



From The Corner Office – Audacity and Amendment 324

Webster's dictionary defines the word audacity as "A willingness to take bold risks". Folks, the late Mrs. Cecil Moreman and the late Mrs. Jane Walker were the very embodiment of the word and their audacious actions actually led to the 324th Amendment to the 1901 Constitution of the State of Alabama! But wait...slow down, I'm getting ahead of myself.

Readers, in the late 1960's our agency founders – Mrs. Moreman and Mrs. Walker – had worked purposefully for years alongside many others to form the Lee County Council for Neglected and Dependent Children (LCCNDC). This Council had grown their membership to more than two thousand concerned local citizens and had been gifted with fifteen acres of land located near "Midway Plaza" by Mr. and Mrs. George W. King. The Council had moved a Housing and Urban Development home to the gifted property in Opelika and soon began operating an Attention Home for youth in need of safe shelter and support. The Council quickly realized that sustainable funding would be vital in realizing their goal of meeting the complex needs of at-risk children and their families here in Lee County.

Now back to that constitutional amendment. I can imagine Mrs. Walker speaking with her attorney husband, Mr. Jacob Walker, about this urgent funding need. Fortunately, Mr. Jacob Walker, Jr., adored his wife and believed very much in her vision. His law firm drafted the legal documents which led to Amendment 324 being placed on and passed by statewide ballot. This "Special Tax for Improving Enforcement of Laws Relative to and Providing Facilities for, Juveniles in Lee County" gave opportunity for Lee Countians to vote for or against property taxes which would help to fund the local Juvenile Attention Home being operated by the Council.



In 1971 Lee Countians headed to the polls to vote on this new property tax measure. Hear the rallying words from our founders as printed in the local news -from Mrs. Moreman: "Our organization is urging each citizen to support this all-out effort to gain support for our efforts in combating delinquency. We pray that both the state vote and county vote will be favorable." And from Mrs. Walker: "We all talk about the problem of juvenile delinquency and our tax dollars are being spent on punishing those who are beyond help now. Let's all take advantage of this opportunity of working to prevent such a future for the children of Lee County and set an example to the rest of the country in showing that we care what happens to children in Lee County who have no one to turn to except people outside their own families for help". The people of Lee County heard the pleas of our founders and God surely heard their prayers; the ad valorem tax was overwhelming affirmed in 1971 for twenty years and then affirmed yet again in 1991 for another thirty years.

Constitutional Amendment 324, the audacity of our founders and the steadfast support of so many throughout our local communities have brought us to this present day. In about thirty days Lee Countians will again head to the polls where we ask that they **vote in favor of the renewal and continuation** of this same 1½ mills property tax that underpins the financial stability of our agency and impacts the lives of thousands of those who are at-risk. At this same time we ask that voters vote in favor of continuing and renewing property tax measures which support our local Opelika, Auburn and Lee County School systems.

On February 19th all local voters have the opportunity to continue the vision of our bold, audacious and prayerful founders - a vision which has eased burdens and made futures brighter for untold thousands over the past forty-five years. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Moreman labored for a future that they would not live to see – such commitment, foresight, commitment and audacity should live on through us for yet another thirty years and beyond.

Laura Cooper,
Executive Director



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Charles Smith
- 2/2 Christopher Moss
- 2/4 Shaunquenetta Ivey
- 2/6 Jimmy Jackson
- 2/8 Jacquelyn Dodson
- 2/11 Lisa Johnson
- 2/12 Tavarius McNeil
- 2/14 Silvester Love
- 2/15 Jessika Pollard
- 2/17 Monica Harris
- 2/22 Helen Howard
- 2/22 Ellen Ingram
- 2/23 Dakeius Kindell
- 2/25 Tameka Anthony
- 2/25 Sundiata Fleming
- 2/26 Rodney Crayton

NEW HIRES

- LaQuanda Nystrom – TFC
Social Worker
- Charday Olan – Bethesda
Learning Academy Director
- Rafyel Lewis – CADS Teacher's
Aide
- Janae Dowdell – Voyages
Residential Specialist
- Christina Kindred – Therapist
- Kimaya Johnson – Accounting
Clerk

BLESSINGS TO...

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/2 Richard Momon
- 1/11 Bradford Ford
- 1/12 Tiffany Moore
- 1/13 Temeria Martin
- 1/26 Chantal Umutesi
- 1/29 Johnathan Baker
- 1/31 Charles White

To view our WEBSITE,
log on at
www.lcydc.org



CENTER SCENES...

MULTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

So many gifts from the now past 2018 Christmas season simply keep on giving. There are so many individuals and organizations which helped to make the holiday season bright for our children and families. We owe a multitude of gratitude to: **Lee County Association of Realtors, Yoga Room of Auburn, Ms. Lizzie Shannon; The Woodall Family; Ogletree Elementary School, The Berger Family, The Rashaan Evans Foundation** and others. To all who gave to us through financial support, gifts, toys, supplies and well wishes know how grateful we are for your support. Thank you and bless you.

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LEADERSHIP LEE COUNTY

The 2018-2019 class of Leadership Lee County has selected the Lee County Humane Society for their annual service project. Lee County Youth Development Center is excited to help support this awesome cause. With a \$10,000 fundraising goal, the Lee County Humane Society is planning to renovate the facility in order to better care for the county's abused, neglected and/or abandoned animal population. We would also like to wish our very own, **Cora McGriff**, Coordinator of Employment and Payroll Services, the best of luck in her participation with LLC for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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Mrs. Walker (left) is shown receiving deed to donated property by Mr. George King (right).

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

During our Annual Christmas Brunch we took the opportunity to recognize twenty-two employees who celebrated milestone employment anniversaries in 2018. **THREE YEARS:** Helen Howard, Chantal Umutesi, Jacquelyn Dodson, Lamar Harris, Christopher Moss, Sheila Davis, Voulisha Roberson, Ku'Wonna Ingram, Sefako Tidwell, Dakeius Kindell and Angie Morrison. **FIVE YEARS:** Anthony Brock, Jamel Smith, Kelley Wells and Monica Harris. **TEN YEARS:** Senetra Stovall, Jessica Hudson and Leslie Higgins. **FIFTEEN YEARS:** Cora McGriff, Leigh Ann Kilgore and Regina Ransom. **TWENTY YEARS:** Lisa Johnson. Congratulations to these employees and thank you for your work and service at LCYDC!

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

January is National Mentoring Month. There are currently over 9 million children in the United States growing up without a mentor of any kind. Mentors provide youth with the support, encouragement and guidance they need to succeed through academic and personal challenges. As a result, Project Uplift will join hundreds of organizations across the country in recognizing January as National Mentor Month. We were so privileged to have Mayor Ron Anders-City of Auburn, and Mayor Pro-Tem Patsy Jones-City of Opelika to share in our "National Mentoring Month Proclamation Presentation Ceremony" on Monday, January 7, 2019. The ceremony was held in Cary Hall on the Auburn University campus. Additionally, we were so fortunate to have Executive Director Laura Cooper, Director of Continuum Services Terry Woodall and many others in attendance.

PROJECT UPLIFT

