area VI Director

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Phoenix Chapter
Area VI



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Atlanta Peachtree Chapter
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Area I



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County Chapter
Area II



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Area II



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Area II



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Chapter - Area II



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Area IV



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Nonpareil Chapter
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County Chapter
Area II



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County Chapter
Area II



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Area II



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Area VI



Lady Juanita Hall
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Area II



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New Rock Chapter
Area IV



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Mondon | Washington DC Chapter
Area II



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New Rock Chapter
Area IV



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Southern Maryland Chapter
Area II



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Neches River at Beaumont
Area I



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Area II



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County Chapter
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Area II



Lady Nicole Turner
Phoenix Chapter
Area VI

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Area II



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Area I



Lady Patrinia Bryant
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Area IV



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Lake Houston Chapter
Area I



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Concord Chapter
Area IV



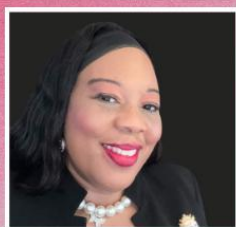
Lady Renee Gaskin-Martin
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Area II



Lady Rona Evans
Central Virginia Chapter
Area II



Lady Sandra Hayes
Alexandria City Chapter
Area II



Lady Shanita Akintonde,
Lincoln Park
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Area III



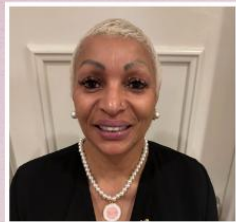
Lady Sheila Ford
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County Chapter
Area II



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Area II



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Area II



Lady Emelda Douglas
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Lady Princetta H. Farries
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Lady Shawn Jackson
Prince George's
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Area II



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Dale City Prince William
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Area II



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Area V



Lady Cynthia Parks
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Area IV

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CLUB



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County Chapter
Area II



Lady Yvonne Scott
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Area V



Lady Mae H. Smith West
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Area III



Lady Nina Smith
Raleigh Chapter
Area IV

*Thank you for your contribution
and commitment to service.*

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Todra L. Anderson	Patrinia M Bryant	Shelia H. Flowers
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	Lela Rideau-Cormier	Nicole M. Williams

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WANDA BOONE
DORIS G BROWN
PATRICIA BROWN
DEBORAH HILL BURROUGHS
RHONDA RENEE CARTER

BRENDA J. DODD
LYDIA M. DORMAN
FLORA MAE DISTANCE
URSULA L DURRAH-WILLIAMS
PEARL ELLIS
ANNETTE ELLIS
INGER FERGUSON
DOROTHY FISHER
PATRICIA GILMORE
WANDA GREEN



GWENDOLYN CARTER
JENNEFER CHARLES
CASSANDRA CHESSE
JANEL CHRISS
CRYSTAL CLARK
GAIL C. CLARKE
MICHELLE COLLINS-WESLEY
PHAEBRA CROFT
MARY LEACH DAVIS
LESLIE DEVER
BARBRA DILLARD

MICHELLE N GRIFFIN
HOPE R. HAMPTON-CRAWFORD
GINA HARP-KING
CHRISTINE Y HARRELL
KEISA HEARD
VELMA HART
ALFRETTE HICKS
TRACY HOLMES BRAZIL
JULIE A HOPKINS
PAULINE E HUNTER
MAKELA L HURSEFIELD
T. LASHAYE HUTCHINSON

SILVER MEMBERS

JOANTONETTE KIRKSEY
PHYLLIS KNIGHT
LOUISE M. LAVANE
THERESA LEWIS
DE'EDRA LEWIS-JOHNSON
MARLYN LLORENS
KAREN LOVE
ANGELA K. LOWE
MEGAN MCBRIDE

DORIAN RIDLEY-CURTIS
JACQUELINE R. SCOTT
LAKEISHA M. SIMMS
NICHOLE SISSON SAILOR
VALEREE TEASLEY
DETRA TERRELL
ANDREA E. TURK
KIMBERLY S. UNDERDUE
DEIRDRE N. VERNON-ELDER



VICKIE MCBRIDE
DORENE MCKNIGHT
CHENOA MILLER
SHAUNTA A. MITCHELL
SHIRLEY O. MOONE
EBONY MOSS
MICHELE MURPHY
CYNTHIA PERKINS
ANGELA QUINTON
DIANA RAYNOR
YVONNE REED

JEANINE WALTON
JOYCE L. WALKER
MARSHA L. WELLS
KELLEY WELLS-ISHAM
DANIELLE C. WHITE
JACKQUINE L. WILCHER
DIANE E. WILLIAMS
HARNELL WILLIAMS
LATRICIA H WOODS



Congratulations *Lady Hope V. Ruffin* *National Area II Director*

Area II proudly led the way with the highest number of participants and the most donations at the Pendant level, contributing almost \$145,000 to the 1964 Club.

This remarkable achievement is a true reflection of the unity, commitment, and passion within Area II and it's no surprise under the phenomenal leadership of Lady Hope. Her vision, dedication, and genuine love for the mission inspire us all.



Thank You!



*...for your contribution
and commitment
to service!*

Syn-Lod 2023

Syn-Lod 2023 was held in Los Angeles, California at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on July 5 - 9, 2023 and was the first in-person Syn-Lod held post-COVID, welcoming over 1,000 attendees! A number of Joint (TLOD & TTA) events were conducted, to include: the Joint Opening Session; Welcome to Los Angeles Host Night & Reception; the Chapter Recognition Breakfast featuring Me & My Mentor; the Business Expo. The conference also featured business meetings, workshops, and special events, like the TTA "Black and Blue" Roundtable with L.A. Police Foundation, the Former TTA Alumni Council Update, the Membership Pink Carpet Stroll, the 1.9.6.4. Club Reception, and the "It's OK Not To Be Okay" Workshop with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Ladies, Teens, Lords, and Guests enjoyed participating in "A Royal Ball Affair", the closing Gala where we celebrated the Senior Divas and transitioned administrations resulting in Lady Eddie Lee Marsh assuming her role as the 15th National President & CEO!



Parliamen-Top 2023 - Atlanta, GA

Parliamen-Top 2023 was held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Westin Airport Hotel on October 13 - 15, 2023. There were over 350 Ladies in attendance answering the call to "ACTION" by the National President & CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh who advised them to bring their running shoes, an open mind, and their favorite TLOD bag and fill it with Kindness! Attendees enjoyed workshops educating on how we do things the TLOD way. Business meetings were conducted and punctuated with a Sisterly Relations exercise, the "I Am A Survivor" luncheon recognizing Top Lady cancer survivors, and the conference culminated with a Gospel Moment.



Parliamen-Top 2024 - Dallas & Tyler, TX



Happy 60th Anniversary to the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD)! On September 8, 1964, TLOD was chartered in the state of Texas thanks to the hard work and commitment to service of 8 Founders. This weekend, TLOD held its annual Parliamen-Top meeting in Dallas, TX. While there, they held business meetings and workshops and would transition to a day at Tyler, Texas, where it all began. Afterwards, the Texas College Choir helped close out the weekend by performing inspirational songs at the Founders' Legacy Breakfast!





Parliamen-Top 2024 - Dallas & Tyler, TX

At the Glass Recreation Center, a Park Bench was dedicated to TLOD which facilitates visitors' ability to take in the community beautification displayed by the lake it overlooks and natural surroundings. Also, while at the Center, TLOD (Ladies & Top Teens of America (TTA)) took the opportunity to perform a "Stewards of Tomorrow" TLOD Community Service Project resulting in the assembly of over 800 care packages for students attending Texas College in Tyler, TX. So many celebratory events occurred over the weekend to include visiting the "Half Mile of History Marker" prominently placed in downtown Tyler to honor Founder "Lady Willie Lee Campbell Glass" for her community service.



National Program of Works

Greetings to our Past National Presidents, TLOD & TTA National Officers & Committee Chairs, Area Officers & Committee Chairs, Chapter Officers & Committee Chairs, all Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Guests!

Congratulations and many thanks to Lady Kimberly Willis Green, National Editor of the Crown, for your commitment and dedication to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and publication of this phenomenal Crown!

The 2023–2025 biennium has been a transformational period for the Office of the National 1st Vice President led by **Lady Jackqueline Wilcher**, anchored by the theme *Continuity of Service – In Action*. With a focus on strategic programming, mentorship, and national impact, this office empowered chapters and teens across the country while delivering intentional leadership from the frontlines.



One of the signature accomplishments was the launch of **Winning with Wisdom on Wednesdays**, a monthly leadership development series designed to support Chapter 1st Vice Presidents. These engaging sessions featured timely topics such as *The Role of Chapter 1st Vice Presidents*, *Leading with Love and Strengthening Sisterhood*, *TTA Program Operations*, *How to Thrive and Survive in 2025*, and *TTA Operations*. The space fostered collaboration, inspiration, and stronger execution at the chapter level.

Outside of the monthly series, the National 1st Vice President also led impactful workshops including *Real Service*, *Real Time*, *Sisterhood of Queens*, *Documenting for Success*, *Chapter Reporting*, and the powerful *Ladder of Inference: Building Better Decision Making*. These sessions trained hundreds of Top Ladies to lead with strategy, empathy, and measurable outcomes.



Mentorship remained a personal priority. **Teen Aubri Cunningham**, National TTA 1st Vice President and National TTA Programs Chair, received consistent support, guidance, and coaching to ensure her successful execution of teen-led initiatives. The National Programs Committee also met monthly, aligning goals across all TLOD National Programmatic Thrusts and strengthening operations for chapters nationwide.

Beyond programming, the National 1st Vice President served as a member of the **National Background Check Task Force**, helping shape the organization's safety framework, and as **Chair of the Chapter Establishment Committee**, leading the chartering of new chapters across the country. She also represented TLOD with distinction at every Area Leadership Conference, March of Dimes President's Day of Action, St. Jude Celebration of Hope, NCNW Delegates Assembly, NCNW National Conference, Keep America Beautiful Forum, and numerous community service events—demonstrating what it means to lead with presence and purpose.

In every meeting, every mentoring moment, and every act of service, the Office of the National 1st Vice President exemplified excellence. This biennium was more than successful—it was a movement of empowered leadership, sisterhood in action, and lasting impact.

As your TLOD National 1st Vice President, there has been many accomplishments of service from this office but more importantly the community service and outreach from our TLOD National Programs. I am extremely excited about the 2023-2025 addition of the Crown that reflects our community service. "Teamwork" does make the "Dreamwork" and the service performed to execute our TLOD National Programs is a team effort. We have strengthened the program of service link that binds all Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America Chapters by working to connect the TLOD and TTA Program Chairs at the National, Area and Local levels. Our Top Ladies has worked with our Top Teens to execute the Top Teens of American Program, Status of Women, Senior Citizens, Community Beautification, and Community Partnerships to include our Strategic Partners of St. Jude and March of Dimes.

National Program of Works

Community Partnerships

National Focus: To strengthen the collective force for positive change through collaborations with organizations and businesses committed to service and social transformation.



The Community Partnerships thrust—led by **Lady Sophia Burns**—delivered powerful results rooted in collaboration. Through 114 reporting chapters, members executed 963 joint initiatives, volunteered 134,826 hours, and invested \$238,586—reaching more than 3.8 million people. Chapters forged partnerships with organizations aligned with our mission, cultivating trust, drafting proposals, and hosting service projects that delivered measurable impact. Each partnership was customized to meet mutual goals while promoting cross-promotion and long-term sustainability. Celebrations of partner achievements helped elevate visibility and reinforce the value of shared work.

March of Dimes

National Focus: To lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies—ending preventable maternal health risks and deaths, preterm birth and infant death, and closing the health equity gap.



With 81 chapters reporting, the March of Dimes thrust—led by **Lady Kim Doss-Patterson** and Co-Chair **Lady Kaitlin Patterson**—mobilized TLOD and TTA around the vital cause of maternal and child health. Chapters contributed 20,957 hours of service, hosted 220 events, and raised over \$140,000—benefiting more than 400,000 people. Our signature initiative, the Healthy Choices Conference, integrated Sickle Cell Disease awareness and featured collaboration with March of Dimes Representatives and our Sickle Cell Chair. Chapters hosted educational forums, walk campaigns, and fundraising drives, while forging relationships with local March of Dimes offices. With an updated Memorandum of Understanding in place, TLOD remains firmly committed to standing in the gap for mothers and babies who need us most.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

National Focus: To foster a strong and continuous partnership with St. Jude, actively supporting childhood cancer research, patient care, and advocacy efforts to improve the lives of pediatric patients and their families.

St. Jude has become not only one of our most cherished partners but also a true extension of the TLOD family. Under the passionate leadership of **Lady Rycal Carter** and Co-Chair **Lady Michele Bell**, 67 reporting chapters executed 138 events, contributed 7,170 volunteer hours, and raised \$89,202—touching the lives of over 1.2 million people. Chapters hosted creative fundraisers such as St. Jude Movie Night, organized educational events, and participated in the national Walk/Run each September. Our efforts culminated in winning 1st Place in the St. Jude Multi-Market Fundraising Challenge, raising an incredible \$58,000. With monthly touchpoints, an updated MOU, and a shared vision, our partnership is not only thriving—it's saving lives, one act of service at a time.

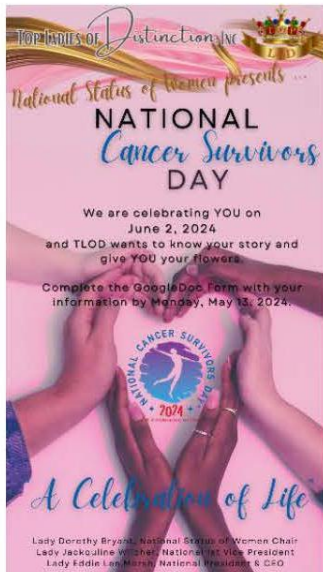


Overall, for 2023-2025 program years, 124 TLOD Chapters reported 647,047 volunteer hours executing 5,352 events spending or donating \$1,329,434 reaching more than 14 million people for TLOD National Programs! These accomplishments represent the “Sum of Our Successes,” and I thank you for your unwavering service and support of the TLOD National Programs. As we prepare to enter the 2025–2027 program years, let us continue to move forward stronger together, united in purpose and committed to progress. In alignment with the vision of our National President and CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, we will carry forth the charge of Continuity of Service – In Action to yield even greater results in the years to come.

Yours in Sisterhood, Service and Action,

Lady Jackqueline Wilcher
National 1st Vice President

National Program of Works



Status of Women

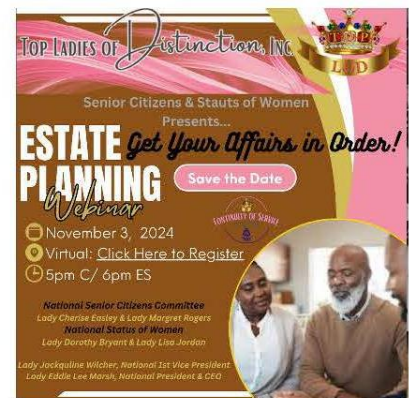
National Focus: To empower women through education, mentorship, and advocacy, fostering gender equality and promoting their social and economic well-being to create lasting impact.

The Status of Women thrust stands as a powerful force for equity and empowerment. With 110 chapters reporting, our members volunteered 136,915 hours across 979 events, investing \$347,148 in initiatives that reached more than 3.5 million people. National Status of Women Chair **Lady Dorothy Bryant** and Co-Chairs **Lady Patty Edwards** and **Lady Lisa Charles Jordon** led this work with intentionality, developing relevant, bold programming. Chapters facilitated self-care sessions, breast cancer survivor luncheons, and mental health workshops, alongside hosting vaccine clinics, mentoring programs, and financial wellness events. Nationally, we launched a Domestic Violence Webinar, partnered with the Senior Citizens Thrust for a financial awareness program, and organized a “Go Red” campaign spotlighting heart health. Through monthly data sharing, cancer survivor celebrations, and forums focused on equity, this thrust has become a beacon for women seeking support, strength, and solidarity.

Senior Citizens

National Focus: To create a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of senior citizens, ensuring they feel valued, supported, and connected to their communities.

The Senior Citizens thrust continues to show that service, when rooted in respect, uplifts across generations. With 114 chapters reporting, Top Ladies carried out 1,017 events, gave 95,635 hours of service, and donated \$131,928, reaching over 1.4 million senior citizens. Under the guidance of National Chair, **Lady Cherise Easley Brown** and National Co-Chair **Lady Margaret Rogers**, chapters delivered care packages, made and distributed cards for grandparents, and adopted senior homes. Members wore purple in observance of Alzheimer’s Awareness Day and partnered with AARP and local Alzheimer’s organizations. Intergenerational programs with Top Teens fostered connection and shared learning, while health screenings, educational workshops, and Senior Diva recognitions uplifted the lives of our elders. The heart of this thrust is not just about serving our seniors—it’s about honoring them with action and intention.



Community Beautification

National Focus: To leave a positive and lasting impact on the community by creating a beautiful, welcoming, and environmentally conscious environment for all to enjoy.



With 101 chapters reporting, the Community Beautification thrust flourished under the leadership of **Lady Pauline E. Hunter** and Co-Chair **Lady Karen Cherry**. Members devoted 40,665 hours across 658 events, investing \$39,829 in community transformation that impacted more than 1.8 million lives. Chapters organized Master Gardening presentations, hosted gardening competitions, and led recycling and Adopt-A-Road initiatives. Strategic partnerships with local governments ensured participation in citywide cleanup events, and chapters registered with Keep America Beautiful and adopted highways, facilities, and open spaces. “Harriet’s Handbook” photo adventure walks via GirlTrek encouraged physical and environmental wellness. This thrust demonstrates that when we care for the land we live on, we plant the seeds for stronger, more vibrant communities.

National Programs Committee



It is with great enthusiasm and gratitude that I salute the exceptional work of the National Programs Committee and the Area Chairs of these committees and the many chapters of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. who brought our vision of “Continuity of Service – In Action” to life. Every hour, every community service event, and every dollar invested reflects the unwavering dedication of Top Ladies and Top Teens working together to create sustainable impact in communities across this nation. Our five programmatic thrusts and two strategic national partnerships have not only strengthened lives—they have elevated our mission and purpose. I extend a heartfelt thank you to every National Program Chair, Co-Chair, Chapter Chair, and members who made these results possible. Your passion is the pulse behind our progress.

Continuity of Service - In Action: A National Programs Committee Report

Top Teens of America

National Focus: To build the next generation of leaders through Excellence in Culture, Education, and Leadership (ExCEL).

The Top Teens of America program continues to shine as a model of intentional youth development. With 109 chapters reporting, our Top Teens lead an astonishing 210,878 hours of service through 1,377 events, contributing \$377,478 and reaching more than 1.8 million lives. Under the leadership of **Lady Crystal Pittman** (National TTA Director), and **Lady Catherine Miles** (Assistant TTA Director) the national ExCEL framework fueled programming that emphasized leadership training, cultural awareness, and academic growth. Chapters embraced robust mentoring between Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Lords, hosted workshops on etiquette and career readiness, and prioritized participation in the Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl. Teens facilitated monthly ExCEL workshops and applied for the Vivien Coe Richard Leadership Academy and multiple scholarships, including the Franchell Boswell Foundation. The emphasis on innovation, survey-based impact validation, and operational excellence helped establish a blueprint for sustainable teen leadership. When Top Teens lead with purpose, they not only prepare for tomorrow—they transform today.



TLOD/TTA Pink & Blue National Day of Service

On January 15, 2024, and January 20, 2025, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the Pink & Blue National Day of Service. Across 105 chapters, members contributed 45,005 volunteer hours, donated or spent \$48,493, and reached over 400,000 people. Care packages filled with toiletries, puzzle books, socks, and handwritten notes were delivered to senior citizens nationwide. This annual effort reflects our united commitment to serve with purpose and uphold Dr. King’s legacy through compassionate, intergenerational action.

National Status of Women Committee

Breaking the Silence: Domestic Violence in the Black Community



In a bold and necessary conversation, the National Status of Women Committee of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) hosted a powerful webinar in 2025 confronting the often-silenced issue of domestic violence in the Black community. The virtual event brought together expert voices and personal testimony to spark awareness, healing, and action. Domestic violence remains one of the most painful and persistent issues within the Black community, yet it is often met with silence. This silence, rooted in fear, stigma, cultural expectations, and historical trauma allows the cycle of abuse to continue affecting women, men, teens, and families across generations.



The webinar featured **Courtney Avery Davis**, the Principal Executive of ARC Equity Consulting, a public affairs and strategic communications firm. Known for her dedication to equity and justice, Davis offered a critical perspective on the intersection of domestic violence, community support, and public policy. “We must create and amplify safe spaces for girls, boys, teens, women, and men,” Davis urged. “Domestic violence does not discriminate, and neither should our services.”

Lady Yvonka M. Hall, nationally recognized Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, shared alarming statistics and insight into how health disparities and systemic inequities compound the trauma of domestic abuse in Black households. Lady Hall emphasized that the fight against domestic violence must include addressing the broader social determinants that affect Black families, including access to mental health care, economic justice, and community safety.



Programs and initiatives like those led by organizations such as the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition and consulting firms like ARC Equity are working to fill the gaps providing culturally competent support, education, and advocacy to break this cycle.



The most gripping moment came from April Smith, a domestic violence survivor and author of *Silent Tears* and *Painful Secrets*. Smith shared her personal journey of survival, resilience, and eventual empowerment. Her raw, emotional testimony resonated with attendees. “I speak my truth not for pity,” she said, “but so that another woman or man knows they are not alone and that healing is possible.” Thrivers like April Smith are reclaiming their voices and telling their stories to empower others. Her testimony serves as a reminder that silence is not safety, and that healing begins with truth.

For many Black survivors, speaking out about abuse is not a simple act of courage, it can feel like an act of betrayal. The fear of “airing dirty laundry,” protecting the image of the Black family, or shielding Black men from systemic injustice often keeps victims quiet. This silence, though well intentioned, can be deadly.

The National Status of Women Committee continues to advocate for vulnerable voices, focusing on education, empowerment, and intervention. This event marked a crucial step in dismantling the silence surrounding domestic violence in the Black community and reinforcing TLOD’s commitment to advocacy and service.

Lady Dorothy J. Bryant, TLOD National Status of Women Chair
Lady Patty Edwards, TLOD National Status of Women Co-Chair
Lady Lisa Jordon, TLOD National Status of Women Co-Chair
Teen McKenzie Young, TTA Status of Women Chair

National Community Beautification Committee

Transforming Neighbors and Lives –
Keeping America Beautiful



Community beautification is more than just planting flowers or sprucing up public spaces; it is a powerful catalyst for positive change that benefits residents, local economies, and the environment. Here's what Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) chapters have accomplished during this Program Year.

1. Enhanced Community Pride and Identity: Beautification projects give communities a renewed sense of pride and ownership. By restoring public spaces, enhancing curb appeal, and adding artistic touches, our chapters help residents feel more connected and uplifted. Congratulations to our 2024 Area Beautification Award Winners:

- Area I – Lady Veronica Mucker
- Area III – Lady Jashquee Moore
- Area VI – Lady Linda Elam



2. Promotion of Health and Well-being: Green spaces and beautified environments contribute significantly to public health. When communities have access to attractive parks, tree-lined streets, flower beds, and litter-free walking paths, residents are more likely to spend time outdoors, exercise, and enjoy social interactions. Clean, green environments also reduce stress and promote mental wellness. Through community gardens and environmental restoration initiatives, our chapters are creating healthier spaces that encourage wellness for all ages.

3. Encouragement of Community Engagement and Collaboration: Participating in beautification projects fosters teamwork, civic responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. Collaborative efforts between TLOD chapters, schools, local government, and neighborhood groups inspire collective ownership and lasting change. These projects unite communities around a common goal—creating spaces that reflect care and commitment.



Embracing these efforts can lead to lasting positive change, making neighborhoods more enjoyable for everyone.

"Beautification means our total concern for the physical and human quality we pass on to our children and the future." - **Lady Bird Johnson**

Lady Pauline Hunter, TLOD National Community Beautification Chair
Lady Karen Cherry, TLOD National Community Beautification Co-Chair
Teen Clifton Jones, II, TTA National Community Beautification Chair

National Senior Citizens Committee

Honoring Our Legacy of Service: 2024 and 2025 Senior Diva Honorees



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. proudly recognizes and celebrates the 2024 and 2025 Senior Diva Honorees—exceptional women from each of the six Areas whose elegance, endurance, and exemplary service continue to shine as a beacon for all members of our sisterhood.

A Senior Diva is more than a title—she is a treasured jewel within TLOD. She is a mature Top Lady who embodies wisdom, strength, and unwavering commitment. With a heart for service and hands that have tirelessly supported our communities, she remains actively engaged in her chapter and in national programs, demonstrating the true spirit of “Tops in Service.”



Lady Cherise Easley, National Senior Citizens Chair
Lady Margret Rogers, National Senior Citizens Co-Chair
Teen Briana Triplett, TTA National Senior Citizens Chair

National March of Dimes Committee

Marching with Heart:

Top Ladies & Top Teens Champion

Healthier Futures for Moms and Babies



When service meets purpose, transformation follows. That is exactly what's happening as Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) and Top Teens of America (TTA) join forces with March of Dimes in the 2025 March for Babies campaign. Together, they are proving that compassion, commitment, and collective action can rewrite the story for thousands of mothers and newborns across the nation.

A Mission That Matters

In the United States, maternal and infant health disparities remain a pressing crisis—especially for Black and brown communities. Consider this:

- Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women.
- Women of color face a 50% higher risk of preterm birth.
- 50,000 women each year experience life-threatening complications during pregnancy.
- 1 in 10 babies is born prematurely, with long-term health consequences.

These are more than statistics. These are mothers, daughters, families—and TLOD and TTA refuse to stand by in silence.



Leading with Purpose and Passion

From national leadership to chapter-level champions, the TLOD and TTA family is marching with heart. National March of Dimes Chairs Lady Kim Doss-Patterson and Lady Kaitlin Patterson launched the campaign with unwavering energy. National President Lady Eddie Lee Marsh and National TTA President Teen Roderick Stanfield inspired all with powerful messages of purpose. National 1st Vice Presidents Lady Jackqueline Wilcher and Teen Aubri Cunningham closed the evening by igniting the call to action: Every step we take is a step toward change.

Across all six Areas, our Area MOD Chairs and dedicated Teens are putting purpose into action—leading walks, raising funds, and amplifying awareness in their communities.

Proof in the Progress

As of May 25, 2025, TLOD and TTA have raised more than \$133,000 during the 2023–2025 program year alone. Since this partnership began in 2002, the organization has contributed a remarkable \$718,315 to support research, advocacy, and lifesaving programs through March of Dimes.

Each dollar raised represents hope. Each step walked is a statement. And every volunteer involved is a hero helping to build a future where no mother or baby is left behind.

The Road Ahead

The work isn't done—but with the unmatched energy of Top Ladies and the rising leadership of Top Teens, the path forward is bright. Through fundraising, awareness, and advocacy, TLOD and TTA continue to honor the theme "Continuity of Service in Action" by investing in the well-being of generations to come.

To every Lady and Teen who has marched, donated, organized, or inspired others—we salute you. Your dedication is making a difference, one step at a time.



Together, we are marching with heart—and changing lives in the process.

Lady Kim Doss-Patterson, TLOD March of Dimes Chair
Lady Kaitlin Patterson, TLOD March of Dimes Co-Chair
Teen Jalynn Gilkey, TTA National March of Dimes Chair

National St. Jude Committee

A YEAR OF PURPOSE AND IMPACT:
TLOD & TTA ACHIEVES ST. JUDE
2024 TOP MULTI-MARKET COMMUNITY TEAM



The St. Jude Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes! Throughout the year, they have collaborated closely with the St. Jude Multicultural Fundraising Team to advance our shared mission.



In January 2025, committee members traveled to Memphis, TN, to attend the St. Jude Celebration of Hope Seminar. Representing our organization were Lady Rycal Carter (Chair), Lady Michele Bell (Co-Chair), and Lady Jackqueline Wilcher (National First Vice President). While there, they participated in informative fundraising workshops and engaged directly with St. Jude patients and their families, who shared moving stories and personal testimonies about their journeys and the profound impact of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The spirit of service and generosity continues to shine brightly through the united efforts of Top Teens of America and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

We are proud to announce that not only did we reach our 2024 fundraising goal of \$35,000, but we also exceeded it—raising an outstanding \$58,516.00! This incredible achievement earned us the distinction of being the Top Multi-Market Community Team of 2024!

This success is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and passion of our TLOD and TTA members, along with the unwavering support of our families and friends.



We look forward to recognizing the members, chapters, and areas that contributed to this impactful milestone during SynLod 2025 in New Orleans, LA. It will be a special moment to honor those who made it possible to surpass our goal.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Jude's mission, ensuring that no family ever receives a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food.

Together, we have demonstrated what it truly means to lead with purpose and serve with love. Congratulations to all—your dedication is inspiring, and your impact is lasting!

Lady Rycal Carter, TLOD National St. Jude Chair
Lady Michele Bell, TLOD National St. Jude Co-Chair
Teen Kennedi Leah Smith, TTA National St. Jude Chair



Chapter Establishment Committee

Celebrating Growth and Legacy: Welcoming Our Newly Chartered Chapters (2023–2025)



As we proudly celebrate **60 Years of Service in Action**, our beloved organization continues to grow stronger, expanding our reach and deepening our impact across the nation. The 2023–2025 Program Years marked an exciting time of expansion as we welcomed 12 newly chartered chapters into the fold—each one reflecting the promise, purpose, and power of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

With the steadfast leadership of the Chapter Establishment Committee and the commitment of our National Officers and Area Directors, we joyfully announce the following newly chartered chapters:

Newly Chartered Chapters by Area

Area I

Royal Essence Chapter

Cibolo, Texas

Area II

Fairfax County Chapter

Fairfax County, Virginia

New Castle County Chapter

New Castle, Delaware

New York Tri-City Gems Chapter

Albany, New York

Area IV

Duval County Chapter

Jacksonville, Florida

Greater Charleston Chapter

Charleston, South Carolina

Greater Gastonia Chapter

Gastonia, North Carolina

Greater Suwanee Chapter

Suwanee, Georgia

Greater York County Area Chapter

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Jewels of the Emerald Coast Chapter

Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Nassau Bahamas Chapter

Nassau, Bahamas

Area V

Southfield Chapter

Southfield, Michigan

These chapters represent the heart of our mission and embody the future of our organization. Their dedication to service and sisterhood ensures our legacy will thrive for generations to come.

