



Juneteenth event to assist planned charter academy

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

The Rainbow Dreams Academy, a public charter school being planned by the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation, will be the beneficiary of fund-raising efforts connected with the Fourth Annual Juneteenth Festival.

The Rainbow Dreams Academy currently sponsors after-school and Saturday educational programs at Kit Carson Elementary School, focusing on math, science and interweaving African-American history, Diane Pollard, chair of the Juneteenth Festival Committee, said.

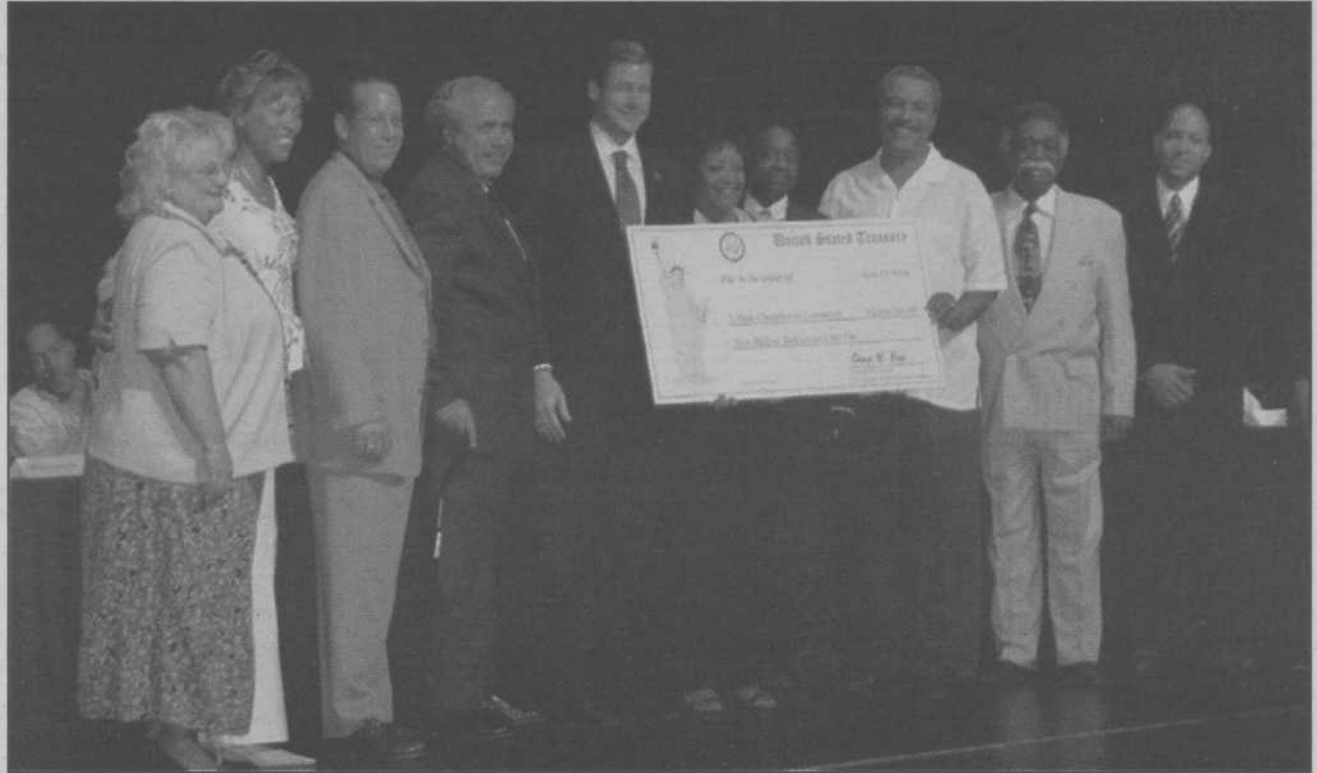
"We want to build from the ground up," Pollard said about the Rainbow Dreams Academy. "We need to raise \$4 million to build. We are hopeful that we might receive a major grant and are working with some grant writers toward that objective. If there is anyone out there with an interest in this cause, please give us a call."

