

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Event satiates the hungry

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

About 300 people endured the sweltering heat and humidity of the 113-degree summer weather to receive food and supplies for up to 800 needy families at the Doolittle Community Center last Saturday. The event was sponsored by Feed the Children, the third largest inter-

national charity organization in the United States, which works to provide food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to people who lack the essentials to survive due to famine, war, poverty or natural disaster.

Founded in 1979, Feed the Children has provided assistance to families in all 50 states and 118 countries,

reaching out to over 50,000 partner agencies of homeless shelters, food distribution centers, churches and other charitable organizations that assist needy families.

In the past year, the organization distributed over 183 million pounds of food and other necessities to needy families worldwide, operating in fiscal year 2005 with

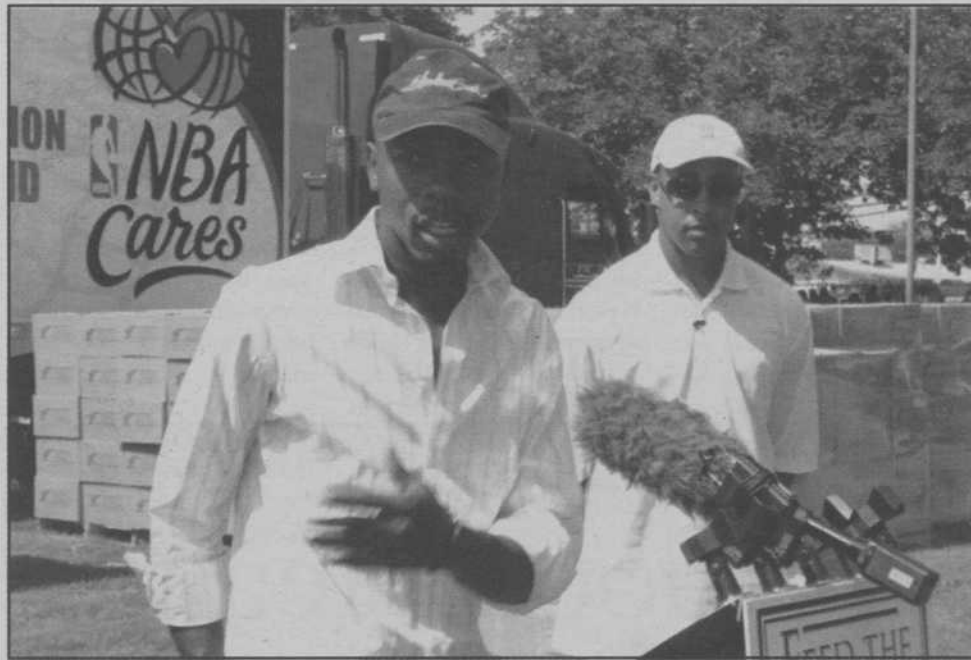
an annual budget of about \$7.4 million. About 89 percent of its budget goes towards programs and services, including childcare, food, medical, disaster relief, education and community development, 8 percent is for fundraising costs, and 3 percent in administrative services, according to its reports.

The NBA and its players association is one of several sport organizations and corporate businesses affiliated with the efforts of Feed the Children.

Former NBA player and sports announcer for ESPN, Greg Anthony, served as the host of the event, along with Larry Jones, founder of the Feed the Children organization. Other guests included Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly, former NBA player John Starks, and representatives of the Hope for the Homeless Ministry.

Two large semi-tractor trailers from Oklahoma City, one of five regional distribu-

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Greg Anthony joins fellow ex-NBA star John Starks for a Feed the Children event at Doolittle Community Center. The group is recognized as the third largest global charity.

## Urban League embraces leaders

### Outstanding African-Americans win civic awards at event

By Debbie Hall  
Sentinel-Voice

It was a celebration on Sunday at the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League Inaugural Awards Gala held in the Grand Ballroom of the Bellagio Hotel. With the theme "A Tribute to Our Own," the event was filled with Las Vegas community leaders, business owners, elected officials and guests attending to honor, among others, three outstanding African-Americans at one of the most elegant celebrations of the year.

Founded in 1910, the National Urban League is a major social and civil rights organization in the United States with 100 affiliates in 34 states and the District of Columbia. The Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League

was established in 2001, and became an official affiliate in 2004.

The local Urban League strives to empower, enable and assist African-Americans, other people of color and disadvantaged individuals in becoming self-sufficient through public advocacy, providing services and developing strong business and community partnerships.

The Urban League (national and its affiliates) is governed by an interracial board of trustees composed of men and women from the professional, business, labor, civic and religious communities.

The evening began with a cocktail hour of social networking to the sounds of smooth jazz. There were approximately 600 attendees.

Master of Ceremonies Steve Shorr, Cox Communications and Board Member of the Urban League, welcomed everyone and reminded the reason for the gala is because "we are here for the future."

Shorr introduced Congressman Jim Gibbons to present a plaque to Founder and Chairman of the Board, Jacquelyn Shropshire, as the driving force of the Urban League.

Shropshire thanked all of the volunteers, staff and Board of Directors with her favorite phrase: "Together, we can make it happen."

Shropshire presented the First Corporate Partner Award to the MGM/Mirage accepted by Mirage President Scott Sibella. He thanked everyone and stated that the corporation "wanted

everyone to have an opportunity, and we (MGM/Mirage) are committed to providing that opportunity."

Featured speaker and namesake for one of the awards, Vernon E. Jordan Jr., longtime civil rights and political activist, said: "I am not here by choice, I am here by subpoena. And when you get a subpoena, you need to comply. The subpoena was from Jackie [Shropshire] who told me that I will be here," Jordan emphasized. "...And when Jackie says something, you listen," he said to the audience's appreciative laughter.

Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League Vernon E. Jordan Jr. Civic Award was given to Robert Siller, board member of the Nevada State

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates fields questions Saturday during the "State of Black Nevada" forum at Victory Missionary Baptist Church.

## Reports paint grim portrait

By Parker Philpot  
Sentinel-Voice

The Urban League's national office published "The State of Black America" earlier this year.

The book, a categorized report, shows that teenage pregnancy rates are increasing, infant mortality is rising, HIV/AIDS is epidemic, low-paying jobs and unemployment are debilitating for families, voting power is collapsing and more woes are facing Black America.

In Nevada, Blacks face the same issues, and there is urgent need for viable solutions in several target areas.

Although there is year-to-year stagnation, there is reason for hope, according to coordinators of a joint forum held Saturday.

The town hall format, hosted at Victory Missionary Baptist Church, was held to announce the statistical findings about Black America and a companion set of findings in "The State of Black Nevada," a report compiled locally under the guidance of State Senator Steven Horsford with the support of Nevada Partners.

The Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League convened the community meeting to present and discuss the organization's current report and the new state report.

The local affiliate office was officially established in 2004, but this is the first year it participated in a presentation of national statistics and facilitated a local, supplemental report, which is standard practice for their offices, according to President and Board Chair Jacquelyn Shropshire of the local Urban League.

"Each of our [Urban League] affiliates does their own local (state or city or county) report," Shropshire said. "This is the first time, [so we decided to do] a combined forum to discuss 'The State of Black America' and 'The State of Black Nevada'. It [the national report] doesn't mean much unless it can be made relevant to people [on a more local level]."

Elected officials on the panel included, U.S. Senator Harry Reid who gave opening remarks and applauded

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