With Appreciation

Special recognition is extended to the outstanding members of the Chapter Establishment Committee for their tireless efforts and thoughtful guidance throughout the chartering process: **Lady Jackqueline Wilcher**, National 1st Vice President (Chair); **Lady Sharon J. Beard**, Immediate Past National President; **Lady Rhonda Harris**, National Area I Director; **Lady Hope Ruffin**, National Area II Director; **Lady Vynessa Alexander**, National Area III Director; **Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson**, National Area IV Director; **Lady Marsha Wells**, National Area V Director; and **Lady Yolande Bankston**, National Area VI Director.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the national officers who provided exceptional support with the chapter establishment process: **Lady Regina Dickson**, National Recording Secretary; **Lady Betty Edwards**, National Corresponding Secretary; and **Lady Cheryl Buckhanan**, National Financial Secretary. We are especially grateful to our National President and CEO, **Lady Eddie Lee Marsh**, whose unwavering support and visionary leadership empowered the Chapter Establishment Committee to move forward with clarity, confidence and care. Her commitment to excellence continues to inspire our sisterhood. Let us continue to walk boldly into the future—building chapters, empowering leaders, and serving communities. Together, we are shaping a Diamond Legacy that will shine for decades to come.



National TTA Talking Proud

Lady Crystal C. Pittman, National TTA Director, partnered with Rap Snacks, Inc., to rollout a nationwide inaugural pilot program with Top Teens of America. James Lindsey, Founder and CEO, has made Rap Snacks, inc., the most widely distributed black-owned snack brand in the United States.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, April 27, 2023

National Leadership Summit Webinar #3, Part II
Officers and Committee Chairs Training

Mandatory Attendees:

- National TTA Officers & Program/Project Chairs
- Area TTA Officers & Program/Project Chairs
- Chapter TTA Officers & Program/Project Chairs
- TTA Advisors/Service to Youth Committee

Virtual Training
Theme: Business

Zoom Etiquette: Cameras must be on!

5:30 PM - Eastern Time
4:30 PM - Central Time
3:30 PM - Mountain Time
2:30 PM - Pacific Time

Lady Crystal C. Pittman
National TTA Director

Teen Roderick J. Stanfield, Jr.
National TTA President

Link: https://ttdna.org.zoom.us/join/register/WN_SapQ3WnQCVnqBQK3UadQ



Greeting Top Ladies,

Please join me, Lady Crystal C. Pittman, National TTA Director, in celebrating this momentous occasion as we roll out a nationwide pilot program, with Top Teens of America (TTA) and Rap Snacks! James Lindsey, the Founder and CEO, has made Rap Snacks the most widely distributed black-owned snack brand in the United States. Rap Snacks will tailor our fundraising opportunities to assist in raising funds for our various programs, projects, and activities. Rap Snacks collaborates with hip-hop artists like Lil Baby, Master P, Migos, and Rick Ross. An extension of this partnership will also include mentorship opportunities, while creating an entrepreneurial platform.

Rap Snacks is pleased to announce its selection to implement this inaugural pilot program in collaboration with our organization (Top Teen of America).



Thank you, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President and CEO, for your support of this milestone collaboration and initiative.

Yours in Service,

Lady Crystal C. Pittman
National TTA Director

THE VOICE
TOP TEENS OF AMERICA
OFFICIAL NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5-ISSUE 1
2023 FALL/WINTER EDITION

NATIONAL TOP TEENS OF AMERICA
PRESENTS
T.T.A. VOICES
Refuse to be **SILENCED.**
VOTER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
October 28, 2024 - November 1, 2024

NO VOTE, NO VOICE!

#EmpowerTheVote
#InformedVoter

Teen Roderick J. Stanfield Jr., National TTA President
Lady Crystal C. Pittman, National TTA Director
Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President & CEO

TOP LADIES OF Distinction, INC.
TTA Advisors you've been drafted by the
National TTA Director to attend

**TTA ADVISORS
LEADERSHIP
BOOTCAMP PART II**

Presented by:
Lady Crystal C. Pittman, National TTA Director and
Teen Roderick Stanfield, Jr., National TTA President

SEPT 6
4:30PM TILL 7:30PM

AT HYATT
REGENCY DALLAS

DRESS CODE!
SLAVE OR WASTE
T.T.A. ADVISOR
LIGHT LASE
CANT LASE
AND SNAKERS

JOIN US FOR A FUN
AFTERNOON OF LEARNING

NATIONAL TOP TEENS OF AMERICA
PRESENTS
T.T.A. VOICES

Please submit all responses to ttoavoces@gmail.com

Submit Line: TLOD/ T.T.A. Voices - Voter Education Activities Response

Body Instructions:

- Activity Day
- Full Name
- Chapter's Name
- Area

Written Response: Which social issue matters most to you this election year?

Written Response: As know, there are two candidates running for President: Donald J. Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. If you had the chance to interview one of them, which candidate would you choose, and what's one question you would ask?

For the challenge, you'll be required to record a video of yourself responding to the question: What drives you to speak up and make your voice heard this election year?

Begin your video with: "Hi, I am Lady or Teen [state your name]."

TLOD/T.T.A. attire is required.

Videos must be at least 30 seconds long and no longer than 1 minute. Get creative, express yourself, and most importantly, have fun!

John R. Lewis (February 21, 1940 - July 17, 2020), a civil rights icon and Congressman, dedicated his life to the fight for justice. Before his passing, he left us with a powerful message: Now, it's your time to carry the torch and lead freedom ring.

Watch this 5-minute video of his final words. Close your eyes and listen carefully, as John Lewis is speaking directly to YOU! <https://youtu.be/2kx0D0k0k0k>

Video Response: Imagine yourself marching alongside John Lewis for voting rights. What "good trouble" do you want to create this election year? What would your protest sign say? Design a sign and snap a photo of yourself holding it!

Let's keep the energy up and exciting! Send the message below to your family and friends, take a screenshot of the conversation, and share it!

Hello family and friends!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 5th and make your voices count. Get Out And Vote! But don't let it end there! Join me for our National TLOD "Billion Black Watch Party" at 8:00 PM via Zoom. Together, we can create change.

#GetOutAndVote #YourVoiceMatters #TTAVoces #TLODVoices

"National TTA Officers and Chairs Leadership Summit"

Top Teens of America

Sunday, November 19, 2023
6:00 PM - Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Agenda
Musical Prelude
Opening Prayer

Greetings
Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President/CEO
Teen Roderick Stanfield, National TTA President
Lady Crystal C. Pittman, National TTA Director
National Negro Anthem - "Lift Every Voice & Sing"

Teen Taylor Mack, Zoom Etiquette, National TTA Parliamentary
Opening Ceremony

Summit Introduction of National TTA Officers and Chairs

Summit Overview
Summit Leadership Training - Part I

Questions/Answers
Ritualistic Closing Ceremony
Closing Remarks

"Participation is our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow"



TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

Wishing you Happy Holidays
&
A Prosperous New Year

On behalf of the
2023-2025

National TTA Executive Board
National TTA Director
National TTA Committee Chairs

Area TTA Advisors

National TTA Service to Youth Committee Liaisons

2024 National TTA Executive Board's
Annual Holiday Greetings, Second Edition

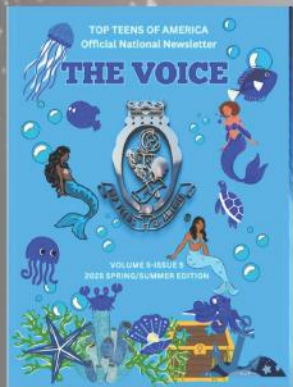


Lady Crystal C. Pittman
National TTA Director

National TTA Talking Proud



Teen Roderick J. Stanfield, Jr.
National TTA President



The National TTA Exective Board has developed several signature and inaugural initiatives during the 2023-2025 service years. Initiatives include:

- ✓ Joint partnership with Rap Snacks, Inc. will be launched during the 2025 Syn-Lod Conference.
- ✓ Parliamen-Top TTA Advisors Leadership Training Boot Camps, 2023 - Present.
- ✓ Inaugural Certified Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on-site TTA Advisor Training, 2023 (with a spin off for TTA Chapter trainings to follow).
- ✓ National TTA Leadership Officers Leadership Training Summit I, Officer's & Chairs Leadership Summit II (Parliamentary Procedures), and National TTA Leadership Officers Leadership Training Summit III, 2023 - 2025. National TTA Officers served as Webinar Facilitators and shared platforms with their TLOD counterparts. Record number of attendees attended the Summit.
- ✓ National TTA Officers and National TTA Chairs participated in various collaboraions with other youth organizations. Topics included but were not limited to, Human Trafficking, Cyber Bullying, Mental Health Awareness, and Cops and Cones.
- ✓ Held the first TTA V.O.I.C.E.S. Voter Education Initiaive.
- ✓ Inaugural 2025 Mandatory National Call to Syn-Lod for Top Teens, TTA Advisors, and Parents.
- ✓ National TTA Virtual Retreat, 2024.
- ✓ TTA Establishment of newly chartered chapters.
- ✓ Natioanl TTA Officers traveled and presided over International and National Induction Ceremonies.
- ✓ National TTA Officers and Commitee Chairs positions filled.
- ✓ Revised National TTA By-Laws and Standard Operating Procedures.
- ✓ Revised the National TTA Code of Ethics and National Conference Rules.
- ✓ Developed National TTA Establishment Forms.
- ✓ Developed the National TTA Profile Database Form.
- ✓ National TTA Speech & Debate initiated at the National Level.
- ✓ Launched a Foster Care Initiative during 2023 Parliamen-Top and donated gift cards with luggage.
- ✓ TTA Advisors workshop held on Mental Health Awareness.
- ✓ Facilitated TTA montly meetings with Area TTA Advisors, Assistant TTA Advisors, Chapter TTA Advisors, and Service to Youth Committee Liaisons.
- ✓ Implemented National Service to Youth Liasions to assist Area Advisors with dissemination of information and the implementation of programs, projects, and initiatives.
- ✓ Published "The Voice" informational newsletter quarterly.
- ✓ Attended Area Conferences, National TTA Director & National TTA President.
- ✓ National TTA Director traveled with several National TTA Officers to Charter the International Nassau Bahamas Chapter.
- ✓ National Top Teens and National Committee Chairs participated in the annual Vivian Coe Richard Leadership Academy and donated monetary awards to subject winners.
- ✓ Developed an Inaugural TTA Holiday Edition Newsletter, highlighting members of theNational TTA Executive Board, Holiday recipes, favorite songs and movies, 2023.

NATIONAL PROJECTS

At-A-Glance



Lady Kendra C. Gillespie
National Second Vice President



Teen Taylor Gilchrist
National TTA Second Vice President

The National Projects Committees kicked off the 2023-2025 term with “Continuity of Service: In ACTION” in grand style! Under the direction of our National President and CEO Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, our five National Project Committees set the standard of EXCELLENCE, several new initiatives, over 35 program offerings to members and the public, and over 50 campaigns for social justice and reform, education, and health equity. The collective efforts of TLOD Literacy, NAACP, NCNW, UNCF and Sickie Cell Awareness - our signature National Project - resulted in millions of lives impacted and communities served.



We introduced four National Project Priorities, with goals to: (1) continue the implementation of joint projects with Top Teens of America; (2) develop a National Projects communications plan and engagement toolkits; (3) identify 1-2 strategic initiatives that advance the goals of TLOD; and (4) increase collaborative efforts, to include our current National strategic partners. At the start of the 2023-2024 year, we held a **National Projects Showcase**, featuring three of our past National Presidents, 5th National President Lady Bobbie Moorehead, 6th National President Lady Jacqueline Heath Parker, and 10th National President Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompete.

This special showcase provided members with the opportunity to learn about the evolution of our National Projects platform from our presidential National Projects “architects” and their visions to implement our National Projects. During the 2024 year, we took our National Projects “on the road” during the 2024 Area conferences with a **National Projects EXPO**. The EXPO demonstrated the power of collaboration and blending at its best as all National Project committees teamed up to launch a legislative writing campaign to 60 Senators. With over 4,000 letters written to Senators in the states where our chapters are located, we addressed the removal of DEI in education and demanded support for a National network of Sickie Cell Disease treatment centers. In addition, our When We All Vote campaign registered 28 Top Teens to vote. Lastly, Area NAACP and NCNW committees held onsite registration campaigns for both TLOD and TTA members. We thank our National Area Directors for supporting this effort!





SICKLE CELL AWARENESS

Signature National Project



Lady Cherisse Johnson
National Sickle Cell Awareness Chair



Lady Christine Harrell
National Sickle Cell Awareness Co-Chair



Teen Bryan Kasongo
National TTA Sickle Cell Awareness Chair

In 2023, we decided to do something different for Sickle Cell Awareness. We wanted to make a difference and advocate for Sickle Cell warriors by supporting non-profit agencies that our chapters work with regularly. These are our local partners who provide services to our warriors, their families and caregivers. The **Building Bridges Community Grant Program** was born as a result of our desire to do more. During Sickle Cell Awareness Month in 2023, we launched the Building Bridges campaign and established our first Sickle Cell Day of Giving. This effort is now an ongoing campaign to support our Building Bridges fund.

In September 2023, we also traveled to our Nation's Capitol, Washington, DC, to meet with the Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Association, toured Children's National Hospital Sickle Cell Center, participated in local walks for SCDA and Howard University, in addition to joining the Black Women's Agenda and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation for an inspirational breakfast. At Parliamen-Top 2023, our **National President and CEO Lady Eddie Lee Marsh** declared Sickle Cell Awareness the National signature project for her administration. We are grateful for her steadfast efforts to promote the advocacy for Sickle Cell warriors everywhere.



In June 2024, TLOD returned to the Nation's Capitol to attend the World Sickle Cell Day Forum at Children's National Hospital. During this event, experts from around the world shared insights about the future of Sickle Cell. Pictured to the left : Dr. Andrew Campbell, Executive Director of Children's National Hospital Sickle Cell Center. Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, Lady Cherisse Johnson, and Lady Christine Harrell are also pictured here.

In Fall 2024, TLOD participated in the Inaugural Health and Human Services (HHS) Sickle Cell Summit for the United States in Washington, DC. During this inaugural event, TLOD was a sponsor and had a seat at the table. We also participated in the Inaugural Townhall and Roundtable Sickle Cell Association of Savannah, Inc., Tapestry Connections, Inc. (Lady Deloris Mitchell, Founder and Executive Director) and HHS with Admiral Rachel Levine.

Sickle Cell Awareness, continued

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

2024 SEPTEMBER Series

JOIN US in September as we shine the spotlight on Sickle Cell Disease with a series of events, to include:

- Public Town Hall Meeting features an all-star lineup of speakers in the Sickle Cell community.
- Building Bridges Presentation at Parliament (in-person attendees only), recognizes donors, Chapter sponsors, and grant recipients.
- Chapter Blood Drive Workshop provides instructions to chapters on the most effective way to deliver community blood drives.
- "Real" "Real" Movie Night film "Walk by Faith," tells the story of a teenager's journey to find a cure. Based on a true story.

Please encourage all members, including our Top Teens, to participate. For inquiries and/or additional information, email sicklecellawareness@tloedinc.org.

YEARS IN ACTION

Lady Cherisse Johnson, National Sickle Cell Chair
Lady Christine Harrell, National Sickle Cell Co-Chair
Lady Kendra C. Gillespie, National Second Vice President
Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President and CEO

Note: Click on any image to register for an event.

03 TUES 8PM ET
TOWN HALL MEETING
Open to the public

15 SUN 6PM ET
CHAPTER BLOOD DRIVE WORKSHOP
Closed to TLOD

29 SUN 6PM ET
MOVIE NIGHT
Open to the public

Throughout the past two years, TLOD has managed to transform our thoughts into action by always involving efforts where our Teens can participate. In addition to our Sickle Cell Awareness Month campaign, in September 2024, we had our first Sickle Cell Blood Drive training, a "Real Talk" town hall with Sickle Cell advocate, **Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland**, and a Sickle Cell Movie Night. Additional National activities included: Parliament-Top 2023 Service Project, legislative action writing campaign for a network of Sickle Cell treatment centers,

Over the past two years we have accomplished many things that each Ladies and Teens should be proud of individually and collectively. Our organization has made great strides by partnering with the **American Red Cross** and other blood donor agencies throughout the TLOD footprint and have collected well over 2,000 pints of blood for Sickle Cell and life-saving efforts. We thank everyone for their efforts.

At Syn-Lod 2025, our National service project theme is "Building Bridges. Saving Lives." We will collect items for Tulane University's Sickle Cell Center. In addition, we will have Ladies, Lords, eligible Teens and the community give blood as part of an onsite blood drive. We are also proud to host the first-ever Sickle Cell Symposium with our honorary program chair and emcee, **10th National President and CEO, Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte**.

We have made great strides with our **Building Bridges** program as this grant program provides us with the opportunity to stay "connected" with our Sickle Cell community and advocate for our local Sickle Cell partners. In 2024, we were able to issue five grants, and an additional grand prize winner. The total amount of grants awarded was \$15,000. For 2025, we issued three grants with a total amount of \$10,000.

Again, **THANK YOU** for supporting this all-important cause and for shining the spotlight on Sickle Cell Awareness!

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

BLOOD DRIVES

How To Get Started

- Did you know that every chapter in TLOD has a unique blood drive chapter? The Blood Drive Chapter is a unique chapter that focuses on blood drives and blood donation.
- You are invited to learn blood drive by going to www.redcross.org. In TLOD, we will have you to you.
- Be sure to make your chapter's blood drive by going to www.redcross.org and follow the steps to get started.
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What We Need From You

- The Chapter in the TLOD Chapter is a unique chapter that focuses on blood drives and blood donation.
- Be sure to make your chapter's blood drive by going to www.redcross.org and follow the steps to get started.
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TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President and CEO

Building Bridges

TLOD advocates for the Sickle Cell community by generating awareness, providing resources, and connecting Sickle Cell warriors and caregivers with local organizations. The **Building Bridges Grant Fund** offers mini grants to local Sickle Cell organizations that have partnered with TLOD chapters. Grants will help fund operations and services provided to warriors and their caregivers.

Criteria for Grant

- Must be nominated by a local TLOD Chapter
- Served as a local TLOD partner within the past two (2) years
- Been in existence for at least two (2) years
- Must provide services or program(s) to Sickle Cell warriors and/or families
- Must submit a portfolio and financial summary for basis of grant

Timeline

- June 15: Application deadline
- June 30: Awarding announced

TO APPLY FOR GRANT, CLICK HERE
<https://www.tloedinc.org/2024/06/15/apply-for-grant/>

TO GIVE, CLICK OR SCAN HERE
<https://www.tloedinc.org/2024/06/15/give-grant/>

For additional information, email sicklecellawareness@tloedinc.org

Lady Cherisse Johnson, National Sickle Cell Chair | Lady Christine Harrell, National Sickle Cell Co-Chair | Lady Kendra C. Gillespie, National 2nd Vice President

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

GIFT OF LIFE CHALLENGE

Help us raise money for the Sickle Cell community by participating in the Gift of Life Challenge. This challenge is a unique way to raise money for the Sickle Cell community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away.

Challenge Details

- Participate in the challenge from September 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024.
- Chapters are encouraged to participate.
- Chapters who participate will be recognized at the annual meeting.

How to Participate

- Participate in the challenge by going to <https://www.tloedinc.org/2024/06/15/gift-of-life-challenge/>.
- Be sure to make your chapter's blood drive by going to www.redcross.org and follow the steps to get started.
- Be sure to make your chapter's blood drive by going to www.redcross.org and follow the steps to get started.
- Be sure to make your chapter's blood drive by going to www.redcross.org and follow the steps to get started.

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY

Join us on September 15, 2024, for World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about Sickle Cell Disease and to honoring the lives of those who have passed away.

TO DONATE, CLICK OR SCAN HERE
<https://www.tloedinc.org/2024/06/15/donate/>

Be sure to make your chapter's blood drive by going to www.redcross.org and follow the steps to get started.



TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Join us for the American Red Cross WEBINAR

Monday, December 4, 2023
4:00pm PST - 5:00pm CST - 7:00pm EST

Invitation extended to:

- National Area Directors
- Area & Chapter Sickle Cell Chairs
- Chapter Presidents
- 2nd Vice Presidents

Please use the following link to join the webinar:
<https://www.tloedinc.org/2023/12/04/webinar/>

For additional information, email sicklecellawareness@tloedinc.org





Lady Kimberly Underdue
National NAACP Chair



Lady Nadine Beach
National When We All Vote Chair



Lady Sidiqqa Gibson
National Legislative Action Chair

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Committee led efforts to “**Get out the Vote! (GOTV)**,” beginning in September 2023, where all were encouraged to participate in local elections and to head to the polls! The rally continued with TLOD’s first-ever GOTV Block Party, celebrating 50 years of hip hop! Ladies, Teens, Lords, and the public came together as we celebrated 5 decades of hip-hop music, while delivering information about voter’s rights, the importance of voting, and even how music contributed to our rich history of social justice and activism. With a series of social media campaigns and partnership with **When We All Vote**, the NAACP Committee continued the charge to get every eligible voter to a polling area.

The Committee stepped up efforts in August 2024 with a GOTV Rally introducing TLOD’s campaign of “**Each ONE Reach ONE**.” We joined forces with NCNW (8-State All State Strategy), NAACP (All In Plan), and When We All Vote, participating in rallies, phone banks, canvassing, post card campaigns, text networks, etc. TLOD worked non-stop to REGISTER voters, EDUCATE voters, and MOBILIZE voters. With a total of 13 Weekly Wednesday GOTV sessions, members joined to learn about ways to engage the community and hear from chapters across the Nation on what they are doing to get out the vote.

The second GOTV Block Party took place in October featuring our own National NCNW Chair, Lady A. Lois Keith, and two well-known TTA alumni, **Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett** and **former Lt. Governor (Wisconsin) Hon. Mandela Barnes**. We concluded the campaign with an Election Night Watch Party, with chapters hosting watch parties in Areas 1-6.

THANK YOU FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



Lady Shanita Akintonde
National TLOD Literacy Chair

TLOD LITERACY COMMITTEE

LEVEL UP WITH LITERACY

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE IN ACTION



The National TLOD Literacy Committee has a new name and look! We are please to introduce the newly branded **Level UP with Literacy** program. Across the nation, chapters setup Little Libraries, participated in “Read Across America,” launched “Back to School” drives, and raised “loose loot” for literacy.

To help guide chapters, a 2023-2025 Literacy Chapter Workbook was delivered, providing a month-to-month calendar guide with recommendations and resources to assist chapters in implementing their literacy projects.

On the National level, the TLOD Literacy leaped into ACTION with its annual programming efforts. The Committee co-hosted four (4) Scholarship webinars, with Lady Shanita Akintonde serving as one of the presenters on “How to Write Effective Essays.” We celebrated Black History Month with two more film discussions featuring “The Book of Clarence” (2024) and August Wilson’s “The Piano Lesson” (2025). Our Top Teens fully participated, serving as panelists and performers for our 2025 and 2025 programs, respectively.

Other joint collaborations include the 2024 Projects EXPO Legislative Action writing campaign, NCNW DIVA 2.0 Book fundraiser, and UNCF’s Project CONNECT Educational Grant Program. With a final Chapter check-in in Spring 2025, chapters had the opportunity to share their literacy initiatives and helpful resources.



TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.
TLOD LITERACY PRESENTS

LEVEL UP WITH LITERACY

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE IN ACTION

A-B-C “READ TO ME” NATIONAL CHALLENGE

CALLING ALL TEENS, LADIES AND LORDS!!

Lady Shanita Akintonde, National TLOD Literacy Chair | Lady Sandra G. Odeh, National 2nd Vice President

With a target K-3 student population, volunteers are asked to help TLOD create a National reading video library, accessible to the public via the TLOD website and social media. **This challenge will continue during the ACTION administration. SEE STEPS BELOW TO GET STARTED!**

- ADOPT OR JOIN**
 - Identify and adopt an elementary school with grades K-3 or start/join a reading program at a bookstore, church, library, etc.
 - Meet with the principal/PTC to provide a program overview.
 - Arrange dates or setup a reading schedule.
 - Create a Chapter sign-up sheet for TLOD and TTA members.
- SELECT A BOOK**
 - Select age appropriate (K-3) books to read. Books that represent our heritage are highly recommended.
 - Visit the TLOD Literacy “Read to Me” folder to see our current booklist.
 - If you have a book recommendation, add your book to our booklist.
 - NOTE: Where possible, donate selected books to the classroom or library of adopted school.
- READ TO ME, PLEASE!**
 - Schedule your reading sessions.
 - Use the “Read to Me” virtual background and record your session.
 - Report your reading session and record your video (VCR).
 - NOTE: If your session is in-person, record a separate video for our National video library. If you do not have an actual session, feel free to record and add to our library.

A-B-C “Read to Me” program materials (i.e., book list, virtual background) are located in the TLOD Literacy folder. To learn more about this program and TLOD Literacy initiatives, email TLODLiteracy@tloelines.org.

We also want to thank chapters for promoting and participating in our all-new A-B-C “Read to Me” Virtual Reading Library. With a National Challenge of 60 entries in honor of our 60th anniversary, the call for chapters was answered with over 40 submissions for our first-ever virtual library.

This online reading library targets elementary children, grades K-3, where parents, teachers and home schoolers will be able to access stories told by our very own TLOD family, to include Ladies, Teens and Lords. We continue to build this one-of-a-kind library, and all are welcome to participate. Adopt a school or join an after-school reading program.

To learn more about this initiative, view the 2023-2025 Literacy Chapter Workbook or visit the A-B-C “Read to Me” folder for a list of books, authors, and instructions on how to get started.

Let's level UP with Literacy!



Lady Debbie Hillman
National NCNW Chair



ncnw
commitment | unity | self reliance



Lady Melba Ford
National NCNW Co-Chair

VACCINATE. VOTE. LIFT OUR VOICES!

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Committee was on a mission to advocate for vaccinations as Ladies and Teens continued to promote vaccinations for COVID, RSV, influenza, etc. During the 2023-2025 program years, we completed Phases III and IV for **Good Health WINS** - and received an additional grant for Top Teens of America - the only youth grant awarded from NCNW. For Phase III, 41 chapters participated, with \$24,000 awarded to chapters and Areas. For Phase IV, 36 chapters participated, receiving a total of \$9,000 in grant funds. In the Spring of 2025, we awarded \$13,750 in mini grants to 55 participating TTA chapters.

In addition to our national vaccine social media campaigns, TLOD members participated in two GHWs Summits. With GHWs first Adolescent Town Hall was held in April 2024, our own National President and CEO Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, along with National TTA President Roderick Stanfield provided brief comments during the program. TLOD continues to pave the way to advocate for vaccines with youth and adults.



As TLOD moves forward with the GHWs agenda, the NCNW Committee has participated in other National NCNW initiatives, including the DIVA 2.0 Book fundraiser featuring author Sheryl Lee Ralph. TLOD also represented the largest respondent group to the 2023 Election Survey, with over 330 out of 1,000 participants. In 2024, NCNW collaborated with NAACP to help **“Get out the Vote”** efforts, promoting NCNW’s 8-State All-State Strategy.

Never missing a beat, TLOD was well represented at all National NCNW meetings, including the Affiliates meeting and National convention. TLOD had the largest contingency of affiliate members during the 2023 NCNW National Affiliates Meeting, held in Washington, DC. In 2024, TLOD was well-represented during the 2024 National Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland.

TLOD remains one of the only affiliates with a designated NCNW Committee as part of its organizational structure. Many NCNW sections not only have TLOD members, any many have been led by TLOD members.

Congratulations to our very own **Lady A. Lois Keith, National NCNW Chair** on a job well done!



*"A mind is a terrible thing to waste,
but a wonderful thing to invest in."*



Lady Elnora Chambers-Norwood
National UNCF Chair



Lady Theresa Dillard
National UNCF Co-Chair



Over the past two (2) years, UNCF committees across all six Areas have been working tirelessly, investing in HBCUs and UNCF's 37 HBCU members. Chapters continue their efforts to bring Top Teens to HBCU college fairs, participate in UNCF walks, attend UNCF galas, and support UNCF through other efforts. TLOD has raised on average \$40,000 each year to support UNCF programs.

We are excited to be a long-standing partner for UNCF's National Interfaith & Education Initiative, known as UNCF Sunday. Ladies and Teens alike gathered during the last Sunday in February in faith and fellowship to recognize our HBCUs and support these historical institutions.

One of the notable new initiatives for the UNCF Committee is the launch of a new initiative, Project CONNECT, an educational grant program for TTA alumni pursuing their undergraduate degree. With donations from individuals, UNCF Sunday, and National TTA Alumni Association dues, and TTA Alumni t-shirt sales, our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 each year to provide mini grants to our former Top Teens who may need additional assistance. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from October through May of each year.

Chapters are encouraged to share this information with former Top Teens. This is a joint initiative with the Scholarships Committee, TLOD Literacy Committee, and the National TTA Alumni Association. Thank you for supporting Project CONNECT!

We are pleased to announce the nine Project CONNECT grant recipients of our 2024-2025 inaugural year, listed below. Mini grant awards ranged from \$250 - \$550.

2024-2025 Project CONNECT Mini Grant Recipients

Name	Area	Former Chapter Name	Name of University/College Attending
Johnny Banks, III	Area I	Beaumont	Stephen F. Austin State University
Jon P. Batiste	Area I	Capital City	University of North Texas
Natalie Janette Johnson	Area I	Capital City	Florida A&M University
Kiera Nicole Hines	Area I	Prairie View	Prairie View A&M University
Terry Brock	Area I	Southern Dallas County	Morehouse College
H` Lyia T Kennedy	Area I	Southern Dallas County	East Texas A&M University
Kaeleigh P. Williams	Area I	Southern Dallas County	Tarleton State University
Joseph B Thomas III	Area IV	Miami	Jackson State University
Gwendolyn G. Thomas	Area IV	Southern Pearls Miami-Dade	Talladega College



Lady Pamela Bright
National Membership Co-Chair



Lady Maria Singfield
National Membership Chair



Lady Anitra Furlow
National Membership Co-Chair



Membership...The Lifeline of TLOD!

