

Amazing Prince George's County Parents Awards

Inspiration, Recognition & Appreciation

Sunday, June 14, 2015 DoubleTree by Hilton



ABOUT IN REACH, INC.

Preparing Students for College, Work & Life

Founded in December 1999, **IN REACH** is a youth-driven, community-focused 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization positioned to respond to the unmet developmental and academic needs of children and youth living in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Mission: IN REACH believes that students should always be *in reach* of a quality education, opportunities in their communities for development and, ultimately, their dreams. In order for IN REACH to be successful at helping students reach this goal, it prepares them for college, work and life.

Vision: **IN REACH** envisions healthy, productive and prepared young adults in every family.

Guiding Principles

- Caring adults who value children and youth
- Safe places for youth to learn and live, gather and socialize
- A healthy start for all children with appropriate supports into young adulthood
- Meaningful educational experiences
- Opportunities to help others through service learning

Key Strategies

<u>Strategy I: Outreach/Public Engagement</u>. **IN REACH** is committed to raising awareness and engaging stakeholders in the issues that currently challenge its mission. We advocate by creating, collecting and disseminating information and uniting voices to speak on behalf of children, youth and their families.

<u>Strategy II: Direct Services</u>. **In Reach**'s direct services are at the heart of the organization. **In Reach** programs engage students in opportunities that will prepare them for college, work and life.

<u>Strategy III: Special Initiatives</u>. **IN REACH** values collaboration and engages in and initiates special projects to advance its mission and fulfill its vision.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Amazing Guests,

On behalf of **IN REACH, INC.**, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Fourth Annual Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents Awards Program. As we celebrate another amazing group of parents who go above and beyond to nurture our most precious assets, our children and youth, let us also remember that they too need nurturing



and support. I believe parents are our most undervalued resource; but not today. Today we will inspire, recognize and appreciate eighteen simply amazing parents making our communities better places through their selfless acts.

This afternoon, three amazing parents will join **2014 recipients** Diane Traweek, Jeff Warner, Alexia Clark; **2013 recipients** LaRone Clark, Lisa Ojeda-Brown, Karen Parker; and the **2012 inaugural recipients** Jaminah Wortham, Kristan Hayes and Abiodun Babayemi representing the Ingrid Turner Amazing Parent Award, Parks and Recreation Amazing Parent Award, and **IN REACH** Amazing Parent Award respectively.

As **IN REACH**'s premiere annual event, Celebrating Amazing Parents, is evolving and getting better with each year. Your presence this afternoon is greatly appreciated and it is my hope that you all will leave feeling more inspired and celebrated than when you arrived. I encourage each and every one of you to stay connected to **IN REACH** and next year identify and nominate other amazing parents, become a sponsor or patron. This is for you.

Warmest regards,

Toni A. Smith Executive Director



Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer

June 14, 2015

IN REACH, INC. Ms. Toni A. Smith 9103 Woodmore Center Drive, Suite 133 Lanham. MD 20706

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am pleased to extend congratulations in recognition of IN REACH, INC., Fourth Annual Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents Awards Night on June 14, 2015. Congratulations in reaching this exciting milestone!

Today, your organization has the exciting opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished over the years, while looking forward to the bright future lying ahead. I applaud IN REACH, INC., for its many years of service in preparing students for college, careers and life.

Again, congratulations, and please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

With best wishes.

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer

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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Rushern L. Baker, III County Executive

June 14, 2015

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the citizens and residents of Prince George's County, I am honored to extend greetings to the guests of In Reach, Inc., as you convene to celebrate your 4thAnnual *Celebrating Amazing Parents* recognition banquet. I appreciate the support of the parents, sponsors, participants and volunteers who have contributed to the growth and success of this organization serving our community.

I am pleased to acknowledge your ongoing efforts to support the development of children, youth and their families in Prince George's County, by engaging students in academic programs and providing opportunities that prepare them for college, work and life. I commend In Reach Inc., for continuously providing outreach and direct services, expansion opportunities, and educational programs in our community.

Congratulations on another year of great leadership and worthy accomplishments. Best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Rushern L. Baker, III County Executive



Best Wishes

to

In Reach, Inc.

and the

2015 Amazing Parent Award Nominees



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The Honorable Ingrid M. Turner Congratulates the 2015 Amazing Prince George's County Parents

You all have provided outstanding community service and invested time in our schools through your work in parent teacher associations, youth groups and mentoring programs all while raising and supporting your own children in every aspect of their lives. You are the most important role model in a child's life and the nominees for the Amazing Parent Awards have certainly set a tremendous example.









