

EAST LAKE NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Michelle Towns* 2
- Property Manager Interns* 3
- Employee Spotlights* 3
- Lake Grove Village Teen Summit* 4
- East Lake Cares Events* 4

CELEBRATING CURTIS WILLIAMS & HIS 30 YEAR CAREER AT EAST LAKE!

30 years ago Curtis Williams began working with East Lake Founder & President Elzie Higginbottom. He was recently honored at the company's corporate office, along with his wife Lisa and family members, for their excellent and tireless service to the company.



Curtis said that Mr. Higginbottom didn't hire him at first, "because he thought I was too small to run a jackhammer." He notes that one day, "I came back and ran the jackhammer for 3 hours and I was hired."

Curtis says, "I like my job, I like construc-

tion. I could do construction 24 hours a day!" He believes in the importance of hard work and he tells people that when they leave their homes in the morning they should focus on the work they have to do for that day. His tips for success focus on the power of hard work he learned from his grandfather and Mr. Higginbottom. He also says that it has helped that he is a quick learner.

Curtis was born in Mobile, Alabama and he moved to Chicago when he was

18. He says he enjoys Chicago whatever the weather!

Other family members that join him in working for East Lake are his brother Michael and his sons Mark, L.C. (Little Curtis) and Joseph. Curtis says, "I'm not slowing down! I'm still moving so that's good!"



Curtis appreciates his gifts!



Employees applaud Curtis

EAST LAKE GIVES BACK: RAINBOW PUSH COALITION 40TH ANNIVERSARY

East Lake and our founder Elzie L. Higginbottom have a strong interest in supporting young people in academics and athletics. At the recent Rainbow Push

Coalition 40th Anniversary Conference in Chicago three scholarships were given to college students in the name of Mr. Higginbottom and his family. These Scholarships were given at the opening gala

scholarship dinner on Monday, June 20th. Judge Greg Mathis was the featured speaker.



Mr. Higginbottom and Rev. Jackson are pictured with scholarship recipients, Bennett College President Dr. Julianne Malveaux & other corporate leaders

EAST LAKE GIVES BACK: RAINBOW PUSH COALITION 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONT.



On Tuesday, June 22nd East Lake was recognized as the Diamond Level sponsor of the Sports Banquet. Mr. Higginbottom believes strongly in the importance that athletics, especially track, can make in the lives of young people to help them achieve their goals. Athletes in attendance, including Olympian Bob Beaman, and Michael Irvin of the NFL, along with audience members applauded East Lake's commitment to young people at the event.



Mr. Higginbottom congratulates Rev. Jackson on the 40th Anniversary of Rainbow Push.

Rainbow Push photos by John Alexander

EAST LAKE'S MICHELLE TOWNS CREATES JOBS TO STOP VIOLENCE

By Cynthia Miller



Michelle Towns (aka Puffie) was born and raised in the Rockwell Gardens public housing development. She was a resident for over forty (40) years. When the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) announced the plans for transformation, Ms. Towns attended community meetings and played an active role with educating residents about the changes. She was a representative for the Local Advisory Council (LAC) and conducted workshops to teach residents about housekeeping skills.

Ms. Towns established a good relationship with Rockwell residents. She was well known and well respected in the community. When the redevelopment plans got underway, she was offered a job as a laborer, with Burling Builders the general contractor.

Around this same time, Ms. Towns started a Resident Owned Business (ROB) called Towns Janitorial Cleaning Service. Her goal was to target

youth in the community to do light janitorial services and landscaping. Her vision was to create jobs to stop violence. The word quickly spread throughout the community that Ms. Towns had job opportunities. Although her company mainly hired youth, adults soon started asking her for help with finding a job.

East Lake recognized Ms. Towns for her hard work as a laborer and as someone with good relationships in the community. In August of 2010 East Lake hired Ms. Towns as a consultant to do outreach, monitoring and compliance for Section (3) hiring at the West End (formerly known as Rockwell) construction site.

In her meetings, she would educate people about the process for getting hired as a Section 3 worker. She would help them find computer access if they did not have a computer. She identified both skilled and unskilled workers. Priority for employment was given to

former Rockwell residents, with or without skills.

She met with Burling Builders and their subcontractors to engage them in conversations around the need to hire from within the community. They were always willing. She was successful in getting the contractors to sponsor unskilled Section 3 hires to help develop their skills and eventually sponsor them with the unions. After people were hired as Section 3 workers, Ms. Towns continued to mentor them about the need to continue their education and think beyond their current job.

As a result of her outreach and mentoring efforts, she has successfully helped thirty-one (31) former Rockwell and community residents get hired as Section (3) workers at the West End construction site. A few of the Section (3) hires now have union cards. One of her Section (3) hires has even become a union steward.

Ms. Towns continues to focus on hiring youth in the community. Her company has received contracts with East Lake to do vacant lot beautification near the West End site, and to provide janitorial services, landscaping and snow removal at other properties in East Lake's portfolio.

Ms. Towns is responsible for helping hundreds of people in the community to get jobs. She is an example that Section 3 hiring does work and that creating jobs stops violence.



