

# OIC UPWARDS



NASHVILLE OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES IN NASHVILLE FOR 37 YEARS



## NASHVILLE OIC TO HONOR REVEREND MAXWELL AT ANNUAL REV. KELLY MILLER SMITH PRAYER BREAKFAST

On Saturday, October 15, 2005, Nashville OIC will honor Pastor H. Bruce Maxwell at the Annual Reverend Kelly Miller Smith Prayer Breakfast.

A native Nashvillian, Reverend Maxwell was educated in the City's public school system. He furthered his academic pursuits at Emmanuel Bible College and Seminary, obtaining both the bachelor and master of Theology degrees. Prior to accepting his call to the ministry, he served as a Sunday School teacher, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, and President of the Echoes of Jericho at Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church.

In the spring of 1974, Reverend Maxwell received and accepted his call to the

Gospel ministry. He delivered his first sermon on June thirtieth and was licensed to preach shortly thereafter. On October 10, 1976 Reverend Maxwell was elected Pastor of the Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church where he has served for the past twenty-eight years. During his tenure the church has grown from a diminutive membership to a congregation of more than 4,000 persons.

In addition to his vast pastoral responsibilities, he serves the greater Nashville community as a member of the Board of Ethics Committee, a Chaplain on Call and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Hills Medical Center. In addition, he is a member of the Metropolitan Nashville &

Davidson County Schools Equity and Excellence Committee.

Rev. Maxwell is married to the former Evon Benton. Their union has been blessed with two daughters: Michelle and Courtney. Rev. and Mrs. Maxwell are the proud grandparents of one granddaughter, McKensy.

The Prayer Breakfast is  
**Saturday, October 15, 2005**  
at the Renaissance Hotel  
Downtown Nashville  
at 9:00A.M.

**Tickets are \$50.00.**

## FORMER INMATE WINS NATIONAL OIC AWARD



When it comes to being a model, Melvin Peacock, Jr. is not the first person that comes to mind. When one mentally conjures the image of a former inmate, Melvin Peacock, Jr. is not the picture one contemplates.

Yet, Melvin Peacock, Jr. is both. He has upgraded his station in life, shifted into high-gear and is moving forward, including winning the "OIC National Alumni Award." The award was presented to Peacock during a national conference

at Foxwoods in Mashantucket, Connecticut. Because of their faith in him, the OIC Clergy Committee sponsored his trip for the ceremony.

The featured model in the Nashville OIC Fashion Review at Gresham's Fine Men's Clothing in Green Hills, Peacock displayed a broad range of men's attire from corporate suits to an assortment of casual clothing.

In addition to his budding success as a runway model, Peacock has also

demonstrated model behavior as a parolee and graduate of the OIC program. In a letter to the CEO of Nashville OIC, Peacock's parole officer, Benson Osatile, stated he has positively adjusted to the community, avoided any illegal use of drugs, and continues to meet all the conditions of his parole.

Margaret McClain, CEO of Nashville OIC noted during the fashion show the program's success with other male customers which is a change from their traditional history of serving about ninety-eight percent women.

Nashville OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Center) offers GED preparation, job training and placement services, and service as a transition center for recently released inmates.

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OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE SUPERIOR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND PLACEMENT

### OIC SUCCESS FILES:

## Helena Farrow

OIC is very fortunate to have Helena Farrow return to the staff. Originally from Covington, TN, Ms. Farrow graduated from Lane College in Jackson, TN with a degree in Elementary Education. She moved to Nashville, and worked in several day care programs, and for Metro Nashville's Board of Education as a substitute teacher and the YMCA's Fun Company Program. Then in 2000, she came to work for OIC, working as a PACE (Parent and Consumer Education) instructor and as a Fresh Start instructor. She left in 2002 when her daughter was born, and returned to the staff in July of this year.

Now the mother of twin boys and a

daughter, she is up at 5:30am daily so she can get her children to their day care in time to get herself to OIC for work. Although she misses spending time with her children, she says that they have lots of time together on the weekends, which she enjoys. Boys, she notes, are different—full of energy and interested in playing outside much of the time. But she is fortunate to have learned many things about child care from her old students, and that has helped her with her own children.

As Administrative Assistant, Ms. Farrow has many responsibilities, including payroll, answering the phone, taking care of letters and mailings, and generally doing whatever needs to be done. Ms. McClain has been wonderful to work with, she notes, as have the rest of the staff and faculty. She likes the students, and admires the new attitude she sees among them. "The customers

are different," she says. "It used to be mostly women, but now men are coming in, too. And they come because they want to."



