



The Wright's Stuff

The Wright's Center, Inc. is an adult day health care center for frail elders and disabled adults living in Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson counties and the surrounding areas..

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Save The Date

The Wright's Center's
22nd Anniversary
Gala Celebration

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Silent Auction—6:00 pm
Program—7:00 pm

R.T. McCarter
Fellowship Center
Rocky Mount, NC

Batts and Tanner to Headline 2011 Gala Celebration

The Wright's Center is especially excited this year to have Dr. Valerie A. Batts and Reverend Doug Tanner as keynote speakers for our 22nd Anniversary Gala Celebration on Thursday, May 12th. Dr. Batts, a Rocky Mount native, is executive director and co-founder of VISIONS, Inc., located in Roxbury, MA. VISIONS is a pioneering multicultural training and consulting organization and parent company of The Wright's Center. Reverend Tanner is director and senior advisor of Faith and Politics Institute in Washington, DC, serving members of Congress and congressional staff by offering experiential pilgrimages, reflection groups, retreats and public forums. Dr. Batts and Reverend Tanner will be presenting together. Their theme will be "Seeking Common Ground: Strengthening Communities Through Our Similarities and Our Differences – The Journey Continues,"

Valerie Batts, a Rocky Mount native, earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Duke University. In 2006 she received an Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. Working both nationally and internationally, Dr. Batts supports people and organizations in developing and maintaining environments that recognize, understand, respect, and appreciate differences. Haywood

Parker, Wright's Center board member and long-time friend, states, "*Valerie found the power of her voice by utilizing her passion for change to challenge people, organizations and systems to eradicate the deep isms that divide and to celebrate the deep love that liberates.*"

Rev. Tanner is an ordained clergyman. He has served as a campus chaplain, a parish minister, a congressional aide, and a political campaign consultant before helping found The Faith & Politics Institute. Early in his career, he also served on the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and developed an enduring connection with southern Africa. Doug is the author of *The Truth Can Set Us Free: Toward a Politics of Grace and Healing*, published by The Fetzer Institute. Chris Miller, Rocky Mount City Council member, states, "*Doug Tanner was instrumental in creating the Common Ground race-relations program in Rocky Mount. I am grateful to have met and worked with Doug thru that effort. Doug is an inspiring example of living out one's faith, working for justice and reconciliation.*"

Gala sponsorship opportunities are still available. For additional information, contact Doris Howington, executive director of the Wright's Center at 252.442.8363.

Family Reunion – A Good Time for Family Planning

Summertime brings a lot of family time – family reunions, picnics, weddings and other events. With parents aging and their health and lifestyles changing, it is also the time to do some planning for the future. Pre-need meetings for the purpose of making a plan, before eldercare becomes imminent, avoids these types of conflicts.

"The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning", by the National Care Planning Council provides guidelines and checklists for family planning meetings. Visit www.longtermcarelink.net for further information.

NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature – 2011 Legislative Priorities

(Part two of article printed in December 2010 newsletter)

The NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature was created by the NC General Assembly with the passage of Senate Bill 479 in July of 1993. Following are areas the NC General Assembly have set as 2011 Legislative Priorities:

- **Increase funding for senior centers by an additional \$2,000,000 in recurring funds for a total of \$3,265,316 a year.** Senior centers provide programs and services that enhance the health and wellness of older adults and support their efforts to remain independent. The 163 senior centers currently in operation or under development serve 98 counties. The requested increase in recurring funds would enable those senior centers to expand their services to meet the needs of a growing population of older adults.

- **Mandate pre-employment and**

random drug testing for employees of nursing and assisted living facilities. All nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and adult care homes provide specialized care for frail adults with chronic health programs. The safety of residents is compromised when employees abuse drugs. Residents are at a higher risk of receiving poor care and being victims of theft and abuse when their caretakers are abusing drugs. It is also an increased liability to the facility and its staff. While some long-term care facilities already require pre-employment and random drug testing for their employees, all long-term care facilities should have this policy in place.

- **Dental Care for North Carolina's Adult Special Care Population.**

North Carolina has no statewide oral health system to provide for frail elderly and the intellectually/developmentally disabled who need special care. Existing mobile dentistry units have demonstrated their effectiveness in improving dental health of the long term care population. We urge the General Assembly to: (1) maintain current adult Medicaid dental benefits; (2) provide equitable reimbursement to Medicaid dental providers; (3) add four additional mobile dentistry units over the next four years; (4) expand dental school special care curricula; and (5) provide continuing education courses on special care dentistry for health care professionals.