Over the past two years, the Membership Committee has worked diligently to assist with the induction process, orientation, engagement, retention, reactivation and TLOD mentorship. At the beginning of 2023, we wasted no time by conducting an induction workshop at Parliamen-Top 2023 and creating an accompanying “**5 Steps to Success**” induction brochure. Our work had just begun.

National New Members Council

In the Fall of 2023, we made history by establishing the first **National New Members Council**. New Ladies with two or less years of membership from across all 6 areas came together to express their thoughts and feelings as new members on how we could improve their membership journey. Lady Anitra Furlow, National Membership Co-Chair served as the Facilitator for the inaugural cohort. In addition to the National Chair and Co-Chair, Area Chairs co-facilitated work groups to guide Council members in formulating ideas. This two-year journey filled with meetings, work sessions and presentations. The new cohort will launch in Fall 2025.

Membership Training and Resources

We conducted several webinars, including **Membership Matters** (2024) and **A Membership Affair** (2025). These workshops walked through the induction process, the orientation process, system updates, new forms, TLOD mentorship, reclamation tips, and introduced the all-new **Chapter Member Engagement Survey/Toolkit**.

National guides were also revised to make more user-friendly to include Membership, Recruitment, and Orientation.

Reactivation Month Campaigns

We held two campaigns during the 2023-2025 program years during National TLOD Reactivation Month (February). In 2024, we launched the LOVE campaign, “From our Heart to Yours!” In 2025, we reclaimed lost orchids with the WELCOME BACK campaign. Each campaign provided retention and reactivation strategies to help chapters with activities that encourage inactive members to return. These efforts resulted in 215 Ladies being reactivated nationally.

New Member Forms

Several new forms were introduced and others revised, to include the Code of Conduct signature page, New Member Orientation Acknowledgement Form, and the National Membership Referral Form.

Member Portal: Club Express

Updated the online membership portal and transformed it to a user friendly document. This tool assists chapters when entering new member applications in ClubExpress.

It is absolutely our pleasure to serve and we look forward to the next two years!





Lady Annetra Piper, EdD
National Scholarships Chair

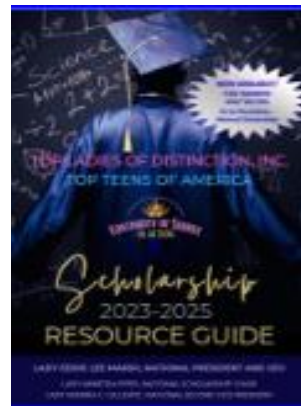
Scholarships Report

The National Scholarships Committee worked hard to plan a scholarship experience for our Teens that was “Second to None!” We began the biennium with the introduction of the **2023-2025 National Scholarship Resource Guide** (Guide). It contains essential information for Teens to have at their fingertips to make the scholarship application process smooth and efficient. The Guide is an excellent resource for Teens now and throughout their educational careers.

Over the past two years, we held four (4) scholarship workshops during the months of November and January of each program year. At each of these workshops, teens learned valuable information “beyond scholarships” to include the admissions process, essay writing, financial aid, etc. Teens were able to ask questions of the presenters during the 1:1 breakout sessions.

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! In 2024, we had over 140 scholarship applicants; approximately 160 Teens applied in 2025. The number of available scholarships for each Area is based on Area TTA membership. The academic scholarship award is \$2,500; the vocational/technical scholarship award is \$1,500. There grand prize scholarship award is \$10,000, with \$2,500 renewable each academic year, up to four (4) years. **The total amount of national scholarships awarded during this biennium was \$85,000.**

The National Scholarship Committee, made up of the National and Area Scholarship Chairs, reviewed the guidelines, rubric, and other essential elements to make the scoring process smooth and easy. The 2023-2024 Scholarship winners are listed below. Winners for the 2024-2025 program year will be announced at Syn-Lod!



2023-2024 National Scholarship Recipients

NAME	AREA	CHAPTER	AMOUNT	SCHOLARSHIP TYPE
Teen Gwendolyn Thomas	IV	Southern Pearls Miami-Dade	\$10,000.00	National Grand Scholarship
Teen Kiera Hines	I	Prairie View	\$2,500.00	Area I Academic Scholarship
Teen Judge Evans IV	I	Missouri City Space City	\$2,500.00	Area I Academic Scholarship
Teen Camille Hanson	I	San Antonio Metropolitan	\$2,500.00	Area I Academic Scholarship
Teen Lorenzo James	II	Southern Maryland	\$2,500.00	Area II Academic Scholarship
Teen Journey Trotter-Mason	II	Haymarket Gainesville	\$2,500.00	Area II Academic Scholarship
Teen Emma Leak	III	Lincoln Park Chicago	\$2,500.00	Area III Academic Scholarship
Teen Jessica Powell	III	North Shore-Chicago	\$2,500.00	Area III Academic Scholarship
Teen Carl Dean	IV	Raleigh	\$2,500.00	Area IV Academic Scholarship
Teen Londyn-Alexandria Lumas-Harmon	IV	Jackson	\$2,500.00	Area IV Academic Scholarship
Teen Iceyy Barry	V	Columbus	\$2,500.00	Area V Academic Scholarship
Teen Symphony Zeigler	V	Detroit	\$2,500.00	Area V Academic Scholarship
Teen Jamison McCall	VI	Starlight	\$2,500.00	Area VI Academic Scholarship
Teen Ephraim Miller	VI	City of Angels	\$2,500.00	Area VI Academic Scholarship

Orchids to all of our Scholarship reviewers! It has been my pleasure to serve.



Lady Waveria "Nitta" Sorrells
National Awards Chair



The National Awards Committee immediately moved into ACTION, reviewing the National Awards Manual and for potential improvements. A An initial webinar was held in December 2023 to review changes, the awards process and what's next.

The Committee released the newly revised 2023-2025 National Awards Manual (Manual) as a follow-up to the webinar held on December 14, 2023. The Manual had several noted updates:

- Easy-to-read format, consistent for all awards
- Illustrative graphics for award titles
- Updated evaluation rubric (further defines criteria)
- New TTA essay and speaker tournament topics
- Newly added Appendix - National Committee Resources (electronic scrapbooking webinar)

In preparation for Area conferences, Area Chairs held review sessions to maximize participation with awards for 2024 and 2025. As a follow-up, a National checklist was provided to further assist individuals and Chapters with their submissions. A "refresher" webinar was held in November 2024 prior to the final Area conference season. The next stop? Syn-Lod 2025!

In addition, a new TTA category was added (Visual Arts), providing our Top Teens with more opportunities to participate and earn cash awards. The Committee was also able to attain sponsorship for this category through the Franchell Boswell Educational Foundation. We thank the Foundation for all of their support!

Chapters, thank you for your participation. We look forward to another award-winning season!!!

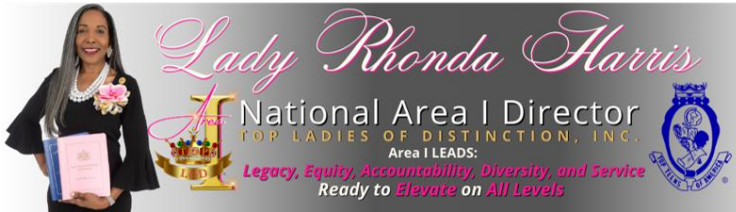




**Lady Rhonda Harris
National Area I Director**

Area I represents chapters within the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The Area I theme is: “Area I LEADS: Legacy, Equity, Accountability, Diversity, and Service. Ready to Elevate on ALL Levels.”



Lady Rhonda Harris
National Area I Director

Teen Madison McCall-Armstrong
Area I TTA President

Area I LEADS: A Year of Legacy, Equity, Accountability, Diversity, and Service - Ready to Elevate on All Levels (REAL)

Area I Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) celebrated a landmark year culminating in the 54th Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, from March 5-9, 2025. The conference showcased the strength, unity, and impact of Area One, under the steadfast leadership of re-elected National Area I Director, Lady Rhonda Harris, who will continue to serve as the 16th National Area I Director.

Lady Rhonda has been a driving force in implementing the Area One theme: "Area I LEADS: Legacy, Equity, Accountability, Diversity, and Service - Ready to Elevate on All Levels (**REAL**)."

Her vision emphasizes the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that every member is valued, empowered, and actively involved. Her leadership is focused on strengthening sisterly relations, expanding community service initiatives, and actively elevating both Ladies and Top Teens within Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. With 499 ladies inducted during the 16th administration, Area One continues to grow and thrive.

The 54th Area I Leadership Conference themed "Area I Empowers Excellence: **REAL** Leadership, **REAL** Service, and **REAL** Impact set the tone for the enriching and empowering leadership conference. Ready to Elevate on All Levels (**REAL**) highlighted significant achievements and solidified the organization's commitment to its core values.

Leadership and Empowerment

The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) Area I 54th Leadership Conference began on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, with a highly impactful and motivational leadership workshop specifically designed for Chapter Presidents. This intensive session, titled "Empowering Leaders for **REAL** Service Workshop," aimed to equip chapter leaders with essential skills and knowledge to effectively guide their respective chapters in fulfilling TLOD's mission of service.

The following day, Thursday, March 6, 2025, welcomed a broader assembly of delegates and attendees who benefited from a diverse selection of empowerment conference workshops. These included insightful sessions such as "**REAL** Roles and Success," which likely focused on defining and achieving success within TLOD roles, and "Conducting **REAL** Effective Meetings," providing practical strategies for productive chapter gatherings. The day's formal activities for delegates also encompassed the significant Area I Induction and Memorial Service, a solemn occasion to welcome new members and honor the memory of those who have passed. The conference day concluded on a high note with the West Cluster hosting the **Solid Gold**: host "Love, Peace, and Soul" night, a vibrant social event where attendees embraced the theme of Soul Train attire, fostering camaraderie and allowing for informal networking through music and dance.

A Royal Celebration and Fellowship: Royal Club 1.6 Breakfast and Distinction Luncheon

Friday, March 7, 2025, commenced with an exclusive Royal Club 1.6. Breakfast for selected delegates, offering a more intimate setting for engagement and discussion. The morning then transitioned into a powerful joint Opening Session, officially launching the main events of the conference. A highlight of the day was the elegant luncheon, “A Royal Celebration: Honoring Women of Distinction.” This event not only provided a valuable opportunity for networking and fellowship among attendees but also served to

establish an uplifting and celebratory atmosphere for the remainder of the conference. The spirit of celebration reached its peak with a grand gala in the evening, a formal affair dedicated to recognizing significant achievements within Area One and further strengthening the bonds of sisterhood and camaraderie among the members.



A REAL Top Ladies Conversation with Lady Bobbie Moorehead



Lords Participate with Purpose

A particularly enriching moment during the conference was an inspiring conversation entitled “A REAL Top Ladies Conversation,” expertly facilitated by Area One National Director, Lady Rhonda. This session featured the esteemed Lady Bobbie Moorhead, the 5th National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., who shared her remarkable 53 years of continuous and dedicated service to the organization, offering invaluable insights and wisdom to all in attendance.

A particularly enriching moment during the conference was an inspiring conversation entitled “A REAL Top Ladies Conversation,” expertly facilitated by Area One National Director, Lady Rhonda. This session featured the esteemed Lady Bobbie Moorhead, the 5th National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., who shared her remarkable 53 years of continuous and dedicated service to the organization, offering invaluable insights and wisdom to all in attendance.



Top Teens' Excellence



A significant highlight of the conference was the active participation of the Area I Top Teens of America, led by Teen Madison McCall Armstrong. The Top Teens demonstrated their excellence and engagement through several events. They participated in the Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl, showcasing their knowledge and understanding of history. The Literary Cafe provided a platform for Top Teens to share their talents in spoken word, poetry, and other artistic expressions. The TTA Choir uplifted attendees with their musical performances.



The Blue and Silver Excellence Breakfast celebrated the achievements and dedication of the Top Teens. Finally, the Area Director's Gala recognized their contributions and provided a formal setting for celebration. Select Top Teens proudly represented their respective chapters in the TTA Mr. & Miss Top Teens Presentation & Gala, further highlighting their leadership and poise.

Spiritual Upliftment

The conference concluded with a glorious Elevation Through Praise and Worship service. This spiritually uplifting event left Ladies, Lords, and Top Teens feeling inspired, empowered, and renewed. The service served as a powerful reminder of the values and mission that unite TLOD, leaving attendees energized and Ready to Elevate on All Levels to continue their work and service within their communities.



Thrusts and Projects Activities Highlights

Area One's commitment to its thrusts and projects was evident through various activities throughout the 2024-25 service year. The chart below outlines a few of the activities completed by Area One Top Ladies in the respective Thrusts and Projects.

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Thrust & Projects Area	Activities
Senior Citizens	Senior Citizens Thrusts in Area I have continued to provide programs and activities to enhance and enrich the lives of our seniors. Programs and activities continue to provide opportunities for health and wellness, socialization, and life-long learning. Plans are carried out through Alzheimer's awareness month, Purple Passion Day, and health and wellness fairs.
Status of Women	The Status of Women Thrusts in Area One have worked continuously to improve the quality of life for women. Chapters have conducted clothing drives, prepared and distributed snack bags and hygiene bags to assist several underserved communities. Many of the chapters have supported and shared important Breast Cancer Awareness Information. One chapter recently recognized women in the military as Unsung Sheroes.
Community Beautification	Beautification is all about making our communities more pleasant places in which to live. Many chapters regularly participate in programs to pick up litter in their local communities. One hundred and ninety pounds of batteries were collected through Area One's Hazardous Waste Battery Recycling Challenge. Three chapters entered the National Community Beautification Gardening Contest and were recognized at Area One Conference.
Community Partnerships	The Community Partnership Thrust is currently seeking grant writers to assist in writing grants to establish partnerships between TLOD and community organizations. Congratulations to the chapters that were the recipients of the Good Health Wins grant. The Houston Chapter recently formed a partnership with the Arc of Fort Bend. The Arc provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Sickle Cell	Area One Sickle Cell Chapters have held successful blood drives, fundraiser walks, made donations to Building Bridges, and delivered warm blankets to Sickle Cell Warriors. Countless hours have been spent educating the public and sharing brochures about Sickle Cell Disease Awareness.

Thrusts and Projects Activities Highlights (Cont.)

Thrust & Projects Area	Activities
NAACP	NAACP held voter registration drives in conjunction with local churches, sororities, senior citizens centers, and other community organizations. The thirty-four chapters of Area One are working to ensure that our communities thrive educationally and economically. The chapters of Area One will continue to work with the NAACP to amplify the voice of Black America and to ensure racial justice.
St. Jude	Fundraising, exceeded goal by nearly \$50,000
March of Dimes	Chapters are working to promote and support healthy babies and strong families. Chapters join with local NICU to host events that educate and engage the community to raise awareness about maternal and infant health. Area One is committed to making a difference in the lives of mothers and babies.
UNCF	Chapters displayed information on church bulletin boards about UNCF for UNCF Sunday and presentations were made. A substantial amount was raised to support the United Negro College Fund.
TLOD Literaxy	Chapters across Area One have focused on helping young and old with reading, writing, and comprehension. Ladies have volunteered at schools, community centers, and churches. Financial literacy sessions for teens, ladies, and guests have been held at churches and community centers.

The proof is in the numbers. The Thrust and Project Chairs for Area I have worked diligently to make Area I Number One. They have used every instrument in their tool kit to connect with Chapter Thrusts and Project Chairs to ensure we are all working with the same goals in mind. It takes Ladies, Teens, and Lords working together to make TLOD a success we can all be proud of.

The Area I Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. remains dedicated to "Serving Youth and Adults," as demonstrated by the impactful community service programs and the vibrant 54th Leadership Conference.

Bay Area South Houston Chapter

Lady Christina J. Allen

Chapter President

Bay Area South Houston's Big Footprint for Service

The Bay Area South Houston (BASH) chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated continues to be the small chapter with the large footprint for serving youth and adults. In January 2024, the chapter volunteered at the Galveston County Food Bank for Part I of their Pink & Blue Day of Service. Seven Ladies, four Teens, one Lord, and 17 guests sorted and packed 7,473 pounds of donated non-perishable food items to be distributed to the community. For Part II of the Pink & Blue Service Project, the chapter collected over 400 large print coloring books, large print puzzles, socks, and personal care items. The chapter hosted a Bingo Day and provided prizes, followed by the donation of the items collected to the senior citizens at Bayou Pines Care Center in La Marque, Texas. In February 2024, the BASH chapter partnered with the Galveston County Health District for a Black History Month Health Fair.



Using funds received through a Good Health Wins grant, the chapter provided a wealth of collateral, including vaccine information to attendees, along with branded travel-size bandage holders. Alzheimer's Association also served as a partner with the chapter along with March of Dimes. Community Partnerships rounded out the year in December 2024 by supporting the Salvation Army of Galveston County's annual Angel Tree Project. Ladies

adopted 20 "angels" – boys and girls from families facing hardships and morphed into gold, silver, and pink elves fulfilling the wish lists. Ultimately the BASH chapter donated over \$2,500 worth of gifts bringing many smiles to the children's faces.



Baytown Chapter

Lady Lakesha Holmes

Chapter President

Baytown Chapter Uniting to Save Lives: Blood Drive for Sickle Cell Patients

Uniting to Save Lives: Our Blood Drive for Sickle Cell Patients



On May 10, 2025, the Baytown Chapter of TLOD proudly led a lifesaving initiative that reflects the very heart of our mission — service, unity, and impact. In partnership with the American Red Cross Harris Health, Houston Health Department, we hosted a community blood drive at JD Walker Community Center focused on supporting patients battling sickle cell anemia — a disease that disproportionately affects the African-American community.

Sickle cell disease affects more than 100,000 Americans, the majority of whom are of African descent. For those living with this painful and life-threatening condition, regular blood transfusions are not just treatment — they are survival. Yet, there remains a critical shortage of blood donations, making our drive not only timely, but vital. Through the drive, we were able to:

- Raise significant awareness about the impact of sickle cell disease in our communities.
- Collect dozens of pints of lifesaving blood, each one with the power to sustain someone's child, sibling, parent, or friend.
- Build stronger partnerships between national and local organizations, proving once again that collaboration fuels change.

Your Blood Program Impact

The lifesaving chain from blood donor to a patient in need depends on the commitment of our partners to host drive regularly throughout the year. Here's a snapshot of your recent lifesaving impact:

Top Ladies of Distinction BAYTOWN May 10, 2025	3 Present Red-C-6 Productive
19 units collected	25 AA Collected
19 units collected/ 22 goal	86.4% (Average per Operation)
13 first-time donors	23 presenting donors

Thank you for your lifesaving impact—your support proves to be an invaluable resource to the patients whose lives depend on it.

Behind all of the numbers, there are real people, real families and real hope!

Cody Hemmeling was involved in a horrific car crash. After being rescued from his crushed vehicle, Hemmeling was transported to a local hospital where doctors gave him less than a 3 percent chance of survival. He sustained severe head trauma, numerous fractures and a ruptured aorta. Emergency treatments included receiving 187 pints of red blood cells, platelets and plasma. Hemmeling survived his injuries—thanks in large part to medical care and volunteer blood and plasma donors. While the crash left him blind, he is otherwise healthy and well today. Since 2011, Hemmeling and his mother have sponsored an annual blood drive with the Red Cross—collecting hundreds of pints of blood to benefit patients in need.

It is real peoples' stories like this that provide a true measure of the incredible impact of our combined efforts. Thank you for standing with the American Red Cross to help save lives.

American Red Cross Blood Program Leader

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Baytown Chapter
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
& Top Teens of America

SICKLE CELL BLOOD DRIVE

Donations used for SCAD BioMed Research & Patient's Needs

All presenting donors will receive a \$20 Gift Card by email thanks to Amazon

Why Donate Blood for Sickle Cell?

- Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder that affects the shape of red blood cells.
- There is no cure for SCD, but treatments can help manage the symptoms and improve quality of life. These treatments may include:
- Medications to prevent pain crises, blood transfusions, Oxygen therapy, and Bone marrow transplant (in severe cases).

Saturday, May 10, 2025
TIME: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

J.D. Walker Community Center
7613 Wade Road - Baytown, TX

CONTACT PERSON:
713-380-1643
Lady Saundra Davis

REGISTER:
redcrossblood.org
Username: DAVISLAD
Passcode: 1-6522

Sponsoring Partners:

But the story doesn't end here. The need for blood is ongoing — and so is our commitment. We have been asked to host another blood drive and we know it will be even more successful. To everyone who gave, volunteered, or spread the word — thank you. Your service is measured in lives touched and hope restored.

Beaumont Chapter

Lady Alicia Doss

Chapter President

Beaumont Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. hosts 2nd Annual “My Sista Keeper” Women’s Brunch

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the Beaumont Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. held its 2nd Annual “My Sista Keeper” Women’s Brunch at the Botanical Gardens, located at 6088 Babe Zaharias



Drive. With the theme “Mind, Body & Soul,” the event brought together 90 dynamic women dressed in red and pearls for a morning of sisterhood, inspiration, and empowerment.



The brunch was designed to uplift and celebrate women while focusing on holistic well-being. The atmosphere was warm, elegant, and welcoming, as members and guests gathered to share stories, build connections, and support one another. Lady Sharlene Rhone served as the keynote speaker, delivering a powerful and heartfelt message that resonated with attendees and encouraged self-care, faith, and unity.

In addition to fellowship and motivation, the brunch raised \$500 in support of the Beaumont Chapter’s programs and service initiatives. Guests were greeted with smiles, a beautifully decorated space, and an engaging program that left a lasting impression.

The “My Sista Keeper” Women’s Brunch continues to be a signature event for the chapter, highlighting its commitment to service, leadership, and the empowerment of women throughout the community.



Dallas Chapter

Lady Jearlene Miller

Chapter President

Celebrating Foster Families: A Western Day of Joy and Giving In partnership with Open Hearts Children and Family Services

On May 18, 2025, the Ladies, Top Teens, and Lords of the Dallas Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction,

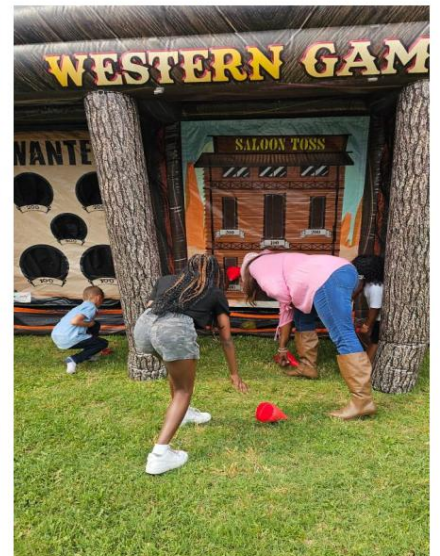


Incorporated partnered with Open Hearts Children and Family Services to host a spirited, western-themed celebration for children and families in foster care. The event brought smiles to more than 35 children and their caregivers with an afternoon full of games, face painting, music, and meaningful connections.

Each child received essentials and gifts including clothing, athletic shoes, backpacks, books, toys, and jewelry. Our chapter also donated \$500 and helped set up gift tables, coordinated activities, and served food to ensure a joyful and seamless experience for all.



We are proud to highlight Open Hearts Children and Family Services, a Dallas-based nonprofit that has served foster youth and families since 2010. Under the leadership of CEO Gayun Matthews, the organization provides foster placement, counseling, and life-skills support. Their signature programs, such as the Angel Tree and National Foster Care Month Tennis Shoe Drive, reflect a deep commitment to healing and empowerment.



Through this partnership, we uplifted the resilience of foster youth and demonstrated the power of service, collaboration, and love in action.

El Paso Chapter

Lady Meliss Rolan

Chapter President

El Paso Takes Community Service to Heart

It was another busy weekend of service for the El Paso Chapter as part of Adopt-a-Highway's 40th anniversary campaign; members cleaned a two-mile stretch of highway. Over the years, the Ladies and Teens have collected thousands of pounds of trash, making the Adopt-a-Highway program a source of pride for El Paso.



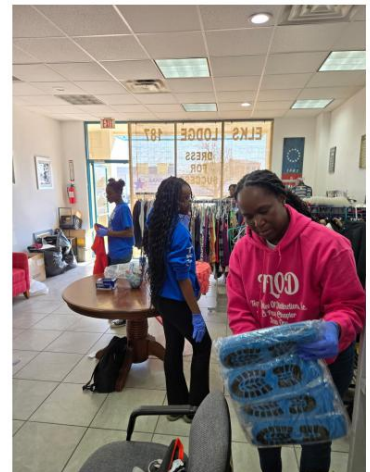
heartwarming impact of TTA's service.

The following day, TTA assembled 32 Easter baskets filled with pencils, playdough, stickers, toys, and candy for the children of La Posada Home, Inc. La Posada is a safe place for survivors of domestic violence that helps clients develop life skills. The Easter baskets brought immense joy to the children, a testament to the

"La Posada is a wonderful place," said Teen Jordan Sheffield, TTA-El Paso President and Mr. Top Teen 2025. "It offers women and their children a lifeline. Helping to bring joy to the children at Easter is what TTA is about."

Continuing service in action also means taking time to extend a helping hand and support to the women in our community, especially during Women's Appreciation Month. The Teens helped the Strong Bonds Community Care for the Veterans' Linen Closet

with its Dress for Success Closet Clean-up. This campaign encourages the community to donate gently used professional wear to support women working towards self-sufficiency. The teens helped sort blazers, dresses, blouses, cardigans, and shoes for this worthy cause.



"There is nothing more empowering than to see women succeeding," said Teen Jayden Jackson, Miss Top Teen 2025.

Houston Chapter Lady Norvella Smith Chapter President

Top Ladies of Distinction Celebrate 60 Years of Service and Sisterhood

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the Houston Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. hosted its 60th



Anniversary Luncheon at the elegant Junior League of Houston. The atmosphere was nothing short of enchanting, with the venue beautifully decorated in radiant shades of pink, symbolizing grace, compassion, and unity.

The celebration brought together past and present presidents of the Houston Chapter, each adorned in stunning silver ensembles, representing the legacy and strength of leadership throughout the years. Their presence served as a powerful testament to the chapter's enduring commitment to community service, youth development, and

leadership excellence.

Guests were serenaded by the smooth sounds of a live saxophonist, whose music set a refined and joyful tone for the afternoon. The program flowed seamlessly under the direction of the talented Shana Bailey-Scott, who served as the emcee. Her poise, energy, and commanding presence guided the program with both elegance and heartfelt emotion.

The luncheon was not only a celebration of six decades of impact but also a



moment to reflect on the organization's deep roots in service and sisterhood. Attendees shared stories of our history and celebrated the past 60 years with remembrance, love, and laughter.



The 60th Anniversary Luncheon was a memorable tribute to the women who paved the way and those who continue to lead with distinction. It was a day of pride, unity, and unwavering dedication to the TLOD mission.

Lake Charles Chapter

Lady Katrina Evans

Chapter President

Lake Charles Chapter Top Ladies and Top Teens Make Lasting Impact Through Meaningful Service Projects

TLOD and TTA-Lake Charles Chapters held two joint chapter meetings for the 2024-2025 year. In October 2024, Ladies and Teens wore pink and blue in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Activities included an acts of kindness game and *Getting to Know My Mentor and Mentee*. In March 2025, the 1st vice-presidents from both chapters, Teen Brayden Watkins and Lady Michelle C. Jackson, presided over the meeting. Teens partnered with their mentors to discuss their ideal community service project.



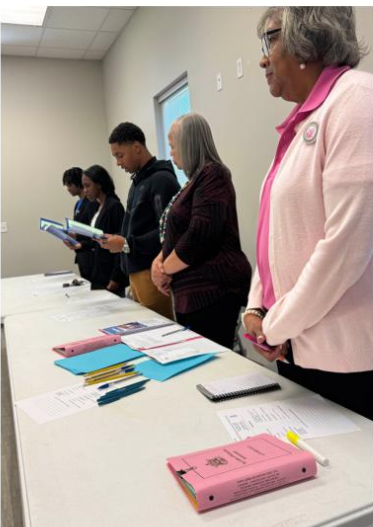
Guillory, PhD, FNP-BC, gave a presentation about the importance of good heart health practices. To get their hearts pumping, Ms. Linda Wilkins encouraged Teens, Ladies and guests to move their bodies by teaching various line dances.

Lady Alisha Mallet is Community Beautification Chairman and Lady Tennille Handy-Harmon is Status of Women Chairman.

In April 2025, the chapter sponsored a March for Babies/March of Dimes Walk to raise awareness and funds for babies and moms. March of Dimes focuses on critical issues affecting mothers and babies. Over \$800.00 was raised for this cause.

Lady JoAnne Wells is chapter March of Dimes chairman. Lady Katie Johnson is co-chairman.

Nia Perry is TTA chapter president. Raven Williams is TTA Advisor. Theresa Garrett is 2nd vice-president. Michelle Ceasar Jackson is 1st vice-president. Katrina Evans is chapter president.



Lake Houston Chapter Lady Kimberly Richardson Chapter President

TLOD Lake Houston Chapter Honored for Transforming Young Lives Through Literacy

The Lake Houston Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. proudly received the prestigious **Jean Myers Davis Award** from the **Houston Independent School District (HISD)** in recognition of its ongoing commitment to literacy and educational enrichment at **Fonwood Early Childhood Center**.



This esteemed award celebrates outstanding community partners who demonstrate exceptional dedication to supporting HISD schools. The Lake Houston Chapter was honored for its continued efforts in promoting early literacy through book donations, reading initiatives, and targeted financial support for Fonwood's literacy programs.

Under the leadership of the Chapter's Literacy and Community Partnership Committee, members have contributed both time and resources to ensure that students at Fonwood are equipped with the tools

needed to develop strong reading skills and a lifelong love of learning. Funding provided by the chapter has helped expand classroom libraries, support literacy events, and provide take-home reading materials for families.