Councilman Lawrence Weekly is the honorary chair for the fourth consecutive year of the Juneteenth Festival.

Besides serving as a fund-raiser, the Juneteenth Festival, which will be held Saturday, June 19, from 3 to 9 p.m., at the Sammy Davis Jr. Plaza in Lorenzi Park, centers on educating about history of slavery and freedom.

"We try to educate the public about Black history," Pollard said. "Bringing awareness of Juneteenth was not done in the past the way we thought it should be, so we started sharing this important aspect of Black history with the community."

After President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863 freeing slaves in states at war against the Union, it would be another two and one-half years before slaves in Galveston, Texas, learned about their freedom from Major Gen. Gordon
(See Juneteenth, Page 14)



Sentinel Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

All Smiles: Urban Chamber of Commerce directors accept \$2 million from the Economic Development Administration.

Chamber breaks ground on office

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

The Urban Chamber of Commerce held a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday for a \$3.1-million facility that will house its offices and a multi-use business incubator and service center.

"This is a good opportunity for the chamber and the community," said Louis Overstreet, executive director of the Urban Chamber of Commerce (UCC). "It's fantastic and the planning process

has been in the making for the past four years. This will provide us more space and a variety of services to the community and businesses through the use of the multi-purpose offices.

"We are going to offer printing services, legal services, CPA (certified public accountant) services. This was an opportunity for us to do something for the community and we took advantage of it. We are looking to work with the revitalization

of this community and making a difference. We have a diverse leadership and we are extremely excited to move forward."

The project is going forward with a \$2 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The initial phase of the building process will consist of two buildings with more than 30,000-square-foot of office space. The development is going up at Mount Maria at Martin Luther King

Bldv. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2005.

Preliminary tenants include A/E Services, Banking/Financial Services, Groit Communications Group (The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice), the Urban League, MTE Enterprises, 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, MAC Promotions, National Association of Minority Contractors, Native Son Bookstore, Palmer Enterprises-Café and attorney Maria at Martin Luther King
(See Chamber, Page 5)

Some groups already working to solve issues cited by Cosby

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — While comedian and philanthropist Bill Cosby was busy criticizing low-income Blacks for not fulfilling their obligations to society and to their race, there were thousands of people already engaged in helping the very people Cosby was upbraiding.

"We run a wide range of after school programs across the country. And many of them are successful. We touch probably about 600,000 to 700,000 kids a year, which is considerable," says Marc Morial, president and CEO

of the National Urban League. "For example, we have a male responsibility program that we run in Chicago. I said to the director, 'How many people do you serve in a year?' He said, '300.' I said, 'How many could you serve?' He said, 'Awe man, I could serve 5,000 if I had the resources.'"

More than 100 Urban League chapters around the country, most surviving on corporate donations, foundation grants or government contracts, reach as many people as possible with after school tutorial, job training, leadership development and responsible decision-making

"Children who have not developed the basic reading skills in the very early years find it extremely difficult to become competent readers in the later grades."

— Linda White,
AKA's national president

programs.

And they would be doing more — if they had the resources.

"On an overall basis, one of our core competencies, one of the most important things

we do is reach out and serve youth in America's urban communities," says Morial, former mayor of New Orleans. "But one thing I have noticed is that even with our most successful programs,

we're not touching the ones we need to touch because of money."

The Urban League is among thousand of organizations that seek to address many of the age-old problems cited by Cosby.

Speaking in Washington, D.C. at an observance of the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, Cosby complained that "the lower economic people are not holding up their end of this deal."

He said, "These people are not parenting. They are buying things for their kids — \$500 sneakers for what? And

won't spend \$200 for 'Hooked on Phonics'... They're on the corner and they can't speak English..."

Psychologist Julia Hare, co-founder of the San Francisco-based Black Think Tank, says Cosby's comments would have been more helpful had he suggested ways to address the problems.

"He should have said, 'Following this meeting and this feel-good session of Brown v. Board of Education, I am going to personally gather together the Jack and Jills, the Links, all of the Greek letter organizations, the coalition of this, the co-
(See Problems, Page 4)

