



THE CSLC COMMUNITY VOICE

"In relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge"
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From the Executive Director's Desk



Greetings! The year is halfway gone! And, a busy half year it has been thus far. Nevertheless, we have so much for which to be thankful.

As always, I am excited, yet humbled, to share CSLC's activities and updates with you in our **CSLC Community Voice** newsletter. You play a major part in many of the successes of these activities, and for that, we are eternally grateful. We are only as successful as you help us to be by working together to serve each other.

We are happy to report that 2022 has been progressing despite the continuous uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. We personally know its devastation. We continue to follow federal health guidelines (wearing masks, temperature checks, sanitizing, etc.) as we move forward with some sense of normalcy.

With your support, we look forward to the remainder of the year being a success as well. Remember, we are here "in relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge" to serve you, the community as best we can!

Beulah Greer
CSLC Co-founder & Executive Director

Bikers return to support HIPPY; honor Ms. Friar's legacy

Recently, more than 200 guests turned out for the 3rd Annual HIPPY Fund Fest and Motorcycle Show. The event was held on the recreation grounds of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) in Lexington, Miss.

HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) is an international research-based early learning program that helps parents prepare their preschoolers for school success.

The fund fest and motorcycle show had been on hiatus due to

the COVID-19 pandemic. The return of the bikers' fundraiser

was special this year in that it also saluted the legacy of educator Ms. Lula Mae Friar, former CSLC HIPPY Coordinator and a pillar of the community with a memorial fund named in memory of her for HIPPY Kids and the continued success of the program.

CSLC Board, administration and staff are so grateful to the bikers for making this event one of their many community causes. The event is the brainchild of Biker Dell Walls, who served with the CSLC from 2018-2019, the event has grown. This year's fund fest raised a little more than \$10,000 to help prepare preschool-age children in Holmes County, Miss. for school-readiness. Next year, the bikers and the center officials plan to make the event bigger and better. (See more highlights of the fund-fest on Page 2)



Above top, HIPPY Home Educator Lucretia Holmes directs the HIPPY students and graduates in reciting the CSLC Motto and Creed. (Left) A tribute in memory of Ms. Lula M. Friar.

CSLC-SBA CNPP MOVE observe May as Small Business Month



Jones

Clark

The nation celebrated National Small Business Week, May 1-7 to observe the vital importance of small businesses our economy. In addition to its weekly small business trainings, the Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Mississippi – Community Navigation Pilot Program (CNPP)'s Mississippi Opportunities for a Vital Economy (MOVE) project continued the celebration Tuesday,

May 31, with a Virtual Small Business Outreach Community Forum.

It used the national theme: "Building a Better America Through Entrepreneurship." "We are not culminating the observance, we are continuing to show our gratitude to small businesses, and we want to let you on the call know that we are here to help," said Antwan Clark, MS-CNPP MOVE project director. The featured presenter was Rickey Jones, director of the Jackson State University Small Business Development Center. Jones is a certified business counselor.

CSLC Exec. Dir. & Bank Partner featured in national publication

When it comes to women achievements, Beulah Greer ranks among them all, but she will never tell you. The modest Lexington native will never tell you that on Friday, April 1, she and the nonprofit she co-founded with husband Leslie Greer was featured with BankPlus' First Vice President and Director of Affordable Housing Mark Ouellette on the Independent Community Bankers of America's (ICBA) web publication

(<https://independentbanker.org/2022/04/creative-banking-for-the-community's-benefit/>). The article shared that: "An educational nonprofit struggled to find a financial backer for a series of projects to help low-to-moderate-income communities. When the need resonated with BankPlus, an unbreakable partnership was formed . . ." resulting in some successful outcomes. To date, the CSLC-FHLB-Dallas/BankPlus partnership has provided needed rehab to nearly 200 homes.



Greer



Ouellette

3rd Annual CSLC HIPPIY Fund Fest & Motorcycle Show Highlights

Thank you, Mississippi Bikers for Supporting Early Education



The first biker to arrive



More bikers arrive



Memorial tributes in memory of Ms. Lula Friar



The King Riders pause for a photo opt upon



An alumni HIPPY family returns to support the fundraising event.



CSLC HIPPIY Coordinator Lubertha Banks and a little helper give the welcome.



Mayor Robin McCrory brings greetings from the City of Lexington.



Supervisors President Leonard Hampton brings greetings from the county.



CSLC HIPPIY Home Educator Lucretia Holmes (left) leads HIPPY students and graduates in reciting the CSLC Motto and Creed.



CSLC Founders Leslie and Beulah Greer made a special donation to the CSLC HIPPIY Lula Mae Friar Memorial Fund.



Hubert Hudson and Jeanette Friar made a special donation to the CSLC HIPPIY Lula Mae Friar Memorial Fund.