The Lake Houston Chapter is deeply honored to receive this recognition and remains committed to uplifting youth through education and service. This award reaffirms the chapter's mission to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and the broader community.



Little Rock Chapter

Lady Ashley Swain-Miller

Chapter President

Little Rock Chapter: Community Collaborations to Maximize Impact

The Little Rock Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America is small in number but mighty in service under the leadership of Chapter President, Lady Ashley Swain-Miller. Our service is less about programs and more about meeting people where they are, as they are, and providing what they need through collaboration with our longstanding community partnerships. Two collaborations to spotlight during the Spring 2025 season were the Little Rock Community Impact Day and Easter at The Blossoms! LR Community Impact Day was about service, education, and empowerment! We partnered with 10 community organizations to provide over 100 community members with tornado/public safety awareness, food box distribution, STD/HIV education and awareness, legal assistance including

record sealing and voter rights restoration, health screenings, financial literacy and homeowner

guidance, and a live Zumba fitness class at the Delta Presents Outreach Foundation Center. Not only did we serve those who came within the walls, but we also took our services to residents of the local neighborhood. These organizations banded together to provide vital resources to uplift the community. Additionally,

Easter at the Cumberlands was a hit. The 75 resident senior living facility is our longest standing partnership since pre-Covid. Community Partnerships

Chair, Lady Phyllis Nichols, led the way, and the residents had an EGG-cellent time celebrating with games of BINGO, sweet goodies, and lots of laughter. It is always a joy to come together and make special memories with our seniors! It is because of them that we can.



Missouri City/Houston Space City Chapter

Lady Sandra Peirce

Chapter President

Missouri City/Houston Space City Chapter Empowers Through Service, Health Advocacy, and Mentorship

The Missouri City/Houston Space City Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America continue to lead with excellence, purpose, and service. This Fall and Spring, the chapters launched a series of powerful initiatives that advanced health advocacy, strengthened intergenerational bonds, and underscored its unwavering commitment to community uplift.



Sickle Cell Awareness Fundraiser: Advocating for Health Equity

On October 26, 2024, our Ladies and Teens partnered with the MFT Sickle Cell Association of Texas, in support of sickle cell education and outreach: "We're proud to combine awareness with action to raise over \$400" said Lady Cheryl Driver. "Every dollar raised helps bring us closer to progress, and our Teens were fully engaged from planning to participation."

March of Dimes Walk: Stepping Up for Stronger Beginnings

On April 27, 2025, we were thrilled to announce that the Missouri

City/ Houston Space City Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.. has soared past last year's fundraising total of \$800, raising an incredible \$1,310 for the March of Dimes! This achievement was made possible by the unwavering support, increased participation of us all, and the invaluable guidance from last year's leadership, especially Lady Irene Allen. We are deeply grateful to our dynamic March of Dimes Committee, with Lady Akidah Felder as Chapter Committee Chair, Lady Robyn Washington as Co-chair, and a special mention to Lady Patrice for her outstanding contributions. Every member of the committee worked tirelessly, and together, we achieved number one in area status. "Lady Akidah's leadership made this walk not just a step forward in advocacy—but a stride toward change," said Lady Veronica Carroll.



TTA Mentor-Mentee Builds Future Leaders Through Literacy and Cultural Experiences



On May 17, 2025, the TTA Missouri City/ Houston Space City Chapter hosted a meaningful Mentor-Mentee/ Literacy Event at the Menil Museum, uniting Teens with adult mentors for an inspiring morning of reflection, empowerment, and culture, led by our Literacy Chair, Lady Trisel Davis. The event focused on: Cultivating youth leadership, strengthening mentor-mentee relationships and reinforcing values through literacy and Cultural awareness. "Our Teens walked away uplifted and affirmed," said TTA Advisor Lady Marilyn Hines. "This event was a reminder that mentoring is ministry."

Monroe Chapter
Lady Gloria Kimes
Chapter President

Monroe Chapter
Celebrates 35 Years of
Service

Monroe Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Lady Gloria Kimes, President



Monroe Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Celebrated 35 Years of providing Community Service to
Monroe and surrounding areas on Feb. 10, 2024. The
event was held at the West Monroe Convention Center.
The Monroe Chapter honored the charter members of
the chapter, and community leaders.

Monroe Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and
Monroe Chapter Top Teens of America participates each
year in January with the Pink and Blue Day of Service. The
ladies and teens collect goods, such as toiletries, hats,
socks, etc. that are distributed in the schools, nursing
homes, and other locations to keep adults and children
engaged and happy. The chapter also participates in
other activities. Pictured are a few of the chapter's
activities.



Nonpareil Chapter

Lady Constance Carroll

Chapter President

Nonpareil Chapter Ladies and Teens in Action



The Nonpareil Chapter had the honor of hosting the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Area One's Southeast Cluster Workday and induction for new Top Ladies. "Standing Out, Speaking Up and Empowering Others" was the theme for this phenomenal workday! National Area I Director, Lady Rhonda Harris presented and facilitated the event. Cluster Coordinator Felecia Barnes and Co-Coordinator Rochelle Elie and the committee assisted in planning and executing a workday for members to learn, renew and refresh.

Nonpareil Chapter was excited to welcome thirteen new Top Ladies: Syretta Anthony, Elouise Carline, Evonne M. Dunn, Ebonie Farlow- Edwards, Patricia K. Gilmore, Etta Harris, C. Denise Marcelle, Michelle Martin, Patricia McClanahan, Trikedra L. Osby, Marion Pearson, Porsche Uche and Jyandria White.

Spotlight on Sickle Cell Project - During the December holiday season the committee donated over 70 blankets, approximately 175 socks, and toys for Sickle Cell Warriors: partnering with the Sickle Cell Association of Louisiana.

Members left to right Gwendolyn Livious, Porsche Uche, Constance Carroll, Marion Pearson, and Tiffany James



Love the Boot Campaign - Community Beautification and Top Teens participated in April in the Love the Boot Campaign. Ladies and Teens worked at the Alpine Community Garden painting the tire planters in colors of Blue and Gold. The tires work well as compost bins.



Teen Dani Anderson and Teen Naima Wilson



New members of Nonpareil Chapter

North Dallas Suburbia Chapter

Lady Sheila Wooten

Chapter President

North Dallas Suburbia Gets Physical

The North Dallas Suburbia Chapter – Status of Women partnered with Steadfast Fitness & Performance of Lewisville, Texas on February 22, 2025 for a morning of Wellness and Fitness.

The event brought together 25 guests, trainers, nutritionists, and personal testimonies, offering attendees a well-rounded experience focused on physical

and mental well-being—every moment designed to motivate and empower, from energizing workouts to insightful health discussions.



Guests enjoyed a warm, welcoming atmosphere with refreshments, giveaways, and a supportive community spirit. Combining expert advice and real-life stories helped create a

meaningful and memorable event for everyone involved.

Attendees left not just with free items and healthy snacks but with actionable tips and lasting motivation to continue their wellness journey. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event successful!



Port Arthur Chapter

Lady Riya Chaisson

Chapter President

Port Arthur Chapter Thrives

The Phenomenal Port Arthur Chapter of Top Ladies & Top Teens kicked off the 2024-2025 service year strong. The Ladies and Teens partnered with First 6th Baptist Church for a Back to School drive. We made a contribution of \$250 and volunteered at the event. The Top Teens worked crowd control, welcomed guests, face-painted the children, passed out supplies, and supported the vaccination and information table. We then held our joint chapter retreat to gear up and review the upcoming year. At our retreat, we included activities such as Me and

My Mentor



along with a Money Management Workshop. In September, we held our first Health and Hope Expo. At this Expo, we held a blood drive with LifeShare in support of Sickle Cell Awareness. Vendors were in attendance to talk about mental health, breast cancer awareness, sickle cell awareness, vaccines, health and wellness, and deputy registrars to

register people to vote. The Top Teens inducted 23 new Teens bringing their membership to 57 Top Teens. The Top Ladies inducted eight new Ladies bringing our membership to 41 active Ladies and we won 2nd Place in the sisterly competition. In November, we held a joint Founders Day



Celebration honoring our 8 founders. Immediately after, we hosted our first muffins with the Ladies where Teens met with their mentors and then played fun get to know-you games with each other. We, the Port Arthur Chapter is thriving, and we are well on our way to Five Star Status!



Prairie View Chapter

Lady Kimberly Williams Watson

Chapter President

Prairie View Chapter Top Teens of America & Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Participate in Annual Trash off Day



Annually in the month of April, the Prairie View Chapter Top Teens and Top Ladies along with other organizations partner with Adopt-a-Highway for National Trash off day or month. This year was not any different with Sunday, April 21st being the time set aside by the Chapter. To explain in detail, National Trash Off Day is the time where everyone can be acknowledged for their contributions in Keeping America Beautiful.



Usually, each group will pick up trash in their section of the highway. In addition to national trash off month, the groups are responsible for keeping the trash picked up at least two other times throughout the year or as much as needed. The Teens and Ladies from left to right responsible for keeping the Prairie View section clean are Teens Mattie Jones, Oryn Reed, Lady Jokeisha Campbell, Ollie Reed, IV, Teen Kiera Hines, Lady Nasha' Parker, Teen Quinterian Grimes, and Lady Ruth Smith. Not pictured but present is Lady Burnest Carter.



River City Chapter

Lady Enjoli Page

Chapter President

River City Chapter's Winter Retreat Commences in Community Service at Local Food Bank with Top Teens

Members of the River City Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction began their winter retreat with a morning



of service at the San Antonio Food Bank alongside Top Teens. Together, they embarked on a mission to make a tangible difference in the lives of senior citizens in the community by helping to assemble boxes of non-perishable foods to be delivered to those in need.

The retreat was aimed at fostering connections between Ladies and Teens, planning future initiatives, hands-on training, and strengthening sisterly relationships. Ladies shared a delicious meal together and then organized into smaller groups to plan activities for each of our programs and projects. The day concluded with an activity promoting sisterly

relations, where attendees shared personal preferences and experiences to bond further while pulling prompts from a fishbowl.



Working alongside each other and seeing the impact made together was not only inspiring but also a reminder of the importance of volunteering and community engagement. The day of service and learning served as a reminder of the power of solidarity and collective action in effecting change. All departed from the food bank with full hearts and a renewed sense of purpose.



Royal Essence Chapter

Lady Aerial Kinney

Chapter President

Royal Essence Chartering and Induction Ceremony

On Sunday, April 6, 2025, the Royal Essence Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was officially chartered in a memorable ceremony held in Schertz, Texas. This significant event marked the beginning



of a new chapter dedicated to community service, youth development, and leadership within Schertz and the surrounding areas.

The chartering ceremony was attended by national and area leaders of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., including National President & CEO Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, Area I Director Lady Rhonda Harris, and numerous dignitaries from established chapters

across Texas. Charter members of the Royal Essence Chapter, a group of dynamic and community-driven women, were honored during the ceremony for their dedication to service and excellence. The event included a formal induction of members, inspiring speeches highlighting the mission and history of the organization, and a celebration recognizing the growth and future impact of the chapter. The ceremony concluded with a reception where attendees enjoyed refreshments, networking, and fellowship.



The Royal Essence Chapter is now poised to make a meaningful difference in the lives of youth, senior citizens, and families throughout the region, continuing the proud legacy of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Southern Dallas County Chapter

Sonja Howard-Smith

Chapter President

TLOSDC and TTA-SDC are Crowned to Serve

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



We are proud to announce that members of Top Ladies of Distinction SDC (TLOSDC) participated in a 3-mile walk organized by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This walk was a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness about mental and behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma associated with them. The May SOW flyer was shared on Chapter socials to educate followers on strategies and tools such as self-care, to maintain good mental health and to continue to foster a culture of healing and resilience.

Top Ladies YaRonda McDonald and Tarnesha Jackson walk for NAMI

Top Teens of America Spring Inductions

We are thrilled to celebrate the successful induction of new members into Top Teens of America SDC (TTA-SDC)! Over two Spring Induction ceremonies, we welcomed a total of eleven new members into our community. Their commitment to leadership and service is commendable, and we are excited to see their contributions to our chapter, the community, and beyond.



April 2025 Spring TTA Induction



May 2025 Spring TTA Induction

Our members continue to demonstrate excellence in leadership and community service. We are proud of their efforts and the positive impact they have on our broader community!

Spring Cypress Chapter

Lady Deidre Jackson

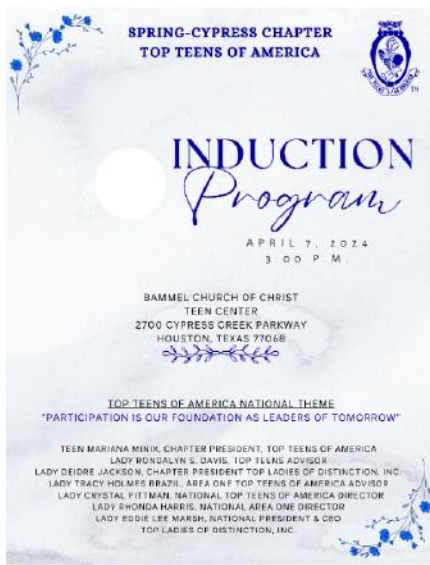
Chapter President

Spring-Cypress Chapter Top Teens of America Induction

"Participation is Our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow"



Front row, pictured from left to right: Lady Elizabeth Skinner, Teen Amari Smith Teen Zori Ozor, Lady Regina Dickson, Chapter Organizer, Immediate Past Chapter President and National Recording Secretary, Teen Adrienne Murchinson, Teen Gabrielle Apodaca, Teen Morgan Williamson, Teen Mariana Minix, TTA Chapter President, Lady Rondalyn S. Davis, Chapter TTA Advisor and Lady Deidre Jackson, Chapter President. Back row, pictured from left to right: Lady Cynthia Brown, Chapter Treasurer, Teen Malia Williamson, Teen Jayden Williams, Teen Lonnie Booker, III, Teen Jabari Williams, Teen Sanaa Demby, Teen Curtis Davis, and Teen



The Spring-Cypress Chapter hosted its Spring 2024 Top Teens of America induction on April 7, 2024.

There were nine Top Teens inducted on that day. In attendance were the Teens family members and friends, Lady Deidre Jackson, Chapter President, Lady Rondalyn S. Davis, TTA Advisor, Lady Elizabeth Skinner, Lady Cynthia Brown, and Lady Regina Dickson.

The chapter is scheduled to host a Top Teens induction on May 23, 2024.

Sugar Valley Chapter Lady Gail J. Mitchell-Shields Chapter President

Women's History Month: Celebrating Women

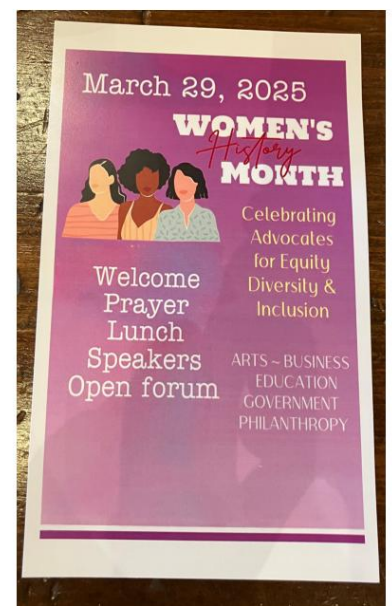
March 29, 2025; Sugar Valley Chapter (Community Partnership, Community and Status of Women); and Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. partnered to honor, inspire, and empower



An informal setting held at La Madeleine's with 20 women consisted of food, games, motivational speakers, and interactive activities. A variety of healthy but tasty options were available to nourish the body. The games allowed the attendees to break the ice and get to know new people. That allowed for networking, finding commonalities, and determining makeup of the group. The speakers informally shared their challenges and successes that made them history makers.

Their areas of expertise included Arts, Business, Education, Government, and Philanthropy, while celebrating Advocates for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The speakers' topics consisted of exercises (stretches, relaxation movements, and chair yoga), mental health awareness, small business strategies, self-defense movements, nutrition, beauty, self-care routines, and self-celebrations. The speakers left the audience more knowledgeable, motivated, and uplifted. The impact and takeaways from the "Celebrating Women" activity are to take care of the body, mind and soul; to build a network of experts and mentors; to motivate and celebrate yourself; and to encourage and uplift others.



Suburban Bayou Chapter

Lady Gail J. Mitchell-Shields

Chapter President

SBC Highlights: Community Beautification, Sickle Cell Awareness and 20th Anniversary Celebration

On April 26, 2025, the SBCC Ladies, Teens, and Lords, in collaboration with the City of Houston Parks Department, hosted an Arbor Day event at Emancipation Park. The chapter adopted the Emancipation Park Rose Garden and committed to providing bi-annual maintenance, including cleaning, pruning, and mulching. Lady Shirley Pickens, Chair, Teen Malachi, TTA Chair, and the Beautification Committee members are dedicated to keeping America beautiful. 25 Ladies, 10 Teens, and 1 Lord attended.



On October 26, 2024, the Marc Thomas Sickle Cell Walk was held at Scotts Park, 401 S Heights Blvd, Houston. Ladies and Teens volunteered to oversee the snack and water table and participated in the balloon release. SBCC was honored with the Marc Thomas Sickle Cell Foundation 2nd Place Award of Appreciation for Donation.



The Suburban Bayou City Chapter's 20th Anniversary celebration was on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel on Airport Blvd, under the leadership of Lady Barbara McIntyre, Chapter President. Over 160 Top Ladies, Lords, Teens, family, and friends attended. The event recognized the chapter's organizer, Lady Minnie Johnson-Thomas, and chartered members through a visual presentation, highlighted the chapter's past presidents, and the TLOD sisters who served alongside them. Guests enjoyed lunch while receiving the chapter's historical account and insights into community concerns from Lady Amanda Edwards, Special Guest. The entertainment featured a mix of musical selections and a unique fashion show directed by Lady Kathy Mosby, showcasing SBCC Ladies and Teens. The anniversary event co-chairs were Ladies Mildred Robinson, Jo Beth Harris, and Chivone Hymes.



Trinity West Chapter

Lady Dorruth Boyd

Chapter President

Trinity West Chapter Battle of the Walk-A-Thon

The Trinity West Chapter sponsored its first Battle of the TLOD Projects Walk-a-Thon! This event was specifically designed to raise funds for partnering organizations, March of Dimes, and St. Jude. The event was held May 18, 2024, at the David Carter High School track and field from 10am-11:30am.

All members were placed on a team and invited to donate and/or participate in the walk. The committee ensured refreshments (water, fruit, healthy bars, juice, etc.) were available for the participants.



Seven Ladies showed up with their walking shoes and they put in the miles!! Our “Most Valuable Participant”, Lady Lynette completed 15 laps! Which equals 3.75 miles! Lady Brenda pledged \$10/lap, walked 8 laps, and donated \$100. Ladies Nitta and Kendra each did 13 laps. Lady Dorruth did eight laps. Lady Katie and Sheterra each walked 4 laps.

The total miles walked was 16.25 miles and was accomplished in one hour and 15 minutes.



Members that did not walk donated funds for their team. Several Ladies donated to both organizations. A total of \$575 was raised. However, more donations are being pledged by chapter members. All donations received will be submitted by June 30th! This is an event that will be repeated in the future for other projects.



Lady Hope V. Ruffin
National Area II Director

Area II encompasses the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania (East), New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island, as well as the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

The Area II theme is: "Area II Strong & Mighty - 40 Years of Service with Purpose and Passion."



Lady Hope V. Ruffin National Area II Director

Teen Alexandra Phair Area II TTA President

State of Area II Administration Highlights:

- 21 Chapters in Area II; 1032 Top Ladies and 397 Top Teens
- ☐ Increased membership by 38% with a >90% retention rate
- Chartered 4 Chapters; Sugar Hills Manhattan Pearls in Manhattan, NY on June 25, 2022; New York Tri-City Gems in Albany, NY on August 10, 2024; Delaware New Castle County Chapter in Newark, DE on October 13, 2025; and Fairfax County Chapter in Fairfax, VA on May 3, 2025
- Inducted over 594 Top Ladies;
- Held annual virtual clusters
- ☐ Over 1,300 Top Ladies participated; partial proceeds went to the Area II Scholarships
- Held annual Chapter President's Retreats
- Hosted Top Teen Entrepreneur Expo @ 41st Area II Conference
- ☐ 7 Top Teen Vendors
- Established the Lady Ozell M. Dean FBEF Endowment with \$2000.00 seed donation
- ☐ Funded initial seed of \$2,000 and all 6 areas fully funded by her 100th Birthday Celebration on November 7, 2023
- ☐ Held 1st Area II Founders' Day Memorial for Lady Ozell Dean on June 13, 2024
- Distributed \$40,000 in Area II Scholarships
- Area II donated over 431,861 volunteer hours; hosted 4,686 community events; made over \$676,000 in donations; with over 1,000,000 live touched
- ☐ Donated 650 blankets to National Children's Hospital Sickle Cell Disease Associations

A Few Key Initiatives:

For Community Beautification, the Dale City-Prince William County Chapter (DC-PWCC) sponsored a Tree Dedication Ceremony at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center / The University of Texas in Austin, TX. During the ceremony, Wildflower Center Executive Director, Mr. Lee Clippard, addressed the ceremony's historic nature and oak tree that will act as a legacy for TLOD.



Then at the request of the University of Texas at Austin, the Dale City-Prince William County Chapter partnered with Peterbug Shoe Repair Academy to plant a tree in Washington, DC during the Juneteenth Celebration.

Area II Legislative Initiatives - Days of Advocacy



A DAY OF ADVOCACY

Area II Ladies and Teens Visit the Maryland State House to support TLOD Values



PINK & PURPLE DAY

Area II hosted its first Pink & Purple Day at the Maryland State House on March 12, 2024. The day represented a crucial opportunity for Area II to advocate for policy changes and support initiatives that align with TLOD's core values. With the backing of Delegate Jeanette Wilkins, Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, TLOD is poised to make a significant impact.

Area II members met with Delegate Wilkins to discuss the topics related to TLOD's advocacy.

SICKLE CELL AND SENIORS

- **Sickle Cell Disease Treatment:** Advocating for better access to treatment centers to include a minimum of one center per county and funding for research.
- **Aging with Dignity:** Supporting senior citizens to maintain their independence and financial stability through long-term care tax incentives and exemptions. Advocating for reducing Maryland's 60-month Medicaid Look Back Period that precedes a nursing home Medicaid or waiver application date.





VACCINATIONS AND VOTING

- **Let's Go No-Cost Vaccinations:** Striving for low to no-cost vaccinations to prevent complications and deaths from diseases.
- **Voting Rights:** Enhancing voting accessibility and participation for all communities to include extending early voting times and dates, including on a full weekend.



ADVOCACY IN PINK & BLUE

Area II Visits the Maryland State House to Push for Better Health Care for All



MARCH 18, 2025

More than 95 TLOD Area II Top Ladies and Top Teens converged on the Maryland State House on March 18, 2025 for a TLOD Day of Advocacy to support sickle cell disease research and funding and increased screenings for ovarian cancer. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Area II also received a resolution from the Maryland Senate recognizing the Area's support in educating, advocating and bringing awareness to issues such as sickle cell disease and expanding access to healthy food options. National 1st Vice President Lady Jaekuline Wilcher, National Area II Director Lady Hope Ruffin, and Area II Legislative Chair Lady Michelle Bell accepted the resolution from State Senator Nick Charles.

AREA II SUPPORTS ...



HB 1306: Public Health - Sickle Cell Disease
Establishes three clinics for sickle cell disease, mandates clinics are staffed with professionals trained in sickle cell care, includes a scholarship program for medical residents, requires appropriation of \$6,000,000 to support clinics.



SB 0518: Health Insurance - Screening for Ovarian Cancer
Mandates coverage for preventative screenings for ovarian cancer for individuals age 45 and older, prohibits copays and coinsurance for the screenings.

Held 1st Area II Pink & Purple Day in Annapolis in March 2024 – Delegate Wilkins

- Lady Michelle Bell Smith, Area II Legislative Chair
- Sickle Cell Disease: Advocate for more robust funding and dedicated treatment centers
- Aging w/Dignity: Addressing seniors' needs; long-term care and home ownership
- Accessible Health Solutions: No-cost vaccination programs
- Voting Rights: Upholding and ensuring equitable voting rights for all citizens

Area II Resilience & Renewal Workshop Webinar

Impactful virtual webinar entitled “Resilience & Renewal: Supporting Displaced Federal Workers,” that was designed to offer critical support, guidance, and resources to federal workers and their families affected by recent workforce reductions. This initiative responded to the emotional and financial toll experienced by thousands of federal employees impacted by Reduction in Force (RIF) actions. Many of those affected live within the boundaries of TLOD Area II, making this event especially relevant to the communities the organization serves.

Held 2nd Area II Pink & Purple Day in Annapolis in March 2025 – Senator Nick Charles

- Lady Michelle Bell Smith, Area II Legislative Chair
- HB 1306: Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease for more treatment centers
- SB 0518: Health Insurance – Screening for Ovarian Cancer for preventive screenings
- Received an Area II Resolution for our efforts with educating and advocating for issues affecting youth and adults

Area II Resilience & Renewal Workshop Webinar (Cont.)

“This webinar represented a crucial opportunity for us to advocate for meaningful policy changes and champion initiatives that reflect the core values of Top Ladies of Distinction,” said Lady Michelle Bell, TLOD Area II Legislative Action Chairperson. “We are committed to uplifting our communities through service and advocacy, especially during times of crisis.” The event featured a distinguished panel of thought leaders, elected officials, wellness experts, and workforce professionals, including:

- Lady Shawn A. Jackson, JD, TLOD Area II Chaplain
- Senator Chris Van Hollen, United States Senate
- Perry L. Paylor, Esq., Deputy State’s Attorney, Prince George’s County, MD
- Anthony Featherstone, Executive Director, WorkSource Montgomery
- Joanne Frederick, EdD, Licensed Professional Counselor
- Monife Marshall, Certified Yoga Instructor and Nutritional Wellness Coach



The webinar was facilitated by Lady Ronisca Chambers, whose expertise and compassion will help guide the evening’s conversation. Over 200 individuals participated from across the country.

Area II Welcomes Three New Chapters

Welcome New York Tri-City Gems Chapter!



Chartered on Saturday, August 10, 2024

Area II chartered three chapters in 2024-2025 program year. On Saturday, August 10, 2024, the New York Tri-City Gems Chapter was chartered in Albany, NY with Lady Andrea West, the Chapter Organizer and Chapter President along with 19 other Charter Members.

Lady Andrea C. West, Chapter Organizer & President; Lady Kaweeda G. Adams, Lady Dafney Amilcar-Rodriguez; Lady Jaleesce K. Brown; Lady Leesa Crawford-Imoro; Lady Chiquita D'Arbeau; Lady Taryn Davila, Treasurer; Lady Kimberly Davis, 1st Vice President, Lady Rosalind Gaines-Harrell, Lady Meredith L. Henderson; Lady Pamela Le'Mon; Lady Andrea Lowe; Lady Felicia R. Nobles; Lady Debernee Privott, Top Teens Advisor; Lady Brigitte Pryor; Lady Tracy Randle, Financial Secretary; Lady Angelia Smith-Wilson; Lady Cheyanne Spoto; Lady Charlene Tarver, 2nd Vice President; Lady Dominique Wheeler, Recording Secretary

On Sunday, October 13, 2024, the historic Delaware New Castle County Chapter was chartered in Newark, DE with Lady Nakishia Bailey as the Chapter Organizer and Chapter President along with 18 other Charter Members.

Welcome DE New Castle County Chapter!



Chartered on Sunday, October 13, 2024

Lady Nakishia W. Bailey, Chapter Organizer & President; Lady Joannie Adams-White; Lady April Abston; Lady Crystal Barrow, Recording Secretary; Lady Beverly Beckles, TTA Advisor; Lady Katrina T. Brown, Treasurer; Lady Lisa M. Bynum, 1st Vice President; Lady Stephanie Bell-Knight, Lady Kia Hairston Roy; Lady Juanita Holly-Ellis; Lady Jasmine Johnson, 2nd Vice President; Lady Loretta McKelvey-Edwards; Lady Mounira Morris; Lady Rosalyn Nichols; Lady Angela Ringgold; Financial Secretary; Lady Trina M. Turner; Lady Nikki Ward; Lady Diane H. Whitby; and Lady Deloris Williams.

Welcome Fairfax County Chapter!



Chartered on Saturday, May 3, 2025

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, the Fairfax County Chapter was chartered with a historic 50 Charter Members in Fairfax, VA with Lady Tangie Phair as the Chapter Organizer and Lady Amber Talbert as the Chapter President.

Lady Amber Talbert, Chapter President; Lady Charlotte Lofton, 1st Vice President; Lady Millisa Gary, 2nd Vice President; Lady Angel Lungelow Cooper, Lady Crystal Bivens, Financial Secretary; Lady Indra' Gibson, Treasurer; Lady Marlo Thomas Watson, Top Teens Advisor; Lady Nikki Rattray Baldwin; Lady Reshawna Banks; Lady Buta Biberaj; Lady Amelia Birchette; Lady Phyllis Black; Lady Simona Black; Lady Heather Brown; Lady Krischele Brown; Lady Rosalind Brown; Lady Sabine Browne; Lady Angela Caesar; Lady Stacey Carroll; Lady Tarsha Cavanaugh; Lady Suze Charles; Lady Sharon Chatman; Lady Rosalind Cherry; Lady Sandra Cooper; Lady Denyonne Corley; Lady Karen Michelle Fenner; Lady Robin Fortner; Lady Kendra Glover; Lady Juanita L Hairston-Price; Lady Shannon Harris; Lady Karen A. Haskins; Lady LaTanya Head; Lady Nikki Jacobs; Lady Crystal Jeffrey-Alexander; Lady Althea Johnson; Lady Tisha Johnson; Lady Essala D. Lowe; Lady Deborah Miller; Lady Sydney Montgomery; Lady Sonja Robinson; Lady Karen Smaw; Lady Janice Stofer; Lady Alana Talbert; Lady Ariel Talbert; Lady Michelle Thomas; Lady Lanita Thweatt; Lady Glenda Walker; Lady Sheila Walker; Lady Kendra White; Lady Herrishia Williams.

