

BULL RUN OBSERVER™

Friday, September 30, 2022

WESTERN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY'S FAVORITE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

www.bullrunnow.com

Vol. 24 No. 4 \$1.50

Water wells, medical assistance bring African Community Service Award

By JAN DAVIS
Observer staff

Barry White, senior Pastor at Park Valley Church (PVC), was honored at the annual African Community Service Awards (ACSA) Night held for the sixth year on Sept. 4, at the Hilton in Alexandria, and hosted by Alln1 Productions.

ACSA was started in 2016 by two Nigerian immigrants with the intent of recognizing, honoring and celebrating individuals and groups who give of their time, talent and resources that impact the African communities.

Their vision, "Is to thereby foster an environment where more and more individuals and organizations are inspired to pitch in to transform the lives of African people and communities everywhere."

Dr. Izu Kagha, a member of the organization, said, "Although Afri-

cans have been struggling and divided by tribal and national differences, God speaks and advocates for unity, so we should as well. Through the ACSA, we endeavor to unite our communities in celebration of great acts of service and build a greater sense of unity and connection within the African Community."

Those nominated are role models in the community and inspire a sacrificial commitment with character and integrity.

According to the organization, "The ACSA 2022 list of award recipients includes an incredibly diverse and gifted set of people and organizations from diverse entities across the US and African geographic regions."

Pastor White, from Park Valley Church, was recognized for his and the church's efforts assisting multiple countries internationally in Africa as well as in the U.S. by



Photo courtesy African Community Service Awards

Barry White, left, pastor of the Park Valley Church, Haymarket, received the African Community Service Award from Celebrity host, Wendy Odour, Miss Kenya USA, right. Pastor White was recognized for his and the church's efforts assisting multiple countries internationally in Africa as well as in the U.S. by improving the quality of living and building up local African American communities in numerous ways.

awardee and prominent African related keynotes. According to the organizers/founders, 'It is much more than awards. It is an experience.' We fill the night with cultural expression such as dancing, a fashion show, comedy, and of course, delicious African foods. We provide an opportunity for businesses supportive of the effort to sponsor the program through booth sponsorship and event program advertisements."

The keynote speaker was Professor Kingsley Moghalu, former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

During the event Pastor White and the other 24 recipients of the ACSA, spoke of their love for Africa and how each of us can do something to make a difference.

Pastor White, said, "I was so honored for our church to be recognized by this respected organization. Participating in these projects gave us the privilege of connecting with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are over 8,000 miles away. This experience has brought the continent of Africa so much closer to all of our hearts at Park Valley Church."

Dr. Kagha, said "We can honestly say that this effort has been one of the most rewarding elements of our life. We have enjoyed encouraging those unsung heroes who have selflessly and sacrificially helped our African people who are suffering. Meeting these amazing and humble people along the way has just tremendously blessed and inspired us. We hope to inspire and celebrate more service to African communities in need."

There are opportunities for organizations and businesses to become sponsors of ACSA.

Go to <https://africancommunityserviceawards.com/> for more information.

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