**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority**

**Presents**

**Miss Delta Doll Pageant**

 Members of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sponsored their Miss Delta Doll Pageant, Sunday, April 25, 2021 via a Zoom presentation.

 The Delta Doll Pageant exposes young girls ages 3-12 to an environment that fosters positive self-concepts and relationships.  In preparation for the pageant, the contestants participated virtually in workshops to promote positive relationships and self-development.

 This year’s theme was **“Dare to Dream.”** Contestants participated in monthly workshop sessions centered on the theme that culminated in the production of a video diary that was showcased during the Zoom pageant.

 Dare to Dream Kick-off was held Saturday January 16th. The contestants were introduced and given an overview of expectations. In addition to introducing monthly themes and activities. The contestants were encouraged to think big about the difference they want to make in the world. Workshop sessions included the following:

 **“My Dream for My World”** session was held on Saturday, February 6th. The guest presenter was Mrs. Jalaya Lilies - Dunn, Director, Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance program. Mrs. Dunn demonstrated how to use creative expressions to change the world. The girls participated in movement, song, dance, poetry, and art to symbolize change. Mrs. Dunn emphasized that nothing changes unless we work together. At the conclusion of the workshop, the contestants created a vision board about a problem they see in the world and how they can make things better.

 **In Celebration of Women in History Month**, a workshop was held Saturday, March 6th. The guest presenter was Mrs. Johnnerlyn Johnson, author, and Associate Professor at Sandhills Community College. Mrs. Johnson presented, “**They Told Their Story, Let’s Tell Ours.”** Each contestant created a poster that included their favorite color, animal, and what they want to be when they grow up. Additionally, they presented themselves, through role play, as outstanding women from the past and present.

 During the Zoom pageant, Miss Delta Doll 2017, Miss De’Jara Terry, student at Blenheim Middle School of Discovery took her final walk as she spoke about her Miss Delta Doll experience.

Five young girls competed for the title of Miss Delta Doll."   The Delta Doll contestants and winners are as follows:

 **Miss Delta Doll 2021 is Miss Jaela Weeks.** Jaela is the daughter of Jason and Kristi Weeks. She attends Gold Hill Elementary School in Fort Mill, S.C. She is seven years old and her hobbies are drawing, painting, dancing, and traveling. She wants to be a dentist when she grows up. Her escort was Jaelen Weeks. Jaela was sponsored by Mrs. Dannie Blair.

 First Place Winner was Elyn Wright. Elyn is the daughter of Kristy Clark and Eric Wright. She attends Seven Oaks Elementary School in Odenton, Maryland. She is nine years old and her hobbies are coloring, swimming, dancing, and skating. Elyn wants to be a veterinarian or teacher when she grows up. Her escort was Jeremiah Franklin. Elyn was sponsored by her grandmother Mrs. Karen Clark.

 Second place Winner was Miss Victoria Merriman. Victoria is the daughter of Ms. LiAsia Tillman. She attends Jesus Is Lord Christian School in Cheraw. She is eight years old and her hobbies are eating ice-cream, talking to her friends, and playing with her dog Cotton. Victoria wants to be a biologist or scientist when she grows up. Her escort was Bryson Williams. Victoria was sponsored by Mrs. Lynn C. Henry.

Other contestants were as follows:

Miss Tiana Ford, daughter of Brian Ford and Lashuanda Pegues. Tiana attends Cheraw Primary School. She is five years old and her hobbies are dancing, Creating Tik Tok Videos, gymnastics, and playing on her trampoline. Tiana wants to be a nail technician, hair stylist and teacher when she grows up. Her escort was her dad, Mr. Brian Ford. Victoria was sponsored by Ms. Carmella Johnson and Ms. Debra Johnson.

Miss Jada Hairston, daughter of Shakita Smith and Davante Hairston, and granddaughter of Ms. Donuel Smith. Jada attends Bennettsville Intermediate School. She is ten years old and her hobbies are cooking, dancing, and styling hair. Jada wants to be a chef, dancer, and hair stylist when she grows up. Her escort was Shy’Quez Moore. Jada was sponsored by Mrs. Sandra Malichi and Ms. Yolonda DuPree.

 Contestants and parents, along with sponsoring sorority members raised funds that will be used to support community service efforts of the sorority. In addition, each contestant will receive a percentage of funds raised. The chapter president is Lynn C. Henry. Vice President is Dannie Blair. Program chairpersons were Sandra Malichi and Yolonda DuPree.

Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority would like to thank businesses, community, parents, contestants, and sponsors for the high measure of success of this program.