

**THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL  
YOUTH RECOGNITION PROGRAM**



**LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES**

**The Prince George's County Maryland Chapter  
National Tots and Teens, Inc.**

**Let's work together for the better development of our children into  
socially acceptable young men and women**

**Sunday, June 7, 2009  
4:00 P.M.  
New Horizon Hall of Elegance  
2209 Varnum Street  
Mt. Ranier, MD**

**June 7, 2009**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Welcome to the 29th annual Youth Recognition Program. Today, as we celebrate this most special occasion of honoring our youth, we would like to thank each of you for your unfailing support for our children. Our youth are the cornerstone of this organization and we strive each day to encourage and honor them with our love and support. The ultimate goal of our organization is to send forth into this world, youth who are responsible, caring and successful human beings, fully capable of changing this world for the better.**

**It is a widely held belief that the success of any organization lies in the support given by those who make up the membership. This has certainly been true of the membership of our beloved chapter. Throughout the year, in our capacity as Co-Presidents of this chapter, we have received your full support, which has made it possible for us to carry out a very effective program. We thank all of the officers, committee chairs, group leaders, regular members and associate members who have worked and continue to work so diligently to make this organization a strong and viable organization that can attract families in a time where there are so many competing priorities. We thank you for your help and we look forward to your continued support.**

**Special congratulations and best wishes are extended to our graduating seniors, Rodney Edwards and Jared Gordon. This year, as in the past, we have seen you embrace new challenges and broaden your horizons and we have cheered each milestone that you have reached. As you leave the protective cocoon of your families and all that is familiar to you, your Tots and Teens family wishes you the best that life has to offer. We wish you the confidence to tackle the new challenges in your life; we wish you discernment in choosing your new circle of friends; we wish you the discipline necessary to set your priorities; but more than anything, we wish you God's speed, lots of love and much success.**

