



Elizabeth Caples  
President

# FOCUS



Benjamin K. Richmond  
President/CEO

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Santa himself visited the many children and teens who attended the Angel Tree Party.

## *Efforts appreciated at Angel Tree Party*

The LUL Guild's Angel Tree is an outreach to children and teens who have a parent(s) in prison and is part of the Prison Fellowship Ministry. All too often, the forgotten victims of crime are the children of inmates, who are left without a father or mother through no fault of their own.

These children are at high-risk for criminal behavior; our Angel Tree attempts to break the cycle of crime by sharing our love at Christmas. We host a party and provide gifts (both necessities and toys) along

with treat bags filled with goodies and trinkets for children and/or teens whose incarcerated parent(s) have enrolled them in the program.

Special thanks to all our Guilders, especially Co-chairs LaVaciette Griffin and Emma Spears, for your help with this year's Angel Tree. "It was a great turn out and party. The Guild always does a great job with making children happy at Christmas time," said Ben Richmond, LUL President/CEO.

## **2005/06 Officers and Executive Committee**

### **President -**

Elizabeth Caples (231-6713)

### **1st Vice President/Program Chair-**

Patty Van Vooren (502-829-9323)

### **2nd Vice President/Membership**

**Chair -** Sheila Carson (425-9189)

### **Recording Secretary -**

Deathra Shipley (587-1793)

### **Asst. Recording Secretary -**

Shirley Fuqua-Jackson (239-8317)

### **Corresponding Secretary -**

Bobby Atchley (821-4926)

### **Treasurer -**

Mary Mahin (558-0554)

### **Member-at-Large -**

Hazel Calloway (776-5229)

### **Committee Chairs**

*Courtesy -* Jerry Wright

*Finance & Budget -* Mary Mahin

*Membership -* Sheila Carson

*Program -* Patty Van Vooren

*Public Relations -* Claudia Geurin

*The mission of the Louisville Urban League Guild is to unite, strengthen, and support the Louisville Urban League in its endeavors with volunteerism and community service.*



# Spotlight on Audrey Beasley

Audrey Beasley joined the Louisville Urban League Guild in 1999 after seeing an ad in the community calendar of the newspaper welcoming people to join. She also had a friend who worked at LUL that encouraged her join the Guild. "I was truly impressed with the community activities."

She enjoys the Guild events at the Healing Place and helping the adults and children there. "Everyone deserves a second chance and if we can do something to help someone else – that's one of our missions in life. When you help the children, you also help the parents."

She also volunteered for five years at Meals on Wheels delivering meals to the elderly. She had to stop because of her work schedule, but considered the experience very uplifting. "It was very nice to connect and share stories. Most of the people in the program lived alone and they looked forward to someone checking in on them every day."

Seeing the goodness and potential in others is a practice that Audrey has a flair for. As a teacher and a tutor, she has seen kids get labeled various things because they don't score high on tests, or have trouble accomplishing goals. "When you work with students one on one, you see such hope. They are smart, but there are so many detractors."

Audrey believes that if all classroom teachers, could go into the homes of these children, then they would understand that behavior problems and underachievement is often because of home circumstances.

"Earlier in my career, I didn't understand why I kept getting a lot of troubled kids in my classroom. I was really angry about it. Later I realized that it happened for a reason. I learned to celebrate each day that child came to

the classroom and to teach with love and discipline."

Now retired from teaching after more than 29 years, Audrey continues to substitute teach and to tutor students deemed "at risk." She has taught elementary and middle school students.

She obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from Western Kentucky University with the intent to become a psychologist. "I thought I would teach for a year or two to save money to go back later." It didn't take long to realize that teaching was her mission. She obtained her master's degree from the U of L, and has hours towards her principalship at UK.

Audrey admits that she loves being a student and loves to read. "Many of today's children are missing out. You don't have to be rich. You can get a public library card and go anywhere you want to go." Right now Audrey is reading the latest Harry Potter book and thoroughly enjoys the work of J.K. Rowling.

Audrey also said that she is indebted to her own parents, Herbert and Emma Thorton, for steering her on the right course. Her father went to college on the G.I. bill after leaving the Navy. He became a teacher, and later an administrator. In the earlier years, he often worked two jobs. Her mother also worked outside of the home.

Audrey recalled how her parents made it a priority to keep their children involved in many different events. "They kept us actively engaged as much as they could in a segregated society. They gave me dreams and gave me values."

Audrey believes that the importance of exposing children to different experiences can not be overstated. "After teaching kids that are extremely rich and extremely poor, the main differ-

ence seems to be that wealthier children have more varied experiences. They get to travel and be involved in after school activities." Audrey believes it's possible to help children to have many different positive life experiences no matter what the socioeconomic status is. "My parents involved us in cultural things that were free, like museums and music events."

As a teacher, Audrey made it her duty to instill hope and encourage all students to believe in the power of education. "I told my students that I am a dream keeper who helps them keep their dreams alive."

She also taught her students about the importance of character. "Integrity means doing the right thing even when no one is looking. No matter what age you are, this means being successful in life."

Often the recipient of hugs and warm greetings from former students, Audrey realizes the importance of her role. "When they still remember me, I know that I've made an impact. We (teachers) don't get our pay in money; we get it from our students."

Audrey has three famous people that she admires: Maya Angelou for her wisdom, common sense and compassion; Rosa Parks for her quiet dignity; and motivational speaker Les Brown. Her favorite Les Brown quote is "Other people's opinion of you does not have to become your reality."

Traveling has also been a passion for Audrey since retirement. She is planning a trip to Miami for the upcoming UofL game and also enjoys going to Las Vegas.

She has two sons – one who is science-fiction writer, and another who is attending aviation school in California.