OIC is very fortunate to have Helena Farrow return to the staff.

Ms. Farrow is enjoying her work at OIC because every day is different—every hour is different. She is learning new computer skills, and enjoys the wonderful working relationships she has with her co-workers. She finds them to be very dependable, and enjoys the family-like atmosphere here. She sees many changes in OIC since her last stint here, and is happy to be part of the organization that is, to her, the new OIC.

*Elaine Kuhn*

### OIC SUCCESS FILES:

## Ronald Murphy

Ronald Murphy has always been a go-getter. He grew up in Nashville, and played basketball for Glencliff High School. He did Co-op classes throughout high school, attending school half of each day, and working at McDonalds the other half. After graduation, he worked at Kroger for a year, and then for UPS for 10 years. Ready for a career change, he decided to follow an early avocation, became a Master Barber, and found a job at V's Barber Shop, where he has cut hair for 10 years.

Although he loves his job at V's, he was ready for more. His wife, Regina Murphy, told him about OIC, and here he found access to computers, and just as important, an excellent computer teacher. With Mr. Young as his new mentor, he began the software class in March, and finished the 13-week class in 6 weeks, graduating on June 20th of this year. He is now in the next

phase of computer work, and loves learning how to install programs and fix computers. He looks forward to becoming a PC Tech, using his new-found knowledge to make business cards and fliers, and to take care of client records for V's Barber Shop among many other uses.

Asked for words of wisdom, Mr. Murphy said, "You can't be the person you want to be if you stay the person you are."

It's a busy life for Mr. Murphy. He and his wife Regina, a full-time cosmetologist, have three sons – Ronald, almost 10 (the book guy); Avante, 7 (the sports and brains guy); and Richard, 5 (who just wants to follow his big brothers around!). All three boys

are at Alex Green Magnet School, and Mr. Murphy drops them off there each morning on his way to OIC, where he trains on the computers from 8:30-11:30. After that, he puts in a full day at the barbershop, finishing up between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.

In addition to his commitment to his family, Mr. Murphy also plays drums and sings at his own church, and other churches in town. He has even played with Bobby Jones, a year that he looks back on with pleasure. But right now his commitment to OIC holds his attention. He says, "You learn more here... It's the teaching plus the free tuition—a combination of people who want to learn with people who want to teach. It's like a family—the students work together."

Asked for words of wisdom, Mr. Murphy said, "You can't be the person you want to be if you stay the person you are." Mr. Murphy's firm commitment to learning and changing guarantees that he will become the person he wants to be, sooner rather than later.

*Elaine Kuhn*

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#### OIC SUCCESS FILES:

### Theodore Taylor

The eyes of the subjects in Theodore (Ted) Taylor's paintings almost seem to blink and smile when the light hits them. Mr. Taylor, who found his way to Nashville from Indianapolis, is a self-taught artist who paints portraits from photographs. His work is almost startling in its intensity—his subjects smile out from his canvasses as if they were ready to start a conversation. If they could, they would say these things about Theodore Taylor.

Mr. Taylor is self-taught. His formal schooling ended in the 10th grade, when he dropped out of school to go to work for Textron. After 8 years, he was laid off, and then took many temporary jobs, but art was still his first love. He always wanted to emulate his uncle, James Turner, a painter of religious subjects for the Catholic Church in Indiana. He learned painting with a group of self-taught friends who worked together, experimenting and helping each other learn art techniques. After he married, he and his wife, a Nashvillian, moved here to raise their 5 children; and his children, some of whom now have children, all live nearby.

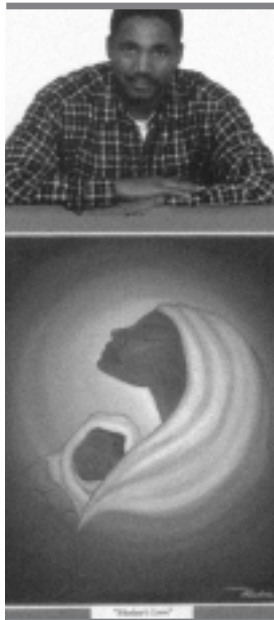
Through an amazing series of serendipitous events, Mr. Taylor recently became friends with a member of First Lady Rosalyn Carter's staff, who then awarded him a commission to produce a portrait of her for the Habitat for Humanity Headquarters in Atlanta. At a ceremony in Atlanta on June 6, 2005, Mr. Taylor met Mrs. Carter, and was recognized for his work, which now hangs in the Atlanta Habitat office. Mr. Taylor has lately confessed that he loves painting celebrities, and wishes for an opportunity to paint Oprah Winfrey, Cynthia Williams or Anne Holt.

