

CAD A programs

Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid

25th Anniversary



*Black Lives Matter, White Lives Matter
Children's Lives Matter, Senior Lives Matter
All Lives Matter*

Founded by Dr. Janis C. Brooks. 1990-2015



Welcome, and Thank You

by Dr. Janis C. Brooks, Founder & CEO

Thank you for helping us to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid, Inc. (CADAPROGRAMS) was founded in 1990 as a result of extreme police brutality in Crestas Terrace, the oldest African American suburban community in Pittsburgh. CADAPROGRAMS was founded long before it became politically correct to address racial and social injustice. North Versailles, PA could have become another Ferguson, MO or a Baltimore, MD. The news media refused to cover the events listed in our history. In fact, I was told "The events were too hot to cover," by an African American newscaster.

The events that were occurring in "Crestas" were similar to the events that were occurring in South Africa. Prompting the name of the organization. What the history does not reference, is that in December of 1989 at 2:00 A.M. my son was threatened by phone by white boys related to a constable. They phoned under the pretense that it was an emergency. I could hear them hollering the "N" word in the phone. I took the phone from my son and they threatened to harm both of my children. I called the local police and they would not take the complaint initially because they knew the constable. Later the excuse was they did not recognize my name, because my children's last name was different. That night, I phoned two additional layers of police and the complaint was not taken seriously. I was told to go to Crestas for my safety. I did go to Crestas. To arm myself with a 45, a shot gun, a rifle, and my Dad's 38 police revolver. I informed the police of my intentions and that I would contact the Office of Civil Rights. My complaint was taken seriously.

There are those individuals that do not embrace the name of the organization. The name represents diversity and cultural competency. The name states that "There is much work to be done, together." CADAPROGRAMS and the North Versailles Police Department can be a model for other departments. We work together harmoniously and have an educational program for the after school and summer programs. We encourage the DA's Office to actively engage in dialogue and financial support with CADAPROGRAMS and the North Versailles Police Chief to address the social issues that are causing the deterioration of Crestas Terrace.

Crestas has a rich history which is being preserved: A diverse community that lived together harmoniously; A Tuskegee Airman; A graduate of Tuskegee University from many years ago; the first "All Black Volunteer Fire Company in the State;" The first Black Commissioner; the first Black Police Officer; Large numbers of college graduates; Single family homes; and the legacy includes the accomplishments of some of the "Diamonds being honored today."

Thank you for coming. This program is about the "Legacy of CADAPROGRAMS, our families, and our community."

Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid's 25th Anniversary Legacy Luncheon

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Greetings and Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies | Dr. Janis C. Brooks CEO & Founder |
| Mistress of Ceremonies | Valinda Holland Instructional Aide |
| Black National Anthem | James Weldon Johnson |
| Welcome | Robert L. Federline Program Director |
| Response to Welcome | Chief J. Matrazzo North Versailles, PA Police Chief |
| Musical Selection | Kea Michaels, Jazz Vocalist |
| Rest Well Dear Friend | Yahne Jackson, Spoken Word Vocalist |
| Affirmation of CADA programs | Cortez Carey |
| Invocation & Blessing of the Food | Elder Art Howard, Parent Solid Rock Foundations, Pgh. PA |

Lunch is Served

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Musical Selection | Kea Michaels, Jazz Vocalist |
| Introduction of Keynote Speaker | Valinda Holland, Instructional Aide |
| Keynote Address | Chief Cameron McLay City of Pittsburgh Police |
| Presentation of the Legacy Diamonds of the Community | Dr. Janis C. Brooks |

2015 Honorees

Commissioner Frank "Jimmy" Bivins (Public Service)
George Bivins, Jr. (Music)
Constance Bridgeman (Education)
Mother Juanita Pelham Curges (Community Service)
Kimberly Mosby Griffin (Medicine)
Charlotte Kâ (Art)
Ruth Elaine Pegeron (Business)
Ruth Byrd Smith (Government)
Montgomery Thomas (Public Service)
Beverly D. Washington (Community Service)
Lamonte E. Wilson (Public Service)

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Door Prize | Louis Bonetti Board Member & Treasurer |
| Closing Prayer | Reverend Barbara Gunn Mt. Carmel Baptist Church North Versailles, PA |

Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Welcome and Thank you by Dr. Janis C. Brooks, Founder and CEO | 1 |
| Luncheon Program | 2 |
| Lift Every Voice and Sing (Black National Anthem) | 4 |
| CADAprgrams Mission Statement and History | 5 |
| Cameron McLay, Keynote Speaker and Kea Michaels, Jazz Vocalist..... | 6 |
| Gospel Temple Ministries | 9 |
| Rest Well Dear Friend by Yahne A. Jackson..... | 10 |
| Emeritus Honorees | 11 |
| Church of Inclusion International Ministries | 13 |
| Jasper's Corner (CADAprgrams' Alumni) | 14 |
| Commissioner Frank "Jimmy" Bivins | 19 |
| George Bivins, Jr. | 20 |
| Constance Bridgeman | 21 |
| Mother Juanita Pelham Curges | 22 |
| Kimberly Mosby Griffin..... | 23 |
| Charlotte Kâ | 24 |
| Ruth Elaine Pegeron..... | 25 |
| Ruth Byrd Smith..... | 26 |
| Montgomery Thomas..... | 27 |
| Beverly D. Washington | 28 |
| Lamonte E. Wilson..... | 29 |
| Dennis DiLorenzo/W.B. Mason Co., Inc. | 30 |
| Watts Memorial Chapel, Inc..... | 33 |
| Historic Crestas Terrace In North Versailles, PA by Dr. Janis C. Brooks, Founder and CEO..... | 34 |
| Jennifer, Brazzaille, Congo, Africa..... | 36 |
| North Versailles Police Department | 39 |
| Montgomery Thomas Family | 40 |
| Pittsburgh by Mike Vick..... | 42 |
| Bean's Auto Repair..... | 44 |
| Regis D. Bobonis, Sr. & Family..... | 45 |
| Human Services Center Corp. | 48 |
| Damon & Danielle Griffin | 51 |
| Women Against Abusive Relationships | 52 |
| African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania..... | 54 |
| Robert L. Downey, Jr., Attorney at Law | 61 |
| Department of Minority Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise..... | 62 |

Lift Every Voice and Sing

(Black National Anthem)

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.



Many people are surprised to learn that "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first written as a poem. Created by James Weldon Johnson, it was performed for the first time by 500 school children in celebration of President Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 in Jacksonville, FL. The poem was set to music by Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson, and soon adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song. Today "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is one of the most cherished songs of the African American Civil Rights Movement and is often referred to as the Black National Anthem.



CADAprgrams Mission Statement

The Sankofa Bird from the African culture symbolizes the need for building our future, while remembering our past.

Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid, Inc. (CADAprgrams), relieves hunger specifically for children, seniors and others in need, heightens awareness of environmental stewardship, and improves the educations, health and well-being of disadvantaged groups by creating environments to improve diversity. CADAprgrams provides year-round out of school time programs for at-risk children and provides safe, supervised, constructive, educational activities on a daily basis. CADAprgrams is a socially inclusive organization, is dedicated to providing competent education, quality healthcare, affordable housing, environmental integrity, economic equality, and judicial equity for all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, gender or age.

HISTORY

Citizens Against Domestic Apartheid (CADAprgrams) was founded in 1990 by Dr. Janis C. Brooks (Ph.D.) as a result of several incidents of extreme police brutality in the historic African American community of Crestas Terrace in North Versailles, Pennsylvania. Residents, young and old, male and female, witnessed:

- 1) A young man beaten by a police officer and forced to walk to the squad car with his pants around his ankles (Maryland and Pal ma Avenues).
- 2) A young female forced to the ground and handcuffed because she verbally disagreed with what she had seen. She required medical assistance. Her baby, who was being held by her grandmother, witnessed this.
- 3) Police officers at the end of a dead end street (Milligan Avenue) surrounded a young man who was forced to lay prostrate on the ground, handcuffed, with a shotgun to his head. The police officer's foot was on the young man's neck.
- 4) Youth being chased throughout the community by police officers with weapons drawn. Despite repeated requests by the community for assistance from several political entities, no assistance was provided. Acts of violence of this nature were common place in South Africa but were not expected to be tolerated or witnessed in America, thus the name of the organization. The name was changed in 1993 to **Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid** to stress and to highlight that full societal access and social equity is guaranteed to all regardless of race, creed, color, gender, or age. The reality for many of America's minorities and poor falls short of the ideal presented as an inalienable right. It is CADAprgrams' assertion that inclusiveness of all individuals and the acceptance of diverse cultures are essential in embracing the commonality of all individuals. The premier After-School program began in 1995, and the stellar Summer Camp program in 2000.

NECESSITY OF CADAprgrams

The majority of CADAprgrams participants are at-risk in the following areas: earning low grades in school; not having structured, constructive daily activities on a daily basis; not having supervision after school; being latch-key children; not having a safe haven free of drugs, alcohol, teen sex, bullying, and other ills of society. There is a heightened possibility of involvement in the juvenile justice system because of the above-listed factors. This is an underserved and underrepresented community.



Our Keynote Speaker

Cameron S. McLay

Cameron S. McLay was appointed Chief of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police on September 15, 2014. He was formerly a consultant for the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Captain for the Madison Police Department in Wisconsin.

As Captain, McLay last served as a District Commander, and was responsible for overseeing all aspects of police operations. He specialized in managing police-community relations and leadership development.

McLay served as a lieutenant from 2002 to 2005, serving as a shift commander, district patrol operations commander and SWAT tactical team commander. As a sergeant from 1995 to 2002, he worked with narcotics and gang units and the SWAT team. During his five years as a patrol officer, McLay became a full-time training officer.

Kea Michaels, Jazz Vocalist

Musical Entertainment is being provided by one of Pittsburgh's favorite Jazz vocalists, Kea Michaels.

Kea is known for her passion and accomplished style. You may enjoy more examples of her moving style on Facebook.







*To God be the Glory
For the Things He has Done*

**LIVING, SERVING
AND
WITNESSING AS UNTO THE LORD**



Congratulations

on

25 Faith-Filled Years

to

Dr. Janis C. Brooks

&

CAD Programs

On this Great and Wonderful Day

**PASTOR THOMAS HOLLAND, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
GOSPEL TEMPLE MINISTRIES
710 CHARTIERS AVENUE
MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136**

Rest Well Dear Friend

By: Yahne A. Jackson

Rest well dear friend

The Great I AM has called

It is the season of your transition

Though externally we grieve your passing

We rejoice in the light of your love

The memories we shared

good times we enjoyed

The sunny skies we've seen

The fulfillment of your accomplishments and dreams

You have reached perfection here on earth

Earned your place with our Savior

Rest well my friend

For this is the beginning

And not the end

Emeritus Honorees

Our Emeritus Honorees have all transitioned to be with our heavenly Father. Their willingness to share their gifts and talents with CADAPrograms left a legacy for the organization and the community. Like a flower, their petals have fallen to the earth, but they have brightly blossomed in the vibrant garden of our Father and continue to leave their fragrance with us.



Rosa Mae Brooks: My Mother, “Mama,” was a wonderful, God-fearing parent. She was a social worker by occupation, a Sunday School Teacher for over 50 years, an avid reader, and a volunteer for CADAPrograms from 1995 until 2005 (ten years) until her health failed. Even while in a wheelchair she felt the need to impart her knowledge to the children, and to help them achieve academically. Just as she taught me that I could achieve anything in life, she instilled that into the lives of the CADAPrograms students.



Joan Grant: “Aunt Joan” as she was affectionately known to many. Joan was the first volunteer director of the CADAPrograms after school program from 1995 until 1999. She approached me in 1995 about the concern for the children and the need to start an after school program. I had already started the planning but needed a director. In typical “Joan” fashion she agreed. Aunt Joan was a Registered Nurse, and from that training, she transferred those skills into business administration; she was extremely detail oriented.

I never had to be concerned about documentation, she had it in triplicate! Her quiet demeanor and welcoming smile embraced the children of the program.



Lillian Lovejoy: “Mrs. Lovejoy” was a teacher for the East Allegheny Schools. She began volunteering in the after school program in 1995. She took a hiatus but continued to volunteer in various capacities such as suggesting books and various teaching aids. She loved to teach, tutor and talk. She touched the lives of many students in the community and in the school district.



Barbara Page: “Ms. Barbara” was CADAPrograms’ first dietary technician. She had a wonderful smile and a soft voice. She generally had her granddaughter, Satchel, with her. We all gained weight. When she made macaroni and cheese or potato salad, we knew that we needed to diet the day before and the day after. She enjoyed preparing meals for the students and encouraged them to do well in school. Even while cooking, she would come from the kitchen and as-



Stephanie Lee Andrews: “Ms. Stephanie” was not from Crestas. She originally was an AARP trainee, but became an employee of CADAPrograms in 2006 until 2013. She was loyal and dedicated to me, the students, and the program. Ms. Stephanie was not a natural Mom, so the children of the program became her children. When she first came to the program, we would tease her and say, “You are as mean as a snake.” Being around the children changed her attitude. She was always purchasing things for the students bringing in videos, or cooking something special for them. She kept everything organized and clean. She especially enjoyed working with the elementary students. When she became ill, she still had to volunteer at least once a week and would call every day to ask about the children and the program. She was in charge of the Kwanzaa Gift Program and the organization and distribution of the Clothing Drive. She was notorious for having a broom and we thought she manufactured dirt just so that she could clean.

