THANKS

By Ida Peters

The AFRO's Mrs. Santa Program, a part of AFRO Charities and sponsored by the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers as a public service to help needy families have a Christmas dinner raised a record in the 1984 drive.

Fund - raising efforts begin with a letter to area organizations and businesses the first week in November. The Christmas in August Softball tournament got the program off to a good start with $2,000.

Mrs. Santa purchased a Cabbage Patch Doll for $39 and by the time the program ended on Jan. 1, 1985 ticket sales had reached over $500.

On Dec. 15, 1984, the fund had raised $17,257.85 with a goal of $25,000 and a need for $7,747.42. The first 300 baskets at a wholesale cost of $4,950 were ordered from Food - A - Rama in Mondawmin and delivered by the Maryland National Guard Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 19-20. Two hundred more baskets were picked up by the Maryland National Guard at Kash and Karry worth $3,000 and delivered Friday, Dec. 21. Friday, Dec. 21, 200 baskets from Giant foods worth $3,000 were delivered by Urban Services trucks to the AFRO and distributed to Welfare Rights, Upton Mayor's Station, Reservoir Hill and Murphy Homes. In all 700 baskets worth $10,950 were delivered.

Starting Dec. 10, 750 coupons worth $15 went out to readers who wrote to Mrs. Santa for a total of $11,250.

Expenses for the Mrs. Santa Program totaled $1,610.63 and included postage, salaries for extra help and $79.63 for oranges, nuts and candy canes for party for children of inmates at City Jail.

The balance left in the Mrs. Santa Fund will go in a special bank account to seed the 1985 program. Money spent does not include the hundreds of baskets collected throughout the city and brought to the AFRO and given immediately to hungry families.

For those persons contributing to the AFRO Mrs. Santa Store . . . more than 500 families visited the store from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Remaining clothes are going to Waxter Center, Reservoir Hill Mayor's Station and Goodwill.

Happy New Year and best wishes for you and yours in 1985.

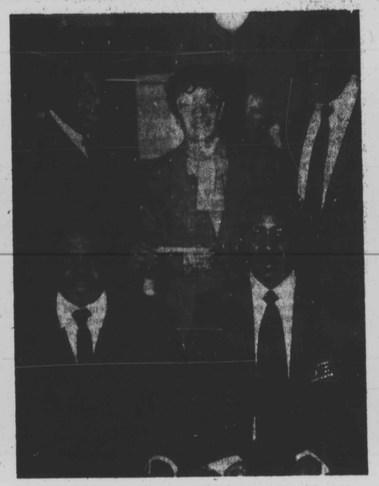
THANKS.

The Black Legislative Caucus Christmas Party raised $500. for AFRO's Mrs. Santa when held recently at Coppin State College. Above, from (L) Malik Rahman, Robert Turner, Del. Larry Young, Ronald Hayes, Sen. Clarence Blount and Del. Elijah Cummings, chairman.

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

KAFFO SPORTSMEN — Shown making donation of $100 are James Drummond, treasurer; Hugh Robinson, President; Ida Peters, Mrs. Santa and Edwin English, Secretary.

Counselors of Lemmel Middle School brought to AFRO's Mrs. Santa Store eight bags of clothing collected by students of the National Junior Beta Club. Above, Ms. Lynn Dorsey, Raymond Parker and Ms. Sylvia Hall.



Mt. Moriah Lodge #56, PHA helped AFRO's Mrs. Santa with $150. They donate to the YMCA, sponsor a Little League team the Pirates and hold an annual Bull and Oyster Roast. Raymond Butler is Worshipful Master; Cordell Hunter, Senior Warden; Edward Bynum, Junior Warden; Elmer Moore, secretary; James L. Peacock, treasurer; and Joe Louis Barnes, Past Master.

Kenneth N. Oliver (L), president of the Baltimore Marketing Association, helped Mrs. Santa with $100 for needy families. Right, Walter Carr, publisher of Nite Life, came out on a cold day to also help with $100.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Chi Kappa, Intermediate Chapter, brought in six large baskets to help Mrs. Santa's families. Above, Roland C. Brown, Ferney Dennis, Wallace Cook, Justus Johnson, Joe Turner and Charles Elliott.

Ms. Patricia Carter of Laurens Street heard on V-103 our request for clothes and won two movie passes courtesy of JF Theatres.

(Photos by Vanessa Johnson)

THANKS to Alpha Beta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for helping Mrs. Santa with $100. Making presentation were Mrs. Linda Brown, Basileus and Miss Mary E. Fields, newly elected Basileus.

Sterling Paige, chief and Lawrence Hall, Liquor Board Inspector present $50. to AFRO's John Murphy III for Mrs. Santa.

To mark birthday

MLK support group plans 8-day activities

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Metropolitan Washington Support Group, formerly the committee to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., announced this week events, date, time and places for its January's activities.

The steering committee of the Support Group have scheduled about 14 events.

