

Citicorp/Citibank Presents Citi-Educators Program to Chicago Public School Teachers



CHICAGO--Citicorp/Citibank officially launched the Citi-Educators Program--for Chicago Public School teachers--during a Valentine's Day kickoff at Terrell Elementary School. Mayor Richard M. Daley (center) joins William Atwell, chairman & CEO of Citicorp Savings (third from left) and James Emshoff, president & CEO of Citicorp Diners Club in the Special Valentine's presentation to Betty Greer (second from right), 25-year teacher at Terrell Elementary School and Terrell's principal, Reva Hairston (right). Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Ted Kimbrough (left) and James Compton, interim president, Board of Education, (second from left) look on approvingly. The Citi-Educators Program, a 10-school program designed by and for Chicago's inner-city teachers, was made possible by a \$360,000 grant from Citicorp. The program is administered by DePaul University.

"Enjoy Your Parents While They Are Still In This World . . ."

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

How often do you hear people complain about how much they hate their parents or don't get along with them? It's very common to say the least. Very sad too.

Well, I am here to suggest to the readers that they enjoy their parents while they are still in this world. I've encountered so many people over the years who have great regrets about not cultivating a more positive relationship with their parents or worst, their parents died before outstanding differences or family issues were resolved. It is then that these individuals break into that old Lou Rawls blues song, "If I Could Have Would Have Should Have . . ." It's a very empty feeling. There's nothing you can do after they have died except pray for peace, understanding, and believe in your heart that someday you will see them again. In many cases, unresolved issues or guilt can lead to drug abuse, alcoholism, or displaced aggression on a persons part.

Let me share a story. When I was 14-year-old, I played basketball for the Boys' Club in my neighborhood and we had the best team in the city. One Easter, we were involved in a four state Police Athletic League Tournament and made it to the championship game. Somewhere between games, I got into trouble and ended up getting punished on the day of the championship game. At the time, my mother was suffering from cancer and confined to her bed because of the heavy medication she had to take for pain.

I pleaded with her endlessly about the game's importance as well as expressed how I had the opportunity to get my first trophy as an athlete. My mother paid me no attention. She told me to get out of her face and go back to my room. As game time approached, I became restless and more determined to attend the game. Eventually, I ran out of the house, with my mother's boyfriend in hot pursuit, and went straight to the Boys' Club. By the time my mother's boyfriend caught up with me, the game had already started and there was nothing he could do. He went back home without me. All I wanted was that first trophy to make my mother proud of me.

To make a long story short, we won the game and had an awards banquet shortly after the game. We had 15 guys on the team and there were only ten trophies. I was one of the five players who had to wait until the Boys' Club regular banquet that coming summer. I cried, but none of my teammates understood and many laughed. Most had already had their first trophy. Today, none of my teammates never knew why I cried. Ultimately, I showed up at home empty-handed, received a beating from my mother's boyfriend, and was sent to bed without dinner. My mother called me a liar, no good, and suggested that I would never amount to anything much outside being a career criminal. When the summer banquet came around in July, I received three trophies for our team achievement, my play, and titles we won around the area. They didn't mean much because my mother died in June and went to her grave with a negative perception of me. I cried again. All I wanted to do was make her proud of me. She never saw my first trophy.

From that summer after the banquet and for about a three or four year stretch, I was a menace to schools, the law, and my family. It didn't help matters much that my father died the previous year. He got killed the night we had our first father to son talk. My dad talked about being a better father that night, about spending more time with us since my mother was sick, and possibly about moving back in with us. I was excited. In an effort to remove some of his possessions from his girlfriend's house, her boyfriend shot him six times.

So, there I was at 14-years old, mad at

the world because my parents were dead before I ever had an opportunity to cultivate a healthy relationship. If I was the oldest of seven children, imagine how young my other brothers and sisters were at the time. We all reacted to their deaths in our own different ways. For the record, I have brothers who are alcoholic, homeless, and mentally impaired from PCP abuse or in jail. Perhaps, if my parents had been around longer, who knows what type of human beings they would have been. Me personally, I came to the conclusion as a high school senior that there was no way that I could go through the rest of my life knowing how they felt about me when they went to their grave. I still wanted to make them proud. So, I got my life together as an athlete, student, and human being. I can truly look up to the heavens, today, and know that my parents are proud of me. I know it and feel it in my heart. I feel vindicated and purged from the wrong I did.

