

Community Rallies around Houston Missionary Baptist Church After Arson Attack

By Terencia Lee
Special to the NNPA
News Wire from the
Houston Forward Times

The brothers of Alpha Kappa Psi in Houston presented a \$1,500 donation to Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist Church Oct. 9. The organization contributed the money, from their non-profit – Education & Charities Foundation – to go towards the rebuilding of the Carl Walker Jr. Multi-Purpose Center.

This past July, the church fell victim to arson, which damaged the Carl Walker Jr. Multi Purpose Center. Although flames did the most damage structure, the center also suffered severe smoke damage leaving the structure uninhabitable.

The center has been apart of the church since 2000, providing many services for the community. The Carl Walker Jr. Center was built in an effort to help young men stay off of the streets and give them a place to be productive.

There is a basketball court in the center, which can also be used as a volleyball court, a kitchen, a computer lab for studying and more.

Larry Warren has been



Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity, donated \$1,500 to Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist Church.

in the forefront of making sure that the center gets renovated and back to normal, so the church can continue to serve the community with events such as their health and back to school drive.

“We give school supplies to the children right before school starts as well as different vendors from the community come here to provide health screenings,” said Warren. Each year the church provides 1500-2000 students with school supplies, but they were unable to do so this year because of the fire.

The church plans to use the donation from the brothers of Alpha Kappa Psi to put the finishing touches on the rebuilding of the center and help with the already heavy cost of reconstruction.

Claude Cummings reached out to the brothers of Alpha Kappa Psi and other organizations for donations to the church.

The church is still accepting donations for the center and encourages anyone who can give to donate at www.faithrevitalizationcrt.org, which also allows donations to be made through PayPal.

Harvey Garnett Volunteer of the Year at Hollywood Senior Center

Harvey Garnett was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year” at Hollywood Senior Center for 2015.

After about four years with center, where he also serves on both its board of directors and advisors this is the first time Garnett has gotten this award.

“Whenever people [at Hollywood Senior Center] have any complaints or want to get something done, they come to me to resolve the problem or see what I can do,” said Garnett, who is the only African American man to have received this award from the center.

Garnett has also made history at the center by creating its first Tai Chi class, which he said has become extremely popular.

“I used to be on the board at Friendly House, so I was like, ‘It doesn’t make sense for me to be travelling all the way out here to North Portland.’ And I’m on the board at Hollywood Senior Center, so I presented it to the executive director and



Harvey Garnett, also known to locals as “Mr. Alameda,” was named the Hollywood Senior Center’s Volunteer of the Year.

got the [program together, and now everybody likes it, takes it and it’s got a waiting list.”

Besides his moves at Hollywood Senior Center, Garnett is a documented pioneer, creating the city’s first Black-owned movie theatre, Alameda Centre, now known as the Alberta Rose Theatre, located at the corner of Northeast 30th Avenue and Alberta Street.

The cinema opened in 1966 and had a near-decade run before Garnett closed its doors for good in 1975 fol-

lowing a divorce. It earned him the nickname “Mr. Alameda.”

In addition to being on the his duties at the center, “Mr. Alameda” continues to mentor youth as part of the Big Brother/Big Sister program. He also said he enjoys playing a tennis, which he said he used to play professionally, and attends Marantha Church regularly in Northeast Portland.

Ultimately Garnett says he plans to continue his helping spirit into the foreseeable future, not just at the center but in all areas off his life.

“That’s the way our mom raised us,” Garnett said.

—Donovan M. Smith

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Salary: \$5,773.00 - \$7,708.00

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10-21-15

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10-21-15

MFHM

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