42nd AREA II LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 42nd Annual Area II Leadership Conference was held at the Downtown Richmond Marriott and Hilton in Richmond, Virginia on April 10-13, 2025 with the theme “Area II Celebrating 50 Years of Service with Excellence and Enthusiasm”! A special shout out to the Central Virginia Chapter under the leadership of Lady Sonja Hill, and the Hampton Roads Chapter under the leadership of Lady Cythnia Nicholson for planning an excellent conference in RVA fashion! We had ~600 Top Ladies, Top Teens and Lords in attendance, which is the largest conference to date!



On Thursday evening, we held two workshops focused on Leadership & Mentorship facilitated by Lady Linda Gilliam, then kicked off with the Dorothy Chimney Black History Bowl followed by Fun Night which was “Name that Tune”. The chapters’ introduction to my “Top 20” playlist was a dance workout with “Da Boots on the Ground” fans! It was a great way to kick off the Joint Opening Session while recognizing our Community Partners with a teamwork award. The Joint TLOD/TTA Majestic Luncheon was filled with tributes to our chapter TTA Advisors, along with our some of our Area Award winners. Ms. Jill Carroll provided a succinct discussion on Alzheimer’s. Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, Lady Jacqueline Wilcher and Lady Kendra Gillespie provided informative presentations and workshops on the State of TLOD, the Ladder of Inference: Building Better Decisions, and Interpersonal Dynamics: A Sisterly Relations Tool respectively during the plenary sessions. The Past National Presidents, Lady Jacquelyn Heath Parker, Lady Jackie Pope, Lady Audrie L. Lawton, and Lady Drema Lee Woldman provided a dynamic panel discussion reviewing the 60 years of TLOD.

We featured the Area II Museum which was a testament to our history and chapter “Gallery of Action” displays. The gala boasted with the presentation of Mr. & Mrs. Top Teen followed by our focus on Sickle Cell Awareness as provided by Dr. Andrew Campbell, and recognition of Ms. Florence Neal Cooper Smith. Just as we started the conference, we ended the conference on a high with the 50th Open Door Season Inspirational Breakfast where the Area II Choir sung to God’s honor and glory, and Rev. Felicia Dixon preached a mighty word! We also recognized our 37 graduating Top Teens.

Lastly, many blessings to the incoming 2025-2027 Area II TLOD Elected Officers – National Area II Director, Lady LaValette Lomax; Area II Recording Secretary, Lady Ernestine Diggs; Area II Financial Secretary, Lady Sonja Osborne; Area II Treasurer, Lady J. Allison Riley and Area II TTA Advisor, Lady Nicola Kennedy, and the 2025-2027 Area II TTA Elected Officers – Area II TTA President, Teen Akira Tyler; Area II TTA 1st Vice President, Teen Ellia Espeut; Area II TTA Recording Secretary, Teen Gwendolyn Johnson; Area II TTA Financial Secretary, TTA Jayson Reid; Area II TTA Treasurer, Teen Bailey Cesar; and Area II TTA Asst. Recording Secretary, Teen Peyton Cain.



TOP LADIES OF *Distinction* INC

**RESOLUTION HONORING VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS AND GENERAL HARRIET TUBMAN
PRESENTED AT THE 42ND AREA II CONFERENCE OF TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.**



WHEREAS, VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA D. HARRIS HAS MADE HISTORY AS THE FIRST WOMAN, THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN, AND THE FIRST SOUTH ASIAN WOMAN TO RECEIVE A MAJOR PARTY NOMINATION FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BREAKING BARRIERS AND INSPIRING GENERATIONS TO COME; AND

WHEREAS, VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS DEMONSTRATED A STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND THE MONUMENTAL TASK OF UPLIFTING AND CARING FOR A COUNTRY IN CRISIS, EMBODYING THE VALUES OF UNITY, SOLIDARITY, AND JUSTICE THAT TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. HOLDS DEAR; AND

WHEREAS, AS VICE PRESIDENT, KAMALA HARRIS HAS FEARLESSLY CHAMPIONED THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY, ENSURING THAT MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES RECEIVE THE JUSTICE AND REPRESENTATION THEY DESERVE, WHILE ALSO EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS TO DREAM WITHOUT LIMITATIONS; AND

WHEREAS, IN A POWERFUL MOMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, YOUNG GIRLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WATCHED AS VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS TOOK THE STAGE IN A WHITE PANTSUIT, A TRIBUTE TO THE SUFFRAGISTS WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR HER, AND REASSURED THEM THAT THEY TOO COULD ACHIEVE GREATNESS, DECLARING, "WHILE I MAY BE THE FIRST WOMAN IN THIS OFFICE, I WILL NOT BE THE LAST"; AND

WHEREAS, HARRIET TUBMAN, AN ICONIC FREEDOM FIGHTER, ABOLITIONIST, AND MILITARY STRATEGIST, HAS BEEN POSTHUMOUSLY HONORED WITH THE RANK OF ONE-STAR GENERAL FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AS A SPY, SCOUT, NURSE, AND COOK DURING THE CIVIL WAR, FURTHER CEMENTING HER LEGACY AS ONE OF THE GREATEST AMERICAN PATRIOTS; AND

WHEREAS, BORN INTO SLAVERY IN 1822, HARRIET TUBMAN DISPLAYED UNWAVERING COURAGE AND RESILIENCE, ESCAPING ENSLAVEMENT AND LEADING APPROXIMATELY 70 INDIVIDUALS TO FREEDOM THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, WHILE ALSO PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO AN ADDITIONAL 70 FREEDOM SEEKERS; AND

WHEREAS, HARRIET TUBMAN'S HEROISM EXTENDED BEYOND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AS SHE BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN TO LEAD A MILITARY OPERATION, ORCHESTRATING THE RAID ON COMBAHEE FERRY IN 1863, WHICH FREED MORE THAN 750 ENSLAVED INDIVIDUALS; AND

WHEREAS, DESPITE HER INDISPENSABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNION ARMY, TUBMAN FACED TREMENDOUS OBSTACLES IN RECEIVING RECOGNITION AND COMPENSATION FOR HER MILITARY SERVICE, YET SHE REMAINED STEADFAST IN HER ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY UNTIL HER PASSING; AND

WHEREAS, THE POSTHUMOUS ELEVATION OF HARRIET TUBMAN TO THE RANK OF GENERAL SERVES AS LONG-OVERDUE RECOGNITION OF HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND MILITARY STRATEGY, SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL WHO SEEK TO CHALLENGE INJUSTICE AND UPLIFT THE OPPRESSED; AND

WHEREAS, AS WE CELEBRATE THESE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE 60TH AREA II CONFERENCE OF TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC., WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY IN EVERY ARENA, ENSURING THAT THE SACRIFICES AND TRIUMPHS OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN LIKE VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS AND GENERAL HARRIET TUBMAN CONTINUE TO INSPIRE AND GUIDE US;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF AREA II TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. COMMEND AND HONOR VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS FOR HER TRAILBLAZING LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO JUSTICE, AND WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION TO GENERAL HARRIET TUBMAN FOR HER UNMATCHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT WE CELEBRATE THESE HISTORIC MILESTONES AS SYMBOLS OF PROGRESS AND RESILIENCE, PLEDGING TO UPHOLD THEIR LEGACIES BY WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ADVANCE JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

Alexandria City Chapter Lady Carrie Johnson Clark Chapter President

Alexandria City Chapter... on the Move in Alexandria, VA!

On June 8, 2024, The Alexandria City Chapter Top Ladies and Top Teens held a “**Sweet Delights, Endless Smiles:**



It's an Ice Cream Social” and treated the Springhill Assisted Living residents in Alexandria, Virginia to ice cream. There were 58 people attendees, (13 Top Ladies and four Top Teens). Smiles were shared and we celebrated a resident celebrating her 90th Birthday. The Ladies also enjoyed a special musical treat by Lady Aretha's mother, Mrs. Retha, as she played the piano prior to our departure. This event was hosted by

the Senior Citizens Committee, under the chairmanship of Ladies Sandra Hayes and Annette Debisette.

On January 4, 2025, Alexandria City Top Ladies and Top Teens came together at the Charles E. Beatley Library, where they assembled 50 care packages containing eight personal hygiene items. The items included socks for the senior citizen residents at Springs Hills Assisted Living Facility in Alexandria, VA. The care packages were delivered to residents on January 15, 2025.



On May 3, 2025, the Alexandria City Chapter (ACC) Top Ladies and Top Teens displayed their commitment to supporting March for Babies and March of Dimes. Lady Leona, Chair for March for Babies, along with Lady Leila, Lady Yolondria (ACC TTA Advisor) & Teen Hailey (ACC TTA President) participated in the annual March of Dimes/March for Babies Walk in Washington, D.C. to support efforts relating to improving the health of mothers and babies, and to date raised \$1,887.

Baltimore Chapter

Lady Teneshia Richards-Brooks

Chapter President

Baltimore Chapter Brings the Heat at AFRAM 2024



The Baltimore Chapter made a powerful statement at AFRAM 2024—one of the largest African American festivals on the East Coast—held June 22–23, 2024 in the heart of Druid Hill Park. With temperatures soaring above 90 degrees, our Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Teen parents showed unwavering commitment, engaging with over 600 people from Baltimore City and County during the two-day cultural celebration as a proud participant on Community Row.

“Meet Me at AFRAM” was more than a festival slogan—it was our call to action. For over eight hours each day, our members brought warmth, wisdom, and welcome to every festivalgoer who stopped by. Our vibrant booth served as a hub for meaningful dialogue,

community uplift, and shared purpose.

Visitors learned about our impactful programs—including our participation in *Festival of Trees*, the *Status of Women* seminars focused on women’s health and wellness, and the personal journeys of our Teens in the



Top Teens of America program. These interactions sparked conversations about mentorship, service, and how to get involved. Whether distributing materials, answering questions, or simply offering a smile, our Top Ladies and Top Teens made a lasting impression.

AFRAM 2024 reminded us that our mission matters—and when we show up with purpose, communities respond.

We’re not just participating - we’re leading, connecting, and inspiring. The Baltimore Chapter is proud to continue building a legacy of purpose-driven service in every space we enter.



Central Virginia Chapter

Lady Sonja Hill

Chapter President

Central Virginia Chapter's Little Free Library Promotes Literacy at Glen Lea Elementary School

On March 28, 2025, the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.® Central Virginia Chapter proudly launched their **Little Free Library** at Glen Lea Elementary School, part of the Henrico Public Schools. This project was a significant milestone in our Literacy Thrust initiative, which aims to promote reading and literacy within our community. Despite facing a constrained timeline for completion, our dedicated chapter members worked diligently to successfully bring this vision to life.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lords Calvin Farr and Al Taswell, whose tireless contributions and commitment exemplified true community spirit.

Their "labor of love" was instrumental in turning this idea into a reality, and we could not have accomplished this without their support.



Little Free Libraries have played a crucial role in fostering a love for reading by facilitating the sharing of over 400 million books since their inception in 2009. This project serves as an extension of the Central Virginia Chapter's ongoing commitment to community service, with a focus on enhancing literacy, increasing access to books for individuals of all ages and backgrounds, inspiring a passion for reading, and building a stronger community through shared resources.

Lady Regina Farr, our dedicated Literacy Chair, spearheaded this meaningful initiative alongside her committed committee member, Lady Terri Barnes. Additionally, Lady Chaundra Taswell served as the 2nd Vice President and project chairperson, overseeing all aspects of the library's development and ensuring its successful implementation.

Central Virginia Chapter Hosts Mental Health Matters

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.® of Central Virginia Chapter is thrilled to have significantly impacted the community of Central Virginia. The chapter hosted "When is it Too Much," on Monday, May 20, 2024, and it was an outstanding success. The primary objective was to enhance community awareness and comprehension of mental health, an issue of vital societal importance. Our honored guest speakers, Licensed Therapist Ms. Pranati Walker and Dr. Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, offered essential insights and advice on fostering mental health awareness. We express our profound gratitude to Lady Linda H. Gilliam, Chair of the Status of Women Program Thrust for the Central Virginia Chapter, for her exemplary leadership in spearheading this community initiative; Lady Patyence Green, Advisor for Top Teens; and Top Teen J'adore, President of the TTA/CVA Chapter, who excellently moderated the event. Lady Rona Evans, 1st Vice President, oversees our Programming Thrusts, guided by the esteemed leadership of Lady Sonja Hill, President. Recognizing that emotional and mental health care is just as imperative as physical health, it remains crucial to keep informing the community about mental health support methods.



Dale City – Prince William County Chapter

Lady J. Allison Riley

Chapter President

Dale City – Prince William County Chapter Demonstrates “Continuity of Service in Action”!

The Dale City-Prince William County (DC-PWC) Chapter kicked off the program year in September 2023 with its 2nd Annual Sickle Cell Disease Awareness (SCDA) Walk. This event served to increase SCDA awareness in the community and support the TLOD National “Building Bridges” Campaign. The chapter continued to support need in the community the entire year. Fast forward to May 2024, when the Status of Women Committee led participation in the 4th Annual Prince William County 5K Walk for Mental Health Awareness. This action supported “National Mental Health Awareness Month”.

Additionally, the Senior Citizens Committee partnered with the “Tribute at the Glen” Senior assisted living facility in a salute to the Armed Forces. This same committee, along with the Inspiration Committee, led activities at the Prince William County Adult Health Care Center that included reading a poem and singing songs to Senior Citizens.

The chapter continued to demonstrate “Continuity of Service in Action” while engaging in cleanup of the Dumfries Free African American Cemetery. installed American flags in preparation of Dumfries 275th anniversary. This supported the “Great American The chapter closed out the month of honoring one of their own, Charter Lady Sharron Jackson, by crowning her Chapter’s 2024 Senior Diva!



The month of June 2024 kicked off with and Prayer Event at the Neabsco led by the Social & Inspiration which raised awareness for fitness, wellness, and TLOD’s presence in the



Action” while Slave and Ladies also of the Town celebration. Cleanup”. May by Member the

a Powerwalk Boardwalk Committees, spiritual community.



Teens leveraged the Dale City-Prince William County Chapter’s 2nd Annual Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Walk to conduct a TTA membership drive while rehearsing their TTA elevator pitch in a local mall.

(Pictured L-R: Front Row, Left to Right: Teen Alex Phair – TTA President, Teen Destiny Smith, and Teen Sheridyn Strange – TTA Corresponding Secretary. Back Row, Left to Right: Teen Khloe Lawrence – TTA 1st VP, Lady Caprecia Miller – TTA Advisor, Teen Kymere Smith-Berryman, Teen Elijah Jones – TTA Chaplain and TTA Assistant Recording Secretary, and Lady Angela Allen – Assistant TTA Advisor)

Fairfax County Chapter

Lady Amber Talbert

Chapter President

History-Making at TLOD Inc. Fairfax County Chapter Induction & Chartering Luncheon

The Fairfax County Chapter chartering marked a significant milestone, as the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.,



officially welcomed 50 new members, the largest in TLOD, Inc. history, and is the last chapter chartered by Area II Director Lady Hope Ruffin under her administration,

Our A.I.M. Is Service (Act-Innovate-Motivate). Attending the event were national TLOD, Inc. officers: National President & CEO Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, Past National President & CEO Lady Sharon J. Beard, and National 2nd Vice President Lady Kendra Gillespie. Also, attending the chartering were Area II Director Lady Hope Ruffin and Area II Washington, D.C. Chapter, 2nd Vice President Lady Christine Harrell. Ladies from other locations throughout Area II were those representing chapters from Maryland, New York, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. as well. The Fairfax County Chapter 2025-2027 elected officers installed were: Lady Amber R. Talbert (President); Lady Charlotte Lofton (First Vice President); Lady Millisa Gary (Second Vice President); Lady Angel Cooper (Recording Secretary); Lady Crystal Bivens (Financial Secretary); Lady Indra Gibson (Treasurer); and Lady Marlo Thomas Watson (Top Teens of America Advisor). Appointed officers include: Lady Glenda



Walker (Director of Operations); Lady Nikki Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary); Lady Deborah Miller (Historian); and Lady Sonja Robinson (Parliamentarian). The chartering service project was held at the Emery Rucker shelter, and beautification was provided for the grounds.

A pantry shelf was established with clothes, food, and toiletries. Meals were provided for over 200 people.



Gotham Chapter

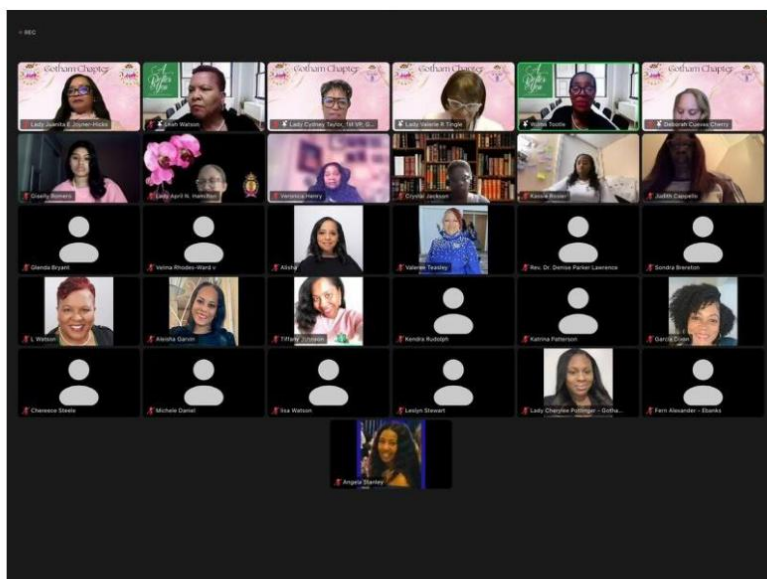
Lady Deborah Cuevas Cherry

Chapter President

Gotham Hosts Effective Leadership Webinar for Women's History Month

On March 20, 2024, the Gotham Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. held its 2nd annual Women's History Month event, sponsored by the Status of Women Committee, ably led by Lady Valerie R. Tingle, who served as event moderator. This year, the virtual event featured leadership entrepreneurs Leah E. Watson and Wilma Holmes Tootle, proprietors of A Better You Consulting Services, LLC, a Long Island based business that seeks to nurture budding leaders in all phases of operational endeavors. Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Tootle provided an inexhausted list of traits that define stellar leadership, such as patience, empathy, creativity and positivity. They explained that effective feedback and timely communication are crucial to strong team building, as well as the ability to teach and mentor. The audience of over 50 participants enthusiastically

received their message, asking questions about participating in their leadership development services.



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Gotham Chapter
2nd Annual Status of Women
Women's History Month Seminar
"The Leader in You: Tips on Effective Leadership"
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 8:00pm-9:30pm EST

Invocation: Rev. Dr. Denise Parker Lawrence, Special Guest Minister
Opening Remarks President: Valerie R. Tingle, Status of Women, Chair
Introduction of President Valerie R. Tingle, Status of Women, Chair
Greetings: Deborah Cuevas Cherry, President, Gotham Chapter
Top Ladies of Distinction Program Overview: Cydney Taylor, Program Chair
Introduction of the Special Program Presenters, Wilma Holmes Tootle and Leah E. Watson:
Valerie R. Tingle, Status of Women Chair
A Better You Consulting Services, LLC: "The Leader in You: Tips on Effective Leadership"
Acknowledgements: Valerie R. Tingle, Status of Women Chair
Closing Remarks Cydney Taylor, Program Chair

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Hampton Roads Chapter Lady Cynthia Salley Nicholson Chapter President

Senior Citizens in the Heart of Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America believes that caring for senior citizens is not just a programmatic thrust, but a calling for humanity. Beginning with the 2023-24 service year, the chapters adopted two facilities - Parson's Residential Care Center (Chesapeake, VA) and Northern Cardinal Rehabilitation and Nursing (Suffolk, VA). These partnerships seek to provide care and support for mature adults.

Under the leadership of Senior Citizens Chair Lady Ingrid Watson-Miller, Grandparents' Day in September was celebrated by sending 22 greeting cards to the seniors at the Parson's Residential Care Center. Chapter President, Lady Cynthia Salley Nicholson, remarks, "Taking care of our seniors is an opportunity to share love with those who need us most." Second Vice President, Lady Jacqueline Rhodes, was also in attendance for the Grandparents Day event, delivering cards to senior citizens.



During the Pink and Blue Day of Service, Ladies and Teens came together to pack bags for 120 residents in both partner facilities. The assembly line of products included personal toiletries and socks. Sharing the experience with Teens led to conversations about other opportunities to serve seniors in the Hampton Roads community. Donations continue with the purchase of items to enhance the lives of seniors. The chapters collected puzzle and word search books to share with residents during the spring. While this was a



Lady Falon Horton, Lady Sheila Mason, and Teen Madyson Horton count bags for seniors

senior activity, the impact on literacy was a benefit of this activity. The well-being of seniors is truly at the heart of the Hampton Roads Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America.

Haymarket Gainesville Chapter

Lady Monice Jackson-Ferrill

Chapter President

Spotlight on TTA Haymarket Gainesville Chapter

On Saturday, May 4, 2024, the Top Teens of America Haymarket Gainesville Chapter inducted seven new Teens into the Chapter. The Teens hailed from Prince William and Fairfax Counties in Northern Virginia, and they are all very active in their local schools in the areas of academics, sports, and community. One of the new Teens is an Eagle Scout; and others are sports enthusiasts who participate in golf, competitive cheer, travel soccer and football. We are excited to welcome them into the Chapter.

Five of our current Top Teens are graduating seniors who all have decided to attend college in the fall. They are Teen Ralston K. Mitchell, Old Dominion University, Business; Teen Jailah Anna Kai Salley, Spellman College, Economics; Teen Makenzie Skinner, Hampton University, Journalism; Teen Kenric D. Stevenson, Louisiana State University, Engineering; and Teen Journey Trotter-Mason, Cornell University, Engineering. The five amazing Top

Teens amassed numerous academic awards, and they have received \$5,000 in scholarships from the TLOD Haymarket Gainesville Chapter. We are truly grateful for their contributions to our Top Teens of America program.



Two Top Teens from the Haymarket Gainesville Chapter received top awards at the Area II 41st Leadership Conference on April 27, 2024. Teen Marley Lesniak won TTA Performing Arts, 1st Place Winner and Teen Journey Trotter-Mason won Outstanding Top Teen of America Scrapbook, 1st Place Winner. These Top Teens embody the spirit of TTA as they are leaders in the Chapter, their schools, and the community.

Front Row – Newly Inducted Teens: Teen Nina Baltimore, Teen Jacob Bookard, Teen Joe Bookard II, Teen Evan Kinsel, Teen Ayannah Sanchez, Teen Aaliyah Shabazz, and Teen Nasir Shabazz. Second Row: Teen Sage Davis, Teen Donovan Stevenson, Teen Trinity Wells, Teen Journey Trotter-Mason, and Teen Syrus Davis.



**Teen Marley Lesniak,
TTA Recording Secretary, TTA**



**Teen Journey Trotter-Mason
TTA Parliamentarian**

Montgomery County Chapter

Lady Diana Raynor

Chapter President

Montgomery County Chapter Supports UNCF

As UNCF says, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Therefore,, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Montgomery County Chapter contributed to UNCF by volunteering our time, money, and talent to support UNCF events.

On March 30, 2025 the Montgomery County Chapter hosted UNCF Sunday with Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington D.C.

Ladies Diana Raynor (President), Terri Molyneaux (church member), Barbara Wynn (UNCF chair), Karen Williams (2nd Vice President) and Lord Robert William attended and presented information on UNCF and the TLOD organization. Together,



the church and Montgomery County chapter raised \$834.00 for UNCF. Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ is one of the churches we partner with to serve the community. We have been



serving with them at multiple events over the last three years.

In addition, on March 31, 2025 the Montgomery County Chapter volunteered to register and greet individuals at the UNCF 2025 DMV Leaders Breakfast located in Washington, D.C. Ladies Diana Raynor and Angel Cook checked in



and greeted guests for the breakfast and assisted with the setup and teardown of the event. There were over 100 individuals in attendance. The Montgomery County chapter has volunteered at this event for three consecutive years in a row.

Montgomery County Chapter newly inducted Teens

New York Tri-City Gems Chapter

Lady Andrea West

Chapter President

New York Tri-City Gems Chapter Shines Through Service

The New York Tri-City Gems Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. continues to uplift the community through purposeful service and impactful partnerships. This spring, our chapter led three signature initiatives that reflect our unwavering commitment to advocacy, civic engagement, and intergenerational outreach.



In honor of **Earth Day**, members partnered with local residents to host a community beautification project across Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. Over 75 volunteers—including Top Teens—collected litter, planted flowers, and distributed 100 eco-awareness kits, reinforcing environmental stewardship across neighborhoods.

Demonstrating the power of civic voice, the chapter co-hosted an **Albany Mayoral Forum** in collaboration with local organizations: NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., League of Women Voters of Albany, NPHC, Capital Area Urban League, Walkable Albany



and Capital Streets of Albany, NY. With over 120 community members in attendance, the forum provided a platform for residents to engage directly with mayoral candidates on pressing issues such as education, housing, and safety. This nonpartisan event empowered constituents to make informed choices at the ballot box.

Our beloved **Pink and Blue Senior Citizens Project**, co-led with the Top Teens of America, Inc. Tri-City Chapter, brought joy to 40 senior residents at a local assisted living facility. Together, we donated 40 care bags filled with comfort items, handcrafted cards, and wellness essentials. The intergenerational exchange uplifted both the youth and elders, reinforcing the value of connection and compassion.



Through these service initiatives, the Tri-City Gems continue to model excellence, leadership, and love for community—one project at a time.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.—Serving youth and adults, one community at a time.

Patuxent River Chapter

Lady Sabrina Ridley

Chapter President

Patuxent River Chapter Welcomes 23 New Members

On March 16, 2025 the POWERful Patuxent River Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. proudly welcomed 23 dynamic new members into its ranks. These phenomenal women bring with them a wealth of diverse experiences and a deep commitment to service—qualities that are sure to enrich the chapter's ongoing efforts in the community.

The addition of these dedicated individuals marks a significant moment of growth and renewed energy for the chapter. As they join in the mission to serve youth and adults, their contributions are expected to make a meaningful impact. The Patuxent River Chapter looks forward with great anticipation to the accomplishments these Ladies will achieve as they embody the spirit of sisterhood and service.



Welcome to our New Ladies: Alisa Artis, Brenda Cole, Chaye C Suber, Danielle Russell, Denise Johnson, Faye E. Vaughn-Cooke, Gina Scott, Kasey Jearald-Makell, Katie Lea Christian Smith, Kirtina Latimer, LaDonia Wilkins, Lauren Henry, Michala Goode-Arthur, Monette Russell- Ward, Nicole Parks, Nzinga Cardwell, Pamela Rowls, Phyllis Throckmorton, Shelia Craig Whiteman, Sherkeria Simmons, Sonia McLain, Stephanie R Allen, Stephanie Scates



Philadelphia Chapter Lady Mary S. Dean Chapter President

"Philly LOVE Redefined"

The Philadelphia Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) is celebrating a powerful new commitment to rebrand, expand, and redefine its purpose. With the unveiling of a new chapter logo and the induction of 12 exceptional members, coined as the **"Distinguished Dozen,"** the chapter is reinvigorating its presence in the community and embracing a renewed vision for the future.

The newly revealed emblem, titled **"Philly LOVE: Top Ladies of Distinction,"** artistically blends the city's iconic **LOVE** sculpture with TLOD's national crown. Golden lettering and a handwritten "Philly" infuse the design with grace and hometown pride, symbolizing the chapter's legacy and forward momentum.



Equally impactful is the addition of 12 accomplished women whose careers span education, healthcare, business, and community advocacy. Their collective energy, for service and leadership, reflects the very spirit of TLOD and its mission to uplift and empower.

Together, the new logo and the Distinguished Dozen embody the chapter's redefined identity—one rooted in legacy, energized by growth, and committed to meaningful service.

Prince George's County Chapter

Lady Dawna Dilworth

Chapter President

Caring for Caregivers: Prince George's County Hosts Workshop for Parents of Children with Autism and Disabilities

Capitol Heights, MD — On April 25, 2025, the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter, in partnership with United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP), hosted an impactful and informative workshop for parents of children with autism and other disabilities.

Held at UCAP's Capitol Heights location, the event welcomed 10 UCAP-affiliated parents for an afternoon of support, education, and wellness. The workshop offered expert-led sessions focused on parenting strategies tailored to children on the autism spectrum, including tools for communication, behavior management, and emotional support.

Fifteen members of the Top Ladies of Distinction supported the event, ensuring a warm and inclusive environment. A standout feature of the day was a self-care segment that included a calming paint and sip activity and guided breathing exercises, encouraging



parents to prioritize their own wellness.

To allow full participation, on-site childcare was provided. Children enjoyed supervised games, storytelling, and interactive play led by TLOD volunteers—fostering joy and engagement in a safe space.

“This event was about more than information—it was about connection, care, and community,” said a



TLOD representative. “We’re proud to support families with love and leadership.”

The workshop reflects TLOD's mission to serve youth and adults through purposeful outreach and support, making a lasting difference in the lives of families across Prince George's County.



Queens Empire Chapter

Lady Sharen Willis

Chapter President

Queens Empire Chapter TLOD/TTA in Action

The Queens Empire Chapter started out this year out with a blood drive in September, a Friendsgiving in November, and a Mentor/Mentee Pink & Blue Day of Service in January. Activities involving our teens were inspiring. In September we partnered with New York Blood Bank and Candice Sickle Cell group at York College and received

over 100 registered donors which amounted to 90 blood donations = more than 270 lives affected.

In November our chapter collected over 10 big turkeys, and fixings for a Thanksgiving family dinner and donated it to one of the community middle school families identified as 10 plus families in need; after packing and presenting the bags we all sat down and had a family style dinner

sharing what we are thankful for. In January, Chapter mentors and mentees collected and put together 50 bags of some necessities and fun stuff for our seasoned saints. We distributed them to two senior centers. Most recently we held our annual Spring Luncheon where we honored individuals for Community Beautification, Service to Senior Citizens, our graduating Top Teens and Community Partnerships.