So, the next time you hear someone complaining about their parents, suggest to

them that they should enjoy them while they have the opportunity. I never really had the chance. In many cases, people should accept that most parents are set in their ways and usually have your best interest at heart according to their perspectives. I don't think most parents would consciously do something to hurt their children. I have one friend who has not talked to his father in ten years despite his effort to reach out to him. Bitterness from relationships of the past, divorces, and a host of other situations such as sexual abuse, psychological, or physical abuse prevent some people from cultivating healthy relationships with their parents. Believe me, I am no erudite scholar on this topic but that doesn't prevent me from missing my parents.

Life, in many ways, is like playing the lottery. When your number comes up, it's time to go meet your maker. This principle applies to you and your loved ones. When was the last time you talked to your mom or dad? Reach out and call them while you have the opportunity.

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RJR Announces Contribution to Winston-Salem University

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.--R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. announced March six it will contribute \$4 million to Winston-Salem State University, to help establish the university as a regional center of higher education and improve the area's economic development opportunities.

James W. Johnston, RJR's chairman and chief executive officer, made the announcement to more than 200 local business, civic and academic leaders at a luncheon on the campus. He said that RJR's gift marked a nearly 100-year relationship that began with Dr. Simon Green Atkins, founder of Winston-Salem State University, and Richard Joshua Reynolds, the company's founder.

"In 1891, these two visionaries crossed paths when Dick Reynolds took \$500 out of his own pocket and gave it to Dr. (Simon) Atkins for his new school--Slater Industrial Academy," Johnston said. "Eight years later, Reynolds gave him \$5,000 more to start a nursing school here."

Since then, the company has provided grants for scholarships for high achievers, faculty supplements and curriculum development. In 1983, the company gave \$1 million to help build the university's business school building, the RJR Center.

Reynolds Tobacco's contribution is the first major gift the University has received toward its new Centennial Campaign to raise \$25 million in private donations to

ward a \$55 million total goal. Funds will be used to establish WSSU as a regional university by expanding campus facilities, strengthening academic programming and faculty, and offering greater scholarship opportunities.

The RJR grant will be paid in four installments, the last to be made in 1992. The first installment of \$500,000 has already been given to the university to purchase immediately additional land around the current campus for the expansion outlined in the Centennial Campaign plan.

"This \$4 million you've given Winston-Salem State puts us well on our way to realizing a successful Centennial Campaign, and to realizing our full potential," said Cleon F. Thompson Jr., the university's chancellor.

In thanking Johnston, Thompson said, "You and your company have played a vital role in the history and development of this institution . . . Your gift today is by far the largest contribution this institution has ever received. It's also among the largest corporate gifts ever given to any public college or university."

Thompson added, "As I see it, we both want the same thing--excellence--whether we're talking about products or about people. Without affordable, quality education, this nation simply won't have the pool of qualified people to produce these products, goods or services."

Noting that RJR's gifts have not been truly altruistic, Johnston said that his company employs 221 alumni of Winston-Salem State University and that the company looks to the school for future employees.

"Like you (Winston-Salem State), we at R.J. Reynolds recognize that there are a lot of bright, talented young people in this community. And that our best high school graduates most often pursue their college educations in other cities and states," Johnston said.

"We cannot afford to lose the talents of those young men and women to other areas of the country. And like you, we'd selfishly like to keep them here," he said. "Our future and that of other area businesses depends on it."

C.D. Spangler, Jr., president of the University of North Carolina system, could not attend because of a previous speaking engagement, but sent Johnston a letter he asked be read at the luncheon.

"If I were there, I would propose a toast to R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., a great North Carolina institution that has been throughout its life a stellar corporate citizen in our state. The name Reynolds, whether we speak of the family or the company, has long been synonymous with inspired and creative philanthropy," Spangler wrote Johnston.

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