EAST LAKE DEBUTS PROPERTY MANAGER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM!



East Lake is proud to have started a new initiative that helps train young people to acquire new skills in the job market and learn how to become efficient property managers. **Barbara Watson**

and **Ismail Muhammad** are in the inaugural class of the East Lake Property Manager Internship program. This is a 6-month paid internship program that began June 6, 2011. Barbara and Ismail are working at several East Lake properties and they are being trained in resident services, staff management and coordination, building maintenance & security, rent collection & finances, and written & oral communication. Barbara and Ismail have been getting glowing reviews and we thank their



great mentors: Lolita Smith, Cynthia Stewart and Candace Harrell. If you see Barbara and Ismail please be sure to say hello and give them a word of encouragement!

Thought for the month on the goodness of a job well done:

"If a man is called a streetsweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of Heaven and Earth will pause to say, here lived a great streetsweeper who did his job well."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACCOUNTS PAYABLE SUPERVISOR VANESSA PHEW



and hard work have made her an appreciated person here. She was first hired at East Lake as an accounts payable specialist. She became a supervisor in 2 months. Vanessa says, "I like that every day I experience something new."

Accounts Payable Supervisor Vanessa PheW has been at East Lake since August 3, 2005. Her ready smile

Previous to working for East Lake she worked for Sam Zell for 13 years as an accounts payable supervisor. Some of the keys to Vanessa's success include e-mailing everything to document projects. She also keeps a separate file for different properties so that if an issue comes up she can go to the file for any issue we may need to address. Vanessa's career advice is, "if you can find something that you are interested in pursue it and keep an open mind and hear what someone has to say to you." She is a native Chicagoan and received her edu-

cation at DePaul University and Harold Washington University. She is grateful for the opportunity to be here at East Lake. She says that East Lake has allowed her to expand her accounts payable knowledge and she has had the opportunity to learn more about the utility companies. Vanessa notes that she works with some outstanding people and she gives credit to Kendra Jordan and Victoria Ridley for working with her and keeping things going. Vanessa is a treasure to us at East Lake and we say: **Thank you Vanessa!**

SPOTLIGHT ON DECATUR PROPERTY MANAGER TWILA FUNK



Decatur, Illinois. She is a native of Decatur and joined East Lake in August 2010. What she likes most about property manage-

ment is that she learns something new every day. She says one of her tips for success is to always stay calm and never lose your temper. She says she looks at things from the perspective that there is never a problem but always a solution. She notes that if you work hard enough you can achieve your goals. Twila also says she could not do her job without the support of her staff and the corporate office. She says she used to be a resident of

the old Longview (that came before Wabash Crossing) and she struggled but she got through it. Twila says she is grateful that, "a small town girl like me with no college education became a property manager." She believes, "if I can make it so can you." She says it is important to treat people the way you want to be treated. She also says she operates from the words that, "it's time for a change, we are going forward!"

Thank you Twila!



EAST LAKE
MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Teen Talk Summit At East Lake's Lake Grove Village

Lake Grove Village, managed by East Lake, at 3515 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago was the site for the "We Talk" Teen Summit on Friday, June 17th. The Center of Higher Development (COHD) presented the teen summit and they have a computer center at Lake Grove Village and eight other East Lake properties. COHD is a 501 (c)3 organization that offers computer training, workforce development and job readiness skills, and GED preparation via technology to give digital opportunities to underserved communities in Chicago. Several young people at the summit won laptop computers, iPods, digital cameras and gift cards donated by Best Buy, Staples, Target and private donors. 150 children and teens attended the first ever Teen Talk Summit which also included motivational speakers and local entertainers from the community.



COHD Executive Director Rev. Walter Gillespie is joined at the event by East Lake's VP of Property Management Brenda Whitman (rt.) and COHD Co-Executive Director Mrs. Sandra Gillespie.



A community artist performs for the attendees as they enjoy the festivities.

EAST LAKE CARES EVENTS

East Lake Management & Development Newsletter Editor:
Lydia Davis Eady,
Director of Marketing
leady@eastlakemgmt.com

East Lake Management & Development Corp.
2850 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616
312-842-5500 ph.
312-842-0765 fax.
www.eastlakemgmt.com

JOIN US TUESDAY, AUGUST 2ND AT 11:00A.M.

Fellowship Manor Apartments:
East Lake Cares About You!



JOIN US TUESDAY,
AUGUST 2ND AT
11:00A.M.

Fellowship Manor Apartments
5041 S. Pineston
Chicago, IL 60609
773-924-9980

Join us on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. –12 noon in the Community Room of the Fellowship Manor Apartments. East Lake Management wants you to know that we care about you!
Come have coffee and donuts, meet members of the team from our main office, and you'll have the opportunity to fill-out a short survey that will help us know how you feel and how we can serve you better. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, August 2nd at 11:00 a.m.!

East Lake is holding a series of events beginning this summer letting our residents know that we care about them.

We are going to a variety of family and senior residences getting to know them better and receiving feedback from them about how we are doing. Stay posted for more on this exciting new East Lake initiative!