***We Would like to specially thank all of the following Helping Hands
who made this 25th Anniversary Luncheon Possible:***

Romadore Abdullah; Deborah F. Jones Alston; Frank “Jimmy” Bivins; Jasper Bivins; Vivian Bivins; Louis Bonetti; Cortez Carey; Erica Curges; Leah Curges; Shireef Curges; Prophet Floretta Demus; Anna Dent; Attorney Robert L. Downey, Jr.; Bob & Vicki Federline; Dr. Renee Frazier; Reverend Barbara Gunn; Derrick Hall; Valinda Holland; Derrick Hall; Josephine Hall Irvin; Yahne A. Jackson; Shane Lee Levin; DeElla Greenley Love; Noreen Mashaw; Kea Michaels; Dorothy L. Askew Mullen; Curtis Reaves Photography Studio; Yvonne Robinson; Rose Askew Rouse; Saturday Light Brigade; Joyce Smith; Sister Joyce Travis Smith; Monique Thompson; Mike Vick; John Wilborn; Apostle Calvern Woods; Johnnette Young

BLESSINGS TO CITIZENS to ABOLISH DOMESTIC APARTHEID, Inc. (CADaprograms)

CHURCH OF INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES SALUTES CADaprograms on its 25th ANNIVERSARY and DECLARES THAT GOD WILL BLESS EVERYTHING and EVERYONE AFFILIATED WITH THE ORGANIZATION! GOD WILL CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN YOU, AS YOU RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY. YOU ADDRESSED THE SOCIAL INJUSTICES OF THE TIME, BEFORE IT WAS POLITICALLY CORRECT. CONTINUE TO WALK WITH YOUR HAND IN GOD'S HAND, AND HE WILL LEAD THE ORGANIZATION.

Always remember, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD (Jeremiah 17:7)."



Sankofa Bird with Sword the Symbol for COIIM

The Sankofa Bird from the African culture symbolizes the need for building our future while remembering the past. The bird with the sword represents COIIM using God's Word to rebuild the community and to win souls to Christ.

Church Of Inclusion International Ministries

360 Lincoln Highway N. Versailles, PA 15137

Phone: 412 829-2788 Fax: 412 829-2744

Rev. Dr. Janis C. Brooks, Pastor & Founder

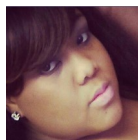
Please Meet Some Alumni From CADAPrograms:

Jasper's Corner



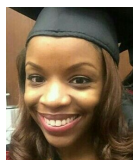
Jasper Bivins

Attended CADA programs for many years until graduating from East Allegheny High School, I have also graduated from Bradford School of Business with an Associates in Business Management. CADAPrograms has helped shape me into the woman I am today by providing me with the basic fundamental steps into becoming a professional and adapting to any work environment.



Hannefah Stevenson

Dr. Brooks, CADAPrograms helped and encouraged me to move forward with my life by making me believe that I could achieve what I want to be in life. So now I am currently enrolled in Everest Institute studying to become a patient care Technician. When I graduate I plan on furthering my education to get my associates in LPN while raising my son Josiah. I want to thank Dr. Brooks for the inspiration.



Karmia Watts

I have attended CADAPrograms when I was attending high school and it has kept me focused. I graduated this past May with my Master's degree in Speech Pathology.



Jehanne Watts

I attended CADAPrograms , and graduated from East Allegheny High School .I am currently working as a Licensed Professional Counselor at a Behavioral Health Hospital in Texas.



Mandy Dickerson

I went to CADA quite a few years back and it helped me stay focused on what was important, my education. Since then I graduated from Fairfax high school in Fairfax, VA in 2009 and then graduated from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA in 2013 with a bachelor's of arts degree in Anthropology. Now today I am married to my wonderful husband Adam Dickerson and work for Geico as a Claims Service Representative.



Lauren Ashe

I attended CADAprograms for many years and it has helped me better myself. I graduated from East Allegheny High School and attended college in Georgia. I enlisted in the army. I currently work in Northern Virginia as a government contractor.



Breonna Pegeron

Through educational programs such as CADAprograms, I was able to focus on my education. I graduated from East Allegheny high school in 2004 then graduated George Mason University in Fairfax, VA in 2008 with a bachelor's of arts in organization administration. Currently I work in the Department of Homeland Security as a management program analyst and have been with the department for almost 10years. I am also very active in my community; I'm the community service volunteer coordinator for my church in Washington DC. Through my experiences in life I learned that by putting God 1st, He will allow all the pieces to fall together for you to have a successful life. Remember to never let others define your own idea of success.



Cayla Holland

I attended CADA programs for a short period of time while I attended East Allegheny. Being there I learned all of the core responsibilities to get further in life. Currently I've moved to a three bedroom home in North Carolina, where I am working full-time and seeking employment from a second job. I run every morning and sing as a hobby every day and I am very happy to be where I am through the grace of God.



Candace Scott

I attended Indiana University of PA and studied Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Business Administration. I currently live in Mt. Lebanon, Pa and work for PNC Bank as a Financial Sales Consultant. With CADAprograms I was given the keys to succeed in life and any career I chose.



Brittany Scott

I attended Indiana University of PA and studied Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Small Business Management. I currently live in Pittsburgh, Pa with my 6 year old son Jayden and work for Nordstrom as a Department Manager. CADAprograms has given me and my siblings a great step in the right direction into finding ourselves never giving up in life.



Terrance Scott

CADAPROGRAMS has kept me out of a lot of trouble when I was growing up and I am grateful for Dr. Brooks and all that she has done and shown me. I currently attend Pittsburgh Technical Institute and I am studying to do construction in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Chelsea Gooden

I was a student and counselor for cosmetology and now I currently work at a hair salon in Pittsburgh, PA



Erica McLeod

I was a student of the after school program and I have learned a lot from Dr. Brooks. After I graduated from East Allegheny High School in 2007, I went on to receive specialized child care training through Mercy Hospital. When I am not caring for children, I enjoy freelancing as an event photographer and videographer.



Jonas McLeod

I was a student and employee of CADAPROGRAMS and it has taught me to never give up on my dreams. I've graduated from East Allegheny with the tenth highest GPA of my year; I went on to graduate with High Honors from Rochester Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Information Technology. I currently work as a business analyst for a major steel company.



Dakota Williams

I am going to the eleventh grade; I will also be turning 17 in November and currently have two jobs. I work at McDonald's & Kmart part-time. I will be graduating from high school in 2017 and going to college for business management. CADAPROGRAMS has given me the ability to see my full potential and I want to thank Dr. Brooks for all of her help.



Carmelione Majewski

What I liked about CADA was the learning experience I received. I liked that the Staff cared enough to make sure I learned something new each day. I enjoyed all the field trips we went on, it gave me a chance to venture out, have fun and learn at the same time. I also liked being able to meet new people (children and adults) that were polite to me daily. I attend Woodland Hills Academy in the Gifted Program with a 4.0 GPA



Cortez Carey (Aaron Smith)

CADAPrograms, because of what you instilled in me, I have grown to be a hardworking and resilient young man. I earned an associate's degree from CCAC, and then transferred to Clarion University of PA, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies: strategic communication concentration. What keeps me busy these days is my career in child welfare. I work full time as an Educational Liaison for the Department of Human Service of Allegheny County, and I am a Young Adult Consultant for both Foster Club and the National Resource Center for Youth Service. In the future, I plan to earn a master's level degree in either Public Health, Public Administration or go the clinical therapy route. Thank you again for an amazing kick start to my future success!



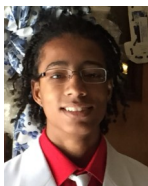
Travis Carey (Jared Smith)

I employed at CVS Caremark, I graduated from East Allegheny. I will be a father in January, also soon to be married. I did one semester at Morgan State College studying Sports Medicine in which I hope to continue that journey. For now I am enjoying my position that I am in now.



Kara Claggett

Currently employed at UPMC Presbyterian as a Pharmacy Technician. Recently got engaged and plan to get married September of next year. I have a bachelor's in chemistry from Edinboro University and master's in forensic science from National University and aspire to be a forensic scientist one day. I enjoyed the time I was at CADAPrograms along with all the staff and peers that attended. It helped me with understanding things I didn't and helped motivate me get my homework done.



Steven Majewski

I liked going on field trips. I liked the food that was provided daily. The Staff was interesting and fun and provided us help when needed. I enjoy working with my hands and CADAPrograms let me do that by allowing us to do labs. I will be attending Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio for high school on a full scholarship. My GPA is currently 3.8



Tribute for Jasmine Claggett (August 10, 1989—June 4, 2015) by Kara Claggett

When I talk about Jasmine, my sister, there is no way I can be brief. She was such an amazing person; Jasmine also enjoyed CAD programs and was a high honor roll student at East Allegheny. She went on to achieve her bachelor's and master's in athletic training at West Virginia Wesleyan. She received a job in South Carolina as an athletic trainer, but was diagnosed with neuroendocrine pancreatic cancer and couldn't take it. She was employed at UPMC Sports Medicine at Obama Academy. She was an active church member at Mt. Carmel and was the president of the young adult ministry. She was a beautiful, sophisticated, fun, smart, and funny person who loved the Lord. She was a fighter and fought until the very last breath. No matter what she was going through she never showed it and just kept smiling and remained positive. She will be missed and forever in our hearts.



Invictus

**Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.**

**In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.**

**Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.**

**It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.**

William Ernest Henley



Commissioner Frank “Jimmy” Bivins (Public Service)

Frank James Bivins is a life-long resident of North Versailles Township, PA where he was raised in the neighborhood of Crestas Terrace. In September 1942, Frank was born the third child and oldest son of eight children to the late James Frank Bivins and the late Ethel Alberta Wiley-Bivins.

Frank attended elementary school and middle school in North Versailles, PA until attending Braddock High School where he played football on Braddock High School's undefeated team. He graduated in 1960.

Frank served 3 years in the United States Army where he was trained in the field of communications. After serving his country, Frank was employed by the North Versailles Water Authority. In 1966, Frank began his career at Westinghouse Electric where he held positions of increasing responsibility during his 20 year career, and retired as Group Leader in 1988. After the Westinghouse Plant shut down, Frank started his career in the County of Allegheny in the Recorder of Deeds Office. He then began holding positions of increased responsibility in the Department of Public Works where he remained for 15 years serving as Supervisor of Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Counties Road Department, from which he retired in 2004.

Frank began attending civic and political meetings at an early age with his parents and became interested in serving the community. As a result, in 1975 he was appointed to finish Commissioner James Carter's term as Commissioner of the 7th Ward in North Versailles Township, and was re-elected to serve in this capacity until the present time. As Commissioner he has served as Police Commissioner, President of the Board, Vice President of the Board and on numerous committees over the years. He currently serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee and as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

Frank is a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in the community of Crestas Terrace where he currently serves as Chairman of the Deacon Board. In the past, Frank has served as President of Crestas Terrace Volunteer Fire department, Vice President of the McKeesport Crestas Branch of the NAACP, President of Community Action of Crestas Terrace, -Executive Board Member of the Mon Valley Minority Political Action Committee, and the Allegheny County Democratic Committee.

Frank is married, and he and his wife, Vesta, have been blessed with three children, Titia and Jamey, and their oldest son, Terry, who is deceased, 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

George Bivins, Jr. (Music)



Growing up in Crestas Terrace in the sixties and seventies was a great life. The Church and Community center was the hub of activity. There were a lot of things for kids, like the choir, Community Center dances and sports activities. The Civil Rights and Black Power movements were in full swing. The music of those times shaped that generation. From protest songs to loves songs, music was always part of my life. My Parents George and Vivian believed in God, family and hard work. Both of my parents worked and insisted that we children have responsibilities around the house. I began cutting grass at a young age and my father encouraged me to cut the churches grass as well as others in the community. I used most of my earning to buy records at Eastland Mall. I loved record shopping and discovering new bands.

In the early 70's Funk music hit the scene and groups like Parliament Funkadelic, Sly and the Family Stone, Kool & the Gang, Earth, Wind and Fire, Ohio Players and many more continued to fuel my passion for music. By age 14, I was attending concerts with older cousin John Brooks. We went to every Funk show that came to Pittsburgh until he went to college. In 1977 I attended the University of Pittsburgh and graduated with a Bachelors of Science Degree. Immediately after graduation I decide to pursue a Masters Degree at Carnegie Mellon University, which I completed in 1983.

