

**MSM'S FIRST SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS CEREMONY**



MSM held its first scholarship awards ceremony on Saturday, July 12, 2003. Official representatives from Councilman Bernard M. Parks' and Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke's offices, along with guest speaker Jewel Diamond Taylor attended the inaugural event. MSM Economic Development presented nine scholarships to students from Crenshaw and Palisades High Schools. The event was held at Westfield Shoppingtown Mall in Fox Hills and was attended by the award recipients, their families and supporters of the nonprofit organization.

"We are thrilled to have our dream of assisting the youth of our community become a reality so early in the life of our agency," stated Mary Stevenson, MSM scholarship director. "Today's event has further motivated us to continue working towards bettering the lives of those we serve."

MSM Economic Development, a forward moving nonprofit agency just formed in 2001, provided scholarship applications to several L.A. County High Schools in the spring of this year. MSM has several components: urban housing redevelopment, college scholarships, clothing/furniture distribution for needy families, and a teen group home.

Only in its second year, the nonprofit received a number of scholarship applications. The successful awardees each received

\$5,000 to be distributed over the course of their college educations. The five students from Crenshaw High School were: Brenda Barahona, Tanita Renee Corley, Tammisha Griffin-Cannon, Ashley Lanisha Griffith, Fanniel Marie Jones. Scholarship recipients from Palisades High School were: Garrett Joseph Durand, Ralph Lawrence Franklin II, Brandi Lonae Parr, and Dominic A. Quiller. The students have been accepted for the fall 2003 semester to colleges ranging from UC Berkeley and Loyola Marymount to Cal State Dominguez Hills, among others.

Applications for next year's scholarships will be available in January 2004.

MSM welcomes private and corporate support of its scholarship program.

HEARTS GIVING BACK



MSM Economic Development has established a new, innovative program that will provide the basic tools to enhance and improve the quality of life of low -income families in Los Angeles County. The "Hearts Giving Back" program will provide low-income families an opportunity to receive items distributed to MSM through corporate donations. "Hearts Giving Back" will make a positive, dramatic impact on the lives of needy families by providing for basic needs.

MSM has been selected as the only nonprofit corporation in California for distribution of products donated from major corporate sponsors. ROSS Dress for Less, Ikea, Sears, Disney Store and The Pottery Barn are just a few of

the sponsors who have made this program possible.

Our "hearts donations" include a full range of clothing, furniture, bedding, appliances and personal needs items. And the best part is that the "hearts donations" are all free. Applicants pay a nominal \$100 application fee to offset processing applications and the distribution process. We encourage low -income families to apply for the "Hearts Giving Back" program.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

MSM has hired **Mwikali B. Hayes** as program director to develop plans for "Hope's Place," our emancipated foster youth group home. Ms. Hayes has been working with this population for many years with various organizations. She holds a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology. Her studies have included matters on women's consciousness, including identity, empowerment and self-esteem.

"Hope's Place" will serve as safe, supportive transitional housing to help young people recently released from foster care to develop the coping and business skills necessary to succeed in the world.

David S. James has joined MSM in the capacity of publicist and public relations consultant. Ms. James holds a B.A. in English from UCLA and attended the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. The former public relations director for the University of the Virgin Islands is a published short story writer and has authored numerous other works. Ms. James assists MSM in a variety of areas including print, media and Web communications.

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