



Forward Faces

www.forwardlookersfederatedclub.com

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President's Message

Greetings Club Sisters,

It's been a year like no other! But there is still so much to be thankful for, like YOU!! We as Federated sisters have been called to "Lift as We Climb," and because we are still in it together, every day that we can offer hope through a prayer, a kind word or gesture is a day of thanksgiving. The work we have been called to do as Federated women is too big for any of us to do alone; but together, we can offer hope and Lift others as We Climb. We have many avenues to offer hope to others through our work with Catholic Charities, Stewpot Community Services, Operation Shoestring, Oakley Developmental Center, Gateway Rescue Mission, Race for the Cure, Scholarships for deserving students, Trunks for Seniors and many others.

Mother Theresa said it best, "People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

During these challenging times pray, offer hope and kindness to others and "Mask up! Mask right! Over your nose and under your chin!"

Sisterly,

Mary J. Collier

Mary J. Collier, President



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“I’m Inspired”

Monocia Connors

KAMALA HARRIS QUOTES



To tackle the challenges of the twenty-first century, we must empower women and families. If we do not lift up women and families, everyone will fall short.

Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America, in the quote above, reminded and pointed me back toward a deeper, fuller, reverberating impact, and desire to work harder in carrying out Forward Lookers Federated Club’s motto, “Lifting as We Climb.” To me, VP Kamala Harris’ quote was also a renewed awakening of the importance of lifting others to tackle and make efforts to stop the progression of a problem, to usher in the zeal to challenge others and myself to do more in areas that may be viewed as impossible, to give authority and power to others to become stronger, and to elevate other women and families in attaining this goal.

As an African American woman and a member of Forward Lookers Federated Club, I believe there is still much work to be done and it’s our responsibility to stay focused on our mission, vision, and pledge. I am renewed to stay connected with the taproots of our ancestors, to water and cultivate the ground of this world, and continue to stand on their enormous shoulders, “Lifting as We Climb.” I want to always be mindful that this club is the perfect vehicle to forge forward and be the driving force in the twenty-first Century, and triumph.

Inspirational Moments in Black History from NACWC

WHERE WE COME FROM
1619 to 1863
BLACK

WHERE WE'RE GOING
2008 - US Vice President
LIVES

WHERE WE'VE BEEN
1963
MATTER



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“Remembering Our Sister”

Ashley D. Gilyard

Elegant Ella Robinson



“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all of them also that love His appearing.”

~~ 2 Timothy 4:7-8

In January 2021, our beloved Club Sister, **Elegant Ella Robinson** was called home. Being a charter member and first full-term president of Forward Lookers, **Ella** graciously served Federation from 1972 – 2021. Although we feel the void of **Ella's** absence, we are eternally grateful for her wisdom, leadership, love, and friendship. Let us honor **Ella's** good works while we continue to “Lift as We Climb.”

“Wonderful Words of Inspiration”

Evelyn Leggette

Strong women are those who know the road ahead will be strewn with obstacles, but they still choose to walk it because it's the right one for them.

Strong women are those who make mistakes, who admit to them, learn from those failures, and then use that knowledge.

Strong women are easily hurt, but they still extend their hearts and hands, knowing the risk and accepting the pain when it comes.

Strong women are sometimes beat down by life, but they still stand back up and step forward again.

Strong women are afraid. They face fear and move ahead to the future, as uncertain as it can be.

Strong women are not those who succeed the first time. They're the ones who fail time and again, but still keep trying until they succeed.

Strong women face the daily trials of life, sometimes with a tear, but always with their heads held high as the new day dawns.

~~ Brenda Hager

Taken from *Words Every Woman Should Remember: Messages of Support, Encouragement, and Gratitude for All You Are and All You Do*



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“Celebrating One of Our Own”

Ashley D. Gilyard



“God is within her, she will not fail.”

~ Psalm 46:5

On Friday, September 4, 2020, Club Sister Ashley D. Gilyard received her Masters of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing from Full Sail University (Online), Winter Park, Florida.