My parents gave me a graduation gift that would change my life. They gave me a trip to Los Angeles, California to visit one my college friends. As the plane descended on Los Angeles that night all I could see was a city of lights the seemed to be endless. I had never been to California, the palm trees, the people, the weather and the beach all seemed to good to be true. While most vacations end after two weeks, I decided that I wanted to stay in Los Angeles more than anything. I cashed in my return ticket and started looking for a job. Luckily after 1 week I landed a job at a bank, which eventually afforded me the opportunity to settle in Los Angeles. After getting settled I needed to get serious about my career. I decided to focus on Data Processing, the hot field at the time. After five years in Data Processing I was making good money, but I was not happy in my career. I decided to pursue my real passion, music; after all I had been doing music reviews for a street magazine called Urb for two years. I was becoming quite popular as a music critic and was invited to several shows. Rap music was exploding on the West Coast at the time. After writing a review of Ice Cubes "Kill At Will" album, I was subsequently invited to the show. The show was powerful, angry and full of truth. That's when I was convinced that I had to work in the Music Business. I started from the bottom, working on street teams, college radio and eventually landing a job as a Regional Manager of Promotion for Jive Records. It was hard work for less money that I was making in Data Processing, but I did not care, because I loved the music. After moving to Atlanta with Jive, I got a break and was recruited by Loud Records. They moved to New York, the center of the universe for Rap music. The New York music scene was lively and my career thrived. I was soon promoted to Vice President, Senior VP and currently Executive VP and General Manager at RCA Record and RCA Inspiration.

Since 2007 I also run the day to day operations of RCA Inspiration. I came to RCA from Capitol Records, where I was Senior Vice President, Urban Promotion and spearheaded a succession of chart-topping hits for the label. Prior to Capitol, I held leadership positions at Loud Records and Jive Records as well as running my own promotions company. Throughout my career, I have been responsible for the promotion of some of the chart-topping hits for Snoop, Chingy, R. Kelly, Busta Rhymes, Notorious BIG and many others. Current Hip Hop Artists: Alicia Keys, R. Kelly, Usher, T-Pain, Chris Brown, Kid Ink, Monica, Charlie Wilson; Current Gospel Artists: Marvin Sapp, Kirk Franklin, Travis Greene.

I credit my upbringing on Crestas, my family and especially my cousin John for fueling my early passion for music, which I turned into a career.

Constance Bridgeman (Education)

"Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all of His benefits" Psalm 103:2

"Live" "Love" "Laugh" "KEEP A GOING"

Connie has been married for 42 years to James Bridgeman. They are the parents of one daughter, Candice Shannel, son-in-law, Lance Hicks and one son, Corey James.

Connie received a B.S. degree from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, a Masters of Arts in Teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, Certification in teaching American Sign Language from C.C.W.C. and the Center for Hearing and Deaf Services, Greensburg. PA.

After 35 years of teaching, Connie retired from the Pittsburgh Board of Education, Pittsburgh, PA. She is in the 1994 edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers. She is affiliated with the National Alliance of Black School Educators, Musician for Bethel Irwin A.M.E. Church, Irwin, PA, serves on the Senior Usher Board at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, N. Versailles, PA, and the American Sign Language Leader for the Irwin Community Lenten Services, Irwin, PA. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. She patterns her teaching methods after the Greatest Teacher of all, "JESUS CHRIST."

Connie started a monthly hand designed Fellowship publication in memory of her mother. She has shared over 10,000 copies along with personalized inspirational greeting cards. She loves visiting Kane Regional Nursing Center, McKeesport, PA, Intercessory Prayer Partner with The Church of Inclusions Inclusion International, N. Versailles, PA and Daily devotions: (Praise, Prayer and Bible Study) with her son, Corey.

Connie enjoys bowling, fitness classes and traveling. She and her family have been on over 30 cruises. She is enriched when attending conventions, family reunions and bringing joy in the lives of everyone she meets.

Love One Another. Everything you need to know is in the word of God. READ IT, BELIEVE IT, RECEIVE IT and KEEP A GOING

"KEEP A GOING"

If you strike a thorn on a rose
Keep a going

If it hails or if it storms
Keep a going

Aint no need to sit or whine
Cause the fish aint on your line
Keep a going

Now say your down to your last dime
Getting broke aint no crime

Just tell the world you are feeling fine
And Keep a going





THE MOTHER JUANITA PELHAM CURGES STORY

(Community Service)

On January 27, 1939 in Verbena, Alabama, Mother Juanita Curges was born. She knew not what her life would be. When she was (3) years old her mother left this earthly life to experience a life everlasting. Of course life's obstacles can either overtake a person or help them to be an overcomer. Life may not have been all that easy for her; but, if you have been blessed with an opportunity to meet her, it is easy to see that she carries victory wherever God leads her. Currently, Mother Juanita has been a resident of McKeesport, PA for thirteen (13) years and a former fifteen (15) year resident of the Northside area in Pittsburgh, PA. She became a retiree but wanted to find a part-time position. She made contact with AARP (American Association of Retired of Retired Persons) and was given information about CADAPrograms. She was hired and to this day remains a loyal and dedicated 15 year member of the CADAPrograms team. She wears several hats at CADAPrograms. She is a culinary artist. She cooks and presents delicious meals to the CADAPrograms' participants and staff. She has twelve (12) children. The oldest is fifty eight (58), the youngest is thirty-seven (37) years old and (17) grandchildren. All of them love, respect and honor her! She is a prayer warrior and an intercessor and a faithful member and is the Mother of the Church Of Inclusion International Ministries, which is connected to CADAPrograms. Mother Curges says the CADAPrograms has a warm and simple atmosphere. The Founder/CEO, staff and volunteers are caring. They support and fulfil the participant academic, social, cultural and personal needs. She states that CADAPrograms is an outreach effort for our youth. They motivate them to do the right thing. CADAPrograms is a model for encouraging their participants and families:

Galatians 6:9

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (KJV).”

Mother Juanita Curges is a truly blessed Woman of God. She walks by faith and not by sight. Her sight is spiritual. As God blesses her, she unfailingly blesses others. She takes no glory for herself. Mother Juanita gives glory to her Heavenly Father.

Submitted by the Board of CADAPrograms.



Kimberly Mosby-Griffin (Medicine)

Kimberly Mosby-Griffin was born in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. At a young age her mother, Rev. Dr. Janis C. Brooks, moved her and her brother to her hometown North Versailles, PA. Growing up, most of her days were spent at her grandmother's home in Crestas Terrace, where the entire community was known to her as family. She attended East Allegheny High School and graduated in 1995 as the class Valedictorian. Kimberly received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College, an Ivy League women's institution located outside of Boston, MA. After matriculating from Wellesley College, Kimberly accepted a research position at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This position involved researching investigational therapies for individuals living with Huntington's, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's diseases. Her role combined her desire to work with the elderly and their families with her love for innovative research. Due to her experiences with clinical trials at NINDS, Kimberly sought a position with greater oversight and increased authority to shut down investigations that were dangerous and failed to adhere to Federal law and took a position at the Emmes Corporation. Emmes has been involved with groundbreaking trials that established standards of care for cancer, identified supplements effective in delaying progression of macular degeneration, and most recently investigating effective treatment and prevention of Ebola. Over time Kimberly saw her career grow, however she knew that in order to continue growing she needed to further her education. Kimberly earned a Master's of Science degree in Clinical Research Administration from the George Washington University. Kimberly's years of hard work were recently recognized when she was promoted to co-Principal Investigator for the AIDS Malignancy Consortium's Operations and Data Management Center and promoted corporately to a Project Lead. She is one of a few minorities to hold this title and is the youngest Principal Investigator in the company. Corporately she serves as the Chair for the Emmes Institutional Review Board (IRB), a role which requires provision of regulatory oversight of all projects run by the company. In her spare time she works to serve the local community as an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also an accomplished cellist. Kimberly is married to a wonderful husband, Damon Griffin, a mental health counselor. They reside in Maryland and are the proud parents of one child, a beautiful baby girl, Danielle.

Charlotte Kâ (Art)

I'm originally from a small village called Crestas Terrace which is located twelve miles east of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A beautiful village perched high on our Pennsylvania Hills. This was a northern town with Southern sensibilities. The original inhabitants were comprised of people who had come north to escape the burdens of the south and to work in the Steel mills and other factories. Both my father Bingham Richardson and grandfather, Grant Taylor worked in those mills. My mother, Gusie Richardson was a beautician.

I left my small village for New York to study art at The Cooper Union for the advancement of Science and Art. I was in New York during the Black Revolution of the 60's and was inspired by that period of defiance, "Black Power" and the adoption of the culture of the Motherland, Africa. I totally immersed myself in a new life-style that included my African American and African heritages.

I also loved the innovation of the free Jazz of this time and would go to the Five Spot to hear Mingus and to Slugs on the Lower East Side of Manhattan to hear so many wonderful jazz musicians such as Miles, Lee Morgan, Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Beaver Harris and Archie Shepp to name a few. The music was cosmically rich and vibrant and I have been inspired ever since.

I returned to Pittsburgh in 1971 to attend Carnegie Mellon University, where I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in printmaking and painting. Opened Jade /gallery and showed various Pittsburgh artists and others from NYC.

I moved back to New York and worked as an art educator for the New York City Board of Education. I retired from teaching in 2006.

Currently I reside in Pittsburgh Pa and also maintain a art studio in Brooklyn, NY. Errol Reynolds and I are renovating and adding two stories to a building in Pittsburgh in the historic Hill District which will be used as Artist Studios and Galleries and living quarters called MOKA (Mecca of Culture & Art) We are also beginning the renovating of my family home in Crestas Terrace which will become a home for Artists in Residence to create art in a quiet, rural atmosphere.

I have exhibited extensively - Kenkeleba, Mocada The Schomberg and others in New York City. Have exhibited at the August Wilson Center in Pittsburgh and at the Pittsburgh Center of the Arts as well as the Center of Contemporary Crafts in Pittsburgh. Had a one person show in 2013 called SPIRITED! At the Westmoreland County Community College Art Gallery Science Hall- Youngwood Campus. Also exhibited at Sweetwater Gallery in Sewickley, Pa in the Tending Our Mothers' Gardens Exhibition. Have exhibited at the African American Museum in Dallas Texas in an exhibition honoring Mahalia Jackson, this show traveled to Dallas from the Stella Jones Gallery in New Orleans, Louisiana. Have exhibited in Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and the Ivory Coast as well as Cuba and Jamaica.

This year I received an award from The Advancing Black Arts in Pittsburgh from The Heinz Foundation and The Pittsburgh Foundation. For this award I am creating a suite of abstract paintings to honor the Pittsburgh jazz pianist and composer Billy Strayhorn who would have been 100 years old this year. I will present this suite of paintings at MOKA and have a grand birthday celebration with Strayhorn's music and my paintings. The Art exhibition will travel to the Kenkeleba Gallery in New York City.





Ruth Elaine Pegeron (Business)

Ruth Pegeron is a native of the Pittsburgh, PA., suburbs of North Versailles and Rankin. She had a unique upbringing with the cross of neighborhood cultures of urban and country for the making of a well-rounded individual. She knows her success is a direct result of her upbringing. Being a part of the Jones Family, she was a part of one of the founding families of the Crestas Terrace community.

Growing up in Crestas was growing up in a safe, loving community where as kids we could play without any fears. We had freedom to run, play, skate, ride bikes and skip on any given street at any hour. Our home was built on Christian values, filled with the love of both parents where we were reared to have strong values and morals such as integrity, respect and dignity. Growing up in Crestas we were surrounded by educated, professional, successful African American people who led by example. My hero was my grandfather Deacon Matthew Jones serving the community through a rewarding career, volunteerism, political appointments, and church leadership. He was a man after God's own heart; opening his home to any and every one for a meal or an encouraging word. I am so grateful he decided to settle in Crestas and raise his family. Today, I am the proud owner of the family house that he built with his very own hands and it still has his original electricity and plumbing. The history of our family home is chilling even the thought of two life moments -my Mother was born there and married there.

In 1992, Ruth moved to Washington D.C. for a training program at U.S. Airways after completing her Travel Tourism schooling at Wilma Boyd Career Schools in downtown Pittsburgh. While she awaited her assignment at U.S. Airways, Ruth got a sales position at Macys Department Store, where she fell in love and decided to make it a career. The vast majority of her professional career (17yrs) has been working for Macy's Inc. starting her career as a sales associate and a very short while became a Senior Executive and Multi Unit Regional Executive. She has held many titles such as Regional Director of Human Resources, Director of Organizational Development/Leadership, Director of Training and Development, Director of Administration, Director of Customer and Selling Services; all of which she was responsible for delivering sales results through growing others to grow their businesses. Ruth has remarkable business acumen and is an expert in all aspects of the Sales and Human Resource professions. She has worked in many geographical east coast markets primarily from NY to the Washington D.C./Virginia / and the Maryland Metropolitan area. She has also worked in San Juan, Puerto Rico and some southern markets such as Florida, New Orleans and North Carolina.