(Each of the 100 North Carolina counties is entitled to one delegate to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature)

VA Offers Toll-free Caregiver Support Line

Caregivers are the family members and loved ones who provide care for Veterans who are living with the effects of war, disability, chronic illness, or aging. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) feel these caregivers deserve the highest support and have opened a toll-free National Caregiver Support Line. The support line serves as a primary resource/referral center to assist caregivers, Veterans and others seeking caregiver information to help in the care of our Nation's Veterans. Calls will be answered by VA employees who are licensed clinical social workers.

The Support Line provides information on VA/community caregiver support resources and "warm" referrals to dedicated Caregiver Support Coordinators located in every VA Medical Center; emotional support for the caregiver will be an integral component of this service. The Support Line is also available to respond to inquiries about the caregiver benefits associated with Public Law 111-

163, Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010.

The National Caregiver Support Line will be open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 11:00 pm and Saturday 10:30 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Time. The National Caregiver Support Line Toll-Free number is 1.855.260.3274. Also see VA's updated caregiver website: www.caregiver.va.gov

Will Rogers on Growing Older

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Did You Know?

About 13.3 million people, are spouses or adult children of disabled older people and have the potential responsibility for their care. Of these, about 85% are adult children.

More Than One Way to Support our Participants

Most seniors when questioned, say they would prefer to remain in their home as long as possible. Familiar surroundings can be therapeutic. The Wright's Center is an alternative to a nursing home and offers licensed, experienced and dedicated staff trained in Alzheimer's and dementia care.

You can help us continue our services to caregivers and participants by joining a dedicated group of people who help to reduce isolation and enrich the lives of needy elders and disabled adults in our community.

Following are ways in which you can contribute to The Wright's Center:

Outright Gifts

- Cash – mail a check to the Center or contribute online at www.thewrightscenter.com
- Securities – donate appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds.
- Retirement Assets – new

temporary legislation allows donors 70 1/2 or older to donate with a tax-free distribution from an IRA.

Gifts Through Your Estate

- Bequest/Estate Gifts – make a contribution through your will or living trust.
- Retirement Assets – Name The Wright's Center as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401K and other qualified plan.
- Life Insurance – name The Wright's Center as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

Contact Doris Howington, executive director of The Wright's Center at 252.442.8363 for additional information or to address any questions you may have concerning the Center.

As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Myth vs Reality

Myth

If you have a family member with Alzheimer's, you'll get it, too.

Reality

In rare cases, early-onset Alzheimer's is inherited through genes. This familial form of Alzheimer's causes just 7% of all Alzheimer's cases.

Genetics plays a small role for those people who don't have this form of Alzheimer's but who do get the disease later in life. If you have a parent, brother or sister with the disease, you have a slightly higher risk of getting it.

\$1000

will provide 7 months of transportation for a participant from a rural area.

\$500

will provide two months of supplies and prizes for arts & crafts, games and activities.

\$100

will provide special music, educational programs or exercise therapy.

\$50

will provide a day at the Wright's Center including transportation and meals.

\$25

will provide one-half day of respite for a constant caregiver.



The Wright's Center, Inc. is the most cost-effective way to provide care and help delay or avoid institutionalization for chronically ill, disabled, or cognitively challenged adults while offering needed respite for caregivers.

YES, I want to help The Wright's Center care for needy elders and disabled adults in our community.

Enclosed find my tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

I pledge: \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$ _____

To be paid: Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone No./Home _____ Work _____

Please make check payable and mail to:

The Wright's Center, Inc., 501 Raleigh Road, Rocky Mount NC 27803
Solicitation License # SL001948

YOU can make a difference!



There's always a need

The Wright's Center, Inc. is always in need of supplies to maintain ongoing activities for our elderly and disabled participants. Following find our Wish List.

- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- Office furniture
- Lockable filing cabinets
- Supplies for Arts/Crafts activities
- Paper products (towels, napkins, tissues, cups, plates)
- Tile for bathrooms, kitchen and foyer
- Carpet for all carpeted areas
- Small trash bags
- Volunteers (Monday through Friday)

Thank you for all that you do!

Spotlight on Beverley Riley

Beverley Riley is a new member of The Wright's Center's Board of Directors. A Tarboro, NC native, Beverly is a graduate of North Carolina Central University with a bachelors degree in business administration.

Beverley has 28 years of banking experience and is currently the Retail Banking Manager, Vice President for First Carolina State Bank.

Having past experience with the Center, Beverley states, *"I have a great aunt who attended The Wright's Center for several months. She always had good news to share and could hardly wait until her next visit. I welcome the opportunity and am honored to serve with so many great people to enhance the experiences of Wright's Center participants."*

In her spare time, Beverley designs jewelry, mentors youth, sings in the WTC Ensemble and works with her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta.



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Board of Directors.



501 Raleigh Road
Rocky Mount, NC 27803

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252.442.8363

252.442.6795/Fax

wrightscenter.inc@embarqmail.com/Email

Visit our website at
www.thewrightscenter.com