**Sincerely,**

**Kelli Petty  
President**

# **PROGRAM**

**Theme: Limitless Possibilities**

## **PART I – Chante Douglas, and Dawn Pearson**

**Welcome**

**Group I**

**Solo**

**Guyrin Henderson**

**Introduction and Awards**

**Groups I and II**

**Adell Thomas**

**Groups III**

**Helen Bearden**

**Group IV**

**Rhonda Boyd**

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Malik Moore - Group IV**

**Messages of Inspiration**

**Monica Bates**  
**2005 T&T Graduate**  
**2009 Tuskegee University Graduate**

**Presentation to Speakers**

**John Boyd - Group IV**

**Solo**

**Guyrin Henderson**

**Blessing of the Food**

**Sarah Glover**

**#####**  
**DINNER**

**PART II – Danielle Moore, Kelli Petty and Adell Thomas  
Presiding  
The Grand Processional**

**Leon Rodney Edwards  
Suitland High School  
Suitland, MD**

**Jared Akil Gordon  
Wilson High School  
Washington, DC**

**Tributes to Our 2009 Graduates**

**Adell Thomas  
Narrator  
Groups I – V Performing**

**Sabre Bearers**

**Taj Estep  
John Boyd**

**Our Wish for You:**

**Rodney and Babette Edwards  
W. Paul Coates and Rosalyn Coates**

**Graduate's Response**

**Rodney Edwards  
Jared Gordon**

**A Fond Farewell**

**Danielle Moore**

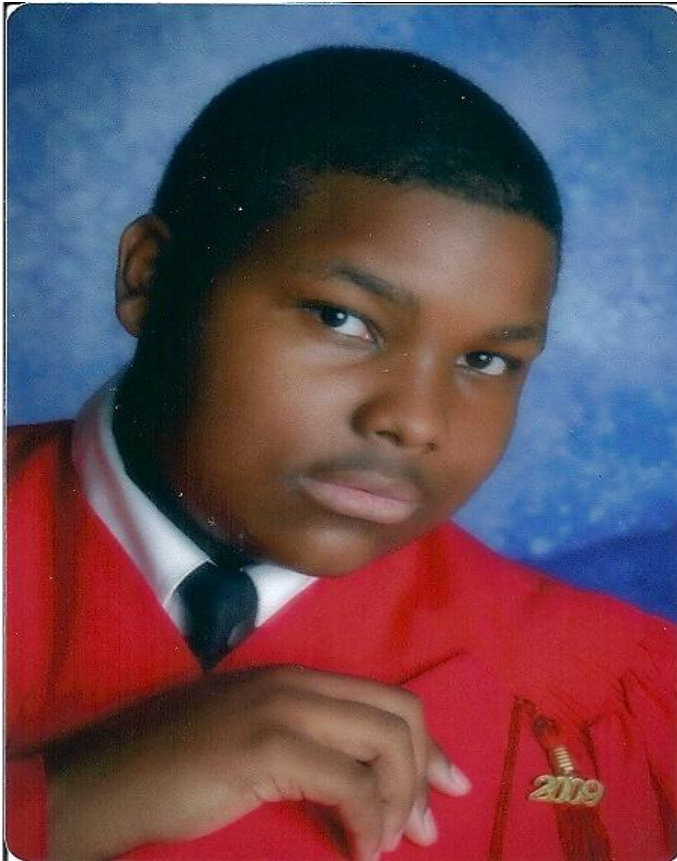
**Chapter Presentations**

**Kelli Petty**

**Closing Remarks**

**Kelli Petty**

**The Grand Recessional**



## **Leon Rodney Edwards Jr.**

Leon (also known as Rodney Jr.) was born on April 28, 1991 at Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville, MD. Even as an infant, Rodney had the ability to bring people together with his bright smile and charming personality.

Rodney was dedicated to God under the leadership of Pastor Robert Holmes and Prophet Katherine Holmes after the family joined God's Word Christian Center (GWCC). Though still a toddler, Rodney helped usher in the spirit of praise at GWCC – the entire church began to shout the day he went into Children's Church without kicking and screaming!

Rodney's talent for the performing arts became apparent while he was still in elementary school. Rodney participated in several church plays as part of the church's C.H.A.P.S. (Children Highly Anointed And Prepared for Service). Ever the prankster, he was always willing and able to jump in and take over the

lines of absent-minded adults! Rodney knew his lines and everyone else's lines. He was often better than people twice his age at understanding a scene and how it should be played.

While attending Suitland High School, Rodney has taken performing arts courses. Rodney has also worked in school productions. In December, 2008, Leon played the role of a bailiff in a French comedy. Leon also worked behind the scenes as the stage manager. In the spring of 2009, Rodney brought to life the role of a fireman who is concerned about everything except putting out the fire in the play, "Still The Alarm."

On June 2, 2009, Leon 'Rodney' Edwards was graduated from Suitland High School. In addition to studying performing arts, Rodney completed a concentration in business/entrepreneurship.

Rodney will be a freshman at Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA. He will major in Performing Arts and Business. He will start school during the summer session, beginning his collegiate career tomorrow – June 8<sup>th</sup>!

Rodney is the youngest child in the Edwards' home: his sister, Leone' was one of the Tots and Teens 2003 graduates; his brother Carleton was the 2006 Tots and Teens graduate.



## **Jared Akil Gordon**

Jared Akil Gordon, the youngest son of Gale A. Gordon, and Rosalyn L. Coates and Paul Coates was born on May 8, 1992 in Washington, DC. From birth, Jared has sought to make his mark on the world. When he was two days old, Jared cried as loud as his older brother, Darius, did when Darius was two weeks old. To this day, Jared can be heard often singing LOUDLY throughout the house; early morning, late at night – it doesn't matter.

Jared is a bright and inquisitive young man. He has always wondered how things work, why things are the way they are and who is or was responsible for it (whatever "it" is or was). He is still asking questions. Thank God for the Internet!