Ruth is recently a published author releasing her first book "House of Plenty". Ruth has a heart and passion to help others grow. She hosts "House of Plenty" events which are designed to motivate women to look, feel and be their best. The book project was her first major accomplishment for Pegeron Productions (PP), a consulting, professional coaching and speaking Services Company which she started in 2011. In addition, to starting her own small business she learned through the caretaking of her late mother, Ollie Pegeron that she had a true gift for the life ending process. Ruth changed careers and has a successful sales career with the largest death care provider in the country, Service Corporation International, currently positioned as an Associate Director of one of Washington D.C's largest cemeteries. She leads the grief and bereavement ministry of her church. Ruth is a community leader participating in community events. She also serves as a mentor for minority youth at Northern Virginia Community College.



Ruth Byrd-Smith (Government)

Ruth Byrd-Smith is Director of the Allegheny County Minority/ Women/ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Department, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was appointed to this position in February of 2004. In this position as Director, Ruth oversees the budget, certification of minority, women and disadvantaged business enterprises, technical assistance programs, and dissemination of information on contracting opportunities. This position requires a commitment to advancing and setting the goals of the organization by communicating the vision to external departments, committees, community organizations and the small business community.

She served as Chairwoman of the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs from 2004 – 2012 under the Rendell Administration. Ruth is a member of the Pennsylvania Unified Certification (PA UCP) Oversight Committee and the former Chair of the PA UCP Appeal Committee as well as a member of many other organizations and boards.

In 2006 Ruth was awarded the Minority Business Champion for the SBA Region III which is a seven state area and in 2007 was awarded the Civic and Community Leadership award from the YWCA. In 2008 and 2009 respectively, Ruth was the recipient of the New Pittsburgh Courier – 50 Women of Excellence Award and Onyx Woman Network – 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2011, was honored by Onyx Women Network for contributions to entrepreneurial development. Ruth was selected as a winner of the 2012 Women in Business Awards by the Pittsburgh Business Times and most recently in 2015 she has received the Sojourner Truth Award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women.

Ruth holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Corporate Communications from Point Park College.

Montgomery Thomas (Public Service)

For more than 25 years, Montgomery Thomas served as a trooper for the Pennsylvania State Police, one of the largest accredited law enforcement agencies in the country. His career began in 1982 and upon graduation from the academy; he was assigned to the State Police Barracks in Washington, PA. Beginning as a trooper, he was later promoted to the rank of Corporal in 1996. Montgomery also received specialized training including providing protection for the Governor and the President of the United States in conjunction with the Secret Service and the FBI.

Montgomery grew up in Crestas Terrace as the son of Willie J. and Sophie Thomas. He graduated from East Allegheny High School in North Versailles. After high school, he attended Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky and graduated with an Associates Degree. He went on to attend the University of Pittsburgh and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Now retired, Montgomery enjoys being an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police along with the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association. He is married to his wife, Evelyn, and they have a daughter, Ericka, and a son, Montgomery II.





Beverly D. Washington (Community Service)

Beverly D. Washington of North Versailles, PA has 40-plus years experience in the Library Sciences & Library Special transliterating Skills at the University of Pittsburgh, University Library Systems from (1973 -current).

High School graduate from... "East Allegheny High School." Attended Manpower Training Program and received Business Certificate. Forty years work experience is equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in Library Science.

Beverly brings a positive and energetic work approach and a blend of talents in the areas of mentoring Moms and children, counseling unfortunate young mothers in recovery. She worked part-time for "Healthy Start House" & House of Hope" providing information and assistance which enables participants to become knowledgeable about 12 Step Recovery, and recovery enhancement programs, policies, procedures and protocols. She also worked at the CAD A programs facility for five years, and continues to support and volunteer. She is also an active member in her community, giving back to women. As founder of a women's motivational group through her efforts, she is helping women who have experienced various struggles and challenges in their lives to become, empowered, motivated and inspired. She raised five children, two which were her own, and three through foster care.

She loves the Lord and have been a member of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church since childhood, and love to sing praises to God and have been doing so as a Mass Choir member for many years. Currently serving as the President/Secretary of the Mass Choir. Her favorite bible scripture is: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Beverly has been blessed with many mentors in her life. Starting with loving parents, who taught her early on the importance of hard work and perseverance.

She puts God first in all things, then family and business. If you take care of God's business, he will take care of yours. Without a doubt, the greatest influence in her life has been both the Grandparents. I always admired the way they carried themselves, treated other people, and how they lived good clean lives. I continue to strive to encompass the very best of both of them.



Lamonte E. Wilson (Public Service)

Lamonte E. Wilson was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and has more than years of firefighting experience, including four years in the United States Coast Guard, and 22 years of service with the Pittsburgh Bureau

of Fire. In March of 1996 Lamonte was appointed Fire Chief of the Allegheny County Bureau of Fire. He was the first African American Department Chief in Western Pennsylvania.

Lamonte's previous positions have included Fire Suppression, Training, Explosives & Fireworks Task-forces, Fire Supply, and Minority Recruitment Specialist.

During his tenure as Communications Officer (for The Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire) he was published in several national magazines including APCO; Association of Public-safety Communications Officials International.

In addition to his hands-on practical service, Lamonte aided in the positive development of safety measures by serving on multiple boards and committees. These included such diverse positions as the National Task Force on Local Community Preparedness and Response, where was a Charter Advisory Seat Member, in Washington, D.C., in 2005. He also served on the Allegheny County Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Region 13 Fire and Haz-Mat Committee, and the Allegheny Firefighter's Advisory Committee. He also served as a Board Member of New Dawn Ministries, of LJS Publications and the Greater Allegheny and Monongahela Housing Corporation. He continued to exhibit his civic-mindedness and giving spirit by sharing his expertise on the Presbyterian University Hospital Stress Debriefing Team and as the President of the 13th Ward Democratic Club.

For these, and numerous other civic and public service activities, Lamonte was inducted into the Heinz History Center in 2004, as well as receiving the Black Trailblazers Award from Renaissance Publications in 2003.

Lamonte's educational background includes Fire Science and Administration at Allegheny County Community College, and Journalism and Communications at Point Park College located in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

During his four-year tenure as Fire Chief there were many positive changes within the County's Aviation Department, including the construction of our New Regional ARFF Training Facility and the creation of The Allegheny County Airport Authority.



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HISTORIC CRESTAS TERRACE In North Versailles, PA

The Community

The Crestas Terrace area of North Versailles Township is located on the hill to the right of the Westinghouse [Bridge] as one approaches North Versailles [from Pittsburgh] Today the community is referred to as "Crestas." According to Sokol "It was once a vast farmland belonging to the George Miller family who first settled there in the 1850's. Miller was of German ancestry, having Anglicized his name from the original Mueller." According to older residents of the community, Crestas once extended to and included what was formerly known as Eastland Mall.

Sokol also states that "Crestas Terrace was an important link to Port Perry when that town was a bustling river port. The old Port Perry Road which leads to Crestas from the East Pittsburgh McKeesport Boulevard traveling southwest to the river is the last vestige of its past. The of name Crestas Terrace is a variant of its original name, which was Crest Terrace, as the area [is] on the crest of the hill overlooking the East Pittsburgh, North Braddock, and Turtle Creek valleys, and the land sloped to the valley. Crest Terrace, difficult to pronounce because of the two T's in sequence, was corrupted with the addition of a syllable making it easier to pronounce."

Crestas Terrace is the oldest African American suburban community in Pittsburgh. The community transitioned into being predominantly black as a result of family members who were employed in the Westinghouse and the various mills encouraging other family members to move from the South to enjoy the economic benefits of the North.

Though geographically isolated, the community had the same joys and tribulations as individuals from urban cities. The community was originally racially mixed with most of the white residents having Eastern European descent. Some of the family names were: Krause, Pendrow, Joe Gunner, Chick Gunner, Hicks, Nelson Lorenze, Orr, Memlaw, McCluskey, Hussey, Henry, Tomasic, Rapinski, Karpinski, Tersenko, Stitts, Owley, Blasko, Bruno, Smith, O Hara, and Ulichney. All races lived harmoniously helping each other when needed. Initially, when Louis Bivins arrived in Crestas Terrace, there were more white families than black. It was in the early part of 2000, that one of the last of original white families, died, still residing in Crestas when she past.

The Gunner's and Hick's owned stores in the community. Mrs. Hicks owned the first store in the community. The Hussey's had an orchard. Another set of Lorenzes owned bee hives. The Gunnars were prominent in the community. Krause was a commissioner. The Lorenze's had built a church in the community on what is now Milligan Avenue. Princella Askew lived in the former church and in later years Anna Jones Dent lived there. The property is now vacant.

Historic Crestas Terrace is a close-knit community that was settled by working class African-American families during the mid teens of the Twentieth Century. In 1916 Louis Jasper Bivins(my maternal grandfather) arrived in the area. Percy Brooks (my great uncle), Fritz Carter, and James Walter Carter (Ruth Byrd Smith) arrived to the area from the south. In 1924 Champ Brooks (my paternal grandfather) and Matthew Jones (Ruth Pegeron) moved to Crestas. Rev. J.P. Black, Dave Cook, The Elliot Family, Joe Jackson Sr., Deacon and Mrs. Helem [a former slave], the Noble family and the Scott family were residents of the community prior to 1924. William Askew, his wife Caldonia Byrd Askew, and their 11 children came to the South Side Pittsburgh and in 1924 and moved to Crestas. Records differ as to when the Askews came to Crestas but by 1930 the family lived in Crestas.

Louis Bivins and Ella Ramsey Bivins were married April 10, 1910. Louis was born June 7, 1886 died in January 1972. Ella [Mom] was born January 28, 1894 in Jacksonville, FL, she died March, 1976. They were married for 62 years. Louis Bivins, my maternal grandfather, known as "Pop" by the family and Deacon Bivins by the community. He told the author, when she was a child, that God had given him a vision of the land in Crestas. In an article entitled "Reflections: A Journey To Crestas", written by Ruth Bivins Marcus in 1990 for the *Annual Luncheon Program Booklet: Community Responsibility To The Family*. The article was written about her sister Ellen Bivins Smith, and Ruth recounted the family history. "Ellen, the daughter of Ella Ramsey Bivins and Louis Bivins, left Jacksonville, Florida in 1917 with her mother, sister Edith, and brother James and arrived in

Braddock at the train station where they were met by Pop. They caught a street car and rode to the entrance of Port Perry and then walked to their new home in Port Perry. The family lived in Port Perry about six years. Louis earned \$48.00 per week when the family lived in Port Perry, people thought the Bivins' were rich (Rosa Mae Brooks). Along with her [Ellen's] parents, sister Edith, brother James and two new siblings (George and Rosa Mae) moved to Crows Nest, Hempfield Township, where Ruth was born. Crows nest was a coal mining town near Greensburg. After living in Crows Nest for about 3 years the family moved back to Port Perry where brother Russell "Bernie" was born. Later in 1926 a decision was made by my grandparents to build on a home in Crestas Terrace. An eight room home was built on top of a hillside, Milligan Avenue. Crestas then was practically a wilderness." According to Ruth Marcus "Ellen attended Braddock High School where she walked with her sister Edith and peers (Francis Carter and Vernice Jackson) everyday. Ellen walked to school and back without missing one day. Four more siblings were born, Beatrice, Raymond, Donald and Esther." There were 11 surviving children born to this union. Mom and Pop birthed 21 children, a set of twins died at birth.

"During Ellen's early years on Crestas there were dirt roads, out houses, and no running water. Water had to be carried by buckets for cleaning, washing, bathing, and cooking. After coming home from school, Ellen washed clothes, cooked, and cleaned. She was also active in church. She played the piano, was a member of the youth choir and worked with the youth missionaries. Life on Crestas was never dull." Ellen Bivins Grant Smith was born May 31, 1911 and died April 2, 1995.

Louis Bivins was a hard working man. During the Depression Louis walked to Aliquippa to obtain employment. The family did not have a phone and he was gone for a week before his wife heard from him. The community was close knit and community members knew that Louis had left to find a job. Mr. Thomas, first name unknown at this time, checked to see if the family needed anything. A woman in Aliquippa owned a boarding house and rented a room to Pop. He was able to phone a family in Crestas to let them know that he was safe and asked them to inform his wife Ella. Mr. Bivins also use to walk to Oakland daily, he assisted in building the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. The Bivins family never wanted for anything. From the author's recollection the yard reminded her of the Garden of Eden. There was an abundance of fruit trees: cherry; peach, apple, and pear. There were a number of grape vines, strawberry bushes, and black berries bushes. Louis had a large garden with greens, beans, corn and other vegetables. He did not believe in the use pesticides, and the family used herbs from the community to heal illnesses and for preventative uses. The Bivins' raised chickens, ducks, pigs, goats and turkeys. Ella baked fresh bread every day, biscuits in the morning, and rolls and bread in the afternoon. Every day after school, I would disembark from the school bus and rush to Mom and Pop's to eat warm rolls with ALA-GA (Alabama and Georgia) syrup and butter. Edy and Ellen both were employed by the William Penn Hotel as domestics. Along with their tips they would bring home leftover food from the kitchen. It was not unusual to have shrimp, braised short ribs, chicken or fish for breakfast. Rice was a regular staple for dinner. Often hobos and others seeking work or a place to stay would stop by and ask for food. Ella always had a pot of beans or some soup to share with anyone in need. Younger women often looked to Ella to assist with them with teaching them how to manage feeding large families. The family lived cattycomered from Mount Carmel Baptist Church. On Sunday you could smell chicken frying and see cakes and pies in the window in the kitchen cooling. Ella was known for being able to wring the neck on a chicken with ease. On Saturday there were big tubs of water boiling in the back yard. The tubs were used to clean the chickens. The dead chickens had to be dipped in hot water in order to make plucking the feathers easier. Ella was known for carrying a German Luther gun in her apron pocket incase a fox got in the hen house. There were foxes, wild turkeys, owls, possums, pheasants, doves, rabbits, deer and other wild animals in the community. Today you can still see all of the same animals. The wild turkeys roam the community along with the children.

