

www.friendshipcharitiesinc.org



Strengthening Communities Through UPLIFT

A 501 (c) organization serving Prince George's County, Md.

PREPARING OUR YOUTH FOR LIFE

ProjectENRICH



Project ENRICH is a special program designed to provide high school students, beginning at the ninth grade level, with an educational foundation and preparatory experiences which would assist them in their enrollment in and adjustment to higher education institutions committed to the educational development of black youth, particularly the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The program builds upon the students' academic enrichment by providing: academic support workshops, academic and financial college planning seminars, college visitations and career awareness opportunities. Similar to the college experience, students make a four year commitment to the program, freshman through senior years.

Que Kidz focuses on wholesome, educational and fun activities for youth from at-risk communities. Once a month on Saturdays, we visit with the youth at the Kentland Community Center in Prince George's County for a morning of exciting activities. Sometimes the day includes a field trip. Other times, it involves something as simple as sitting in a circle and playing games that challenge the young minds and boost the children's confidence.

QUE Kids

Que Kidz helps young kids learn to dream. The program is designed for younger children. Parents drop the children off at the Kentland Community Center early in the morning and pick them up later that day.

In some ways, the Que Kidz program complements the Project ENRICH college preparatory program supported by Friendship Charities Foundation. It reaches children earlier in life, when their attitudes and behavior patterns are being shaped, and helps guide them along on the right path so that they might be confident, well-adjusted and inquisitive.



SALUTING AND SUPPORTING SENIORS

One of the most overlooked populations in our community are our seniors. In this day and time of rapid technological change and many social distractions, our seniors can find themselves lost in the shuffle. That is why every June, Friendship Charities helps bring cheer to local seniors through its Annual Seniors Banquet held at the Gethsemane Methodist Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland.



The affair is widely anticipated and consistently draws more than 100 seniors from the Prince

George's Community. Men affiliated with Friendship run the whole show from beginning to end, from shopping for groceries and cooking the food to providing entertainment, singing hymns, presenting a sermon from a local pastor, arranging a mini-concert by the Gamma Pi chorale, and conducting prize giveaways. For many seniors, it is an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship that they may not have the opportunity to experience on a regular basis. In some cases, they are far away from family or they may not have very many relatives left in their generation. An event like this is welcomed in the lives of many seniors. It is important that we recognize their contributions to paving the way for today's generation and future generations.



Each year, the **Seniors Banquet** has also attracted drop-by visits from local elected officials and members of the local media have also covered the dinner and program. Friendship members look forward to this event every year.

In addition, Friendship Charities sponsors quarterly **Birthday Bashes** for seniors who live in the Windsor Crossing Apartments in the Suitland community. Seeing their reaction to the lit candles, the tasty cake and ice cream, the balloons, an array of gifts and the gathering of so many of their friends and the friendship associates makes for some very special birthday celebrations among senior citizens in Prince George's County.



Finally, Friendship Charities funds a big **Fish Fry Picnic** for seniors every year in a local park in Prince George's County. Most recently that has been Watkins Park in Upper Marlboro.

BRINGING CHEER DURING THE HOLIDAYS



During the holidays, it is difficult to watch struggling families and seniors go through the **Thanksgiving and Christmas** holidays lacking. The men affiliated with Friendship Charities Foundation, Inc. see this and react every year by collecting and distributing hundreds of pounds of butterball turkeys at Thanksgiving for the seniors at Windsor Crossing Apartments in Suitland. Also, Friendship Charities hosts free Christmas parties and collects and distributes hundreds of toys for youngsters who live in underserved portions of Suitland and Kentland in Prince George's County. The Thanksgiving turkeys are part of more expansive meal kits

that help the seniors create a complete nourishing meal for one of the biggest holidays of the year. The Christmas Toy Drive, often held on conjunction with other local social service organizations, allows children from challenging backgrounds to experience the same joy and excitement most other kids feel during the Christmas season from visiting with Santa Claus and seeing the items from their Christmas list under the tree on Christmas morning. During the course of the Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday period, the men of Friendship Charities serve more than 500 youths, families and seniors in the local community. Friendship also adopts a local family for Christmas each year. While the holidays come only once at the end of the year, Friendship Charities spends the rest of the year making connections and setting the stage for the big end-of-the-year holiday events for area needy families.



BUILDING COMMUNITIES ONE HOME AT A TIME

One of the most important once-a-year projects that Friendship Charities engages in is the local **Christmas In April** initiative. Over the past decade, the men of Friendship Charities have helped revitalize and restore more than a dozen local homes belonging to Prince Georges' County families. Each year, the foundation organizes a handyman crew from among its affiliates and members and they converge



on a chosen local home in disrepair and spend a weekend hammering, nailing, sawing, painting and cleaning the interior and exterior to renew and reinvigorate the home for a needy family. Friendship facilitates its participation in this community service project through local Christmas in April contacts. This one weekend of service focused on one family brings some of the greatest pride and joy to the organization every year.