Jared joined the Prince George's Chapter of National Tots and Teens when he was 3 years old. He participated regularly in the Youth Leadership Workshop, the Youth Investment Club, and the Walk for the Homeless.

This year's theme: "Limitless Possibilities," reminds me of a conversation that Jared and I had when he was about 5 years old. He asked me what he should be when he grows up. He asked: "Should I be a doctor? Should I be a lawyer like you?" My response to him was that I could not tell him what kind of career he should pursue because the job or career that might interest him might not exist now. People are creating new jobs and career fields all of the time and I did not want to limit his creativity or possibilities. My role as his mother was to help him to prepare for whatever opportunities come his way.

Jared will graduate from Wilson Senior High School in Washington, DC where he was a member of the Finance Academy and the Jazz Band. He was selected to participate in the Urban Alliance Mentoring and Internship Program during his senior year. Through this program, he has worked as an intern with the international law firm of Arnold and Porter. This summer he will work as an intern with the World Bank.

His other activities included participation on the Wilson football team, the Takoma Recreation Center basketball team and in the Jelleff Boys and Girls Club basketball league, where his team, the Falcons, went undefeated this past season to capture the league championship.

In the Fall of 2009, Jared will attend Rutgers University/Camden. He plans to major in accounting and later pursue a career as an attorney. His advice to younger Tots and Teens members is "never give up on your goals."

# YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## GROUP I

**Evelyn Glover** has learned to count to 20, can recite the alphabet and had her 1<sup>st</sup> airplane ride to Texas. Evelyn has also learned to match her colors and dress herself. Evelyn is a member of the children's choir at Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church

**Carl Hinton Jr.** is fully potty trained. He knows his alphabet, colors, and how to count.

**Christopher Hinton** learned his colors, numbers, and how to put sentences together.

**William Keys** has accomplished many pre-school skills this year. He knows his alphabets, colors, numbers, and some letter sounds. He will continue to work on his basic skills.

**Jaelyn Moore** is to be recognized for graduating from Kindergarten this year. Jaelyn is now a reader! Not only does she continue to grow academically, but more importantly, she continues to have a beautiful spirit that shows both love and appreciation for those around her.

**Robert Pearson** has accomplished many things this past year. Robbie is able to prepare his own chocolate/strawberry milk; make his bed daily and clean his room; bathe himself from head to toe (ears included); dress himself; choose his own clothes; prepare his meds and insert them in his nebulizer machine; vacuum his carpet; separate his underclothes and put them away; and put down the toilet seat without being asked. I am very proud of Robbie's accomplishments at age 4 and I know that with practice and repetition his future will have limitless possibilities, as I prepare him for the next 14 years to begin his undergraduate studies at M.I.T.

**Cameron Rogers** attended Star Bethlehem Christian academy where he completed Prek-3 He received rewards for bible verses and homework completion

## GROUP II

**Jordan Mills** played basketball for her church this season. She learned how to spell 4 and 5 letter words. She also played soccer this year. She helped her team become undefeated. Jordan will be going to the 2nd grade thing upcoming school year.

**Jayla McNair** has been an A student throughout this school year, at Renaissance Christian Academy. She is an excellent Math student. She received awards for soccer, track/field, dance and poetry. Jayla is a very obedient child, and very well mannered. She loves fashion and hope to be a fashion designer when she grows up.

**Garin Petty** has had an outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup> grade year. He has maintained honor roll status for the entire year. Garin also continues to be a great big brother to his little sister Kendall. We are so proud of him.

### GROUP III

**Brandon Burroughs** is to be congratulated for improving his grades in Math and Reading and for successfully completing seven years of Elementary School and moving on to the next phase of life – Middle School. Way to go Brandon! Continue to stay focused, study hard and success will follow you.