With this degree behind her, Ashley is penning great works, designing and maintaining websites, recruiting young adults to continue Federated work, and helping others to “Lift as they Climb.” You can follow samples of Ashley’s works and more at www.adgwrites.com.

Oakley Developmental Center

Mary J. Collier



Pictured: Coach Scott, Lottie Hill, Program Chair and President Collier

Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, **Oakley Developmental Center** has proven to be resilient. Although the number of students enrolled is low, **Oakley** continues to meet and exceed the needs of the students. On a daily basis, the faculty and staff go the extra mile to provide academic, physical, mental and emotional support to all its students. Forward Lookers is happy to assist in any way possible to meet the needs of students and faculty alike. For Christmas, Forward Lookers gifted **the Center** with six Universal TV Remotes and six TV Antennas. While we missed not being able to share a meal in person as we usually do each year, we are still grateful for the small ways in which we can “Lift as We Climb.”



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Stewpot

"Our Favorite Homegrown Charity"

Mary J. Collier



Pictured: Club Sister Mattie J. McQuarter

Forward Lookers has continued to "Lift and Climb" at **Stewpot Community Services** despite the Covid-19 Pandemic. Despite the COVID crisis, **Stewpot** has continued to meet many community needs and Forward Lookers has been privileged to be a part of that effort.

For Christmas 800 families signed up to receive a food basket. Forward Lookers supported the effort by holding a **Turkey Drive**. Thirty-four club members donated a total of sixty-four turkeys in an effort to make sure as many families as possible had a meal for Christmas. Out of an abundance of caution, the number of volunteers at **Stewpot** has been limited but club members pulled double duty and were able to assist with serving meals during the **Turkey Drive**.

Stewpot's motto is "Faith meeting needs in our community" and we are committed to work together to "Lift as We Climb" even during a pandemic.

Catholic Charities

"Providing Help and Creating Hope"

Mary J. Collier

Do you know how many lives can be touched by \$124.00? **Catholic Charities** is focused on providing hope! While \$124.00 may not reach the masses, **Catholic Charities** is very intentional in their mission to serve and be a visible sign of Christ's love to the world.

In celebration of our **Founder's Day and 124th Anniversary of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Inc., and Youth Affiliates (NACWC)**, established in 1896, Forward Lookers donated 124 personal care items for the Battered Women's/Domestic Abuse Shelter at Catholic Charities. The variety of items included body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, sanitary pads, floss picks, razors and shaving cream, shampoo and conditioner, etc. Forward Lookers feels that it is important to demonstrate the love of Christ by helping those who are unable to help themselves; the poor and vulnerable, especially children, women and families.

We are committed to continue to "Lift as We Climb."



Pictured: Personal Care Items donated to Catholic Charities



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3rd Annual Trunks for Seniors

Carol J. Cooper

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, we socially distanced and prepared the **Trunks for Seniors**. We gathered again on Sunday, August 2, 2020, and presented four deserving young individuals with **the trunks**. These seniors graduated from high school and were selected to receive **the trunks** to aid them during their first year of college. Items included the trunk, bedding, personal grooming items, sets of towels, hand sanitizer, masks, notebooks, copy paper, writing utensils, lamps, wastebaskets, and toiletries.



Members of Forward Lookers Federated Club listed from left to right: Gwen Chess, MSFCWC President Carol Cooper, FLFC President Mary Collier, Irene Booker, Ashley Gilyard, Angela Booze, Dorothy Wren-Smith, and Xavier Johnson.



Trunk recipients pictured from left to right: Zarianna Bonner, Lottie Hill in place of her granddaughter, Treasure Hill – *not pictured*, Makenzie Herron, and Jonathan Buckley.

Spotlight on Makenzie Herron

Carol J. Cooper



Makenzie Herron, a freshman enrolled at Alcorn State University, and one of our 2020 Trunks for Seniors recipients, received a \$10,000 scholarship to pay for her college education. This scholarship will be awarded annually to Makenzie as long as she is enrolled full-time and continues to major in one of the Land Grant Programs in the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.