Edy Bivins never married. She was the first single woman to build a home in Crestas. She had two jobs. After working the night shift at the William Penn Hotel, she would leave work and start her second job at a Catholic School across from the current Chatham Center. On days when she was tired she would call home and I would go into Pittsburgh to help her make beds and clean the dormitory rooms. Since I could drive, like most family members would do, I had to go into town to assist her when she was tired or behind in her work at the hotel or the dormitory. Aunt Edy often would fall asleep on the Lincoln Coach bus and miss her stop. She would sleep until the end of the line and someone usually my Dad, John L. Brooks would drive near Irwin, PA to pick her up. Edy had a reputation in the community for wearing "bull guts", as my mother would say. Edy would wear old house dresses that probably should have been destroyed. Edy also had a reputation for making the best barb-que ribs around, and she could cook very little else. Edy Bivins died in 1972. Edy left her property to her mother, Ella Bivins, Ella willed the property to her youngest daughter Esther Bivins Harris, Esther died suddenly February 3, 1995, and the property was left to Esther's oldest daughter Sherri Bivins. Esther was a school teacher for the Woodland Hills School District. Edy's niece resides in her house today. Most of the property in Crestas has been passed down through the generations. That is why there is such a strong affinity for the land.



To CAD A programs:

ALL FOR THE
GREATER HONOR
AND GLORY OF
GOD.

Dr. Janis C Brooks, having known each other for almost 30 years , on this 25th anniversary of the Ministry, I call it that because you have shown dedication to it more than a normal program head would. You have gone the extra mile to achieve the mission you set 25 years ago to help those requiring it. You have not hesitated to painfully part company, even with those you hold dear, if you have evidence that maybe they were off the path that you agreed on in offering service to the target group, that takes courage and commitment. Most of all, you have let God be your real supervisor and guide in the day to day achievements. I salute you and your hard working team over the years and currently that make the program achieve its goals having seen your team at work on a couple of occasions. May God continue to guide you in your work for His glory and for the blessing of the recipients of the program.

Jennifer, Brazzaville, Congo, Africa

August 2015



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CAD A programs
“Helping our Children & our Communities”



Congressman Mike Doyle

**“Proudly Serving the Pittsburgh Region
In Washington, DC”**

Rosa Mae Bivins Brooks was born November 22, 1920 and died February 26, 2008. Rosa Mae was a scholar throughout her years in school. According to her she should have been valedictorian but because of the racial climate she was denied the honor. In 1942 she married John L. Brooks in a ceremony at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. John L. was a mathematical genius even though he only completed the eighth grade. He purchased property and built his own home in Crestas. According to Vivian Bivins, my uncle George's wife, my parent's property was the first home built by a contractor. John L. was born in Marietta, Georgia on April 15, 1920 and was the son of Champ Brooks, and the nephew of Percy Brooks. Two of the largest families in Crestas became related when John L. and Rosa Mae Married. Mr. James Ernest Askew was married to Rebecca Brooks, John L.'s maternal aunt. John L. was a hard working man and made sure that his family never wanted for anything. Most of his life he worked three jobs: a crane man in the Westinghouse Plant in East Pittsburgh, a school bus driver for North Versailles, and he was the first Black police officer for North Versailles, and the first Black school bus driver. Today, their granddaughter Yahne A. Jackson lives in the home.

George Allen Bivins Sr. (The father of Geo Bivins, Lynn Ashe, and Jill Wright) was born April 9, 1919 and died September 26, 2012. He was married to Vivian Kennedy Bivins. This union united the Marcus', Pages' and the Williams' with the Bivins family. Aunt Vivian's sisters married George Marcus (Edna), Houston Page (Julia), and Haywood "Boogie" Williams (Lannie, (Aunt Velan), who was known for his Cadillac's. Aunt Vivian was born in Marion, South Carolina on January 28, 1928 and is 87 years old and is the oldest residing person who grew up in Crestas still in the community. Mary Greenly is in her 90's and in a nursing home. Della Greenly Smith is a true historian and is in her 90's in a nursing home. Uncle George was the patriarch of the family. He exemplified what his father, Louis Bivins, affectionately known as "Pop" taught us: "God was to be first, family second, and community third." God truly had priority in Uncle George's life. He served willingly in many capacities in this church. My fondest memory is of him being the Sunday School Superintendent; gently guiding, always encouraging, and nurturing everyone in his path. When correction was needed, he did so in a loving manner so as not to wound a person. Uncle George took the time to spread love, and to counsel any of the multitude of family members or others in the community or work place with compassion. He worked tirelessly in the community, there are many men today that were mentored by Uncle George in the Boy Scouts. He was living history. I grew up listening to stories about the Tuskegee Airman, and about how he was almost duped into assisting with the Tuskegee Experiment where many African American died from a syphilis experiment where medical treatment was withheld. He knew the history of Crestas Terrace and recounted the development of the community.

The following information pertaining to the Askew family was excerpted from two Askew Family Reunion Booklets, and from Rose Askew Rouse. "William and Caldonia Byrd Askew were united in marriage in "Chambers County" Lafayette, Alabama. To this union 11 children were born. By 1924, the entire family had left Alabama and moved to Carson Street in Pittsburgh's South Side. The next series of relocations eventually brought most of the family to Crestas Terrace, now known as North Versailles."

"In time, the brothers eventually were employed by Jones & Laughlin Steel in Hazelwood, Carnegie Steel Corp in Braddock, PA and/or Westinghouse Electric Corp. As well, most became part of the Crestas Volunteer Fire Department."

"The sisters eventually married and raised families and/or busied themselves with community service activities, predominately with the Ladies Auxiliary connected to the volunteer fire department where most of the brothers served."

"The entire family provided much time, effort and financial support to Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, the sole church in the neighborhood. Those siblings who eventually who eventually migrated beyond Crestas joined churches in several neighborhoods including Marine Baptist Church, Monumental Baptist Church and Emmanuel Baptist Church. They also busied themselves in organizations connected to the Eastern Stars and other notable religious and social organizations."

"This family of God-fearing, strong willed individuals forged a distinct and unique heritage which those of us connected to this family can be proud to remember."

"The family tree of William and Caldonia Byrd Askew were: John Willie Askew 11-4-1892 to 10-18-1970; James Earnest Askew Sr. 8-28-1894 to 11-26-1988; Annie Pearl Askew Dorsey 2-17-1895 to 12-13-1976; Laura Askew Gaines 9-19-1896 to 4-28-1978;



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THOMAS**

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Much Love and Blessings

Wife, Children, Family, &
Friends

Alberta Askew Robinson 12-9-1898 to 11-28-1981; Eula Mae Askew Thomas 9-22-1900 to 11-7-1983; Mitchell Wade Askew 12-28-1902 to 7-12-1965; Mathilda Askew Leach 9-9-1904 to 2-11-97; Samuel Lee Askew 8-8-1907 to 2-2-1982; Patsy Alice Askew Carter 10-3-1908 to 10-3-1977; Edward B. Lucious [Tucous Cincinnati Ohio] Askew, Sr. 4-19-1909 to 3-8-1981."

As stated previously, James Earnest Askew Sr. was married to Rebecca "Bessie" Brooks. The sister of Champ Brooks (my paternal grandfather) and Percy Brooks. To this union seven children were born: Eldora Askew, Rebecca Askew, Princella Gerald, Emanuel Askew, James Askew Jr., Caldonia Amos, and Joseph Askew. After her death he remarried. In 1928 he married, Bessie's cousin Evelina Brooks on October 15th. To this union eight children were born: Emma Mae Seibles, Lula Ausby, Jean Simpson, Clifford Askew, Pauline Polite, Lewis Askew Sr. Rouse Rouse, and Stephanie Brown. "James Earnest was employed in the by-Product Division of Jones and Laughlin from 1935 until his retirement in 1961. He was a member of Holiday Memorial AME Zion Church in Braddock before moving his membership to Mount Carmel Baptist Church in the early 1950's. He served as a member of the Brotherhood Association and Trustee Board. He was a member of the Crestas Fire Company # 4, Progressive Senior Citizens Club, Crestas Civic & Political Organization, The True Sisters & Brothers of Charity & Love Constitution & By Laws Committee, Fredonia Alabama. At his death in 1988 he had nine children, 54 grandchildren; 70 great grandchildren; and 25 great grandchildren. According to Rose Askew Rouse, her Dad would lend money to the fireman to purchase appliances. She also stated that James Askew's house was like a movie theater because they had the first black and white TV in Crestas Terrace.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse was a problem in the community. Partly because of the lack of women working outside of the homes and partly due to the Speak Easy's [illegal after hours clubs]. These Speak Easy's were in the homes of various individuals. Generally they sold liquor, food, gambled, and sometimes allowed illicit sexual affairs to be conducted in a rented room. Moon Shine [White Lighting] was readily available. You could hear the stills ringing at night when Moon Shine was being made. There was a family that lived across the street from Louis and Ella Bivins where the husband beat the wife regularly, especially after he had been drinking. I did not know the family, but had heard the story as a child. The woman quietly accepted the abuse and stayed to herself. She was known as a seamstress in the community. It was said that she had a beautiful hand stitch. One night her husband beat her. When he went to bed, sheets that she had stitched together were used as straps and attached to a four poster bed. She tied the sheets around his extremities and beat him, poured lye on him, and then set the house on fire. The original burning bed began in Crestas. She left the community that night and was never heard from again. Several women were killed by their husbands. Beatrice Bivins Berry was shot by her husband as she slept. Bea was known in the community for her love of children. She always had a station wagon full of her own seven children plus anyone else's. She was the designated driver for kindergarten. There were no buses to take the kindergarten children to school in Dixon Avenue. Bea had gone on a game show and won money to help build the house that she lived in. She was "Queen for a Day." Her eldest daughter resides in the house today. Beatrice died May 23, 1964. Mrs. Wren Peterson (Mamie Lou) was killed by her husband.

Other Tragedies

Despite Crestas being an ideal community to grow up in, there was some old time southern antics going on. We also had heart wrenching tragedies to occur. The following events are according to the "Wisdom Keepers," Ms. Anna Jones Dent and Ms. Deborah Jones Alston (daughters of Deacon Matthew Jones and Mrs. Anna Jones). There was a 10 year old boy named Raymond Garland, his mother's name was Ginny Garland. He had a play area in a cave. A hermit that lived in the cave accused the boy of stealing his potatoes and killed him. The hermit was arrested. No outcome of the situation is known. Mr. Reynolds killed George Lowery. Rayfield Henderson killed a man named Robert, last name unknown because of alleged bed hopping with his spouse. Mrs. Bert's boyfriend was robbed and killed. One of the Nobel's killed a man over \$3.00's Randolph Hunter killed his father over abusing his mother. The Degraffenry (spelling of last name may be incorrect) boy drowning. Ms. Bert's boy, Luther Brooks drowning as a child. Barbara Thomas and Rouse dying of carbon monoxide poisoning. My youngest aunt, Tinsley Marie Brooks (Mugsie) being killed in Pittsburgh, murder still unsolved. One of the Hunter children was run over by a car and killed, he had been sleeping in the street because it was hot. I intensely remember the Henderson children and their half-brother George Amos dying in a fire. George Bivins (son of James and Ethel Bivins) being killed in front of the fire hall. Despite the tragedies, the community always pulled together to provide solace to the grieving families.

Life in the Community

Life was not dull in the community. There was always something going on in the community. There were community baseball games, buses would come from Steubenville, Ohio or people would come in cars to play the Crestas team. The fire hall was the place to be. People from surrounding

"Pittsburgh" by Mike Vick

The place of my birth and more than likely,
My place in the earth.

In between being born and before dying
I will have done a lot of living in Pittsburgh.

I've had the pleasure of traveling quite a bit
But there's nothing more exciting to me
Than a Pittsburgh trip

For me I'm on my way home, my first home
Little tiny Crestas Terrace
In North Versailles Pa

My hometown is small
But we are large in heart
It was there in Crestas that I got my start
We did it all, baseball, basketball football
Soccer, boxing and track

Plenty of fighting in Crestas
And you better fight back
"The Pittsburgh Jack - Up"
And that was that.

It was there in my childhood
When I formed lifelong friends
Brothers that I'm always happy to see again
Those that we can.