**Reese Bearden** has had an absolutely wonderful year.. He wrote and produced his first school play which was a great success! Reese also spear-headed a team of his fellow classmates and participated in the Beddow Montessori School Iron Chef fund-raiser to help the Waldorf Women/Children Shelter. They were the only elementary school participant and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. He continues to serve in the Angelic Voices Choir at Fort Foote Baptist Church and has been called upon to serve by the Men's Day Committee. Reese has also advanced to the Junior Black Belt Club at Lloyd Irvin's Martial Arts Academy. May God Continue to Bless You!

**Michael Mills** played in a concert last month, he had a solo. He plays the snare drum. He was accepted into advance band this school season. He plays on 2 basketball teams that both went to the championship. Michael also played soccer this school year. He loves math and he learned to solve fractions, word problems and probabilities. Michael will be going to the 6th grade this upcoming school year.

### GROUP IV

**John Boyd** has completed his first year at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and is expected to have a 3.0 GPA. He will be completing the Kumon Reading program this summer. He was promoted to the rank of Tenderfoot with the Boy Scouts. He played football and basketball this year and his basketball team is headed to the Division II Nationals this summer.

**Taj Estep** is to be congratulated for successfully completing the Manhood Rights of Passage program at Ebenezer AME church. This was a 16 week program and was transformative for Taj. Although initially he fought against the process, he soon realized that this program was something that was going to be important for his development. Taj learned that in growing into manhood, he had to trust himself, know whom of his peers he could trust; but ultimately, and most importantly, he had to rely on his Lord and Savior.

**Raphael Loundermon II** is a Honors student at Thurgood Marshall Middle School. Raphael has worked hard and achieved a 3.15 or higher GPA every quarter this year and is on track to be on the Honor Roll for the last quarter of this school year. Raphael looks forward to continuing his hard work next year and again being a Thurgood Marshall Scholar.

**Malik Moore** is to be recognized for his determination. When forced to "step up to the plate" and face several obstacles during his freshman year of high school, he never backed down and exceeded all expectations with a sense of ease, maturity, and responsibility.

**Danielle Petty** has been an honor student at Wise High School. She received championship trophies in basketball with Main Event in an AAU league. She is very gifted in art and poetry, can draw whatever she puts her eyes on. Danielle is very athletic, and has an excellent singing voice. If given a challenge, she always achieves

## **Monica Bates**

On June 24, 1987, Monica Bates was born to Emory and Dorothy Bates, in Washington, D.C. Monica was raised in Union Wesley AME Zion Church; in Washington, D.C. Monica was a member of the Youth Missionary Society. In addition, she served as an acolyte.

Monica was educated in the Prince George's County Public School System. She attended Tayac Academy. In 1993, Monica became a member of the Girl Scouts. In 1998, she entered the then-Lord Baltimore Traditional/Classical Academy (now Isaac J. Gourdine). During her attendance, she was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Monica started as a class representative and became President of the Student Government, in 2001. In addition, she was active in Students Taking Avenues Against Homelessness in Prince George's County Public Schools (STARSHIPS). She ran successfully for First Vice-President of the Prince George's Regional Association of Student Governments (PGRASG), in 2001. Monica was awarded many awards including Presidential Service Awards and for her work as a Peer Mediator. Monica earned the Silver Award, the second highest award in Girl Scouts, in 2001.

Monica attended Suitland High School for the Performing Arts. At Suitland, she was a member of the Symphonic, Jazz, and Marching Bands. She served as Clarinet Section Leader, Librarian, and President in the Symphonic Band. In PGRASG, she served on the Communications Committee and she served as Lobbying Co-Chair. She was also invited to serve on the Health and Social Issues Committee for the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC), in 2003. At Suitland, Monica was inducted into the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Roll, and Who's Who Among American High School Students. In addition, Monica earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest in Girl Scouts, in 2005. Monica was a member of the Tuskegee University "Golden Voices" Concert Choir. Monica has been inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Phi Choral Honor Society, Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, and Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. Monica is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Monica has traveled to South Africa in the International Relations and Diplomacy delegation of the International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP). Monica will be in her fifth year at Tuskegee University. She will be completing her degree in Political Science. She graduated Summa Cum Laude, in May 2009, with the Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. In the future, she wishes to pursue graduate school and study Public Policy and Urban Planning.