Mr. Taylor realized that he needed computer skills to get his work on the

Web. Because he uses Woodcuts, a shop in the OIC neighborhood that does his framing, he noticed the sign for OIC when driving by. He came in, and found that he first needed to get his GED, so he comes from 5:30- 8:00pm each day to work toward this goal. After that, he says, he would like to go to college, maybe Fisk or TSU, to get a degree in History and Art. And then, who knows? He might run for governor, so that he could build an OIC that would restructure the prison system to help those who get out find good jobs and become productive members of society.

Mr. Taylor is full of praise for his excellent OIC teacher, Ms. Thompson. She works at assessing each student to discover where that student is, and then teaches each one from there. She is a serious teacher, and imparts her love for learning to her students. Mr. Taylor finds OIC to be comfortable, homey, and laid-back—a perfect pathway to his dream. And OIC has given Mr. Taylor another opportunity to show his art—his work will be on display at the upcoming Prayer Breakfast on October 15, 2005 at the Renaissance Hotel.

*Elaine Kuhn*



Theodore's work is almost startling in its intensity—his subjects smile out from his canvasses as if they were ready to start a conversation.

## OIC STUDENTS FIND SUCCESS AT ST. LUKE'S ADULT GED PROGRAM

This success story has three main characters; Mrs. Marci Phillips, Ms. Marsha Aldridge, and Ms. Angie Ohde. Their names are synonymous with courage, determination, and dedication. Despite the obstacles faced by each of these courageous ladies, they have raised children and grandchildren, weathered family illnesses and personal obstacles, and they have passed their GED examinations. Let us take a brief look at each of these women.

Marci Phillips, a mother and grandmother, strove to set an example for her children and her grandchildren. Many times Marci could be overheard advising her children and other students to not give up. She is a courageous woman who is not afraid to meet obstacles and to overcome. Marci brightens any space she occupies.

Marsha Aldridge is a divorced mother of two lovely girls. She is a determined young woman who strives to make sure that she exemplifies the characteristics that she wants her daughters to develop. Marsha is hardworking, honest, and sincere in all that she does. It is clear, when you meet her children that she is not only a good mother, but also a good person.

Angie Ohde is a single mother with three sons, two of which are identical twins.

Because of her work schedule, Angie was only able to attend once per week. However, because of her dedication to the cause of obtaining her GED diploma, Angie has met her goal. Perseverance, dedication, and prayer comprise Angie's recipe for success.

On behalf of the Adult GED class, and instructor at St. Luke's, we congratulate these women and dub them our heroes. We salute you!



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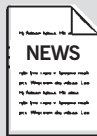
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## Charitable Donations Qualify for Temporary Tax Benefits

The "Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005," signed into law on Sept. 23, allows individuals to deduct 100 percent of cash contributions made to most charities between August 28 and December 31, 2005. This Act temporarily

waives the itemized deduction limitation and the percentage of income limitation and offers a one-time opportunity to accelerate existing charitable pledges to maximize the resulting charitable deduction. Contributors may also make donations to certain types of private foundations, while obtaining a 100 percent charitable deduction. The charities do not have to support Katrina relief efforts

We believe this is the first time in 35 years that the Congress has allowed the full deductibility of charitable contributions without limitations and would encourage interested individuals to consult with their tax advisors to learn more information about how they can benefit from this unique opportunity.



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT OIC

*"I not only endorse your program, but also can testify of the importance of your services to the Nashville community."*

**J. LAWRENCE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF YMCA URBAN SERVICES

In a recent letter of support, J. Lawrence, Executive Director of YMCA Urban Services, praised OIC for its valuable role in the Nashville community:

"I not only endorse your program, but also can testify of the importance of your services to the Nashville community. The young men in the YMCA's Y-Build program have been going to the OIC campus for GED preparations. Your ability to deliver quality instruction has helped our participants attain academic goals and move forward with career plans. It is important to

understand that many of these students have not been successful in past educational endeavors. This reality is being altered at OIC through the efforts of your supportive staff and fine facilities. It is good to have your organization available for those who need a second chance. At OIC they are discovering that they can succeed. This success makes possible new opportunities that will lead to a productive future.

"Thanks for all you do for our community. I look forward to continuing our relationship with Nashville OIC!"

# OIC THANKS YOU

We would like to thank **our contributors and friends** for the significant difference they make in the lives of all who are touched by **OIC**.

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