

Doctor wants to aid Haitian children

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Dr. Kenneth Westfield of the Shearing-Westfield Eye Institute is seeking volunteers to assist in a fundraiser for Friends of the Children of Lascahobas (Haiti). Lascahobas is a poor mountain village, 45 miles of dusty back roads from Port-Au-Prince.

Dr. Westfield, along with other physicians, visits the town annually to treat eye conditions such as cataracts

and glaucoma.

He is also attempting to raise funds for friends of the children to continue medical humanitarian missions to Lascahobas.

The relief organization is managed by Estelle Dubission, a retired medical technician from Brooklyn and a native of Lascahobas.

"Dubission has raised funds to develop adequate medical facilities and treatment programs for the popu-

lation since first organizing such humanitarian missions in the 1970s," says Dr. Westfield. "Now she is hoping to create a self-funding legacy, to ensure her work continues after she is no longer able to organize these efforts on her own."

The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 15, beginning at 3 p.m. at the Tournament Players Club, 1700 Village Center Circle in Summerlin.

There will be a reception and an auction (silent and traditional) of Haitian art, with all the proceeds going to the Friends of the Children of Lascahobas.

The Shearing-Westfield Eye Institute has one of the longest histories among ophthalmologists in southern Nevada, and is responsible for bringing the latest in eye technology to the valley.

For more information, call 362-3937.

Hoggard

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nity activists, making lasting contributions "in an illustrious career that spanned several professions," according to a biography. During that career, he was a member of several groups committed to improving West Las Vegas, economically and otherwise, and achieved a litany of "firsts."

Shortly after moving here, Hoggard became one of the first African-American officers in the Las Vegas Police Department, at a time when blacks cops were prohibited from arresting white people.

He was the area's first black school attendance officer, and his second wife, Mabel—for whom an elementary school is named—was the first African-American teacher in southern Nevada. Hoggard was president of the NAACP's Las Vegas Branch when efforts began in earnest to integrate the Las Vegas Strip; was the first black administrator of the state's largest anti-poverty agency, and was a co-founder of its owned-and-operated radio station, KCEP-FM, popularly known today as "Power 88."

Last year in February-Black History Month-Hoggard made a gift to southern Nevada libraries of his oral history, which had been recorded on audiotape between March 1998 and July 1999 during sessions conducted at his home.

Its subject "left a lasting legacy during his lifetime in Las Vegas," said Ray Willis, who recorded the memoirs.

Willis expressed amazement at Hoggard's stamina "as a senior citizen, when you would expect him to begin to slow down." Until illness restricted him, Hoggard had continued to serve as a community coordinator with the American Association of Retired Persons. Willis called Hoggard's list of achievements "practically endless."

Urban Chamber of Commerce President Hannah Brown has recollections of Hoggard that go back to her

After passing away "peacefully" last week, a community treasure is mourned

days as a schoolgirl and student in Mabel Hoggard's second grade class. Young Hannah and her classmates knew their teacher's husband well, by reputation, because "he was our truancy officer," she said.

"He was very active with the NAACP," Brown continued. "He'll be missed because he was a very effective leader. He put his heart and soul into everything he did."

Marcia Washington was active in the NAACP when she met Hoggard in the 1980s. She called him "a man of courage—a warrior...a role model (who) was all about the equality and respect of the black man. What a history he has left for our children in the state of Nevada," she said. "He will be truly missed."

U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.), now one of the most powerful men in Congress, said in Hoggard he has lost a close ally who worked in his campaigns for 35 years. "He was always there, available," said the senator, noting that what he remembers best about Hoggard's achievements is the extent of the list.

"About a year-and-a-half or so ago, we were in the library on the westside," said Reid, recalling that Hoggard was telling an audience about his more than half-century as a Las Vegas resident, and about the history he either made or was part of over those years. "He just went through it all...took him, oh, at least an hour," said Reid. "I'll miss him so much," he added, wistfully.

Among those whom Hoggard, himself, held in high esteem for strong advocacy of blacks in southern Nevada, is state Senator Joe Neal (D-Dist. 4). "I've known him for over 47 years. The respect is mutual. The community has 'lost an individual who did things not for fame, but who saw a need and tried

to fill it," said Neal. "During all his years of service to the community, he was never noted as a 'sellout.'"

After passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Hoggard helped establish the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County (EOB). He became its first black executive director in 1968, serving until 1983 and helping to create KCEP during that time. Verlia Hoggard says her husband considered those to have been "his greatest accomplishments."

Sherman Rutledge, General Manager of "Power 88," talked on Tuesday about his "immeasurable respect" for the station's co-founder, "his commitment to the community, and especially his foresight in making 'Power 88' possible. He was a visionary," said Rutledge, "and the architect of our station."

Hoggard believed that the African-American community here, when forced to live in one neighborhood, restricted from the at-large community and society outside, possessed far more cohesion and unity of purpose than does its present manifestation. That incongruity, he felt, was a consequence of migration from the neighborhood as conditions improved and opportunities appeared.

"But I think it is just a passing phase," he said in an interview last year. "I think things will improve with the next generation. We need to be involved, the black church in particular."

"Everything we see today as a gain for blacks didn't just happen overnight," said Hoggard. "A lot of people helped pave the way to make it possible. Looking back, I can truly say that blacks in Las Vegas have come a long way. But clearly, we've got a long way to go."

Hoggard is survived by his wife, Verlia, and son, David, Jr.; stepson Charles Wims of Oakland, Califor-

nia; brothers, J. Clinton Hoggard of Chevy Chase, Maryland and Francis Hoggard of Union City, New Jersey; sister, Symera White of Bethesda, Maryland; three nephews, a niece, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Describing her husband, Verlia said, "David was a very strong man—who had strong beliefs about helping the underdog."

J. David Hoggard, Jr. then put the Las Vegas black community's loss in perspective. "They don't make them like that anymore," he said.

Shop seeks wigs to help cancer victims

*By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice*

Wiggin Out Wigs and Hairpieces, 1216 West Owens Avenue, is hosting a wig drive during the month of August to support the American Cancer Society, and wants the community to donate used wigs rather than throw them away.

The American Cancer Society provides free wigs to breast cancer patients who have lost their hair due to treatment. The organization also provides information for victims of cancer with a 97 percent survival rate for early detection of breast cancer.

"I know how to make old wigs look new," said shop owner Shonica Murray, who has now been in business for four months. "When people donate old wigs, they're old wigs. I've had people bring in wigs with the price tag still on them, and people call with their credit cards and buy new wigs."

Donors can drop off their wigs at the shop Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The shop will clean and style the wigs before donating them to the cancer society.

Donors are also welcome to buy wigs and/or hairpieces from the shop to contribute if they have no used ones of their own. Currently, Murray has collected more than 100 wigs for her drive.

A former singer for Clint Holmes and Louie Louie, Murray got the idea for a wig drive when she planned on donating her own personal wigs to the Cancer Society. "I have a lot of wigs," she said. "I can give them my wigs and others."

Her husband, Duane Murray, lost his mother to breast cancer when he was ten years old, "So this is really close to him," Shonica said.

For more information, call 648-9441.

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