We especially want to mention our honoree Dr. Jean Phelps from York College who allowed us to partner with the college for the awesome and

successful blood drive, special thanks to Lady Belinda Johnston-Briggs our Sickie-Cell Chair, for sticking with it and making it happen, and to all the ladies in our chapter who chaired or participated in all our activities and making them all a success this year. Our chapters joint events were the best.



Stafford County Chapter

Lady Angelique Neal

Chapter President

Stafford County Ladies & Teens Connect Through Service and Mentorship



January 2025 was a bustling month for the Stafford County Ladies and Teens, marked by impactful community engagement. The Senior Citizens Committee and Top Teens collaborated on a heartwarming Pink and Blue National Day of Service and "Me and Mentor" event.

Ladies and Teens joined forces at the business of one of the chapter Ladies to assemble care packages for seniors at the Viva Senior Living Facility and the Teach 2 Reach Senior Community Café, both in Fredericksburg, VA. The bags included cozy blankets, essential toiletries, and personal handwritten cards created by the Teens. The collaborative effort highlighted the power of intergenerational connection and the Teens' commitment to serving their community.

The event also fostered valuable mentorship opportunities. Teens worked alongside their mentors organizing and preparing the care packages, building teamwork and organizational skills. Existing mentor-mentee pairs connected on program matters, while new matches had the chance to meet face-to-face, laying the foundation for supportive relationships.

These successful events highlight the dedication of Stafford County Ladies and Teens to community service and foster meaningful connections across generations. The impact of our efforts, both on providing practical support and in creating heartfelt moments of connection, is truly commendable. We look forward to seeing the continued positive influence throughout the year!



Visitor Jaylen Harris, Teen Douglas Campbell and Teen Torie Martin creating personalized cards.



Lady Andrea Jackson & Teen Sydni Tennant doing quality control on the bags

Sugar Hill Manhattan Pearls Chapter

Lady Brenda Jones

Chapter President

Sugar Hill Manhattan Pearls Welcomes Six New Members!

We are thrilled to announce the induction of six incredible new members into the “Sugar Hill” Manhattan Pearls chapter! These dedicated ladies were officially welcomed during the Area II Leadership Conference held at the Uniondale Long Island Marriott on April 24, 2024.



The Sugar Hill Manhattan Pearls is honored to have their expertise and passion join our mission of eradicating poverty on all levels. From tackling food insecurity to promoting literacy and destigmatizing period poverty, these new members bring a wealth of experience that will further strengthen our impact on the communities we serve.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest members:

Lady Carla D. Brown
Lady Deneane Brown-Blackmon
Lady Zaza Farrell

Felicia Gray
Janene McGraw
Chelsea Yolanda Norton

With the addition of these remarkable women, the “Sugar Hill” Manhattan Pearls Chapter is poised to make an even greater difference in the lives of those in need. We are excited to see all that they will accomplish as part of our chapter.

2025 Community Impact Highlights

Little Free Library at Harlem Hospital



The chapter proudly maintains a Little Free Library in the pediatric ward of Harlem Hospital, stocked with culturally responsive books featuring African-American authors and characters of color. This initiative promotes early childhood literacy and fosters a love for reading among young patients and their families.

Community Friendship Outing – Riff Raff Movie Premiere

In a celebration of sisterhood and the arts, the chapter organized a community outing to support our member, Lady Simone Safford, who served as Executive Producer of the film Riff Raff. Members, Top Teens, and families attended opening weekend, highlighting our commitment to uplifting one another while exposing youth to Black excellence in film and entertainment.



Washington D.C. Chapter

Lady Marie Bowe-Quick

Chapter President

Washington DC Chapter Celebrates 13th Charter Anniversary & Literary Milestone of Lady Dr. Schalette Poteat

On February 17, 2025, the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) Washington DC Chapter, under the leadership of Chapter President Lady Marie Bowe-Quick, joyfully celebrated its 13th Charter Anniversary at Milk & Honey Restaurant in Washington, D.C. The event honored years of impactful service and recognized a major personal achievement by Lady Dr. Schalette Poteat—the publication of her debut book, “Pick Up Your Pen: A 21-Day Journey to Writing Your Next Chapter.”



Lady Dr. Poteat's inspirational journal guides women through healing, purpose, and personal reflection. While originally intended for women recovering from divorce, the book evolved into a resource for all women seeking clarity, healing, and spiritual direction. Structured over 21 days, it features scriptures, personal stories, divine revelations, and prompts encouraging readers to write their own goals, prayers, and affirmations. This achievement reflects the mission of TLOD's national Literacy Initiative, which promotes reading and writing as tools for empowerment and community progress. The Washington DC Chapter is actively involved in literacy-focused programs such as book drives, mentoring, and youth development.

“Lady Dr. Schalette Poteat's journey from vision to publication embodies everything TLOD represents—empowerment, purpose, and legacy through literacy,” said Chapter President Lady Marie Bowe-Quick. “Her book is a testimony to the power of the written word.” As the chapter celebrates 13 years of service, Lady Dr. Poteat's accomplishment stands as a shining example of leadership, literacy, and legacy in action.

Under the dynamic leadership of Chapter President, Lady Marie Bowe-Quick, the Washington, DC Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) has made remarkable strides and achieved significant milestones. The chapter's achievements reflect the tireless dedication and visionary guidance of Lady Bowe-Quick, whose leadership has inspired and driven the chapter to new heights.



One of the most notable recent accomplishments was at the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Area II Leadership Conference, where the Chapter's Past 2nd Vice President, Lady LaCreda Drummond-Mondon of the Washington, DC Chapter was selected as the Area II 2023-2024 Top Lady of the Year.

Additionally, the chapter celebrated Lady Beatrice Adderley Kelly for being named the Area II Senior Diva of 2024 and Top Teen Azaria McKnight for her title as Ms. TTA for the Washington, DC Chapter. These accolades underscore the chapter's commitment to excellence and community service.

Another historic moment for the chapter was Area II's first Founders' Day event, which honored TLOD's organizing founder, Lady Major Ozell Dean. The event featured presentations from Chapter President, Lady Marie Bowe-Quick and National Top Teen Chaplain and DC Chapter Top Teens of America President, Teen Azaria McKnight.

Another testament to the chapter's growth and vibrancy under Lady Bowe-Quick's leadership was the largest induction ceremony in its history. On March 24, 2024, the Washington, DC Chapter welcomed 19 new Ladies, an event that signifies the chapter's expanding influence and commitment to fostering leadership and service.





**Lady Vynessa Alexander
National Area III Director**

Area III is composed of nine states: Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. The area currently has 16 chapters and growing.

The Area III theme is: “Embracing the Call to Service with Excellence and Enthusiasm.”



Lady Vynessa Alexand
National Area III Director

Teen Jackson Caldwell
Area III TTA President

As we usher in our 51st year of leadership and service, Area III has consistently embodied our theme, "Embracing the Call to Service with Excellence and Enthusiasm." This guiding principle has influenced every initiative and event, highlighting our commitment to impactful service delivered with energy and dedication.



Service remains at the core of our mission. Emerging from the pandemic, we have recommitted to our grassroots origins, focusing on in-person community engagement and direct service. Our programs have targeted both youth and adults, ensuring comprehensive community support. We have prioritized excellence in all our endeavors, ensuring our community service efforts are both impactful and actionable.

Our Joint Cluster initiative marked the beginning of the new biennium with remarkable enthusiasm and excellence. The Top Ladies and Top Teens united to discuss the new theme and set goals for the Area. The Top Ladies provided updates on Parliament-Top 2024 and discussed expectations for the Area Conference. In their breakout sessions, the Top Teens covered protocol, policies, and procedures. They also participated in a Social Media panel and explored critical topics such as scholarships, postsecondary pathways, and communication skills.

The Area III Conference was a standout highlight of our programming year, offering both Ladies and Teens the opportunity to engage in enriching and meaningful workshops. Our past national Presidents were presented with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, commemorating their dedicated volunteerism. The Top Ladies participated in a variety of sessions that enhanced their skills and knowledge, reinforcing their roles as community leaders and service providers. The Teens engaged in dynamic sessions designed to equip them with essential life skills and knowledge, preparing them for future leadership roles.





PRESIDENTIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

<p>Lady Patricia Jones, M.Ed. Supervisor and Chief Executive Officer Waukegan Township</p>	<p>Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte 6th National Area III Director Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.</p>	<p>Lady Jacquelyn Heath Parker 4th National Area III Director 6th National President Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.</p>
<p>Lady Drema Lee Woldman 9th National Area III Director 13th National President Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.</p>	<p>Lady Ynessa Alexander National Area III Director Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.</p>	<p>THE PRESIDENTIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</p>

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Cardinal Chapter Lady LaToya Casson Chapter President

Cardinal Chapter is on the move within the community!

To focus on the National TTA/TLOD 2023-2025 initiative, the Cardinal Chapter Ladies and Teens partnered with a local Foster Care facility, Every Child's Hope in St. Louis, MO. Top Teens strategized a plan, gathered donations and packed luggage full of toiletries for the Foster Care residents ages 1-17. The items in the luggage will help foster youth if they are just entering foster care, transitioning to residential care or aging out of foster care. The luggage gave youth a place to store their items as they travel from home to home. In the upcoming months, Ladies will perform educational workshops that will assist the adult residents ages 18-21 with a successful transition to be able to make it on their own. Chapters will be a support system that will encourage, educate, and motivate the residents with activities.



Teen Terry Wilson and Lady Dorothy Fisher partnering and packing donated items.



Lady Ashley Moore, Project Chair, Lady Dorothy Fisher, Every Child's Hope Directors, and Lady Yolanda Austin delivering over 100 care packages to Every Child's Hope

Mother of the Year Luncheon: The Cardinal Chapter Status of Women Committee acknowledged and celebrated the accomplishments of outstanding women within the local St. Louis community. The chapter



created an award ceremony recognition brunch held at the Renaissance Airport Hotel, that spotlighted nominated Mothers achievements and contributions to society. Over 13 mothers were nominated. The luncheon served as a fundraiser that featured successful women leaders from diverse communities who shared their experiences and insights to empower and inspire Ladies, Top Teens, friends and family. TTA served as escorts and supported setting up and breaking down decorations. Mother nominees were awarded and received an empowerment speech by Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, TLOD 6th National Area III Director and 10th National President. A portion of the proceeds will be divided to support TTA Scholarships and to fund Projects/Thrusts for the upcoming program year.

Chicago Chapter Lady Wanda Russell-Ganaway Chapter President

The Power of Giving: The Chicago Chapter Hosts its First Blood Drive

The Chicago Chapter hosted its first annual blood drive on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at Kennicott Park, a Chicago Park District site. The Chapter worked in partnership with the American Red



Cross, the Chicago Park District, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Chicago Alumnae Chapter to solicit volunteers to donate blood to help ensure patients have blood to save lives. There was a strong push to have donors donate Power Red to support patients that are fighting sickle cell disease.

“We encouraged Ladies to show up and bring and invite as many people as possible for a successful event,” stated Lady Wanda Russell, Chicago Chapter President. The event was highlighted in March during the Area III Conference at the Sickle Cell Luncheon. There were a total of 39 people who donated blood which helped the chapter meet its goal. The American Red Cross offered \$20 Amazon gift cards via email to all donors.

“This was my first time giving blood,” stated Lady Faith Dawson, Chicago Chapter Top Teen Advisor, and a breast cancer survivor. “My blood pressure was normal, and I haven’t seen those numbers in a while. I was happy about that! When the young man who drew my blood told me I saved three lives, it really made my day! I am so glad that it was a successful event.” Plans are underway to schedule the second blood drive for 2025.



Bowling For Babies- St. Jude and March of Dimes



The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. & Top Teens of America – Chicago Chapter proudly hosted their 1st Annual St. Jude's Bowling for Babies Fundraiser in partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and in support of the March of Dimes. This exciting all-ages event took place on October 14, 2024 at Lynwood Bowl and brought our community together to raise funds for vital children's health causes. Participants enjoyed bowling, laughter, and camaraderie – all for a meaningful mission. Thanks to your incredible support, we are excited to announce that we will

host this impactful event again in 2025!



Chicago West Loop Chapter

Lady Tanya Ford-Davenport

Chapter President

With Love, From Our Hands to Their Hearts

Spreading Comfort and Compassion: Two Powerful Service Projects Making an Impact

The Chicago West Loop Chapter proudly shares two initiatives that exemplify the spirit of giving and community care. Though different in focus, the Mother's Loss Blessing Bags and Operation Young Santa (OYS) projects serve one common purpose—to *restore hope where it is needed most*.

Honoring Grief with Grace

Launched in 2024, this project is intended to bring comfort to women grieving maternal loss—an often invisible and deeply personal sorrow—by gently reminding them: you are not alone. Chicago faces ongoing challenges with infant loss, with a mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000 live births—well above state and national averages. This reality underscores the importance of projects like these in offering compassion where it's most needed.



In May, a particularly difficult time for those who've lost a child, CWL distributed 25 Blessing Bags filled with items like herbal teas, scented candles, throw blankets, and handwritten notes of encouragement.



A Decade of Youth-Led Kindness

Founded by Teen Dereon Pyles at five years old, *Operations Young Santa* has completed its 11th year of compassionate service, providing care packages containing essentials like socks, snacks, toothbrushes, and a handwritten note of encouragement to individuals experiencing homelessness throughout Chicago.



In 2024, Chicago's unhoused population surged to an estimated 18,836 individuals, nearly tripling from the previous year. The growing need makes efforts like OYS all the more vital in delivering dignity and care. In support of OYS, Area 3 donated enough items to fill 200 care packages for distribution.

As Dereon graduates and transitions out of Top Teens, CWL Ladies and Teens thank and wish him continued success.

Confluence Chapter

Lady Mavis Merritt

Chapter President

Confluence Chapter Furnished Apartment for Unhoused

The Confluence Chapter is ready and willing to take on new challenges!! Small but mighty, we always “Confluence” together. In the fall of 2024, the Top Ladies of Distinction Confluence Chapter took on an opportunity to adopt (furnish) one of fifteen apartments for the unhoused at Peter and Paul Community Services (PPCS). With the acquisition of an 188,000 square foot building at 3223 N. Florissant Ave in St. Louis City, it is now one of the largest shelters for the unhoused in the St. Louis Metropolitan region. PPCS relied on volunteer community groups and



organizations such as TLOD Confluence Chapter to furnish a completely empty apartment.

In less than two months, The Confluence Chapter successfully provided the following items:

Kitchenette set * Sofa * Coffee/End tables * Lamps * Smart TV (and wall mount) * Bathroom Set * Linen * Pillows * Reading Chair * Shelving Unit * Pots/Pans * Dishes/Glasses * Microwave * Storage Containers * Eating/Serving/Cooking Utensils * Towels * Bathroom Set (curtain, liner, soap dish, etc) * Balcony Table and Chairs * Home Decor * Artwork * 32” Smart TV (with wall mount)



Confluence Chapter members collected, organized, tagged all items, and assisted in loading the truck that will deliver these necessities to PPCS. All home goods will be used to make an apartment liveable and comfortable for its new resident.

When dropping off the last few items including the television with wall mount, we were able to see the apartment set up and take a tour.

Midway Chicago Chapter

Lady Nikita Horn-Arter

Chapter President

Empowering Youth Through Service and Culture



This year, Midway Chicago Chapter made meaningful strides in both community service and cultural enrichment. On March 30, 2025, we hosted our very first Blood Drive at the Kroc Center located in Chicago, marking a powerful moment of giving and unity. Ladies and Top Teens came together, joined by other community members, to donate blood and support a vital cause. We proudly partnered with Versiti, who professionally administered the blood draws, ensuring a safe and smooth experience for all participants. The event was a resounding success and demonstrated our shared commitment to health and service.

In addition to service, we emphasized cultural exposure through a series of theatre outings designed to broaden our Teens' appreciation for the arts. On January 18, 2025, we attended *Black Panther in Concert* at the Auditorium Theatre in downtown Chicago, an inspiring fusion of film and live orchestra. On March 8, 2025, we experienced the powerful performances of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, whose work celebrates African American heritage and modern dance



Most recently, on April 12, 2025, we returned to the Auditorium

Theatre to enjoy the elegance and energy of the Parsons Dance Company.

These events offered more than just entertainment—they sparked dialogue, inspired creativity, and deepened our cultural awareness. Together, these experiences reflect our ongoing mission to serve the community while enriching the minds and hearts of our youth.

North Shore Chicago Chapter

Lady Brenda Baskin Pearson

Chapter President

Community Collaboration Leads to Successful Blood Drive and Resource Fair

On Saturday, May 31, 2025, the North Shore Chicago Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction Top and Teens of America partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Lambda Nu Omega Chapter, and First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church (FCMBC) to host a Community Blood Drive and Resource Fair in North Chicago, IL. The blood donation was conducted by Vitalant.

The event welcomed more than 150 attendees, including eight Teens, eight Ladies, two Lords, four parents, three former Teens home from college, and two inactive Ladies. It showcased the collaborative efforts of youth, families, and civic organizations working together to promote community health and well-being.



A variety of community partners contributed to the event's success that included Gift of Hope Ambassadors—to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) representatives shared mental health resources and support services. The First Corinthian Nurses Board offered complimentary blood pressure screenings, while Health Plus provided wellness bags filled with health information and helpful items.

A key feature of the event was the blood drive, where 42 individuals donated, resulting in the collection of 29 pints of blood—a meaningful contribution that could save up to 87 lives. The event also included Healthy Choices Workshops for both teens and adults, focusing on nutrition, self-care, and preventative health practices.

This impactful day exemplified the strength of community partnerships. The North Shore Chicago Chapter extends its heartfelt thanks to all participants and remains committed to ongoing service and empowerment.



Saint Louis Chapter

Lady Pamela Greer Hibbler

Chapter President

Saint Louis Chapter Brings Light and Laughter to Seniors & Presents Sustainable Gift

Saint Louis Chapter members gathered for an impactful day of service with our community partner, Salvation Army Booth Manor Senior Residence Facility on June 1, 2024. Planting and taking care of trees brings communities together. The Saint Louis Chapter presented and planted a tree for the residents of Booth Manor, 3131 Iowa, St. Louis, MO 63118 in the front yard.

Improving air quality, education, and preventing soil erosion, along with promoting biodiversity are examples of the environmental and social impact of tree planting. By planting trees, we take action against climate change and create healthier ecosystems.



Chapter President, Lady Pamela Greer Hibbler, and Top Teens under the leadership of Senior Citizens Chair, Lady Sharon Peters continued the afternoon fun and fellowship with Booth Manor residents.



Intergenerational relationships have been linked to improved health and well-being for both younger and older individuals. For older adults, engaging with younger generations can promote a sense of purpose and motivation, reduce feelings of depression and anxiety, and enhance cognitive function. For children and younger adults, intergenerational connections can provide a sense of belonging, emotional stability, and a positive outlook on life.

Saint Louis Chapter Teens served senior residents lunch and hosted rounds of games; Plinko and Motown trivia. The successful afternoon blended our programmatic thrusts; Community Partnerships, Senior Citizens, and Community Beautification and Top Teens.



Skyline Metropolitan Chicago Chapter

Lady Donna Townsend

Chapter President

49th Area III Leadership Conference Co-Hosted by Ebony and Skyline Metropolitan Chapters!!

Crowning Service “Taking Action, Leading with Passion, Purpose, and Excellence” the theme of the 49th Area III Leadership Conference, March 13-16, 2025, co-hosted by Ebony and Skyline Metropolitan chapters. Chartered in 1991, these powerhouses collaboratively planned with Area III National Area Director, Lady Vynessa Alexander and co chairs Ladies Celeste Bowman, Larrisa Redfield (Skyline Metro), Drunell Langston, Valerie Watkins (Ebony).



“Planning alongside Ebony was such a memorable experience”, Lady Donna Townsend, President Skyline Metropolitan. Over 400 attended, kicking off with an energetic joint opening, speaker’s tournament, a diverse talent competition and ending with “Let the Games begin” Host Night Gaming Festivities.



Day Two: The Memorial Service honoring TLOD Ladies Lords and Teens who transitioned since 2024 conference, plenary sessions and the mid-day highlight, the Crowning Service Leadership Luncheon sponsored by the Area III President’s Council Chairs. Ladies Donna Townsend and Nichole Sisson-Sailor.



The guest speaker, Lady Lisa Merchant (Skyline Metro) a Doctoral Candidate delivered an inspirational message about leadership and the important work of TLOD. The entire room was on their feet! We ended “Honoring Those Who Shape Our Communities” with honorees from all five programmatic thrusts and one humanitarian award.

Day Three: Members casted their votes for 2025-27 officers and attended plenary sessions, TTA college fair and workshops by National TLOD officers. The evening closed with the signature Area III Gala Night event, an array of TLOD awards and the ceremonial Mr. & Mrs. TTA presentation. The conference ended on a high note -- the TTA Blue and Silver Awards Program spotlighting graduating TTA seniors and TTA awards.

Will County Black Diamond Chapter

Lady Tracey Walker Hines

Chapter President

Honoring Outstanding Community Service - The 2nd Annual Black Diamond Awards

On October 19, 2024, the Will County Black Diamond Chapter proudly hosted its Second Annual Black Diamond Awards, an inspiring evening dedicated to celebrating exceptional leadership, community service, and the core values of TLOD. The event not only honored outstanding individuals and organizations but also served as a successful fundraiser to support the chapter's ongoing initiatives.

The awards recognized excellence in five key areas, each aligned with the organization's mission and symbolically named to reflect the strength, brilliance, and value of diamonds—just like the honorees themselves.



Chapter President, Lady Tracey Walker-Hines, Chapter Organizer, Lady Karen Dilligard, Award recipients: Teen Dereon Pyles, Lady Brandi Lewis, Dr. Kisha Roberts- Tabb, Latrice Mosley Smith, Tameka Washington, Kelia Barney-Colbert, Event, Chair, Lady Melanie Power-Burns

Award Recipients:

- **Young Diamond Award (TTA)** – Teen Dereon Pyles, recognized for his dedication to youth engagement through “Operation Santa.”
- **Black Diamond Sparkle Award (Community Beautification)** – ChiGivesBack, Co-Founder Sandy Robinson, for their impactful beautification and revitalization efforts.
- **Black Diamond Resilient Award (Community Partnerships)** – Kelia Barney-Colbert, Executive Director, honored for her work with the Robert Barney Prostate Cancer Foundation, promoting vital health education and community outreach.
- **Black Diamond Polished Award (Senior Citizens)** – Tameka Washington, celebrated for her unwavering commitment to elder care at St. James Nursing Home.
- **Black Diamond Brilliance Award (Status of Women)** – Latrece Mosley-Smith of the Purple Hose and Healing Foundation, and Dr. Kisha Roberts-Tabb CEO, The RTA Group, jointly honored for their advocacy and empowerment of women in their communities.



Each honoree embodies the brilliance of a black diamond—rare, powerful, and transformative. The Will County Black Diamond Chapter extends heartfelt congratulations to all awardees and gratitude to all who made this evening of excellence and impact possible.



Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson National Area IV Director

Area IV encompasses the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, as well as the islands of Jamaica and The Bahamas.

The Area IV theme is: “S.H.I.N.E.- Synergize, Harmonize, Ignite, Nurture, Empower and Serve.”



Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson National Area IV Director

Teen John Carey Area IV TTA President

The State of Area IV is solid and expanding as Area IV SHINES: S- Synergize, H-Harmonize, I-Ignite; N- Nurture; E- Empower and S-Serves.

For the first time in TLOD history, Area IV is now the largest TLOD area-- with our Top Lady – membership of 1,474. Area IV has 745 active Top Teens—the second largest number in TLOD, for a total of 2,179 Top Ladies and Top Teens combined. We are SHINING as we Serve! Our growth included TLOD's largest induction to date — 101 new Top Ladies in Atlanta on June 1, 2024. This historic induction involved North Atlanta, Atlanta Peachtree, New Rock, Gwinnett South DeKalb County Diamonds and the Birmingham, AL Chapter. In total we inducted 440 new Top Ladies in 22 chapters.

Area IV is growing through historic chapter charterings – seven new chapters have been chartered in a record nine months. Chartered chapters include the: Greater Gastonia Chapter in Gastonia, North Carolina; the Greater Charleston Chapter in Charleston, SC, TLOD's second ever international chapter—the Captivating Bahamas Chapter in Nassau Bahamas, Jewels of the Emerald Coast chapter in Fort Walton Beach/Pensacola FL, Duval County chapter in Jacksonville FL, the Greater Suwanee Gems Chapter of Suwanee Georgia and York County Jewels in Rock Hill, SC.



Chartered TLOD's second international chapter in Nassau, Bahamas, reestablishing its global presence.

Area IV Finances remain strong. Coming into office, the SHINES team raised \$94,000 in two years by launching the jewels and orchid circle program. For a donation above and beyond, ladies in Area IV received special conference amenities. In turn, the area was able to generate and provide \$30,000 in scholarships in 2024 and \$35,000 in scholarships. Five additional scholarships were secured: \$5000 from the Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson Leadership Endowment Scholarships; two \$5000 scholarships from 14 karat Plus and a \$1000 STEAM book award from Lady Joy Jackson- Guilford.

We are equally serious about expanding our Top Teens of America presence in our area. Eighty percent of our Top Teens chapters had inductions this past year, an increase of 25%. Top Teens are our priority and we are looking forward to having one Top Teen per Top Lady across Area IV!

Area IV had major participation in the Vivian Coe Richard Leadership Academy. Eight of the 28 participants were from Area IV -- including our Area IV TTA President John Carey. Six area IV chapters were represented with Top Teens participating at the VCR leadership academy.



Area IV presented a record \$60,000 in Area IV Top Teens Scholarship during 2023-2025.

Area IV continued to invest in our TLOD foundation —the Franchell Boswell Foundation, where we initiated the Lady Eddie Lee Marsh Endowment, in honor of the first National President and CEO ever elected from Area IV.

Several new corporate sponsors are in place, including a title sponsorship through the Denny's Corporation where we prepared and served 1100 hot meals in Winston-Salem, NC during the 42nd Area Conference. This represented one of the largest private meals events ever hosted by that company through their mobile diner relief efforts



Secured an historic partnership with the Denny's Corporation, serving 1,100 hot meals in the Winston-Salem community as part of the 42nd Area IV Conference.

Area IV ladies and teens continue to provide outstanding program of work support. Our efforts reached over 2.5 million people across our service area. This represents the second largest number of people reached among TLOD 6 areas. Our total program impact was over 80,000 total hours of program service with 1000 service events initiated and \$110,000 spent. In addition, Area IV program efforts were further enhanced with the annual August area wide school supply drive. Top Ladies and Top Teens across Area IV collected over 100,000 school supply items for elementary-aged children in the seven-state area and Nassau, Bahamas.

The area also expanded its national project impact with donations totaling over \$37,000 to the March of Dimes, St. Jude, UNCF, NCNW and the NAACP. We are the area giving the second largest amount among the six areas. The area IV project impact was significant given that we hosted a major sickle cell blood drive at the area conferences, secured three sickle cell mini grants totaling \$6000 and we generated over \$5800 in good health wins mini grants.

Additional area accomplishments included hosting successful, well-attended Area IV Meetings and Cluster Conferences:

- *42nd Area Conference with 700 TLOD and TTA Attendees- Winston Salem, NC*
- *43rd Area Conference with 1,000 TLOD and TTA Attendees- Atlanta, GA*
- *2023 Fall Cluster Meetings with 602 attendees*
- *2024 Virtual Fall Cluster Meeting with 600 attendees*

Area IV also hosted several large-scale get out the vote events including community engagement panel discussions.

The 2023-2025 programming period for Area IV was filled with record implementation, member growth and opportunities. TLOD will continue to make its mark as we serve youth and adults in our seven state area and Nassau Bahamas.

Atlanta Peachtree Chapter Lady Putrina F. Footman Chapter President

Wrapped in Love, Rooted in Service: Atlanta Peachtree Chapter Delivers a Double Day of Impact



On November 30, 2024, the Atlanta Peachtree Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) offered a radiant demonstration of heartfelt service. In one extraordinary day, the chapter executed two deeply meaningful initiatives—each rooted in compassion, love, and TLOD's unwavering commitment to serving youth and adults with grace and purpose.



The day began with the Senior Citizens Committee spreading holiday cheer at Legacy Transitional Care and Rehab in Atlanta, Georgia. Partnering with the Top Teens of America and the Community Partnership Committee, the Ladies and Teens transformed the facility's atmosphere by donating and decorating a Christmas tree in the common area. Additionally, 42 patient doors were adorned with festive bows, turning the halls into a winter wonderland brimming with color, laughter, and joy.

But it wasn't just about the decorations—it was about presence. Top Ladies and Teens joined residents in singing classic Christmas carols, creating tender moments of connection and cheer. Handwritten holiday cards were delivered to the dedicated staff, expressing sincere gratitude for their compassionate service. The event brought together 10 Top Ladies, 3 Top Teens, 1 Lord, and 7 guests, culminating in 30 Top Lady hours and 9 Top Teen volunteer hours, alongside 20 planning hours contributed by 3 Top Ladies and 1 Teen. Every detail was intentional, every gesture meaningful—a reminder that no one is forgotten during the holiday season.

Between these two acts of service, members took time to recharge and reconnect during a Sisterly Relations lunch at Little Azio's. Over a shared meal and heartfelt conversation, Ladies and Teens reflected on the joy of the morning while preparing for the afternoon's outreach. This gathering was more than a meal—it was a moment to bond, uplift, and reaffirm their shared commitment to being Tops in Service.

Later that afternoon, the chapter's focus shifted to East Lake Family Center, where the Sickle Cell Committee hosted a heartfelt Blanket Drive for individuals living with Sickle Cell Disease. With winter temperatures falling and health crises common among Sickle Cell Warriors, the chapter responded with warmth—both literally and figuratively. A total of 218 brand-new blankets were collected and donated, offering comfort and care to those in need. The event was supported by 36 Top Ladies, 5 Top Teens, 2 Lords, and 12 guests, contributing 144 Top Lady hours and 10 Top Teen hours.