Starting with a social responsibility awards breakfast for labor, management and government, under Chairman Raymond Gray, Sr., from 8 to 9:30 am on Thursday, January 10 at 19th Street Baptist Church, the series of events will close out with a "Tribute to M.L.K. Jr.," on Thursday, January 17 sponsored by the Civil Liberties League, No. 194, Improved Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks of the World at 1844 3rd Street, NW, at 8 p.m.

Highlighting the 8-day program will be the annual parade on Tuesday, Jan. 15 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE at which time some 10,000 persons will march along with many high school colleges and civic bands.

Little Erica Lee Washington is thrilled by Santa Claus (E. Donald Washington. Jr.) at Urban Services Christmas Trim - A - Tree party attended by children, parents and friends of the Cultural Arts Program at Eubie Blake Cultural Arts Center at 409 N. Charles St.

The new office of Lucius W. Leeper, MD., is open at 7131 Liberty Road - 265-6066.

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Sat.	JAN. 12	12NOON, 3:30PM, 7:30PM
Sun.	JAN. 13	1:30PM, 5:30PM
Tue.	JAN. 15	2:30PM, 7:30PM
Wed.	JAN. 16	10:00AM, 7:30PM
Thu.	JAN. 17	10:00AM, 7:30PM
Fri.	JAN. 18	7:30PM
Sat.	JAN. 19	12NOON, 3:30PM, 7:30PM
Sun.	JAN. 20	1:30PM, 5:30PM

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People sharing and caring....!

Black Legislative Caucus with $500 and C and P Telephone with $250 take AFRO's Mrs. Santa to $31,157.00

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

Carlo Hutchins, (R) director of Mayor's Station Reservoir moves food baskets and toys for needy families in his area from AFRO's Mrs. Santa Store. Dennis Willis (L) also helped take baskets, toys and food coupons to Upton Mayor's Station, Miss Kitty Broadie.

Charles Savage (R) started toy drive at MTA Washington Blvd. He with the Body Shop and brought in brand new toys as well as cleaning and repairing seven bikes of all sizes. One lady who received bike was so grateful she broke out in tears.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

Raynor Banks of MTA Washington Blvd. brings in turkeys and homemade cookies donated by Miss Mary Turc retired head of Information Service MTA.

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

The Black History Club of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute visited the AFRO to help Mrs. Santa's families with $50. Mrs. Delmita Reid is teacher-advisor. Above, Michael Byrd, president; Roslyn Nelson, Kimberly Repass, treasurer; and Dawn Sims. Second from (L) is Lee Holmes, promoter, in town this week with Ray, Goodman and Brown at Shake and Bake.

Noble Wardell Young, chairman, wheels out David Griffin while Mrs. Watina Cole, principal of the William S. Baer School, looks on. All the children received hats, toys and candy plus saw a movie. They received shirts saying "I went to a Xmas party and they made me an honorary Shriner."

Last minute contributions

Mrs. Santa's Fund
$31,157.00
$250.00
C. & P. Telephone Co.
$100.00
Naomi Grand Chapter, O.E.S.
$34.00
Young Democrats of Balto.
$25.00
Gwynnvale Civic Assoc.
Alvester Saunders
Lloyd & Josephine Alston
$10.00
Randolph C. Thompson
Dieuseul & Othella Naar

Letters

Dear Mrs. Santa:
I would love to thank you for such a beautiful Christmas. Thank you because my kids had a beautiful Christmas and a lovely Christmas dinner. D.G., Fayette St.

Dear Mrs. Peters:
The community of Reservoir Hill deeply thanks you along with your staff for the donations and gifts certificates for needy families. Your Mrs. Santa Program is one of the most vital programs during the Christmas holidays.

I have been working with you for a very long time and not once have you not tried to fill a request that was not impossible. You have a heart of gold and a personality to match.

Your assistant, Mrs. Vanessa Johnson is a precious gem. She also comes to my rescue whenever I am in need. Whenever I can be of assistance to you, don't hesitate to call. Love and Peace, William Carlos Hutchins, Mayor's Representative - Reservoir Hill Multi-Purpose Center.

Auditions for Youth Orchestra

Auditions for prospective members of the Greater Baltimore Youth Orchestra will be held on Friday, Jan. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Humanities and Arts building at Essex Community College. Applicants will be asked to play a non - memorized piece out of their current repertoire, sight read, and play scales. Students aged 12 through 22 are eligible to audition.

The orchestra, under the direction of Christopher Wolfe, a member of the music faculty at the college, assistant principal clarinetist and assistant conductor with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, is made up of musically talented youngsters from the Greater Baltimore area surrounding counties.

It operates out of the Creative Arts Centre at Essex Community College in Baltimore County, through funding in part from the Baltimore County Commission for Arts and Sciences and the Musicians' Performance Fund.

Rehearsals are on Saturday afternoons, with members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra often sitting in as section coaches.

For information about the orchestra or to arrange for an audition, please call the Creative Arts Centre at Essex Community College, 522-1433.

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