ALVIN THORNTON, PH.D.

Professor of Political Science Howard University

Dr. Alvin Thornton is professor of Political Science at Howard University. He was formally Senior Academic Advisor to the President of Howard University. Prior to his current appointment, he served for two years as the University's Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer, and eight years as Associate Provost for Academic affairs.

During his tenure at Howard, Dr. Thornton has led many university-wide initiatives. He chaired the University's 2009 Self-Study Executive Committee in preparation for the decennial reaffirmation of the University's accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). He chaired the university's 2010 Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal (PCAR), which assessed each of the university's academic programs and recommended strategic changes. Prior to joining the Office of the Provost, Dr. Thornton served for twenty years as a faculty member in the University's Political Science Department as well as in several tenured positions.

In addition to traditional roles in the university and academic community, Dr. Thornton has had considerable experience as a public servant. He was a member of the Prince George's County Board of Education between 1992 and 1999, and was elected to chair the Board three times. During the 1974 to 2005 period, he played a primary role in the development of enhanced democratic processes and institutions in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1999, Maryland's Governor appointed him to chair the State's Commission on Education Adequacy, Equity and Excellence (the "Thornton Commission"). The Commission's recommendations became the design that the State uses to fund and hold accountable secondary public education. He also served as a legislative aide to Congressman John Conyers, Jr., helping to advocate for a national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Thornton is the recipient of numerous outstanding leadership and service awards. He was born in Roanoke, Alabama, and received a B.A. degree from Morehouse College and a Ph.D. from Howard University.

2015 Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies, Jaracus Copes, President, New Destiny, LLC

Greetings from the Innovators

The Honorable Ingrid M. Turner Former Council Member, District 4

Shawna Fachet
Department of Parks and Recreation

Toni A. Smith
Founder & Executive Director, In REACH, INC.

Introduction of the Nominees

Toni A. Smith and IN REACH Board Directors Kelly Bell and Aaron Sisko

Blessing of the Meal

Reverend Dina Bell Nance Associate Pastor, Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Master of Ceremonies, Jaracus Copes, President, New Destiny, LLC

Guest Speaker

Alvin Thornton, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Howard University

Presentation of 2015 Award Recipients

Ingrid M. Turner Amazing Parent Award
The Honorable Ingrid M. Turner, Former Council Member, District 4

Parks and Recreation Amazing Parent Award Shauna Fachet, Department of Parks and Recreation

> In REACH Amazing Parent Award Toni A. Smith

Closing Remarks

Master of Ceremonies, Jaracus Copes, President, New Destiny, LLC

Amazin



Monique & Mark Adams



Gwendolyn Allen



Nicole Barnett



Sharon Lewis



Janice Lofland



Jerrod Mustaf



Christine Price



Sherry Rather



Debbie Robinson

Parents



Gayle Brown



LaShawn James



Mary Lane



Robert Mathieu



Dina Nance



Lisa Ojeda-Brown



Ayanna N. Shorter



Cynthia Weaver

Amazing Parents Class of 2012



JAMINAH WORTHAM 2012 Ingrid M. Turner Amazing Parent Award



KRISTAN HAYES 2012 Parks and Recreation Amazing Parent Award



ABIODUN BABAYEMI 2012 In REACH, Inc. Amazing Parent Award

The Inaugural Class

Abiodun Babayemi
Valencia Brooks-Jones
Angela Crocker Brown
Wendy Graham
Kristan Hayes
Akilah Jefferson
Cynthia Proctor
Rajistrue Ramsammy
William E. Rogers Jr.
D'Vorolyn M. Talley
Ruth Tazanu
Ronald A. Williams
Jaminah Wortham

Amazing Parents Class of 2013



LaRone Clark Ingrid M. Turner Amazing Parent Award



Lisa Ojeda-Brown Parks and Recreation Amazing Parent Award



Karen Parker In REACH, INC. Amazing Parent Award

Dr. Lubrina Bryant LaRone Clark Venus Ferdinand Halomon Green Kristan Haves Nikki Kelly Sharndell Branch King Jermaine McFadden Cynthia Marolen Bukola Molokwu Lisa Ojeda-Brown Sherri Lenell Paige-Robertson Karen Parker Cynthia Proctor Kimberly Robinson Taunya Denise Said Jennifer Schumacher Tonya R. Scott Flaine White

