



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

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National Council of Negro Women Celebrates 20th Annual Black Family Reunion

Celebration Inspires Strength and Unity in the Black Community

WASHINGTON – An estimated 500,000 attendees from all backgrounds and ethnicities came together to participate in the 20th Annual Black Family Reunion Celebration on the national mall this past weekend. Organized by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the two-day cultural event celebrated the enduring strengths and values of the black family.

Created in 1986 by Dorothy Height Ph.D., NCNW chair and president emerita, in response to negative publicity about the black family, the Black Family Reunion seeks to unify and engage the community on issues impacting the black family, including education, economic development, health and employment. Each year families gather to celebrate their strengths and to reaffirm the values of the Black community.

“This weekend commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Black Family Reunion Celebration and was a testament to the strength that exists when families join together,” said Dr. Height. “I am honored that the celebration has continued to grow and is now stronger and more multicultural than ever. When families unite—not just Black families but families of all ethnicities and backgrounds—we can begin to identify and solve the issues that influence each of our communities.”

The celebration commenced on Friday September 9th with the inaugural Family First Awards Dinner in which the Winans Family, Alonzo Mourning and The Extrordinary Family of the year were honored. A prayer ceremony led by keynote speaker, Reverend Shirley Caesar kicked-off the weekend festivities which included appearances by B. Smith and Morris Chestnut, performances by Chaka Kahn and the Lissen Band and culminated on Sunday night with a gospel concert featuring Kirk Franklin and Mary Mary .

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Themed pavilions for this year included the Children's Pavilion which featured story telling and animation instruction; Health Pavilion which offered free blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings; the Women's Health and Day Spa Pavilion which held beauty makeover presentations. Other pavilions included the Sports & Fitness Pavilion, Education Pavilion, Fathers, Sons & Brothers Pavilion and the National Council of Negro Women's Family Values Pavilion.

“With the help of volunteers and corporate sponsors the Black Family Reunion Celebration has worked to improve our communities and strengthen family values for the past 20 years,” said NCNW Executive Director Cheryl Cooper. “NCNW is proud to work with such dedicated organizations and would like to thank them and our volunteers for helping to make this year's celebration a success.”

The 2005 Black Family Reunion was free to the public with the help of corporate sponsors including Coca Cola, Freddie Mac, Whirlpool Corporation and many others.

About the National Council of Negro Women

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) is a council of national African American women's organizations and community-based sections. Founded in 1935, the NCNW mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW fulfills this purpose through research, advocacy, and national and community-based services and programs on issues of health, education, and economic empowerment in the United States and Africa.

With its 39 national affiliates and more than 200 sections, NCNW is a 501(c)3 organization with an outreach to nearly four million women. For more information about NCNW, please call (202) 737 0120, or visit www.ncnw.org.

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