## Angel Tree Party 2005



### LUL Guild

#### Events

##### Old School Dinner Dance

Our theme is "Motown Review" celebrating Hitsville USA music from the 60's - 80's. Get your dancing shoes and Hitsville USA attire ready! **Reservations are due on Friday, January 20.** Payment by credit card can be made by contacting Audrey Poppe at 561-6830 x 118. Also, committee members will be at the LUL from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Monday, January 16; Wednesday, January 18; and Friday, January 20 for reservation purchases.

##### Breast Cancer Screening and Health Fair

Claudia Geurin is chairing this event again this year which will held on Saturday, February 25 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will be available at our January Guild meeting. As a special promotion for breast cancer awareness, a charm pin will be given to the ladies after their exam.

## Corporate Spotlight : Quest Engineers

The financial support of sponsors is vital to the Guild - enabling us to continue our mission of working and serving through volunteerism and assisting the Louisville Urban League in many areas.

It is important to recognize the sponsors that help the Guild remain an active force in helping others. In this issue of FOCUS, and in subsequent issues, we will spotlight a Guild corporate sponsor. This month's spotlight is on Quest Engineers, Inc.

Quest Engineers is a regional firm with offices in Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Ohio. Quest was founded in 1989 with an initial focus on the municipal water/wastewater market.

In June 1995, Quest acquired Witt and Associates, a transportation firm with a 28-year history of highway design services. In January 2003, Quest merged with H.E. Rudy Engineers, Inc. Today, Quest has approximately 120 coworkers involved in planning, design, and construction services for areas of practice including water and wastewater, stormwater, transportation and aviation, site development, electrical and instrumentation, solid waste, environmental and GIS.

Quest provided design services for Kentucky's first municipal design/build wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for the Louisville-Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD). The \$15.7 million WWTP won several awards, including the 2002 American Council of Engineering Companies/KY - Engineering Excellence Top Design Award.

While Quest's foremost role has been to provide engineering services, the company has always had a fundamental commitment to the economic and educational prosperity in the communities where coworkers serve, work and live. To meet that commitment, Quest participates in numerous community initiatives and supports a variety of educational and civic activities.

In addition to the LUL Guild, Quest also supports the following organizations:

- ❖ Boy Scouts of America
- ❖ Kentuckiana Minority Business Council
- ❖ MathCounts
- ❖ Metro United Way
- ❖ United Way of the Bluegrass
- ❖ Volunteers of America of Kentucky
- ❖ Water for the People
- ❖ Youth for Christ



Quest operates under the philosophy that the key to successfully building and maintaining a diverse, high-quality project team for tomorrow begins with sustained commitment, leadership, and knowledge of where the company is today. As part of that commitment, Quest strives to "raise the bar" on minority/woman-owned business enterprise (M/WBE) utilization efforts and affirmative action. Quest believes that the success of projects is measured not only in quality products, but also in full support of M/WBEs.

The cornerstone of Quest supplier diversity efforts was laid in 1998 with 28 percent M/WBE commitment (vs. 18 percent goal) on the MSD \$16 million Floyds Fork WWTP project. Quest, along with Judy Construction Company, received the 2000 KMBC Million Dollar Award for this accomplishment.

Quest achieved another significant milestone with 36 percent M/WBE participation (over \$4 million) as part of MSD's \$12 million Cedar Creek WWTP Expansion. Quest and Judy received MSD's 2002 DiverseWorks Champions Award in the prime consultant/contractor category, marking the first award given outside of MSD.

**LUL Guild  
Calendar**

**January**

- 9 Guild Meeting/Working Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- 20 Old School Dance Reservations Due
- 28 **Old School Dance** - 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

**February**

- 4 VITA
- 6 Valentine's Day Treat Bags for THP - 6 p.m.
- 11 VITA
- 13 Guild Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- 18 VITA
- 25 VITA
- 25 Breast Cancer/Health Fair
- 27 Derby Cruise Committee Meeting - 6 p.m.

**March**

- 4 VITA
- 11 VITA

- 13 Guild Meeting and Easter Egg Hunt Committee Meeting
- 18 VITA
- 25 VITA

**April**

- 1 VITA
- 3 Derby Cruise Committee Meeting - 6 p.m.
- 8 VITA
- 10 Guild Meeting and Easter Baskets - 6:15 p.m.
- 15 Easter Egg Hunt and Cookout

**May**

- 6 **Derby Moonlight Cruise** - 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
- 8 Guild Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- 20 LUL Diversity Soiree - TBA

**June**

- 12 Guild Meeting/Annual Reports/Election of Officers - 6:15 p.m.

**LUL Guild  
Announcements**

**Old School Dance Committee**

A final wrap-up meeting will be held on Monday, January 9 immediately following the Guild meeting.

**Annual Dues**

Don't miss out on receiving your issue of FOCUS! Sheila Carson will have membership forms available at the meeting or you can use the form provided in this issue to pay your dues. Payment can be via cash, check, or Visa/MasterCard.

**Sponsorships/Donations**

The Program Committee requests everyone's help in securing sponsorships and/or donations. Any amount or donated item will be greatly appreciated. Our dues do not cover our everyday expenses, so it is up to all of us to find ways to supplement our revenue.



You may pay your dues, fundraiser reservations, and/or raffle tickets by check or credit card.

Please return to:

Louisville Urban League Guild  
1535 W. Broadway  
Louisville, KY 40203  
Attention: Mary Mahin

Fax: (502) 585-2335



✂ Detach here

- Dues \$35
- Old School Dance # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30/each (minimum 1) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Derby Moonlight Cruise # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30/each (minimum 1) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Raffle Tickets # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$1/each (minimum 5) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to "Louisville Urban League Guild"

MasterCard  Visa Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_