

Bishop Battle's remarks spark laughter at Wright's Celebration

Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr., was the keynote speaker at The Wright's Center 27th Gala Celebration. In the past, we've had speakers who would elicit a chuckle or two from the audience. But this year, Bishop Battle had people "rolling in the aisles." **Louise Weeks Coggins**, Wright's Center board of directors chair, said *"this was like a combination Comedy Central and a Sunday morning sermon"* as she wiped tears of laughter from her eyes.

Bishop Battle commended The Wright's Center for the service we provide our community. He stated, *"The Wright's Center staff work with people when they need nourishment, when they are in the twilight of their lives. This ministry gives participants a glimpse of a better day."*

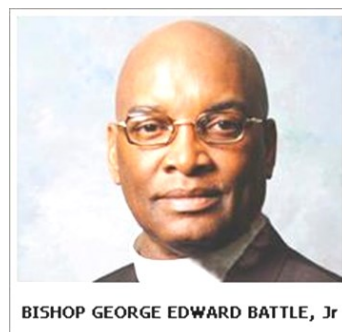
Janie Huff, whose husband, Robert, is a veteran and attends the Center, and **Celia Smith**, a participant for the past twenty-four years, both gave moving testimonials about the benefits of the Center.

Our Silent and Live Auctions were a big hit. As usual, **Wooten Lamm** did an outstanding job in getting the audience to bid on items. His participation always enhances our celebration.

If you were unable to attend our celebration but would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to help us meet our goal, please make your check out and mail to The Wright's Center, 513 W. Raleigh Boulevard, Rocky Mount, NC 27803.

Thank you to all of our sponsors. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

(Quotes pulled from The Rocky Mount Telegram article.)



Dementia and Driving—When the conversation does not go well

Driving demands quick reaction time and fast decision making — because of this a person with Alzheimer's will eventually become unable to drive. Dealing with the issue early on can help ease the transition. Some people give up driving easily, but for others this transition can be very difficult. Be prepared for the person to become angry with you, due to the memory and insight issues that are part of Alzheimer's.



- Be patient and firm. Demonstrate understanding and empathy.
- Acknowledge the pain of this change and appeal to the person's desire to act responsively.
- Ask a respected family authority figure or your attorney to reinforce the message about not driving.
- If the conversation does not go well, do not blame yourself. The disease can impair insight and judgment, making it difficult for people to understand that their driving is no longer safe. Also, the disease can cause mood and personality changes that make reactions more pronounced.
- As a last resort, take away the car keys, disable the car or remove the car completely. When you do any of these things, be sure to provide safe, reliable alternative transportation.

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Would you like to give of your time, wisdom and talents to enhance the lives of frail elders, adults with disabilities and veterans? If so, The Wright's Center is seeking people to serve on our Board of Directors. Contact Doris Howington, executive director, at 252.442.8363 today for more information.

"At the age of 82, my aunt needs a greater amount of external stimulation and social activities that will assist her in being more mentally alert and functional. I'm grateful that the Wright's Center will provide social and mental stimulation for my aunt. Her participation in the program is a great benefit to her well-being and a great help to me."

Annie Burney, Caregiver

Thank you

We deeply appreciate our supporters who have been with us throughout the years and our new advocates. Your backing is an investment in the lives of The Wright's Center participants. We cannot thank you enough for helping to promote our mission!

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CAREGIVERS CORNER

Planning for a vacation?

It's time for summer vacation! Taking a person with Alzheimer's disease on an overnight trip can be challenging, but here are some tips to make it easier:

- Keep your schedule realistic—allow lots of time for each thing you want to do.
- Plan rest periods.
- Follow a routine like the one you use at home. Try to have the person eat, rest, and go to bed at the same time they do at home.
- If the person is prone to wandering, carry a recent photo of them on the trip.



If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip!

HAPPENINGS AT THE CENTER

Wright's Center participants strut their stuff!

Have you ever been judged by your appearance? Apparently **The Wright's Center Fashion Show** participants were, and they received a thumbs up by all spectators! Our fashion show is eagerly anticipated each year. Talk about strutting your stuff – we had some fantastic models parading their Sunday best. Thank you to all participants who shared their finery.

Studies indicate that active and socially involved elders enjoy longer, healthier lives. Our supervised program of activities is designed to benefit frail elders, adults with disabilities and veterans. Following are more highlights of activities held this past quarter.

We celebrated **Mother's Day** with a **Tea Party** and a **Spa Day** for female participants. **Ingrid Hospedales**, our food service coordinator, cooked a special lunch enjoyed by the ladies as well as

our male participants. Okay guys, Father's Day is coming. Get ready!

The Wright's Center staff recently participated in a Community Health Fair sponsored by **Emanuel Chapel Baptist Church**. The event was free to the community and provided free food, clothes, blood pressure screenings and health care information.

Upcoming plans include a carnival and The Wright Price Game Show – our version of The Price Is Right.

The Wright's Center is based on a model of intergenerational helping and community reinvestment and is

committed to serving elders of all races and income levels. If you have a loved one in need of elder care, contact **Doris Howington**, executive director, at 252.442.8363 to set up an appointment to speak with our staff and tour our facility.



Wright's Center participant, Mary (left), enjoys getting a manicure provided by Antoinette Wheeler, The Wright's Center's program director.

\$1000

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

\$500

will provide supplies for arts & crafts, games, activities and bingo prizes.

\$200

will provide special music for a month, 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., 513 W. Raleigh Boulevard, 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, disabled participants and veterans. Following is our Wish List.

- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- Lockable filing cabinets
- Supplies for Arts/Crafts activities
- Paper products (towels, napkins, tissues, cups, plates)
- Carpet for all carpeted areas
- Small trash bags
- Volunteers (Monday through Friday)
- Referrals for enrollment

Thank you for all that you do!

Helping the person with Alzheimer's communicate

People with Alzheimer's and other dementias have more difficulty expressing thoughts and emotions; they also have more trouble understanding others. Here are some ways to help the person with Alzheimer's communicate:

Avoid arguing.

If the person says something you don't agree with, let it be. Arguing usually only makes things worse — often heightening the level of agitation for the person with dementia.

Offer a guess.

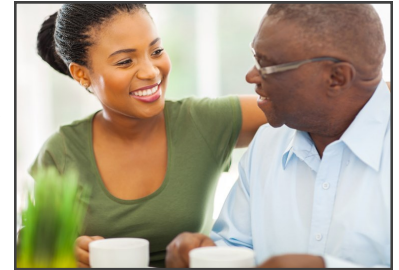
If the person uses the wrong word or cannot find a word, try guessing the right one. If you understand what the person means, you may not need to give the correct word. Be careful not to cause unnecessary frustration.

Encourage unspoken communication.

If you don't understand what is being said, ask the person to point or gesture.

Limit distractions.

Find a place that's quiet. The surroundings should support the person's ability to focus on his or her thoughts.



Visit us at
www.thewrightcenter.com

wrightcenter.inc@embarqmail.com/Email

252.442.8363
252.442.6795/Fax

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