The likes of Chucky, Paul, Squeaky
Brandon and Julian

That's just to name a few

I remember Taste and Ned

And their "Wild Irish Red"

Nail, Derrick, Big Moe, Victor, Pookie, Georgie, Ricky, Ollie
Stevie, Johnny, Pee- Wine, Gary, Bobby, Robert, Hank, Butchie,
Ronny, Early, June Bug, Terry, Marcus, Lamont, Bubby, Donnie
Bomb, Rob, James, Andy, Jimmy, Winny, Kenny, Rudy, Shelly and
Lonnie, Bay Ray, Wayne, Zane, Barry, Harry, Larry, Billy and
Rodney, Joey, Marvin, Stevie, Weggie, Deedle, Doodle, Little Moe,
Coody, Marshal, Dee, Leslie, Jerry, Alfred, Dalton, Glenn, Pookie,
George, Junior Bill, Kevin, Bobby, Butter, Unkie, Sad, Sam
Frank, Mike, Albert, Seafist, Oops, Humps, and Question Mark
Ernie, Tony, Kenny Delmar, Cluade, TC and Petey
They were there too.

Listen my brothers in case I missed you

Don't take it personal

You know I know you too

This poem is to let you brothers know

I am who I am, in large part

Because of good brothers like you

Knowing and showing me the way

So hey my brothers

Let's again make Crestas
like it was

Back in the day





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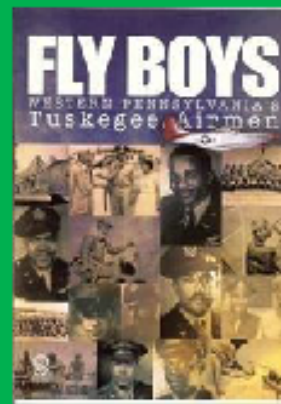
OWNER - JOHN "SPUD" SPUDIC

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Organization on the occasion of
its 25th Anniversary*



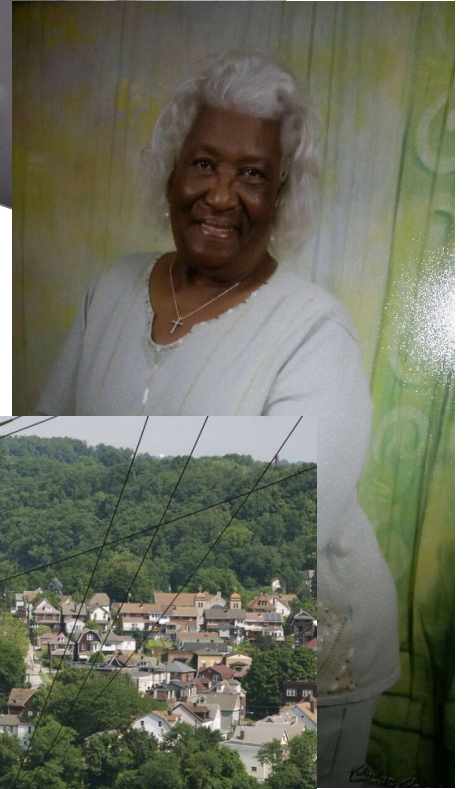
Regis D. Bobonis, Sr. & Family




GEORGE A. BIVINS

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Harry Truman



communities came to party at the fire hall. Felix Peterson who lived on Halket Street, could out play BB King on any given day. When he got his "White Lighting" (Moon Shine) in him, he would serenade the community from his porch. He grew collard greens and kale the size of children. When asked what his secret was, it replied he would throw his "Slop Jar" in the garden. Some people did not have indoor plumbing. There were church socials and street fairs. Russell "Bernie" Bivins owned a club named the "Nine Spot." I remember vividly B.B. King playing at this "Juke Joint" before he became famous. Bernie was loved by all. He was fun loving and would feed the entire community from his numerous gardens. No family, especially single women had to be concerned about food. Bernie would always provide vegetables, day old bread or Doughnuts from Giant Eagle, or candy as a treat that he had picked up in the Strip District. His home was opened to anyone in need of housing. You never knew who was living there. At one point there was a woman with seven children. Bernie worked in the Steel Mill and also had been a boxer like his Uncle Jimmy Bivins in Cleveland. Bernie had a glass eye and was a colorful character. Bernie was born March 28, 1926 and died February 22, 2004. His grandchildren live in his home. Crestas still embraces a large number of foster children. People have the down home southern spirit of helping others in need.

Before Eastland Mall was built, there was a store in the community called "Ward's Store." You could pick up daily staples and some treats. James Bivins (Frank "Jimmy" Bivins' father) owned a pool room which was a source of community entertainment. James was a very intelligent man. Uncle James also was known for his hidden wine making in the family. He and my Uncle Buster instilled in me a love of reading and the ability to be vocal. They introduced me to authors such as Richard Wright and Malcolm X. I wanted to attend the March on Washington with the Rev. Martin Luther King. My parents were opposed because they thought I was too young. I turned to my Uncle James, and he persuaded them to let me attend with his guidance. Uncle James was employed by the Westinghouse and had a number of patented devices which the Westinghouse Plant profited from. James and Ethel Wiley Bivins had eight children and their grandson son lives in his home. James died in February, 2001 and Ethel in March, 2004.

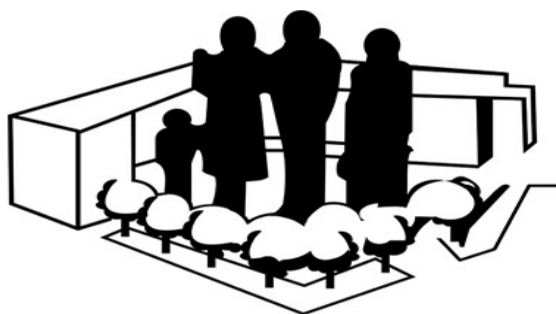
My great uncle, Walter "Bill" Hall, was married to Eunice P. Lingard Hall. "Bill" Hall was the brother of Marietta Hall Brooks, who was married to Champ Brooks. Bill Hall was the brother of Marietta Brooks (Doll), Ada Williams (Aunt Josie), Edna Martin (Aunt Tit), Tommy Hall (Buddy), Lela Martin (Aunt Money), Sarah Hall Battle, and five other siblings born to Rev. Major Hall and Lela Johnson Hall. The information pertaining to Aunt Eunice was cited from her obituary. Aunt Eunice was born September 17, 1918 in Walterboro, South Carolina, and died February 8, 2006. At the age of 17, her family moved to Pittsburgh, PA when her mother, Annie married Walter Stewart. After Aunt Eunice settled in Crestas she met and married my Uncle "Bill." Uncle Bill and Aunt Eunice had four children: Walter Hall Jr. (Sonny), Alice Josephine Irvin, Eula Cunningham, Ernestine Hall." Much later they adopted their oldest grandson Dereck, making a total of 5 children." She had one brother, Jesse Lingard, two sisters: Della Greenley Smith, and Susie Mae Branch. There were also 5 step siblings.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church

The church has always been an integral part of the black community. The following information was excerpted from the *Mount Carmel Baptist Church 73rd Church Anniversary Celebration Booklet, 1997*. A group of Christian believers saw the need to organize a place of worship, so they met in a schoolhouse in Port Perry, Pennsylvania. In 1924 Mount Carmel Baptist Church was organized under the direction of Reverend Charles Douglas. The group continued to meet in this school building in Port Perry (located on the Monongahela River directly below Crestas Terrace). Mount Carmel called as their first pastor, Reverend A. C. Malloy. Reverend Malloy served a short time and resigned because of the distance he had to travel.

The Church then called Reverend Charles H. Smithe, who became the first full time pastor. It was under Reverend Smith's leadership that three of its Trustees filed for a certificate of incorporation on September 27, 1924. The Trustees names were; Quarley Doyle, James Gray and Albert Revis.

Application for the charter was made October 16, 1924, and the charter was recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office on November 15, 1924, Charter Book Volume 58 Page 610, in Pittsburgh, PA, James Gray and Albert Revis of Crestas Terrace PA, Quarley Doyle and David McLane of Port Perry PA.



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Mon Valley Providers Council

An coalition of human services and related organizations

Youth LIFE After-School Program

Serving youth residing in Woodland Hills in Grades 1-5

It was under Reverend Smith's leadership that the lots on Port Perry Road and Clyde Avenue were purchased on September 10, 1924 for \$350.00 (present location). The Church purchased the seal on April 15, 1925 and continued to grow spiritually as well as in number. On February 15, 1926, Reverend Smith resigned to accept a call to another church.

On May 21, 1926, Reverend W. B. Thorton was called as Pastor. It was under Reverend Thorton's pastorate that the church was built at its present location. The ground breaking ceremony took place March 1927. Officers who participated in the ground breaking were; Deacon Louis Bivins, Deacon Littleton J. Graves, Deacon Fletcher Helem, Deacon Matthew Jones, Deacon Dave McLane, and Deacon John Robinson. Although all [of the] Deacons are deceased, some of the families have remained members of Mount Carmel and continued to help in the progress of the church. In December 1928, Reverend Thorton resigned.

According to Rosa Mae Brooks, John Coffey was the contractor for the original church and lived in the community with his wife and children. There was some difficulty paying Mr. Coffey for his services. Mr. Coffey threatened to make a skating rink out of the church for non payment of services. Deacon Bivins and Deacon Graves borrowed money from an attorney in Greensburg.

The Church called Reverend L. H. Gooch, January 1929. He and his wife were an inspiration to the congregation as well as the community. Reverend Gooch resigned February 1930, he later became Assistant Pastor under the ministry of Reverend Eugene Roberts.

In June 1930 the Church called Reverend P. F. Faulkner. The Church did not prosper much financially because of the Depression; however, [they] did grow spiritually. Reverend Faulkner resigned May 1934.

The Church then called Reverend E. Marshall Anderson in 1935. He saw the need for more organizations in the church. The Missionary (Senior and Junior) [were] expanded. During Reverend Anderson's tenure, Reverend Elmer Williams was Assistant to the Pastor and served two Sundays each month. Reverend Anderson resigned May 1937.

The Church then called Reverend Eugene Roberts on September 27, 1937. Many improvements were made during this period. Many youth auxiliaries were introduced to

the church. Reverend and Mrs. Roberts worked diligently to train the youth and to organize activities in the church. The mortgage was burned under Reverend Roberts' leadership. Mount Carmel was saddened when Reverend Roberts resigned in 1945 to become pastor of another church.

Mount Carmel called as its new leader on March 15, 1946 Reverend Charles R. Barnes. Many improvements were made during this period. The Baptist Training Union was organized, the Pulpit set was purchased, hymnals and kitchen equipment were purchased. Many exterior and interior improvements were made. Reverend Barnes resigned in 1951.

On May 16, 1952 the Church called as Pastor, Reverend William W. Wooten. Although his health was poor he worked to improve the church financially and spiritually. Under his leadership the Building Fund was organized for the maintenance, upkeep, and improvements of the existing structure. The Improvement Club and Pastor's Aide were organized. The congregation was saddened on June 23, 1956, when God called him from labor to his reward.

For a period of one year the Church was without a pastor. In June 1957 Reverend E. Z. Long was called. Under Reverend Long's leadership the Church started a remodeling program. The Church purchased the Crestas Community Center from the North Versailles School District for a [nominal fee] for the future educational center. [James Bivins was instrumental in obtaining the building]. Many new members were added to the church roll during this period. Reverend Long resigned October 1966.

A Pulpit Committee was formed to search for a new leader. The Committee recommended the name of Reverend John M. Venable. During Reverend Venable's tenure the church membership and finances increased greatly. The decorum of the church was improved, the order of service rearranged, church bulletins were reinstated. [The Missionary Society was renamed as the Ella Bivins Missionary Society during Rev. Venable's tenure. He renamed the organization because of the tireless dedication "Mom" showed to the church. She was the President of the Missionary Society, an usher at Mt. Carmel and at the Allegheny Union Baptist Association (AUBA)], and a Deaconess. Reverend Venable resigned January 20, 1978.

A pulpit Committee was again formed to find a new pastor. Their recommendation was Reverend Sinclair C. Taylor and on June 2, 1978 Reverend Taylor was called as Pastor of Mount Carmel. Reverend Taylor provided Mount Carmel with an atmosphere of peace and harmony. He taught [the church how] to become a family. He has exemplified the fact that he is a true servant of God by his actions and by preaching and teaching God's Word. Under Reverend Taylor's leadership the Church purchased central air conditioning, a photocopy machine, and a binding machine. Also under his administration, for the first time in the history of Mount Carmel, a Board of Christian Education was formed, and ongoing weekly Bible Study implemented, and training leaders for New Membership Classed was conducted. Pastor Taylor recognized the need to select three men of good report to train for the Deacon's Ministry. In addition, Pastor Taylor's leadership brought forth a ministry for and to the children' the Mime Ministry. We thank and praise God for how miraculously He used Pastor Taylor for His glory. During Pastor Taylor's pastorate he felt the need to have another minister serve as assistant to the Pastor. Pastor J. Davis Scott, Jr. served in that capacity. Lastly, but not least, one of the first projects implemented by Pastor Taylor was the New Building Fund. God has continued to bless us and this day we celebrate the completeness of a new edifice-Praise His Holy Name!!! In July to the sorrow and sadness of the Mount Carmel Family, Pastor Taylor retired after eighteen years of faithful service. We are grateful to Almighty God for Pastor Taylor's leadership for the past eighteen years.