Educator LaTannica Friar (right) and her family of Louisiana thanked the crowd for honoring the memory of her mother with establishing the CSLC HIPPIY Lula Mae Friar Memorial Fund. They made a special donation.



Participating Biker made a contribution



Participating Biker Donald Young made a contribution



Former CSLC volunteer Yolanda Faye Wallace made a contribution on behalf of the Wallace family.



Winner Kerwin Brandon and son Calvin, displaying his trophy.



Martez Greer made a special contribution from him and his wife Brandi.

3rd Annual CSLC HIPPIY Fund Fest & Motorcycle Show highlights continue on next page ...

Continued from Page 2 ...



IT Specialist and CSCLC-SBA CNPP Project Director Antwan Clark announced a special donation from him, his wife Markita, and family. Clark is also a CSCLC HIPPY Advisor.



Vice President of the Mississippi Motorcycle Association announced a donation.



An emotional Takila Greer shares fond memories of her aunt, Lula Mae Friar.



The Black Hawk Motorcycle Club, under the direction of Henry Ware (not pictured) assisted in the coordination of this year's event. The event was the brainchild of CSCLC Volunteer and volunteer Dell Wall several years ago.



Biker and co-owner of a Greenwood daycare made a donation in understanding the importance of early childhood education.



Bikers sign in upon entering the CSCLC recreational grounds.



HIPPY Booster Club President Maggie Stingley expressed profound gratitude to the bikers and other supporters.



Durant MBC Pastor and Biker Dr. Nathaniel Christian gave the invocation during the opening ceremony.



Bikers rode in from Jackson and various parts of the state.



Housing staff member Vera Harmon and husband J.D. manned the entrance.



Bikers chilling after supporting the concessions.



Community volunteers were kind enough to assist with the concessions



The winning family of the BBQ Grill raffle



Children having fun.

Educators' legacy still helping graduates

The Community Students Learning Center, with the assistance of staff and private donors, was honored to award two \$500 memorial scholarships to two recent Holmes County Central High School graduates. The scholarships were presented in memory of CSCLC Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Coordinator Lula Mae Friar and CSCLC STARS After-School and in memory of Summer Enrichment Instructor Mrs. Merdis A. Anderson respectively. The graduates receiving the memorial scholarships were Ryrekus Mayze and Derrick Smith, Jr.

The students and their parents were so excited and grateful for the awards. Both will be attending college in the fall.

Friar and Anderson were longtime devoted educators in Mississippi, serving most of their careers in Holmes County. Even after they served the school districts and retired, the both spent 10 plus years after retirement serving the students of the Community Students Learning Center.



Tyrekus Mayze received the CSCLC Lula M. Friar Memorial Scholarship



Derrick D. Smith received the CSCLC Merdis A. Anderson Memorial Scholarship

CSLC SEEDS virtually raised awareness concerning children's mental health

May was Mental Health Awareness Month, and May 1-7 was Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. To help raise awareness, the Community Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Strategies for Emergency Empowerment for Delta Students (SEEDS) project presented a virtual forum, "Children's Mental Health Awareness: Don't Stigmatize; Recognize!" The virtual event took place via Zoom Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6 p.m. It is opened to the parents, youth and educators in Holmes County as well as to others concerned about the health and wellness of youth and young adults. Certified professionals presented and provided information to help attendees achieve the following outcomes:

- A better understanding that mental health IS NOT anything of which to be ashamed;
- Learn that as many as one in six U.S. children ages 6-17 has a treatable mental health disorder such as depression, anxiety problems or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). – (World Health Organization);
- Learn where to find available mental health resources for children and young adults (i.e. wrap-around services);
- Recognize that children are unique and many learn differently; and recognize that the consequences of not addressing children's mental health conditions early can extend into adulthood, limiting opportunities to lead fulfilling lives as adults.



Reeves



Lowe



Barfield

CSLC and USDA Rural Development team up to better help citizens

CSLC hosted individuals from the USDA State and Brandon office along with Bilbrew Consulting Services LLC. The purpose was to provide information on the USDA 502/504 Direct Loan programs, and how they could more broadly be made available to individuals and families in the CSLC service area.

These are loan products that help low to very low-income individuals in rural areas, purchase, build or repair their homes. The group also strategized on ways in which these products could be in-cooperated into CSLC's existing services and programs.

For more information about CSLC's participation with USDA Rural Development, call (662) 834-0905.



CSLC-SBA CNPP celebrated the freedom of entrepreneurship

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Community Students Learning Center

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Place
Stamp
Here

CSLC, a 501 C 3 Nonprofit organization, does not discriminate in housing or services directly or indirectly on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability. HUD rules further require that recipients of Federal financial assistance comply with civil rights-related program requirements (CRRPRs) that affect nearly every aspect of each program. HUD's non-discrimination requirements are compiled from several different federal laws designed to protect each individual's right to fair housing and equal opportunity.