Forward Faces

The A-TEAAM Gwen Chess



What a challenge 2020 has been for us all! Without forewarning, notice or preparations, total lockdown! Both **A-TEAAM** Mentors and **A-TEAAM** Ambassadors were forced to acclimate to the rules COVID-19 has dictated to everyone.

Being virtual was new to all of us. One major concern for mentors, "How will we continue to meet the needs of the Ambassadors?"

As males of color are constantly confronted with injustices (still today), **A-TEAAM** mentors are continuously charged with introducing Ambassadors to alternatives in sharpening the skills they will need to navigate through everyday life; and to guide them on how to cope with the inconsistencies and injustices they too may someday encounter.

The **A-TEAAM** program is a leadership and character development program that inspires or strives to inspire young males of color to honor and to emulate the life and legacy of Medgar Wiley Evers. To that end – Racial Healing, Racial Equity and Justice are referred to throughout the curriculum and introduced to Ambassadors weekly.

We are too familiar with the old adage, "It Takes A Village to Raise a Child" ... It is fulfilling to announce Forward Lookers has been an essential part of the **A-TEAAM** Village since the program began eight (8) years ago and has actively mentored a number of Ambassadors. Today, the **A-TEAAM** program has twenty (20) Ambassadors to participate in the program this 2020 – 2021 school year at Powell Academy of Military Science.

Even though mentors have only met with the Ambassadors four times this 2020 – 2021 school year, each meeting was most beneficial and rewarding to all!

Angel Tree Project Carolyn Coleman

During the Christmas holidays, the club agreed that we would obtain the name of a child from the Salvation Army's **Angel Tree** to support as a service project. The Community Outreach Committee took hold of this charge and we enjoyed carrying out this task. Under the leadership of our Committee Chair Ann Moore, we banded together to ensure that we made one young man happy. Club Sister Monocia Connors obtained the card from Walmart with the personal information of our adoptee. Club Sisters Angela Booze and Carolyn Coleman took on the task of shopping for the gifts. It was with great joy that we were able to find and purchase these items: a soccer ball, a coat, books, and a Beyblades toy from his wish list. On Saturday, December 5, 2020, we delivered the gifts to the Salvation Army. It was a pleasure knowing that the Forward Lookers Federated Club was able to help an unfortunate child during this time of the season.



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“Spotlighting MSFCWC”

During these uncertain times, and our inability to meet in person, we continued to implement our motto “Lifting As We Climb.”

- In observance of the 124th Anniversary of NACWC, 124 personal care items were donated to a Women and Children’s Domestic Shelter.
- Several clubs made monetary donations in the amount of \$124.00 to local churches and shelters to assist their food pantry programs.
- Personal care items, underwear, snacks, hand sanitizer, masks, and condiments were donated to several homeless shelters.
- Over 200 masks, games, and puzzles were given to area senior citizen residents, nursing homes, and homeless shelters.
- Monetary donations were donated to local charities, National, and local organizations.
- Gift cards and cleaning supplies were donated to Hurricane victims.
- Several clubs participated in the “Get Out to Vote Registration Drive” informing citizens of the importance of their vote.
- Over \$10,000 in Scholarships and book stipends were awarded to students attending HBCUs and Community Colleges.
- Despite COVID-19 hindering the in-person annual mentoring of the A-TEAAM program, the program has been a success with Zoom meetings for students in area schools.
- The annual Trunks for Seniors was a success and well-appreciated by the selected high school seniors.
- The area Breast Cancer Awareness celebrations were held at various locations.
- A very successful and exciting social distancing induction ceremony was held.
- Clubs adopted children from the Angel Tree, MACAAP, and Catholic Charities; however, other entities purchased clothes, undergarments, educational games and toys, and books.
- Educational games, universal remotes and TV antennas were purchased for the youth at Oakley Developmental Center.

We, the members of MSFCWC, Inc., are committed to increasing membership, increasing the number of youth and young adult clubs, and continuing to financially assist in the “Burn the Mortgage Campaign.”

Sisterly Blessings,

Carol J. Cooper

Carol J. Cooper, President
MSFCWC, Inc.