The Scripture says, that God does all things well. As He would have it in His infinite wisdom, the Mount Carmel Baptist Church touched and agreed with the Holy Spirit and called Pastor J. Davis Scott, Jr. in August 1996. Pastor Scott had taken up the mantle which will enable us as a family to serve and minister to this community to His glory. SELAH!!!

Bless God on Sunday- November 3, 1996, Mount Carmel Church Family marched, To The Glory Of God, into new edifice magnifying God to the highest! Blessings continue; on Saturday, November 9, 1996, three men were ordained Deacons under the Mount Carmel Baptist Church ministry; Brother Frank James Bivins, Harold Grant, Sr. and Anthony D. Young Sr. More of God's Blessings! Sunday, December 1, 1996 Mount Carmel Installed God's Servant, Brother James Davis Scott, Jr. as Pastor of Mount Carmel Church. Again, God Blessed!!! Four women were selected to enter into the Deaconess Ministry Sister Joan L. Grant, Sister Sandra Pack, Sister Costella Powell and Sister Sherri Young.

The author notes that Rosa Mae Bivins Brooks was a Sunday school teacher for over fifty years. Rosa Mae was also a social work supervisor for the Department of Public Welfare George Bivins became Sunday School Superintendent during Rev Taylor's tenure. George was also the church treasurer under Rev. John Venerable and recently retired in 2005. Caldonia Askew Amos had a love for the young girls of the church. She formed a club and taught the young girls how to embroider. Rev. Barbara Gunn is the current pastor of the church. She was called to the church in 2000, and this past April was her 15th anniversary.

Community Information

Mr. James Walter Carter was the first black commissioner of Crestas Terrace. He was responsible for assisting in the development of a section of Crestas Terrace built in the sixties. Two of the three streets were named after him; East Carter and West Carter Drives. It was stated that Mr. Carter was in office over 39 years. Jimmy Bivins, the son of James Bivins, and the grandson of Louis Bivins is the second black commissioner of Crestas Terrace. John L. Brooks, the son of Champ Brooks was the first black police officer for North Versailles Township. He joined the force sometime before 1956. He remained on the force until his death. He was born April 15, 1920 and died December 31, 1975. John L. also was the first black school bus driver; he also worked a full time job in the Westinghouse as a crane man. He was a no nonsense man. He fiercely protected his privacy and his family. His brother in law, Donald Bivins became the second black school bus driver. Donald was born 5-9-1933 and died 6-6-01. Raymond "Buster" Bivins retired from the military. It was believed that he worked in intelligence. Buster spoke eight languages and was a prolific



Kimberly,

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Damon & Danielle

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Women Against Abusive Relationships (WAAR) is an awareness, education and prevention program. WAARs mission is to break the cycle of violence against women and girls and to help them heal.

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Women Against Abusive Relationships

Let the Healing Begin!

ic reader and writer. He was a brilliant political analyst. Buster was born 11-22-31 and died 12-10-97. Harold Grant Sr., the son of Ellen Bivins Grant Smith, and the grandson of Louis Bivins was the first black school board director for the East Allegheny School District. DeElla Greenley Love was the first black female school board director. Janis C. Brooks was the first female from Crestas Terrace to receive a Ph.D., and the first family member to matriculate from college.

The community had a number of note worthy people .Mrs. Helem, the wife of Deacon Helem was a tiny very dark skinned woman. She was born on a slave plantation. She could not read or write. He husband handled all their affairs. Her husband died. She had absolutely no knowledge of business. They had a coal burning stove. She burned all the papers in the house when she ran out of coal. These papers included her insurance policy and many other documents which could not be replaced. Joe Jackson was well known for his skill as a carpenter. The wooden horses at Kennywood Park were made by Mr. Jackson. His wife Pearl died and their house is inhabited by one of the descents of the community. Mr. Richard B. "Sonny Man" Lowery was a hard working southern man who raised ten children. I remember Mr. Sonny Man who died March 2, 2005 because of his war stories. He would come and discuss with the children of CADaprograms about being in the segregated army. He was a member of one of the Black Calvary Regiments. He served in Italy and North Africa. He was in the military when the military became mechanized.

Part of the French and Indian War was fought in Crestas Terrace. Braddock, PA, named after General Braddock is within walking distance over the hill from Crestas.

Crestas had been one large community until plans started for the Westinghouse Bridge. When Route 30 was developed, what the old people called the "Cut" because the community was cut in half and made into two large hillsides. Most of the residents moved to the current side of Crestas. The land on the other side of the Westinghouse Bridge, generational African American property was recently taken by Eminent Domain by Allegheny County for a private white developer. That developer recently died.

Families United

Many of the original families in Crestas Terrace became related. James Ernest Askew married into the Brooks family; his sister Patsy Alice Askew married John Carter, John L. Brooks married Rosa Mae Bivins, Ruth Bivins married the grandson of William Askew, the son of Alberta Askew Robinson,, and then George Marcus. Naomi Carter Byrd married the grandson of William Askew, the son of Matilda Askew Leach, and Melonie Grant, the great grand daughter of Louis Bivins, the granddaughter of Ellen Bivins Grant Smith, and the daughter of Harold "Sonny" and Joan Grant married Joseph Pegeron, the grandson of Deacon Matthew Jones.

Crestas Terrace Volunteer Fire Company

Information was excerpted from an article written by Naomi Carter Leach (Ruth Byrd-Smith's mother) in the 70th Anniversary Program Booklet. Crestas Volunteer Fire Company #4 was organized August 27, 1927 and was one of the first all BLACK volunteer fire companies in Pennsylvania. The company began with a membership of fourteen. The first officers were, James W. Carter, Sr., President; Percy Brooks, Vice President William (Dad) Askew, Treasurer ; Edward L. Bell, Secretary, Line Officers; Matthew Jones, Chief; Santee Powell, Sr., Captain; William Pearson, First Lieutenant an Albert Hopkin, Second Lieutenant Trustees; James E. Askew, Sr., John W. Askew, Jesse (Fritz) Carter and Champ Brooks.

When the fire company was first organized, this area was practically without passable roads with the exception of a main thorofare. There was not city water and old timers in the community will never forget the bucket-brigades. Everyone who was large enough would help to pass buckets of water from the nearest well or cistern.

The company received their first modern equipment on July 07, 1929. The Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Company of East Pittsburgh donated to the company a hand drawn chemical tank.

The early thirties (depression years) were lean years for the men. They carried on bravely in face of difficulties which might have appalled many.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid, Inc.
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In the early part of May 1933, a meeting was held to think of ways to raise funds to build a building and to purchase more modern equipment. Many ideas and plans were made but there was none that did or ever will surpass the beginning of the annual street fair. The first annual street fair was held the last week in June 1933 and ended on July 4th with a picnic and Bar-B-Que. The street fair became such a success until, in 1935, they were held for two weeks preceding the Fourth of July.

In 1937 the fireman purchased their first motor driven equipment, a 1918 Cadillac, which became known to the boys as "Old Betsy".

With the thought of new equipment came the idea to erect a building in which to store their equipment. Until this time, there was no building and meetings were held from house to house. On January 14, 1937 the firemen purchased a plot of land on Crestas Avenue. Ground was broken for the new building on April 5, 1937. Mr. Gay, a contractor from Homewood, was hired to line up the building and to give advice. From then on this became a community project. Women, children, and everyone in the community cleaned bricks, mixed mortar and did any chore they were asked to do. The building was completed May 5th, 1938 and plans were made for a memorial service. A banquet was held with all township officials and dignitaries in attendance. After this banquet the fireman decided to hold a memorial service every fourth Sunday in May to give thanks to God for progress they had made. This service was held every year at some church in the community or neighboring communities. In 1940 they decided to give the history of the company's achievements at each memorial service. Mrs. Naomi (Carter) Leach at this time was named historian.

At the onset of World War II many of the [men] were called to serve their country. Though the membership decreased, they continued to prosper.

In 1942 the company was denied a priority by the Federal Government to purchase a new truck. They purchased a 1938 Chevy chassis and under the supervision of Mr. Joseph Jackson (one of the firemen) they built a streamlined truck which was second to none and fully equipped for fighting all types of fires.

With the end of World War II the company began to flourish and to make plans for more modern equipment and enlargement of the building. In 1955 a committee was chosen to raise funds for these two projects. This committee was composed of Mrs. Josephine Carter, Mrs. Noreen Kinder and Mrs. Lillian Askew.

In 1957 the company purchased a Chevy truck from Superior Motors. This was shipped from Cincinnati, Ohio to Battle Creek, Michigan. It was in Battle Creek that the fire-chief, Mr. [Deacon] Edress Amos [Caldonia Askew's husband], with some other firemen received delivery in 1958. This truck is completely equipped and is still in use. Mr. Amos foresaw the need for more information and training on fire-fighting. Thus he and three of his line officers were among the first four to attend fire training classes. Crestas then joined the Allegheny County Fire Association.

In 1957 another dream was realized with the addition to the building. The new addition was a 40'x 22' extension added to the building.

With the help of God they have steadily advanced in the face of many vicissitudes, progressing from a bucket brigade to a hand drawn tank, 1918 Cadillac, 1938 Chevy chassis (converted to use), to the present modern fire fighting equipment. Today they have a wonderful young fire department. Their competent fire chief, Moses Hunter, avails himself to all the training he can receive. His work is made easier by the efficient group of young firemen he has to help him. The only charter members living at this time were: Mr. James W. Carter, Sr. Mr. Matthew J. Jones, Mr. John W. Askew, Mr. James Askew, Sr., and Mr. Edward L. Bell.

The population increased in the next few years and so the need for expansion was upon the firemen once again. In 1958 the firemen added a 40' x 24' block building to the present structure. This addition was for social purposes.

A sad occasion occurred on August 5, 1971 when our fire hall and truck were destroyed by fire. Within the same year the fire men purchased another truck, and more property on Crestas Avenue where a new building was erected. The firemen will never forget the donations and support given by the Model Cities Program. The dedication services for the new building were held on October 22, 1972. The new truck and building restored the service to the community of Crestas and the Township of North Versailles.

In 1974 a memorial service was held at the Mount Carmel Baptist Church. The officers at that time were: President, Marvin Burns; Vice President, Edward Smith; Secretary, Moe Haleem; Assistant Secretary, John Warters; Financial Secretary, James W. Carter Jr.; Treasure, Michael O'Kelly; Chaplain, Reverend John Tisdale; Trustees, Joseph Vaughn, Jr., William Jackson, and Ben Powell, Line officers: First Lieutenant, Harold Grant; Second Lieutenant, James Leach; Communications, Eugene Jackson.

From 1974 to 1981 it was a slow period in the company's history. In 1981 the street fairs were resurrected, as 3 day events on the last full weekend of August, with games, food booths, and a parade. On January 24, 1984, Air 4 was purchased which supplied breathing apparatus for all of North Versailles Township and some mutual aid calls. Crestas was put on [a] contract basis with north Versailles for the cascade system which [was] housed at the Crestas garage.

January 12, 1985 the social hall burned and was reopened with renovations on July 4, 1986. Between 1981 and 1987 the company participated in numerous classes and parades, and in parade competition [and] only suffered 3 losses for trophies.

CRESTAS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY #4 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Excerpts taken from an article written by Mrs. Isabella Fletcher [Joan Grant's Mother] . Women have played an active part in every endeavor from the beginning of this fire department, although they did not organize until May of 1938. The first officers were: Mrs. Caldonia (Gran) Askew, president; Mrs. Josephine Carter, secretary; Mrs. Laura Askew, treasurer; Mrs. Marietta Askew, social chairman; and Mrs. Evelyn Askew, Chaplain. Other charter members were; Mrs. Amanda Cook, Mrs. Sara J. Blackwell, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Alberta Robinson, Mrs. Willie Pearson and Mrs. Dol[] (Marietta) Brooks, [wife of Champ Brooks].

In May 1933, when the plans were made for the first annual street fair, the leading role was played by the women. They also helped the firemen decide, in 1935, to hold the fair for two weeks. When the firemen started their building in 1937 the auxiliary members had socials each week at different homes to raise funds. Hot meals were served to the men daily. In 1940 the firemen started holding annual memorial services and the women were there to help them. They purchased white uniforms to make a good appearance. The first money for a new fire truck, purchased in 1955, was turned over by the auxiliary. Three of the members, Mrs. Josephine Carter, Mrs. Noreen Kinder and Mrs. Lillian Askew became known as a street committee. They raised funds for the new fire truck and for the enlargement of the building.