What made the event especially memorable was the spirit of sisterhood and joy that filled the room. After their service was complete, attendees joined together for line dancing—a fun and bonding activity that transformed the service initiative into a celebration. Music played, laughter echoed, and the atmosphere radiated unity, care, and community. This double-day of impact beautifully reflected the mission of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Through intentionality, warmth, and compassion, the Atlanta Peachtree Chapter continues to uplift and transform the lives of those they serve. From seniors who felt seen and celebrated, to Sickle Cell Warriors wrapped in kindness, November 30 became far more than just another date—it became a living, breathing expression of service in motion.

Birmingham
Metropolitan Chapter
Lady Lisa L. Daniels
Chapter President

***Beautiful and Blessed in
Birmingham***

During the 2023-2024 service year, members of the Birmingham Metropolitan Chapter truly fulfilled our goals to impact the communities we serve. During the Fall, we served as volunteers with the UNCF Walk for Education, we donated over 300 canned food items for the Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive, and we donated over 400 items to Sickie Cell of Central Alabama.

In the spring, we continued our work to support the community by volunteering for the MLK Day Drum and the MLK Paint Day at Studio 2500, we provided the Arlington Rehabilitation Center with senior care packages, served as volunteers at the UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball, and made the drive all the way to Winston Salem, North Carolina for the Area IV Conference with new ladies and new teens who are ready to serve. We are a small but mighty chapter and we are actively looking to increase our connections to chapters around the country. If you are making plans to visit Birmingham, please reach out to us at tlodbbham@gmail.com. Finally, we appreciate the work of our national and area officers to support the Area IV Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.



Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter

Lady Saundra Maynor

Chapter President

Bryan-Liberty Counties TLOD/TTA: Serving our Communities Proudly

In a reflection over the past two years, the members of the Bryan-Liberty Counties (BLC) Chapter of Top Teens of America and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. continue to take action by collaborating, mentoring and making changes in the communities in which they serve. Serving our elders by beautifying the community and visiting, as well as bringing forth invaluable information through our Status of Women efforts along with much needed Blood Drives with the American Red Cross. Our Ladies, Teens, Lords and community members participated in several events that are aimed to educate, uplift and serve our communities. BLC hosts Webinars throughout the year for the community. These included topics in mental health, vaccinations, Sickle Cell, etc. We had several events surrounding Immunization, etc. sponsored by Good Health Wins. These educational Webinars gave insight to various vaccinations, eligibility and the reasons why they are important. Our chapter partners with Tapestry Connection, Inc. Sickle Cell organization throughout the year.



During Earth Day we have our annual booth and team up with our partner to have the Sickle Cell Mobile Unit come for Sickle Cell testing that is free to the community. Our Teens are included during retreat planning, and all of our Projects and Thrusts. As much as we mentor our Teens, they do the same for us by introducing us to the various new technology, their way of thinking and other valuable life lessons. As we near our 11th year of service, we know exactly "Why We Are Here!"

Cocoa-Brevard Chapter Lady Betty F. Goins Chapter President

Cocoa - Brevard Chapter Committed to Keeping Brevard Beautiful

Making Strides to End Breast Cancer; March of Dimes March for Babies

The Cocoa-Brevard Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America participated in the annual Keep Brevard Beautiful Trash Bash, sponsored by the City of Cocoa on April 5, 2025. TLOD President Lady Betty Goins, TTA Advisor Lady Avis Smokes, and TTA President Teen Khamari Davis led the effort with supplies from the City of Cocoa. Over 303 volunteers collected 84,148 pounds of trash. Cocoa Brevard Chapter was charged with cleaning the South Virginia Park area. The City of Cocoa won the Brevard County award for most trash collected in 2024, and the Cocoa Brevard Chapter received \$500 in 2024 and \$250 in 2025.



On October 26, our Top Ladies and Teens joined forces with the American Cancer Society for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, raising over \$3,000 and walking over three miles to support breast cancer research and programs. Top Ladies and Top Teens are all doing our part to end breast cancer.

For the March of Dimes, our team TLODTTA - Cocoa Brevard Chapter raised \$5,000 on June 30, 2024, and aims to reach the same goal by June 30, 2025, supporting research and programs to prevent premature births. Our team consisted of over 15 of our Top Ladies and 12 of our Top Teens.



MARCH OF DIMES FOR BABIES \$5,029



**TLODTTA - COCOA
BREVARD CHAPTER
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

aptains: Lady Pat Teen Ceriah

COLA City Chapter

Lady Inger M. Ferguson

Chapter President

COLA City Chapter Ladies & Teens Support Westside Residential Senior Living Facility

The COLA City Chapter made a heartwarming contribution to the Westside Residential Senior Living Facility during their annual Pink and Blue Day of Service. In a display of community solidarity and compassion, the COLA City Ladies and the Top Teens joined forces to bring joy and comfort to the senior residents.



The chapter donated personal hygiene gift baskets, a thoughtful gesture aimed at supporting the daily needs of the facility's residents. Each basket was carefully packaged to include essential items such as soap, lotion, blankets, shampoo, toothbrushes, and other toiletries, ensuring that the seniors have access to the necessities that enhance their quality of life.



The event was not just about giving physical items but also about creating moments of connection and care. Additionally, COLA City has committed to supporting the residents of Westside by also having a blended day of cleaning, led by our Community Beautification Thrust. The Chapter spent time planting flowers, painting, edging the grass, talking with residents, and appreciating their smiles, and companionship.

The COLA City Top Teens played a significant role in the event. Their involvement not only provided much-needed assistance but also fostered a sense of responsibility and empathy among the young volunteers. The Westside Residential Senior Living Facility expressed profound gratitude for the generosity and kindness shown by the COLA City Chapter Ladies and Top Teens.

Concord Chapter

Lady Rachelle Latimer

Chapter President

Concord TLOD Chapter Transforms Nursing Home Courtyard

The Beautification Committee of the Concord Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. along with ladies, lords, ladies-in-waiting and teens celebrated Earth Day (April 2024 and April 2025) by organizing the renovation of the Concord Rehabilitation and Nursing Center located in Concord, North Carolina.

The chapter realized this would be a HUGE endeavor that could only be made possible with the expertise of Boatwright Landscaping, donations from Lowe's and Home Depot, in-kind donations, as well as over \$5000 in donations from generous private donors. The transformation began with work that spanned over three days that included pressure washing, painting, making repairs, installing pine needles, planting trees, installing new flower beds, installing new outdoor furniture, adding original artwork and new rocking chairs for residents to enjoy the renovated outdoor space.



Fast forward to Earth Day 2025 as our Chapter President, Lady Rachelle Latimer encouraged us to serve again to witness the tremendous growth of the trees and plants last year; not to mention our joy in fellowship as we planted new flowers, added pine straw and mulch alongside teens, ladies and lords in an awesome celebration of Earth Day 2025.

Florence Chapter

Lady Barbara Cooper

Chapter President

Humanitarian Outreach Supports Domestic and Gun Violence Victims and Survivors

Continuity of services and resources to support youth and adults in communities are top priorities for Lord Butch and Lady Lisa Rahiem-Kennedy. Lisa is a member of the Florence Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction. The Kennedys are the founders of the Palmetto Hope Network, a well-established 501 3c nonprofit organization. They sponsored a well-attended annual Hope Walk in Charleston, South Carolina to increase citizens awareness of all types of violence and to support family members, friends, survivors of domestic violence, gun violence and promote Breast Cancer Awareness. The couple held a grand opening celebration to kick off their new office located in Hanahan, South Carolina on March 3, 2025.

The couples long term goal is to continue offering services and resources to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. There were approximately 12-15 citizens present at the event.



Florence Chapter Top Ladies and Top Teens Partner with The Blood Connection to Help Save Lives

In response to the nationwide blood shortage, The Florence Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Top Teens and citizens participated in a blood drive at Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, SC on February 15, 2025. A diverse turnout of donors (25) donated blood to save lives. Donations from the blood drive were collected and used locally to help citizens in Florence and its surrounding communities.



Greater Suwanee Gems Chapter

Lady Gail J. Mitchell-Shields

Chapter President

GREATER SUWANEE GEMS CHAPTER TLOD DEBUT IN GWINNETT COUNTY, GA.

New to the Gwinnett County community is the newest chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., the Greater Suwanee Gems Chapter, organized by Lady Nicola McIntyre and chartered in February 2025. The Chapter is currently led by local resident, Lady Gail J. Mitchell-Shields, President. Additionally serving as Chapter vice preside are Gwinnett County residents are Lady Tania Saint King and Lady Traci G. Moultrie. The Greater Suwanee Gems Chapter serves and supports the Suwanee and Buford areas.



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) celebrating its 60th Anniversary, is a 501(c3) organization, under the leadership of the National President and CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, and National Area IV Director Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson. TLOD declares that the purpose of this organization shall be to advance the standards, ideals, and general welfare of the community through service by encouraging, promoting, and extending activities that will be conducive to the betterment and ultimate welfare of people.

The Chapter members are Marion Anderson, Jessica Sykes, Donita Noel, Traci G. Moultrie, Dr. Gail Mitchell-Shields, President; Sandra K. Marshall, Mary Mathis, Dr. Maymmie Seivright, Shonte' Djibo, Jenether Stampley- Williams, Erica Williams, Kimberly Scott, Sarah Odion Esene, Marcenia Hobson, Saya Miley, Cynthia Arceneaux, Dr. Kelly Ragin Whaley, Erica Miller, Farrah Coleman, Kimberly Davenport, Dana Ross Hill, Tania Saint King, Gwen Pollock, Kimberly Davenport, Telecia Niki Hester, Kawajalein Whitaker, Michelle Mayfield, Tamara Grant, Gelisa Beard, Andrea Chamblin, Sherae Gillespie, Farida FeFe Sirmans, and Nicola McIntyre, Chapter Organizer.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. sponsors Top Teens of America. The Top Teens segment, spearheaded by Greater Suwanee Gems member, Lady Niki Hester, Top Teen Advisor, is designed to provide opportunities for youth, encouraging their potential and promoting their educational, social, spiritual, moral, cultural, and economic development.



Greater York County Chapter

Lady Benita E. Lefft

Chapter President

Greater York County Chapter Makes History in Area IV

The Greater York County Jewels of Distinction was chartered on April 26, 2025, at the Kenneth Monroe Transformation Center in Rock Hill, South Carolina. This Chapter is the fifth to be chartered in the State of South Carolina. The 25 Charter Members include small business owners, educators, social workers, healthcare professionals, human resource professionals, and financial service providers of diverse ages and backgrounds. The weekend celebration commenced with an informal Meet and Greet, welcoming National President Eddie Lee Marsh. The Induction and Chartering Celebration Brunch was an elegantly decorated event attended by numerous Top Ladies from Area IV, public officials, community organizations, as well as family and friends.



During the event, the Charter Members and the community were pleasantly surprised by Councilman William Roddey, who presented a \$2500 Small Community Grant opportunity to support the inaugural program year for the chapter. Jazz entertainment was provided by Carl Ratliff and Company, which included family members of a charter member. Additionally, the Lords were introduced to the community.

During the event, the Charter Members and the community were pleasantly surprised by Councilman William Roddey, who presented a \$2,500 Small Community Grant opportunity to support the inaugural program year for the chapter. Jazz entertainment was provided by Carl Ratliff and Company, which included family members of a charter member. Additionally, the Lords were introduced to the community.

The Chapter engaged in several pre-charter activities addressing the Thrusts of TLOD. These included a Bloom planting beautification project for Seniors, and an affirmation activity to support youth in preparation for testing success at Castle Heights Middle School. Furthermore, Charter members shared their skills and expertise in a webinar empowerment program for women, serving over 40 participants. The group also participated in bonding activities such as virtual vision boards and fellowship sessions.



Guilford Chapter

Lady Gloria Jackson

Chapter President

GUILFORD COUNTY MENTOR- MENTEE EVENT AND COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES

On April 28th in Greensboro, NC, Guilford County Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Lords experienced an unforgettable evening as they attended a spectacular performance of The Wiz at North Carolina A&T State University. This inspiring Mentor-Mentee event was followed by a delightful dinner, offering a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, camaraderie, and strengthening the bonds within the chapter.



On March 29th in High Point, NC, the Guilford County Top Ladies and Top Teens, in powerful collaboration with the Greensboro and Winston-Salem Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, profoundly impacted the community by providing critical health and wellness resources at the Black Family Expo. Demonstrating an unwavering commitment service, the Guilford County Top Teens took the lead in bridging the digital divide by offering essential technology lessons and tips to senior citizens, empowering them with valuable digital skills. With a strong focus on holistic well-being, the Guilford County, the Guilford County Chapter Ladies and teens engaged



attendees with vital information key health topics, including mental health awareness, Sickle Cell Disease and Sickle Cell Traits, Glaucoma, Human Trafficking, and the importance of Healthy Eating. To further promote wellness, they distributed nutritious snacks, ensuring attendees had access to healthy options. The event drew 260 attendees, underscoring the community's enthusiasm and need for such vital resources. This collaboration exemplified the power of collective action, leaving a lasting impact on the well-being of those served.



Lowcountry Emerald Chapter Lady JIoundia Pinckney Chapter President

Lowcountry Emerald Chapter Host Senior Citizens Prom

In December 2024, the Lowcountry Emeralds proudly hosted our annual Senior Prom for beloved community members aged 65 and older. Sponsored by our Senior Citizens Committee, this signature event has grown into a cherished tradition, now celebrating its second year of joy, elegance, and community connection.



This year's prom welcomed over 150 seniors, many dressed in their Sunday best—and some even graced the evening in Met Gala-worthy attire! The night featured a fashion show, games, a fabulous dinner, and plenty of dancing, thanks to a lively DJ who knew just how to fill the floor. A highlight of the evening was the crowning of our Prom King and Queen, honoring the eldest man and woman in attendance. This year's King was 92 years old and our Queen, a radiant 91—a true celebration of life and longevity. We are especially grateful to the event hall owners of The Belmont Luxury Barn in Vance, SC who donated the venue in appreciation for the year-round support given to our seniors.



The food was donated by the chapter. The magic of the evening was made possible through the collaboration of the Status of Women, who beautifully decorated the hall, and the dedicated service of our Top Teens, who ensured each guest was supported and cared for.



Miami Chapter

Lady Annette Brantley
Chapter President

Celebrating 50 Years of Service – The Miami Chapter's Golden Anniversary Gala

On January 25, 2025, the Miami Chapter proudly celebrated a major milestone—50 years of dedicated service. This golden anniversary gala marked a momentous occasion to reflect on our legacy, honor our past, and look forward to a future of continued impact.



As we commemorated the chapter's 50th anniversary, we were reminded of the countless lives touched through the tireless efforts of the women who have carried forward the vision of our 12 chartering members. From youth mentorship to community outreach and advocacy, the Miami Chapter has consistently been a beacon of hope and change throughout our beloved county. The evening brought together family, friends, and community partners to celebrate the extraordinary journey that began on January 4, 1975. It was a time to honor our achievements, express heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to our mission and reaffirm our commitment to serving with purpose and passion for generations to come.

Miami Chapter Supports Sickle Cell Awareness



The Miami Chapter remains committed to supporting Sickle Cell Awareness initiatives. In the spirit of the holiday season—a time for giving and joy—on December 7, 2024, we partnered with a local organization, Advancing Sickle Cell Advocacy Project, Inc., to bring smiles to fifty children living with sickle cell and their families. The day was filled with celebration, brunch, fun games, and toys for all. To top it all off, Santa Claus made a special appearance, delighting the children and families, who enjoyed taking photos with him and soaking in the festive spirit. It was a heartwarming day of joy, community, and support.

Nashville Capitol City Chapter

Lady Sandra D.H. Hunt

Chapter President

From Retreat to Results: A Year of Purposeful Service With TLOD NCCC

The 2024–2025 program year began with energy and intention at the Top Ladies of Distinction, NCCC Chapter Retreat, held at the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. More than 50 Ladies and Top Teens gathered to build community, clarify goals, and prepare for a powerful year of service. Our annual TTA Roundup brought Thrusts, Committees, and Projects to life through creative displays. The Senior Citizen Thrust stood out with a cheerful Hawaiian theme, setting the tone for a vibrant year ahead.



Service in action followed throughout the year:

- We celebrated Grandparents Day and Healthy Aging Month at Kelly Miller Smith Towers, where residents were encouraged to stay active. Top Teens brought joy through handmade cards and warm greetings.
- At the Alzheimer's Walk, Ladies, Lords, and Teens surpassed our fundraising goal—demonstrating true teamwork.
- Our Thanksgiving Fellowship provided a full-course meal to over 108 residents, made possible by the unified efforts of every Thrust.
- During the MLK Pink and Blue Day of Service, members delivered gift bags and heartfelt visits to elders across the city, making a lasting impact on those who receive few visitors.
- In Heart Health Month, our guest speaker tackled "Healthy Choices," including the challenging decision of when it's time to take away the car keys for safety.

We concluded the year with pride at the Area IV Conference in Atlanta, GA, where one of our esteemed Top Ladies was recognized as a Senior Diva for her exceptional service to the community.



NewRock Chapter Lady Charnita West Jenkins Chapter President

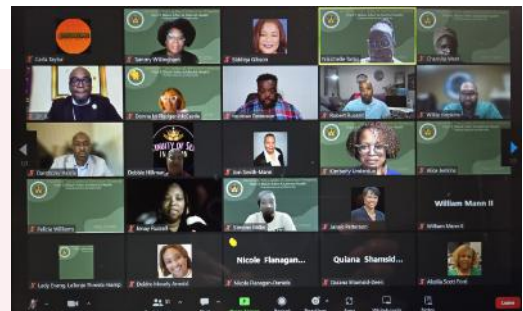
NewRock Ladies and Teens In Action

NewRock Chapter uses the blended program model to assess and address the needs of our community. As a result, Ladies and Teens have been able to collaborate to host meaningful events described below:



The Color Purple - When NewRock heard that the remake of *The Color Purple* was headed to our way on Christmas Day, we “put our best foot forward” and sold out a theater for a December 10th premiere in Rockdale County, Georgia. In NewRock fashion, we did not end our support for this work with an afternoon at the movies. Two days later we hosted a Tuesday Talk entitled, “*The Color Purple*—I’m Still Here!” Members of Status of Women joined forces with TLOD Literacy, Fundraising, and NCNW to not only address issues and identify themes that emerged from the film, but discuss the relevance of events from the movie to present times as well. Although 492 people attended our two events, On Common Ground, our media partner, did a phenomenal job of sharing our story throughout the broader community!

Black Men and Mental Health Forum - Seventy-two people joined Status of Women, Sisterly and Lords Relations, and Membership Committees via Zoom to continue the conversation started in 2023 concerning the Black men and mental health during Mental Health Awareness Month on May 7, 2024. Led by Lord Brandon McCrae, five Black men with careers in the judicial system, social services, community engagement, and counseling discussed how they have navigated life and relationships while dealing with the impact of childhood trauma, discrimination, etc. The moderator and panelists were transparent in their responses and provided hope and wisdom to all attendees.



Earth Day - On April 20, 2024, NewRock Chapters of TLOD and TTA partnered with our Henry County partners of NAACP and NCNW, Girl's First, Inc., and the City of McDonough to host Earth Day and our Healthy Choices Conference at the Girl's First Community Garden. This garden provides fresh fruits and vegetables to the local community and senior citizens. Over 150 attendees had access to games, Afro beats yoga, blood pressure screenings, mindful meditation, planting, voter registration, food trucks, sickle cell awareness activities, and more at this event!

North Atlanta Chapter

Lady Leslie Williams

Chapter President

North Atlanta Chapter Unites to Combat Period Poverty

On May 9, 2025, Lady Jemiella Ayala, Lady Eureecia Bridges, Lady Jennifer Eichelberger, Lady Vickie Harper, Lady Damita Jackson, Lady Eula Lewis-Spivey, Lady Octavia Morris, Lady Stacy Robinson-Jones, Lady Sherelle Williams, and Teen Lei'Lani Jackson participated in a dynamic Period Packing Party representing Status of Women, NCNW, and Top Teens of America. The event aimed to combat period poverty and raise awareness about menstrual health conditions like endometriosis and menorrhagia, which often go undiagnosed.



Driven in part by Teen Lei'Lani's pursuit of the Girl Scout Gold Award for menstrual health advocacy. Over 200 period care bags filled with hygiene products, and educational materials were distributed to students at Norcross High School and women at Mary Hall Freedom Village, a Metro Atlanta recovery program.



With 1 in 5 girls in the U.S. lacking access to menstrual products, this initiative spotlighted the urgent need for menstrual equity. The event demonstrated the power of youth leadership and cross-generational collaboration in driving awareness and support for women's health.

"One North Atlanta...One TLOD...Endless Possibilities"



Savannah Chapter

Lady Omie Flournoy

Chapter President

Savannah Chapter Cultivates a Community of Readers

The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Savannah Chapter, is committed to improving literacy in their community. March is National Reading Month, a celebration that encourages reading for all ages and promotes reading as a key feature for learning, social, and professional development. The Savannah Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., hosted two events on March 8th and March 12th at the W. W. Law Center. The theme was, "A Community of Readers." The Ladies of the Savannah Chapter engaged in storytelling, reading activities, and book giveaways.



Throughout the month of March, the Ladies participated in several literacy activities. They read with and to family members. They also read at elementary schools in the community for Dr. Seuss' Day and to church nursery schools. Additionally, they read at a Senior Citizens' Luncheon. Some of the Chapter's aims were to help generate a love for reading, develop language and listening skills, provide books to nursery schools' libraries, and to encourage people of all ages to become lifelong readers.



Wendell Chapter

Lady Gloria Montague

Chapter President

Wendell Chapter Embraces Continuity of Service in Action

On October 28, 2023, at the North Carolina /South Carolina Cluster, the Wendell Chapter welcomed five new members: Lady Tracy Hartsfield; Lady Shannon Hayes; Lady Hillary McCollough; Lady Anitra Ross and Lady India Williams. Our TLOD Family continues to grow.



Wendell Chapter New Members

During the 2023-2024 service year, the Wendell Top Ladies and Top Teens have shown the "We Care" attitude by partnering with a local Senior Center to complete three service projects and provide the Seniors with valuable resources. In the fall, we started our service year by providing the Seniors with essential personal care items. On our Pink and Blue Day of Service, we provided the Senior Center with puzzle books, pens, snacks, socks, cards, games, and other personal care items. In February, we provided the Seniors in two Senior Centers Valentine Cards with special handwritten messages.



Wendell Top Ladies and Top Teens donates to Senior Center

During the 2023-2024 service year we continued to serve with our established partners and added three new partners. Under the National TTA/TLOD Foster Care Initiative we were able to provide 25 suitcases to the Foster Care Facility. Under the National Sickle Cell initiative, we partnered with Bridges Pointe, Inc to donate blankets for Sickle Cell Patients. We also started a new partnership with a local women's shelter where we provided essential personal care items and laundry and cleaning supplies. We also partnered with a local mission to provide food donations and grocery store gift cards, and provided school supplies to our local community football team.



Wendell Top Ladies and Top Teens make donation to Women's Center



Lady Marsha Wells National Area V Director

Area V represents chapters within the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania (West), Kentucky and West Virginia.

The Area V theme is: “Area V Is All The Way L.I.V.E. Leading ~ Impacting ~ Volunteering ~ Empowering.”



Lady Marsha Wells National Area V Director

Teen Dha'Mario Peterson Area V TTA President

Greetings from Area V!

As the 15th National Area V Director, along with the chapters of Area V, I am proud that we have achieved the major goal of my administration, which has been to grow our Area after membership was reduced as a result of the pandemic. Within four years, Area V went from 10 chapters with 328 Top Ladies and Top Teens to 12 chapters with 468 Top Ladies and Top Teens, which is a 30% increase in membership in the four-year timeframe. Our chapters focused on Recruitment, Retention and Reclamation for Ladies and Teens to increase their membership.

The Southfield Chapter was chartered on November 4, 2023, and 18 new Top Ladies were inducted. The Chapter Organizer is Lady Gloria Hall and the Chapter President is Lady Janine K. Kenner. The Southfield Chapter also inducted their first chapter of Top Teens on November 2, 2024. The National TTA Director, Lady Crystal Pittman and the Area V TTA Advisor, Lady Kemberley Jones were present to support the newly established TTA Chapter.

Area V Achieved 5 STAR Goals

Area V chapters also excelled in achieving their 5 STAR goals to complete the TLOD Program and Project initiatives. As a result, on March 31, 2025, Area V Top Ladies and Top Teens completed over 93,000 volunteer hours and donated over \$66,000.00. All chapters participated in the five programmatic thrusts for Top Teens of America, Senior Citizens, Status of Women, Community Beautification and Community Partnerships with the NCNW, NAACP, UNCF, March for Babies, Sick Cell, Literacy, and St. Jude.

Top Teens of America	Lady Kemberley H. Jones
Senior Citizens	Lady Vickie Peterson
Status of Women	Lady Cheryl Williams
Community Beautification	Lady Lula Patton
Community Partnerships	Lady Loretta Gray
NAACP	Lady Sandra Parker
UNCF	Lady Tierra Jones
NCNW	Lady Vivian Jackson-Anderson
Sickle Cell	Lady Fran Jackson
TLOD Literacy	Lady Marlo Thigpen
March of Dimes	Lady Nicole Addison
St. Jude	Lady Michelle Thomas

Area V North and South Clusters

The 2023 Area V South Cluster was held in person on October 21st in Columbus, Ohio and the North Cluster was held on October 28th in Cleveland, Ohio with great attendance. Topics included: Area Director's Goals, TTA Advisor Goals, Protocol: This is How We Do It, A to Z Chapter Operations, Unlocking Chapter Finances, and New Member Orientation. Pictured are members from the Cincinnati Chapter who attended the South Cluster.



Area V Leadership Conferences

The 2024 Area V 49th Leadership Conference was convened from April 11-14 in Toledo, Ohio. It was hosted by the Toledo Chapter and was held at the Hilton of Toledo Hotel in downtown Toledo. The conference theme was: “Lighting the Way to Supreme Community Service In Action”. Conference highlights included: Induction of 13 members of the Columbus, Michigan Metro and Toledo Chapters. The Prayer Breakfast featured guest speaker, Paula Hicks-Hudson, 11th District Ohio State Senator. The Community Recognition Program recognized the community partners and the 2024 Area V Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients from US President, Joseph R. Biden Jr. The recipients included Lady Yolanda Smith, Detroit Chapter; Lady Joyce Seals, Saginaw Chapter, Lady Mary McKinley Reed, Toledo Chapter, Lady Victoria Jackson, Detroit Chapter; Lady Tawana McKinley; Lady Veronica Nesbit, 11th National Area V Director; Lady Betty Thomas, Michigan Metro Chapter; Lady Kemberley Jones, Greater Cleveland Chapter; Lady Clara Petty, Toledo Chapter.

The 2025 Area V 50th Leadership Conference convened from March 27-30, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was hosted by the Indianapolis Chapter and was held at the Renaissance North Indianapolis Hotel. The conference theme was: “Celebrating 50 years of Continuity of Service in Action: Leading, Impacting, Volunteering and Empowering”.

Conference highlights included: Induction of 12 members of the Cincinnati and Indianapolis Chapters; The Prayer Breakfast featured Keynote speaker, Rev. Pamela Emmanuel, Founding Pastor of Mercy Assembly Church; the Community Recognition Program recognized the community partners and honored the recipients of the 2025 Area V Lifetime Achievement Award from US President, Joseph Biden Jr. They are Robert Mays Jr., Manager of the Fatherhood Team at Fathers and Families Center and Lady Cherrish Pryor, Indiana State Representative.



2025 Scholarship Recipients

1st Place Angebell McCloud Scholarship: Teen JaLynn Gilkey, Renaissance Chapter

2nd Place Ethel Kuykendall Scholarship: Teen Jasira Stidham, Greater Cleveland Chapter

3rd Place Justin Lofton Scholarship: Teen Adriannah Kyles, Detroit Chapter

The Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson NOVA Award: Teen Landon Neeley, Indianapolis Chapter

First Place TLOD Award Recipients

- TLOD Lady of the Year: Lady Jerri Shepherd, Indianapolis Chapter
- TLOD Outstanding Chapter of the Year: Cincinnati Chapter
- TLOD Outstanding Total Program: Cincinnati Chapter
- TLOD Outstanding Print Media/Public Relations: Pittsburgh Steel City Chapter
- Jeffrey P. King Exemplary Sisterhood/Lordship Award: Lady Victoria Crook, Lord James Crook, Lady Vivian Jackson Anderson, Lady Wendy LaMarr, Lady Margo Green, Lady Theresa Dillard, Lady Brenda Beard
- Mary F. Hunter Pride Award: Detroit Chapter
- Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson Recruit, Reclaim, Retain Award: Michigan Metro Chapter
- Roxyanne Cartier Burrus Community Outreach Award: Saginaw, Renaissance, Indianapolis
- Bonus Recognition: Detroit Chapter
- TLOD Carolyn Utz: Highest Attendance: Renaissance Chapter
- 2025 Senior Diva Award: Lady Elsie Finner, Detroit Chapter
- Lords Caring and Sharing Award: Lord Kenneth Parker, Indianapolis Chapter

Over 80 Top Teens participated in the 2025 Area V 50th Leadership Conference, and it was an extraordinary success! Hosted by the Indianapolis Chapter, the event exceeded all expectations, fostering camaraderie and growth among our Top Teens, Top Ladies, and Lords.



First Place TTA Award Recipients

Augusta Cash Latham TTA Essay Contest: Teen Sydney Best, Cincinnati Chapter
TTA Outstanding Program of Work: Greater Cleveland Chapter
TTA Carolyn Utz Award: Highest Attendance: Detroit Chapter
Ruth Payne Smith Speakers Tournament: Teen Brendan Robinson, Detroit Chapter
TTA Performing Arts Award: Teen Jashon Caston, Saginaw Chapter
Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl Award: Michigan Metro Chapter
TTA T-Shirt Competition: Indianapolis Chapter

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!!

Lady Marsha Wells

15th National Area V Director, 2021-2025

Areavdirector15@gmail.com

Cincinnati Chapter

Lady Phyllis Hogue Thompson

Chapter President

Cincinnati Hosts 20th Annual Five Star Community Sweetheart Gala



The Cincinnati Chapter celebrated its 20th year of recognizing outstanding leaders in our community on February 10, 2024. We had an awardee for each of our 5 Thrusts. The event was held at the Marriott Northeast in Mason, Ohio. With 619 guests at the event, 20 Ladies and four Lords, the Chapter raised \$5,000.



