

Black Family Development, Inc.

# Celebrates 35 Years of Service

Annual Presidents' Dinner and Dr. Gerald K. Smith Humanitarian Awards



Monica Evans



Sue Hamilton-Smith



George W. Jackson, Jr.



Faye Alexander Nelson



Chuck Stokes

Hundreds of guests, supporters, and friends of Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI), including Mayor Dave Bing and Mayor-Elect Mike Duggan, will join in a sold out event celebrating the organization's 35 years of service to the community, and the presentation of the Dr. Gerald K. Smith Humanitarian and Scholarship Awards. The 35th Anniversary Gala, which is themed "35 Years of Loving Detroit", will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the MGM Grand Hotel - Detroit.

Five (5) individuals will be presented with the Dr. Gerald K. Smith Humanitarian Award for their exemplary service and commitment to advancing Detroit's quality of life through their respective work and professions. Dr. Smith made his transition in 2008. He was a founding Board Member of BFDI (1978); Board President of BFDI (2008); former President & CEO of YouthVille Detroit; and, Co-Founder of the Michigan Forum of African Americans, an affinity group sponsored by the Council of Michigan Foundations.

Embracing the theme, "35 Years of Loving Detroit", and Strengthening and Enhancing the Lives of Children, Youth and Families through Partnerships that Support Safe, Nurturing, Vibrant Homes and Communities, the 2013 Dr. Gerald K. Smith Humanitarian Award honorees include: Monica Evans, Detroit Police Officer; Sue Hamilton-Smith, President, Wayne County Michigan Department of Human Ser-



Alice G. Thompson

vices and President-Elect of the Michigan Counties of Social Service Agencies; George W. Jackson, Jr., President & CEO, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation; Faye Alexander Nelson, President, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy; and, Chuck Stokes, Director, Editorial/Public Affairs WXYZ-TV/Channel 7. Four (4) Detroit Public Schools high school seniors will also receive the Dr. Gerald K Smith Scholarship Award.

Alice G. Thompson, BFDI CEO, notes: "The impact and sustainability of BFDI over its 35 year existence is directly attributable to the relationships and strategic partnerships established with community leaders, and key governmental, civic, corporate and philanthropic entities that have supported our mission over the years. The 2013 honorees, through demonstrated personal and professional community



Dee Dee McKinney Odom

involvement and community impact, have earned the recognition as a Dr. Gerald K. Smith Humanitarian."

"A most notable group of community, civic and corporate leaders has been assembled to guide the success of BFDI's 35th Anniversary Celebration by serving as Honorary Co-Chairs", said Dee Dee McKinney Odom, BFDI Board President. Among them: Pamela Alexander, Joe & Almateen Benton, The Honorable Mayor Dave Bing & First Lady Yvette Bing, Linda Forte, Carol & Tom Goss, Joyce Hayes-Giles, Katrina & Torii Hunter, Roy & Maureen Roberts, and John VanCamp & Penny Bailor.

Lending generous support to the success of commemorating BFDI's 35th Anniversary and achieving the 2013 Presidents' Dinner fundraising efforts to further Positive Youth De-

velopment program initiatives are the following sponsors: Katrina and Torii Hunter (Detroit Tigers Foundation, an affiliate of Illitch Charities); DTE Energy Foundation; Ford Motor Company Fund; MGM Grand Detroit; Jane D. Ferndanders;

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The 35th Anniversary Celebration is sold out. The event begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., and dinner immediately following at 7:00 p.m. The MGM Grand Hotel - Detroit is located at 1777 Third Street in Detroit. For additional information on how to support the work of Black Family Development, please contact BFDI at 313.758.0150 or visit the website:

[www.blackfamilydevelopment.com](http://www.blackfamilydevelopment.com).