When the fire hall floor needed tiling, in 1957, Mrs. Rosa Ward started another fund raising drive. Working every Friday evening was: Mrs. Annabell Jones, Mrs. Evelyn Askew, Mrs. Marietta Askew, Mrs. Naomi Alston, Mrs. Evelyn Henderson and Mrs. Josephine Carter. Tile was purchased and the auxiliary paid Mr. Tom Hessicer to install it with the help of the volunteers.

The dedication of women like these has made it possible for them to remain together and useful for thirty-two years. This year's officers are: Mr. Isabel Fletcher, president; Mrs. Walter Nesby, vice president; Mrs. Bertha Burns, secretary; Mrs. Joan Grant, financial secretary and Mrs. Evelyn Askew, chaplain.

In 1997 the fire dump crises was the catalyst which reactivated the Ladies Auxiliary. Under the direction of Fireman Lillie Thorne the auxiliary was once again reorganized...

Community Action for Crestas, Inc.

This article was excerpted from a program booklet. The author is unknown. The building now known as the Crestas Community Center was once the Crestas Elementary School; a two room-brick school house. There were 8 grades in the building. From previous information, the Crestas Center was built about 1900. There was no running water, furnace or bathrooms. Water had to be carried by bucket-brigade every day. Fires were built in pot belly heaters for heat. Later a coal furnace was installed. In the 1930's grades 7 and 8 were sent to Dixon Avenue School and during the forties grades 5 and 6 were sent to Dixon. Later there was only one grade to each room in the building. [I attended first grade in the building and Mrs. Fletcher was our cook. Dr. Delphenia Brisco Bray was my first grade teacher, and Mrs. Lawrence was the second grade teacher]. [The Green Valley School was built and the Crestas School [became defunct] in 1959.

The Crestas Building was purchased by the Mount Carmel Baptist Church [for \$1.00]. During the late sixties a government contracting agency called Model Cities was formed. There were 11 different areas that was selected to perform. A Board of Directors was developed to carry out the plan of action. Crestas Terrace was selected as part of those plans.

Mrs. Rose Lewis was selected as Executive Director and Deacon Matthew Jones as Assistant Director to carry out the plans for the Allegheny County Model Cities for Crestas. [Deacon Jones' granddaughter, Ruth Pegeron owns the original family property. There are many generations of Jones' still living in Crestas]. During this time the Senior Citizens and community residents held meetings and activities. [My Aunt], Mrs. Esther [Bivins] Harris was Program Coordinator until she enrolled in college. Mrs. Laura Mashaw and Mrs. Stephanie Brown were also part of the staff. Model Cities funded all the Center's utilities and expenses of the program.

During the seventies the Model Cities contracted the Singer Learning Center to conduct a "Headstart" Program which helped the children in the community to develop both socially and academically. [My aunt], Mrs. Ruth Bivins Robinson Marcus was one of the first black teachers for the Singer Learning Center]. In 1974 Model Cities began to phase out and Mrs. Rose Lewis was transferred to another center, however, Deacon Jones remained until 1975 when the Model Cities finally closed the Crestas Building. The building was boarded up about three years.

Through the efforts of a group of concerned citizens a renovating grant which previously promised by Model Cities to the Progressive Senior Citizens of Crestas was received and the Crestas Building was renovated in 1978.

Under the leadership of Frank James Bivins, a group of concerned dedicated residents formed Community Action For Crestas, Inc. It was incorporated in June 1978 and received its 501 (3) © Letter in 1979. Community Action For Crestas set for its purpose to achieve through the carrying out plans developed by local citizens, substantial improvements in the physical, educational, social, and economic conditions of the quality of life for the citizens of Crestas Terrace and nearby neighborhoods. Community Action For Crestas has been successful in carrying out its goals and objectives.

[Mrs. Ruth Marcus became the president of the Progressive Senior Citizens and Crestas Terrace for Community Action]. Her tireless efforts kept the center open, often with her own money. Ruth was a community activist and an accomplished writer. She also played the piano for the Mount Carmel Baptist Church until her eye sight failed. "She received a bachelor's degree in education from Point Park College and started a daycare in the community for residents who were in dire need of daycare assistance. She was an employee of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, East Allegheny School District, East McKeesport Day Care and President-Director and Activist at the Crestas Community Center." Ruth also was the church choir director, Sunday school teacher, junior missionary supervisor, and taught at the Baptist training Union." The "Center" remained open until Ruth died. She died June 28, 2002. She had 33 grandchildren, and twenty two great grand children.]

Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid, Inc. (CADAP programs)

Citizens Against Domestic Apartheid was founded in 1990 as a result of several incidents of extreme police brutality in the community of Crestas Terrace. Incidents described in the history section. Despite repeated requests by the community for assistance from several political entities, no assistance was provided. Acts of violence of this nature were commonplace on television in South Africa, but were not expected to be tolerated or

witnessed in America, thus the name of the organization. The name was changed in 1993 to **Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid** to stress and to highlight that while full societal access and social equity is guaranteed to all regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or age, the reality of equity falls short for many of America's minorities.

CADAPrograms was founded to address the need for family support and family preservation in the community of Crestas Terrace. The organization has expanded to include all of North Versailles and seventeen communities in the Mon Valley.

The Mission is dedicated to providing competent education, quality healthcare, environmental integrity, affordable housing, economic equity, and judicial equity for all persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or age.

The organization was founded by Dr. Janis C. Brooks, granddaughter of Louis and Ella Bivins and Champ and Marietta "Doll" Brooks, and the daughter of John L. and Rosa Mae Bivins Brooks.

Legacy

There are nine generations of one family living in the community. By the decade of the sixties, Crestas Terrace had begun to distinguish itself as home to a growing middle-class African-American community in the Pittsburgh area, marked by large-lot subdivisions, college-educated residents, and rural, wooded environment. The decade of the seventies witnessed the beginnings of economic and population decline in Crestas Terrace, as the spiraling unemployment and economic displacement plaguing Greater Pittsburgh reverberated throughout communities in Western Pennsylvania.

Today, what was once a thriving, middle-class African-American community is now populated predominately by low-income, single female-headed African-American families and elderly homeowners. The legacy of the land is what the residents cherish and hope to be able to retain for their children. Crestas terrace has a panoramic view on top of a hill side, overlooking the river, and valley. On a clear day, you can see into the city of Pittsburgh. I thank Curtis Reaves for his photo's showing how beautiful Crestas is. The secluded oasis deserves to be restored and preserved. Maintaining the integrity of the community is vital to the preservation of the region and the historical significance of the black community. Thank you for participating in this journey with CADAPrograms. We have plans to build office space and a community center off of Palma Avenue in Crestas Terrace

Artwork by Charlotte Kâ

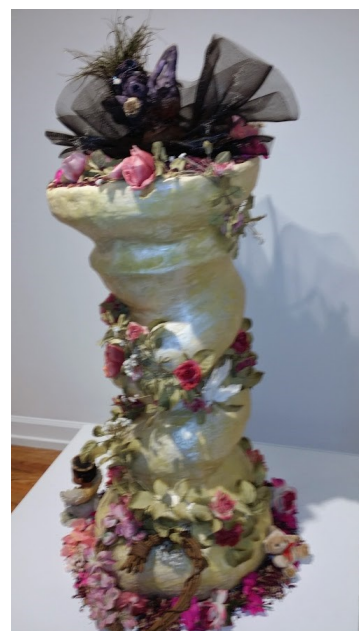
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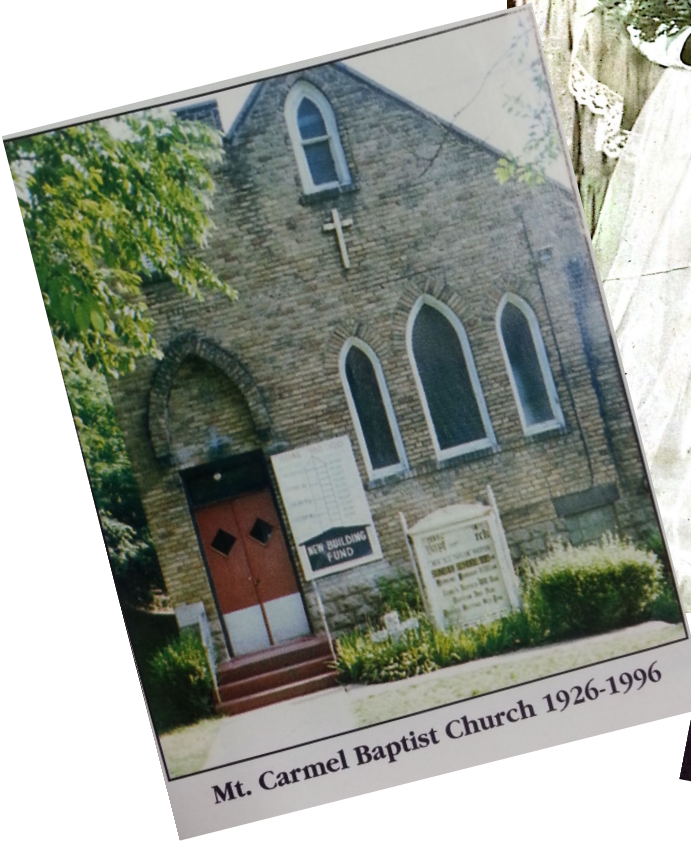
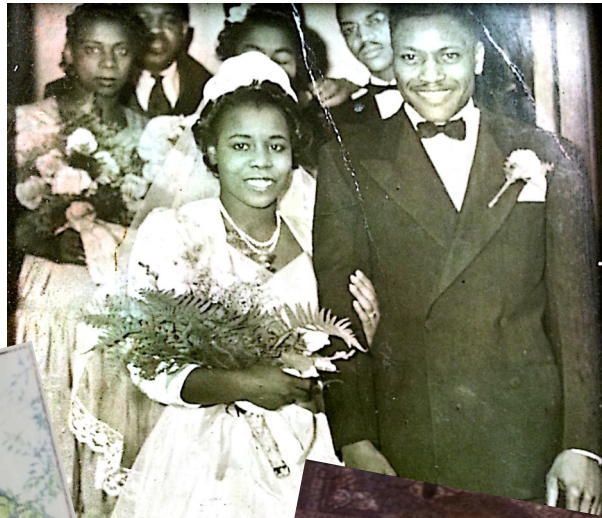


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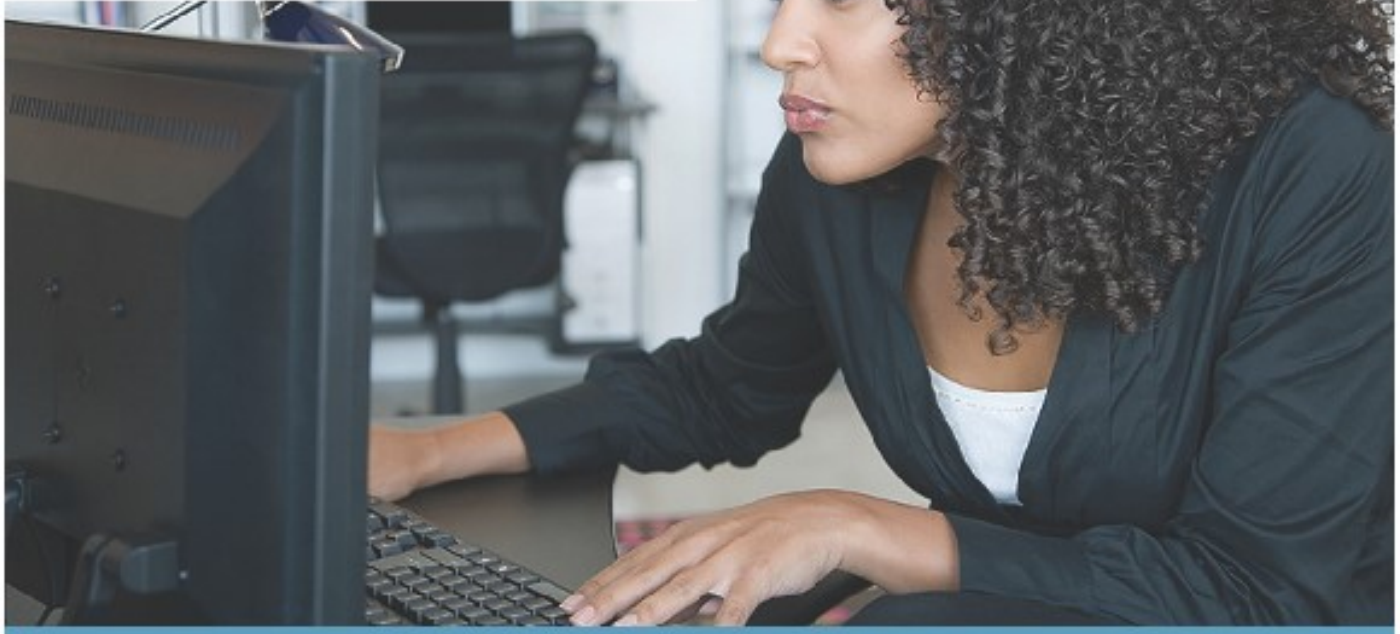
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