

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2008

2008 Jurisdictional Scholarship Program
Mission Accomplished

On Saturday, June 7th in the Grand Ballroom of the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, the Prince Hall Freemason and Eastern Star Charitable Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, PHA and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, PHA held its Annual Joint Scholarship Awards Program. Nearly 500 students, parents, special guests, and members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family gathered to participate in the awards proceedings.

The audience was dazzled with two vocal selections. The first was rendered by Sister Crystal Donaldson of Electa Chapter #6 who sang, "Thank You Lord." The other selection, "I Believe" was sung by, Ms. Ayana M. Reed who was one of the 2008 scholarship recipients and a graduating senior from Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Dr. Adriane E. L. Dorrington delivered a motivational keynote address focusing on the theme of the program, "*Scholarships: Bridging the Gap between Schools and Community.*" She is president of the Dorrington Group and a National Education Association (NEA) Senior Policy Analyst. Dr. Dorrington is also the recipient of a White House Millennium Award. D.C. Councilmember (At-Large) Phil Mendelson commended Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars for the positive impact they have on the city as a whole during his remarks citing specific examples of their charity and aid to the community.

The mission of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia (MWPHGL) is to tirelessly contribute to the uplift of mankind. Through charitable endeavors, they deliver direct aid, relief, and support to the poor, less fortunate, underprivileged, and disenfranchised. Under the leadership of The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Honorable J. Raymond Murray, over 5000 members work unceasingly to promote and maintain a purposeful community presence. This membership consists of both Master Masons and its female counterparts, The Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star (GTGC) led by Grand Worthy Matron, Dianne Marshall Streat. Collectively, they strive to promote the principle tenants of the fraternal organization: friendship, morality, brotherly love, and charity. The MWPHGL/GTGC has a vested interest in the Washington, DC community in general and the Shaw neighborhood in particular as the Temple remains a tower of goodwill and friendship at 10th and U Sts., NW.

It is a leading priority of the MWPHGL/GTGC to endow and strengthen the youth of the city. It is through them that the priority of giving is perpetuated. The Scholarship Program was established in 1957 and since that time has awarded over 1.5 million dollars to 4,600 college-bound students.

Since January 2008, Director Margaret E. Anderson (PHFESCF), WJGD Phillip David (MWPHGL) and PM Venecia C. Bessellieu (GTGC) along with the members of their respective committees have now joined forces. The purpose of this combined group is to continue the

tradition of providing scholarships to graduating seniors who live in the Metropolitan Area. In addition, we accomplished the challenge set by the MWGM J. Raymond Murray of awarding \$75,000 in funds. On June 7th a total of 120 scholarships were awarded by organizations of the Prince Hall Masonic Family totaling over \$80, 000. The largest amount awarded in the 21st century.

Learn more: www.mwphgldc.com or www.gtgc.org