

## Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Foster Care Adopt Young Students

By Dana Taylor

Omaha Star Correspondent

Students of both Howard Kennedy Elementary School and the Head Start program were given a surprise prior to leaving for home to begin their Christmas break Friday, December 16. Representatives from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Adams Counseling and Consulting Agency, and the SIGMA Treatment Foster Care Agency sponsored a gift give away for 150 students and 15 teachers. The total value of the gift give away was reported at up to \$4000. Each child was allowed to pick up to two gifts to keep.

Donna Adams, CEO of SIGMA Treatment Foster Care Agency said the give away was a total surprise to the children, which made the event even more special. Adams added that initially the sponsors had planned to distribute the gifts thru the Marine "Toys for Tots" program, but a change of plans gave birth to the sponsors "doing something for the community."

Three sponsors made the event possible, which was held in two sessions. The first session was at 10:30 a.m. with the second at 2pm. The local chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., called Kappa Beta Sigma, a cosponsor, was founded as recently as December 10 this year. Plans for the event were made as recently as the beginning of December by the sponsors making contact with the Principal of Howard Kennedy Elementary Phyllis Y. Deason Brooks. Brooks reportedly responded very positively to the idea of the give away, accepting the gesture on behalf of the students.

Children who were students in the Head Start program located at Howard Kennedy, and students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, were allowed to pick up to two gifts each. In addition seven teachers from the Head Start programs received a DVD player each. Lastly, Teachers and their aides received a television set each. During the morning session, three students won televisions, as did two students in the afternoon session via drawings.

Antoinette Bell currently serves as the president of Basileus of Kappa

Sigma, a Bellevue, NE chapter. The sorority has been in existence since 1922. The SIGMA Treatment Foster Care Agency has been operating for what will be four years this coming April. Adams reports that the organization is the "only African-American owned and operated foster care agency in the state. She says up they

Beta manage up to 160 employees, which include foster parents. For more information on each sponsor call (402) 453-5388 ext. 110 or visit them at 5620 Ames Ave.



Photos by Dana Taylor

Howard Kennedy Elementary School Principal Phyllis Y. Deason Brooks directs traffic during the gift give-away. Brooks has been the school Principal for the last two years at Howard Kennedy.



Five year old Kindergarten student J'Vona Kent was all smiles after finding her gift. J'Vona took a little extra time to pick out her gift.



Photo at Left:

Donna Adams, whose organization Sigma Gamma Rho Foster Agency co-sponsored the event, acted as the spokesperson for the event. Here she greets the children representing those from the Head Start program, pre-kindergarten, and Kindergarten students.



After the rush to pick out their gifts, the 3-5 year olds at Howard Kennedy spent time amongst themselves comparing gifts.

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