## Previous Graduates

1977	Sheila F. Hall	1990	Paul Curtis Garland Dixon, Jr. Danielle Hart Kelli Henderson Shadowna Jones	Myrell Morton Landon E. Rowe George X. Shorter, Jr.	
1979	Alvin Abrams, II				
1980	Vincent D. Turner* Gwendolyn Gregg	1991	Christopher Hardy Jason D. Lee Nikole A. Smith Curtis Spencer, Jr. Geraldyn Turnage Richard White, II Jacqueline Wilson	1996	Maurice Montgomery Sybill Smoot LaChandra Spencer Demetria Trahan
1981	Maurice Abrams India Breckenridge JoElaine Hinton Andrea Turner			1997	Kimberly King Rashar Morton
1982	Jan Holland			1999	Kimberly McPherson
1983	Deborah Campbell Earl Hill	1992	Damon Braxton Marcus Collier Anitra K. Rowe Ryan Rowe Cassandra Watson	2000	Michael Daniel Rochelle Frazier Dante Morton Charles Stevenson Monica Thomas Amber Turner
1984	Elaine Gregg Grayson Marshall, Jr.				
1985	Dorrance Anderson Dawna Anderson Tia Breckenridge Gerri Davis Veronica Hill Terri Marshall Lisa Scott	1993	Damon Davis Garnetta Dixon Jerone Herndon Darryn Hyman Rashida Kee Jennifer Lipkowitz Michelle Lipkowitz Cherie Trahan Charles E. Utley Jennifer Washington Joseph White Richelle Wilson Allyson K. Woods	2001	Jonathan Stevenson Nikole Williams
1986	Robynne Washington			2002	Jason Carson-Harris
1987	Monica Campbell Kara Collier Monique Y. Smith			2003	Leone Babette Edwards Brittney Williams
1988	Felecia Curtis Cynthia Rowe Tiffanie Smith Robert Gregg, Jr. Angela Goldsmith Flecha Organ	1994	Tahira Anderson Nichole Herndon Tiffany Hunter Michael B. Joe Fasil Tilahun	2005	Monica Bates Michael Dyson Tiera Furby Courtney Gilmer Ronnie Gilmer Gem Lewis
1989	Marcie Gray Todd Gray	1995	Barry O. Anderson Tameika Duvall Aiyana Kai Hill	2006	Carleton Edwards
				2007	Rashaad Bryant Darius Gordon
				2008	Frankie Glover Langston Vincent

# Chapter Roster

Ron and Helen Bearden  
Reese

Rhonda Boyd  
John

Kelly Burroughs  
Brandon

Lakiya Culley  
Carl Hinton, Jr.  
Christopher Hinton

Felecia Curtis  
Kiara  
Noah

Chante Douglas  
Cameron

Leon and Babette Edwards  
Leone  
Carleton  
Leon

Kaisimu and Andrea Fair  
Kaia

Camille Gerald  
Malik

Frank and Sarah Glover  
Charles  
Monica  
Frankie  
Chelsea

Bobby and Lucille Hart

Edith Henderson  
Langston Vincent  
Taj Estep

Frank and Gwendolyn Joe  
Michael  
Fasil

Bernard and Denise McNair  
Danielle  
Jayla

Michael and Robin Mills  
Michael  
Jordan

Alvin and Danielle Moore  
Malik  
Jaelyn

Dawn Pearson  
Robert

Gary and Kelli Petty  
Garin  
Kendall

Essie Shorter

Adell Thomas  
William

David and Ann Washington

Rosalyn Wilcots-Coates  
Darius  
Jared