Amazing Parents Class of 2014



ALEXIA CLARK
2014 Parks and Recreation
Amazing Parent Award



JEFF WARNER 2014 In REACH, INC. Amazing Parent Award



DIANE TRAWEEK 2014 Ingrid M. Turner Amazing Parent Award

Dr. Samuel & Fatima Alfa
Alexia Clark
Willie & Roberta Cooper
Jeffrey & Bobbie Dewhurst
Monica Ferguson
DeLisa French
Cynthia Gray
Karen Hackett
Lorrie Ann Hyatt
Erica Johnson
Tarsha Deanna Jones
Sharon M. Lewis
Ana Moran

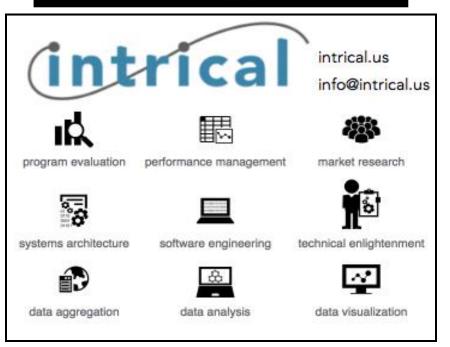
Josephine Moss-Nelson

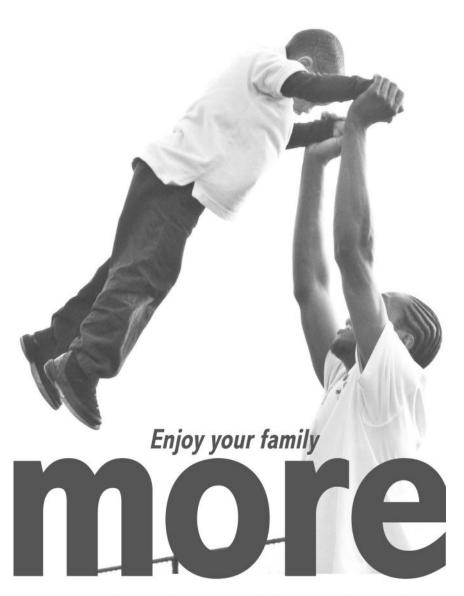
Alicia Nelson
Anabel Nolasco
Lisa Ojeda-Brown
Mary Pollard-Jamison
Michael B. Rather
Elizabeth Santos
Deidra Speight
Terry & Lori Thomas
Diane Traweek
Jeff Warner
Christine Monaco Williams
Andrea D. Williamson
Geiner Janet Winkey
Tia Yisrael



Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents Awards

Jasmine A. Smith www.etsy.com/shop/JayAlexCreations.com





CONGRATULATIONS TO IN REACH ON THEIR FOURTH ANNUAL "Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents" AWARDS

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IN REACH, INC.

Preparing Students for College, Work & Life

The Programs

IN REACH's direct services are at the heart of the organization. Although programs span Kindergarten - Twelfth grades, all of **IN REACH'S** programs engage students in opportunities that will prepare them for college, work and life.

The Youth Ambassadors Program (YA) is an afterschool college access program that operates for high school students beginning in their sophomore year. The YA Program engages students in a variety of opportunities to build critical life skills through hands-on financial literacy and communication activities, preparing for college and the workforce, and leading meaningful service learning projects to address the issues that directly impact them locally and as global citizens. The YA Program is a UNICEF High School Club and, for the past three years, have been raising awareness about the dangers of teen dating violence via the *True Love, True Reality* Teen Dating Violence Awareness Project.

The Quantum Project (QP) is an afterschool college awareness and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) career exploration program that engages middle school students in handson weekly activities that reinforce the school day curriculum. **IN REACH**'s goal is to affect overall student achievement specifically in Science and Math while further developing the areas that the Partnership for 21st Century Skills has termed the 4C's - communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity - the "super skills" for the 21st century.

The **Girls of Worth** (GOW) **Literacy Club** is an afterschool transitional program for fifth or sixth grade girls. The purpose of the program is to prepare pre-adolescent girls for the middle school years by engaging them in activities that strengthen them academically and further develop their 4C's skills.

Thank You . . .

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Special Thanks To

Tina T. Butler Jaracus Copes Vernel Duvall Jasmine A. Smith



About Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents

Celebrating Amazing Prince George's County Parents is **IN REACH**'s premiere annual event to recognize parents throughout Prince George's County doing simply amazing things in their communities.

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Aaron Sisko, Consultant

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Talent

Katrina Robinson, Manager, College Access Programs
Samantha Trotter, AmeriCorps VISTA Partner Engagement Specialist
Randi Coward, Afterschool Program Facilitator
Jasmine Davis, Afterschool Program Facilitator
Neha Singhal, Afterschool Program Facilitator

rating IN REACH, INC.