On this night, the Cincinnati Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. were proud to honor them for their resources, time and effort to make Cincinnati a better place for its residents. We saluted the award recipients for lifting our community to higher heights.

This year our Honoree for Service to Youth was Joe Kelley, founder and CEO of KELLY Youth Services, the Honoree for Beautification was Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Director Thayne Maynard. Our Honoree for Status of Women was the owner, President and CEO of Sound Mind Counseling; Dr. Shantel Thomas PhD. Our Honoree for Senior Citizens was Silver Sneakers, Powell Crosley, Jr. YMCA Director of Wellness and Small Groups, Nicolle Garrett. Our Honoree for Community Partnerships was Hamilton County Commissioner and President Alicia Reese.

These five individuals and organizations have given unselfishly to meet the needs they have witnessed in our community.



Columbus Chapter

Lady Pamela Garrett

Chapter President

Columbus Chapter Top Ladies and Teens Celebrate Accomplishments



The Columbus Chapter presented our latest Maddhatter's Luncheon and Hat Show on November 3, 2024, at New Albany Country Club. This annual event is held to raise funds for our Top Teen Scholarship Awards. Almost 150 ladies and gentlemen were in attendance and guests enjoyed music, exquisite hats and furs, and good food. Many prizes were donated by our vendors and several Top Ladies. Next year's event promises to be even more successful as we continue to provide for our Top Teens. Kudos to event co-chairs Lady Rhonda Evans, Lady Roxyanne Burrus, and Lady Vanessa Melson for all their hard work. Inspired by Chapter President, Lady Pam Garrett, the ladies worked extremely hard to ensure the success of this event which garnered in excess of \$3,000 for our projects. Special thanks to all of our guests who attended, especially those from NCNW and the Cleveland Chapter of TLOD.

The Columbus Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., is proud to announce the induction of our newest members, Lady Kelli Clark and Lady Traci White-Stevenson. These ladies were inducted at the 49th Area V Conference in Toledo, Ohio, April 11-14, 2024. Congratulations Lady Kelli and Lady Traci! We look forward to utilizing the tremendous talents you bring to our organization.



Columbus Chapter President, Lady Pamela Garrett, was named Area V Top Lady of the Year! Lady Garrett is lauded as an excellent leader who is emphatic and effective, and she gives 100% to all thrusts and projects. She will now go on to compete at the National Syn-Lod in June, 2025.

Columbus Chapter Top Teens enjoyed much success at the 49th Area V Conference in Toledo, Ohio. Teen Aandrea Peavy represented the chapter as Miss Top Teen. She was escorted by Teen Robert Travier from the Detroit Chapter. Teen Aandrea also won 2nd Place in the Black History Bowl. Teen Icyee Berry, who will graduate in May, won 3rd Place in the Black History Bowl. Teen Icyee will be the recipient of a \$1,300 scholarship from the Columbus Chapter to assist her at The Ohio State University. Our teens will carry many memories of TTA throughout their lifetime. Congratulations Top Teens!

Dayton Chapter
Lady Tawana McKinney
Chapter President

***Dayton TLOD Feeds
Community for
Thanksgiving***



On November 28, 2024, the Dayton Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) and Top Teens of America (TTA) hosted a Thanksgiving meal giveaway at Overcomers in Christ Church, serving over 200 meals to those in need. Special attention was given to seniors, with 50 meals delivered to individuals without transportation. Jeanette's House of Hope donated food, drinks, and paper goods, and \$200 was raised to support the effort. This event reflects the Dayton Chapter's ongoing commitment to serving senior citizens and providing community care.



Detroit Chapter Lady Victoria Jackson Chapter President

Detroit Chapter Welcomes New Ladies



On June 1, 2024, the Detroit Chapter hosted an induction to bring nine ladies into Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. The nine new ladies are: Victoria B. Edwards, Leathie Houston, Antoinette Jackson, LaKeisha Johnson, Amber Lane, Donna Lindsey-Law, Gabrielle Nichols, Sharon Nattee-Stephens, and Kimberly Taylor. The Renaissance Chapter also inducted two ladies. The induction was held at Laurel Manor in Livonia, Michigan. After the induction, a luncheon was held with one hundred ladies, lords, teens, parents, and other guests in attendance. Detroit was joined at the induction and luncheon by the following chapters: Michigan Metro, Renaissance, and Southfield.



At the luncheon, the newly inducted ladies were recognized along with an acknowledgement of the years of service of the ladies within the Detroit Chapter. Songs were performed by Teen Tracy Thomas and Lady Michele Holmes. The Detroit Chapter was presented by the Detroit City Council with the Spirit of Detroit award for our continuous service and impact to the city of Detroit and surrounding areas. Additionally, the Detroit Chapter presented a scholarship to Teen Symphony Zeigler. Top Lady of the Year was Lady Velda Hunter who was presented with an engraved crystal trophy and sash. Area V and Detroit Chapter Senior Diva was Lady Mary F. Hunter. In the Detroit Chapter, the Lord of the Year is recognized with the Lord John Bert Award. This year's recipient of the Lord John Bert award was Lord David Benjamin.



The Detroit Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) proudly welcomed six outstanding women into its distinguished sisterhood on March 15, 2025. These accomplished leaders bring with them a wealth of experience, passion for service, and commitment to community uplift. We are honored to embrace Lady Krishawn Clark, Lady Cassandra Nadine Pardon-Smith, Lady Harriet Rice, Lady Jacinta Thompson, and Lady Tayler Thompson into our TLOD family. As we continue our legacy of service to youth and adults, the Detroit Chapter is excited to grow stronger through their contributions.

Greater Cleveland Chapter Lady Joyce L. Walker Chapter President

Greater Cleveland Chapter Hosts Inaugural "A Crown Affair Gospel Luncheon"



Greater Cleveland Chapter President, Lady Joyce Walker and Ladies, Lady Roxyanne Burris, Past National Area V Director and Lady Pamela Garrett, Columbus Chapter President, and Teens

The Greater Cleveland Chapter honored its community partners Sunday, May 4, 2025. The spirited fundraiser was led by Lady Marcella Boyd Cox, Community Partnerships Chair, at Regovich Catering in Eastlake, OH, 3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. The Inaugural "A Crown Affair Gospel Luncheon Honoring Outstanding Community Partners" recognized churches for their sustained support of the Chapter's UNCF Sunday Project over a span of 15 years!



Community Partnerships Honorees Left/Right: Rev. Jerry L. Birch, Senior Pastor, Abundant Grace Fellowship Church, Rev. Gloria Chaney, Interim Pastor, Affinity Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Napoleon J. Harris V, Senior Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, and Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr, Pastor, Mt. Zion Congregational United Church of Christ.



Lady Joyce Walker, Chapter President, and Teen Destiny Owens-Wright, TTA President welcomed guests

Lady Joyce Walker, Chapter President, and Teen Destiny Owens-Wright, TTA President, welcomed over 220 guests and ladies, including Lady Roxyanne Burris, Past National Area V Director and Lady Pamela Garrett, Columbus Chapter President, Lords, Teens, and Top Teens Alumni. Awardees were Rev. Jerry L. Birch, Senior Pastor, Abundant Grace Fellowship Church, Rev. Gloria Chaney, Interim Pastor, Affinity Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Napoleon J. Harris V, Senior Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, and Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr, Pastor, Mt. Zion Congregational United Church of Christ. A delicious meal was shared as fellowship was fostered through conversation, uplifting gospel music, and songs by Von James. Sponsors included the Cleveland Foundation, R-CAP Security, Christian Business League, E.F. Boyd Funeral Home, and PK Management.

The gathering was more than an occasion for celebration; it was a testament to the collective dedication to advancing standards, ideals, and the general welfare of those we serve. A total of \$8,000 was raised for TTA scholarships! Together, through education, collaboration, and service, the Greater Cleveland Chapter and its community partners are shaping a brighter future for all. There is power in Community Partnerships!

Indianapolis Chapter Lady Jerri Shepherd Chapter President

Indianapolis Chapter Hosts Successful Area V Leadership Conference

The Indianapolis Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) successfully hosted the 2025 Area V Leadership Conference, bringing together Ladies, Lords, and Teens for a weekend of fellowship, learning, and community engagement. The conference served as a vital platform for members to connect, share knowledge, and strengthen their commitment to service.



Throughout the event, attendees participated in enriching workshops designed to enhance leadership skills, foster personal growth, and advance community initiatives.



The conference highlighted the organization's dedication to mentoring and empowering youth through the Top Teens program, reinforcing the impact of intergenerational collaboration.



In addition to learning opportunities, the conference celebrated the achievements of its members, recognizing outstanding contributions to leadership and service. The event underscored TLOD's unwavering commitment to uplifting communities and nurturing the next generation of leaders.

As the conference concluded, attendees left with renewed inspiration, carrying forward the lessons and connections made during their time together. The Indianapolis Chapter of TLOD continues to set the standard for excellence, ensuring its mission of service, youth development, and leadership remains strong.

Michigan Metro Chapter Lady Karen Newman Chapter President

Michigan Metro Hosts Status of Women Jazz Brunch



On May 18, 2024, the Michigan Metro Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., held a Status of Women Jazz Brunch. The brunch was an educational and informative event, which enriched and enlightened those who attended. The brunch featured The 313 Experience live band, which is a well-known local jazz group. The venue was "The Heights" in Dearborn Heights MI, which is owned and operated by Michigan Metro's own Lady Tania James.



The brunch highlighted current topics related to all women: Violence Against Women – Domestic Abuse, Women's Health Issues, Voter's Rights and Educational Opportunities.

The speakers included the following:

- Violence Against Women – City of Inkster Police Chief, Tamika Jenkins
- Education is Key – WCCCD Campus Vice President, Cecile Taylor
- Women's Health Disparities – Dr. Barbara Hannah Kern
- Greater Civic Engagement – League of Women's Voters, Paula Bowman

Michigan Metro Chapter is Growing & Glowing



The Michigan Metro Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) held a joint Induction Service with the Detroit and Renaissance Chapters on March 15, 2025. National Area V Director Lady Marsha Wells officiated the induction of 12 accomplished new members into the organization. Lady Wells delivered inspiring words and Chapter President Lady Karen Newman expressed deep pride in the chapter's continued growth. With this successful induction, the Michigan Metro Chapter looks forward to continued outreach and impact throughout 2025 and beyond.

Michigan Metro Volunteers for Easter Egg Hunt



Unity in the Community hosted its Annual Easter Egg Hunt drawing over 600 kids and Michigan Metro proudly participated, engaging with the children through crafts and fun-filled activities.

Pittsburg Steel City Chapter

Lady Crystal McCormick

Chapter President

Pittsburgh Steel City Chapter Making a Mark in the Pittsburgh Region



Since its chartering in March 2023, the Pittsburgh Steel City (PSC) has been making its mark in the Pittsburgh Region. As a result of these efforts, and under the leadership of Chapter Organizer and Chapter President Lady Crystal McCormick, the Pittsburgh Steel City won 1st Place in the Area V Area Director's Emblem Award, which highlights exemplary overall programs. The Chapter was recognized during the 50th Anniversary of the Area V Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN in March 2025.

Some of the highlighted programs and projects were as follows:

Under the leadership of Lady Monica Lamar, 1st Vice President, the chapter actively recruited and inducted Teens for the PSC chapter. The chapter is a proud Commonwealth of PA Adopt a Highway Program member. PSC has also been involved with area senior citizens (Lady Eva Wright), marginalized women (Ladies) Nichol Greene and Marian Woods, and also with blending by assisting women at a homeless shelter (Sojourner House) by beautifying its grounds. For the third year, PSC has volunteered at the local St. Jude's Gala (Lady Deborah Norrell).



Under the leadership of Lady Bridgette Cofield, 2nd Vice President, the chapter has partnered with over 25 community organizations and has actively participated in the following endeavors: the March of Dimes (Lady Kelly McCormick, Chair) and the NAACP (Lady Kelly McCormick). The PSC Chapter secured two Good Health Wins grants (Ladies Chapter and TTA Chapter). The chapter was also noticeably active in the Get Out the Vote and Registration Drives during the 2024 Election.

Two PSC Teens Participate in Vivien Coe Leadership Academy



Teen Ashley McCoullum



Teen Kasia Cunningham

Two PSC Top Teens were selected to attend the 2024 Vivien Cole Leadership Academy representing TLOD Area V. Teen Kasia Cunningham, a student at Penn Trafford High School, was excited about pursuing her interest in business by selecting the marketing track for the Academy. She is an entrepreneur and a published author with her first book entitled, "Growing Up Divided". During the Academy, discussed her passion as an entrepreneur with other students from across the country.

Teen Ashley McCoullum is a sophomore at the Neighborhood Academy. She co-founded a group called TNA Students in Action at her high school. She was very excited to join Teen Kasia as part of the marketing track, where she can continue developing her interest in effective communication to help people better their mental and physical health.

Renaissance Chapter Lady Mary Johnson Grant Chapter President

Pink and Blue National Day of Service – Dr. Martin L. King Day

The Renaissance Chapter participated in the Pink and Blue National Day of Service on January 20, 2025 at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Peace Walk Celebration at Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield, MI. The Renaissance Ladies and their mentors walked from the church to the program at the Southfield Pavilion. The theme of the program was "Social Justice Through Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity". The Southfield Pavilion had speakers, musical and dance performances, a resource fair and food.



Ladies and Teens distributed information about the Renaissance Chapter's five programmatic thrusts, programs and gave away six Senior Citizen baskets prepared by the Chapter. Thanks to support from Costco and the Good Health WINs Mini Grant, care baskets filled with COVID-19 test kits, health information, toiletries, snacks, and household items were delivered to Senior Citizens. They shared how they were thrilled because they were having financial difficulties. The initiative not only supported seniors but also gave Top Teens a sense of pride and purpose.



Participating Ladies included Mary Johnson Grant, Nona Harris, Grace Andrews, Theresa Dillard, Rubye Holloway, and Dana Mayes. Teens involved were Ja'Lynn Gilkey, Angel Austin, Caityn Reymond, Ajani McCullough, Royal Andrews, Katelyn Warren, Aaliyah Goodine, and Raymon Peoples II.

Red Cross Sickle Cell Blood Drive

The Renaissance Chapter participated in The Red Cross Sickle Cell Blood Drive at Detroit's St Patrick's Senior Center on February 6, 2025. The Renaissance Ladies had 40 names and emails of family and friends who would donate blood. They registered blood donors on the internet, supporting the donors' line and handed out free T-Shirts. The blood was used to save lives. The Red Cross sent a letter stating that the donors had given enough blood to save 42 lives. Ladies involved were Mary J. Grant, Nona Harris, Francis Lewis, and Theresa Dillard. Teen Ajani McCullough and her mother Mrs. McCullough also participated.



Saginaw Chapter

Lady Brenda Beard

Chapter President

Saginaw Chapter Partners with Saginaw Sickle Cell Program

The Saginaw Chapter of TLOD partnered with the Saginaw Sickle Cell Program. Top Ladies helped serve lunch and donated gifts to eight girls and one boy and a food basket was given to each of the parents. Sickle Cell families were grateful and thankful for all the gifts donated to all of the children. Saginaw Top Ladies are dedicated to serving the community, ensuring that each child receives clothing, shoes, boots, socks and a personal gift.

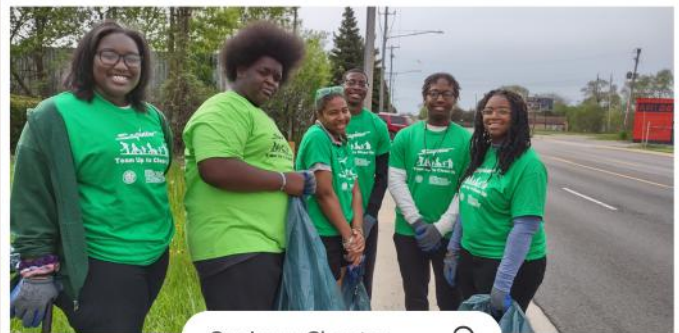


Seated: Lady Annye Roberts, Chapter Organizer, and Lady Joyce Seals, Top Teen Advisor. Standing with Sickle Cell Shirt: Mr. Houston Lions and Lady Brenda Beard, Saginaw Chapter President. Standing: Gift recipients.

Lady Hazel, Sickle Cell Chair, Lady Annye Roberts, Chapter Organizer, and Lady Joyce Seals, Top Teen Advisor, gave a brief history about TLOD. They wished the families peace, happiness and all the blessings the Christmas season brings!



Saginaw Chapter Ladies and Teens Partner with S.T.E.A.M. MECI for Earth Day



Saginaw Chapter



Saginaw Chapter - TTA/TLOD partnership with Environmental Awareness through S.T.E.A.M. MECI. on April 27, 2024. Green and Clean Saginaw. Beautification is keeping where you live clean in your neighborhood. Pick up trash, sticks, leaves, and rake the lawn. Picking up cans and plastic bottles. Saginaw youth and TTA/TLOD leaving the Arthur Eddy Academy Clean and Beautiful. Working together makes for Team Work. Mr. Alex Beard-UAW and TTA/TLOD finished the job. Well Done! Celebrate Earth Day April 22, 2024.

The Saginaw TLOD and TTA Chapter's Beautification Committee partnered with Environmental Awareness through S.T.E.A.M. MECI to celebrate Earth Day by leaving the Arthur Eddy Academy clean and beautiful. The theme of the event was "Green and Clean Saginaw, Keeping Where you Live Clean in Your Neighborhood". Top Ladies and Top Teens were there to pick up trash, sticks, leaves and rake the lawns.

Southfield Chapter Lady Janine K. Kenner Chapter President

Southfield Chapter Chartering in Area V



Area V inducted 18 new Top Ladies as the charter members of the Southfield Chapter (Southfield, Michigan) on November 4th, 2023! Under Chapter Organizer, Lady Gloria Hall and Charter Chapter President Lady Janine K. Kenner, the Southfield Chapter proudly serves Oakland County, Michigan with several partnerships including BLAC (Black Legacy Advancement Coalition), the Detroit Lions, and Corewell Health Royal Oak Hospital System.



Front Row (Left to Right): Lady Donetta Coles, Lady Melinda Martin, Lady LaTonia Stewart-Limmitt, Chapter President Lady Janine K. Kenner, National President Lady Eddie L. Marsh, National Area V Director Lady Marsha Wells, Chapter Organizer Lady Gloria Hall, Lady Danita Vaughn, Lady Yolanda Clark, Lady Jada Byrd, Lady Teresa Mathis. Back Row (Left to Right): Lady Peggy M. Brown, Lady Melinda Taylor, Lady Danyell Jackson, Lady Tonya Kelley-Davis, Lady Regina Porter, Lady Theresa Banks, Lady Andrea Hubbard, Lady Sidnie Asaka, Lady Shawnda Bryant-Johnson, Lady Lauren Reed-Gibson.

The Southfield Chapter held a joint TLOD Induction and TTA Establishment on November 2nd, 2024, establishing their chapter of Top Teens of America, known as the Southfield Scholars! The National TTA Director, Lady Crystal Pittman and the Area V TTA Advisor, Lady Kemberley Jones were present to support the newly established TTA Chapter.



Toledo Chapter Lady Wanda Terrell-Galloway Chapter President

Toledo Chapter Donates Warm Blankets for Warriors



The Toledo Chapter donated blankets for Warriors to the Scott Center for Observation Treatment and Transition/Sickle Cell located in the Toledo, Ohio area. The Toledo Chapter donated over 50 blankets to the facility. These blankets will be used to keep patients warm during their treatments and blood transfusions. Top Teens participated by loading cars with blankets. Lady Denise Black-Poon served as the chair of the event.

Toledo Chapter Inducts New Members

Three ladies were inducted into the Toledo Chapter on April 11, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Toledo Chapter members supported the induction process. The event concluded with gifts and refreshments for the new members.



The new members are Lady Delise Simmons, Lady Sherese Norwood and Lady Alisha Gant. Lady Delores Bates is the Membership Chair.



Ladies in attendance were Lady Wanda Terrell-Galloway, Lady Denise Black-Poon, Lady Dianne Johnson and La'Shardae Scott, President/CEO.

Toledo Chapter Donates Cleaning Supplies to Senior Citizens

Toledo Chapter donated cleaning supplies to the McKissick Center. There are 12 tenants in the apartment complex. This project was held on February 17, 2024, at the McKissick Senior Apartments. There were 2 Top Teens in attendance. Teen Jarrell Terrell, Jr., and Teen Raina Terrell. Toledo Chapter members supported the event by providing toilet paper, Lysol spray, sponges, hand sanitizers, dish soap, and bleach. Ladies in attendance, Lady Marsha Quinn, Lady Wanda Terrell-Galloway, Lady Clara Brank, Lady Delores Bates, Lady Liz Flournoy, and Lady Sandy Strong.





**Lady Yolande Bankston
National Area VI Director**

Area VI encompasses the states of Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska and Hawaii.

The Area VI theme is: “Serving as One TLOD, with Continuity and Purpose...Moving Forward with the Basics.”



Lady Yolande Bankston
National Area VI Director

Teen Jared Jordan
Area VI TTA President

Area VI In Action

Serving as One TLOD, with Continuity and Purpose...Moving Forward with the Basics

Area VI has been working diligently to provide needed service in its respective communities. Area and Chapter Thrust and Project Chairs have effectively planned, collaborated and implemented successful programs and activities that have helped to enhance the lives of youth and adults.

In addition to the service rendered, Area VI has conducted a number of learning opportunities through virtual workshops on topics such as: Chapter Finances, Protocol, Rituals, Recommendations/Amendments, leading up to and during its virtual Area Cluster in October 2023. More are planned in the '24-'25 fiscal year.



L-R: Lady Yolande Bankston, National Area VI Director; Civil Rights Attorney, Benjamin Crump; TLOD, Inc. National President & CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh.

On February 22-25, 2024, Area VI held its Leadership Conference, hosted by the Inglewood Chapter, Lady Cheryl Franklin, President. Ladies Juanita Dawson and Betty Edwards served as co-chairs. The Inglewood Chapter and the Area VI leadership team did a phenomenal job. The theme: "Area VI In Action...Navigating Our Way Forward Toward Continuity of Service" and the Area VI motto: "We Are One" provided the foundation for all workshops and events. Attendees included TLOD National President & CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, the National 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Ladies Jackqueline Wilcher and Kendra Gillespie (respectively), National Recording Secretary, Lady Regina Dickson, National Area II Director, Lady Hope Ruffin and TLOD's Immediate Past National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard.

A "Town Hall" style workshop was conducted by the National VPs and workshops on "Bridging the Generation Gap" and "Minutes Matter" were conducted by Ladies Hope Ruffin and Regina Dickson (respectively). Area VI inducted 21 new ladies, the largest Induction held at an Area VI Conference. There was a "National Projects Exhibit" room that provided an opportunity for each National Project to display the work they're doing or have done in Area VI. One highlight was the public address from Civil Rights Attorney, Benjamin Crump, at the Area VI Presentation Gala.



Area VI Top Teens held a successful leadership Conference led by Teen Jared Jordan, Area VI TTA President and his TTA Executive Board, under the direction of Ladies Nakia Thierry, Area VI TTA Advisor and Karlisa Carter, Area VI TTA Assistant Advisor. The dedicated Area VI Chapter TTA Advisors, Chapter Presidents and Past Area VI Directors were recognized during a luncheon which celebrated 50 years “West of the Rockies” for Area VI.



City of Angels Chapter Lady Engrid Smith Chapter President

Continuity of Service in Action with COA



The City of Angels Chapter continues to honor community members at the “Celebrating Change” Status of Women Luncheon on April 27, 2025. The 2025 honorees were: Lady T. Diane Copeland, Ms. Capri Maddox, Lady Esther Martin, Lady Mary Starks, Lady Lydia Cincore-Templeton, and Mr. Luther Williams who have all dedicated their lives to building a legacy in their communities. Each member represents the TLOD programs and projects. Special recognition to honoree Ms. Capri Maddox, LA City Exec Director of Civil Rights and Mr. Luther Williams, retired educator and past president of Los Angeles IAC- UNCF board. Over 225 people were in attendance and the chapter raised over \$25, 00 towards our program and projects Lady Engrid Smith, President with 2024-2025 TLOD and TTA members.



On March 30, 2025, the 20 COA Ladies and Teens with community members walked to raise money for programs March of Dimes, St. Jude, UNCF and Sickle Cell Ladies Hope, Elaine, Monique, Essie, Nakee, Amanda, Nicole, Sherrese, Terry, Elnora, and Teens Harley, Samantha, Callie, Rose were in attendance.



On May 18, 2025 COA TTA inducted five new Teens: Braylen Bell, Brian Parker, Nathan Oliver, Makenna Mathis and Honesti Walker. Teen Samantha Mitchell, President facilitated the ceremony with Teens Daila Lino, Caleel Smith, Harley Halliburton, Konner Mason, Asia Franklin, and Massiah G. Moore.

Hub City Chapter Lady Johnnie Spicer Chapter President

Hub City Chapter Promotes TTA & Status of Women



The Hub City Chapter of Top Teens of America inducted four new TTA members in May 2024. The induction was held at Holy Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



During February 2025, 13 Hub City Chapter Ladies, Teens, Lords & guests participated in the Chapters Status of Women Luncheon on February 08, 2025 at The Grand in Long Beach, California. The theme was Heart Health Awareness. Ladies & Teens were publicly acknowledged for their active service in TLOD & TTA. Teens also participated in a Black History presentation, and raised funds for the Chapter's Margaret Reed Hub City Chapter Scholarship. The event recognized men and women who have contributed to their community with plaques outlining their contribution to the community. The events theme was Heart Health Awareness.



Inglewood Chapter
Lady Cheryl Franklin
Chapter President

***Inglewood Chapter
Welcomes New 2025
Inductees***



We are delighted to announce the induction of eight outstanding women into the Inglewood Chapter, Area VI of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. This momentous occasion was held on April 26, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Los Angeles Gateway in Torrance, where sisterhood, service, and celebration filled the room.



These remarkable women bring a diverse range of expertise, passion, and leadership to our chapter. Their professional achievements and commitment to community empowerment embody the mission and values of TLOD. Each inductee brings a unique perspective that will enhance our programs and deepen our impact as we strive to uplift youth and serve humanity.

We are excited about the journey ahead and confident that their contributions will strengthen our chapter's legacy of excellence. Together, we will continue to inspire, lead, and make a difference. Congratulations and welcome to the Inglewood Chapter, ladies! We are honored to have you join our membership.

Congratulations!

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to our newest members:

- Ms. Sabrina Barnes – Account Executive
- Ms. Jill De Lay – Personal Assistant
- Mrs. Candy Higgins-Di Meo – Professional Artist and Musician
- Ms. JoBeth Linstrot – Assistant Vice President
- Mrs. Constance Major – Retired Principal
- Mrs. Michele Overby Mason – Retired Educator
- Mrs. Kara Price – Senior Account Executive
- Ms. Cassandra Washington – College Instructor

Mountain West Chapter Lady Jacqueline Moore Chapter President

Spring Cleaning - It's Good For the Soul



Mountain West Chapter Ladies and Teens partnered with the Soles4Souls (S4S) organization, in a Shoe Drive competition, during the month of April 2025. This was a blended project which included Community Partnerships, Community Beautification, Status of Women and Me and My Mentor.



By the end of the month, Ladies, Lords, Ladies in waiting, Teens, Teen's families, friends and community partners allowed the Mountain West Chapter to donate over 690 lbs of shoes, (approx. 700 pairs of shoes) and 150 lbs of clothing to S4S.

Through our chapter's efforts, S4S is able to continue equipping women entrepreneurs in low-income countries with donated shoes and clothing to sell, to help them create sustainable small businesses that lift families out of poverty and drive community growth. Thank you to all our friends and partners across the Denver metro area that supported this effort, allowing us to touch families across the globe.

The Kick-Off meeting with Soles4Souls Team Member, Sona Ortega, was held on March 30, 2025 to introduce the organization and its goal of diverting shoes and clothing from landfills, Soles4Souls turn what's unwanted (shoes and clothes) into relief for those in crisis, opportunity for communities, confidence for kids, and a healthier planet for all. Ladies/Lords teamed with their Mentee to see who could collect the most shoes prior to the end of the Project. Mountain West President, Lady Jacqueline Moore and her mentee Teen Jasmine, collected over 100 pairs of shoes in the first week.



Phoenix Chapter

Lady Diana Washington Crawford

Chapter President

Phoenix Chapter Leveling Up with Integrity and Distinction



The Phoenix Chapter of Top Ladies and Top Teens partnered with Greater Bethel AME Church and hosted the UNCF/HBCU Faithful Sunday on February 18, 2024 and raised \$1,172. This year's event was spiritually enriching, by the recitation of the UNCF Litany and the performance of the Black National Anthem by talented HBCU students. This event encapsulated the spirit of our collective effort to support higher education. Ladies and Teens are pictured with guest preacher Rev. Eric Taylor, an HBCU graduate.



Phoenix Chapter Supports NCNW

On May 4, 2024, the Phoenix Chapter of Top Ladies supported our National Thrust, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). We extended our gratitude to the NCNW Metropolitan Sun of Arizona for hosting a captivating Living Legends Luncheon, celebrating the esteemed Phoenix Community. Our President, Lady Diana Washington-Crawford, a charter member of the NCNW Phoenix Chapter, highlighted the historical bond between Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women.



Status of Women Partner with THTLB

The Status of Women Thrust partnered with The House that Love Built (THTLB) on April 10, 2024, an organization that provides transitional housing for women in need, while promoting and enforcing a clean, sober living environment. Phoenix Top Ladies collected linen and bathroom décor and completed a beautiful bedroom, and bathroom beautification project for deserving women. In addition, Phoenix Top Ladies provided journals for the women as they navigate through new beginnings.

TOP LADIES OF *Distinction*, INC.



SYN-LOD

DIAMOND LEGACY IN THE
BIG EASY: 60 YEARS OF
SERVICE IN ACTION

2025



New Orleans, LA
June 25-29, 2025



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