

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Council of Negro Women aids community -- Organization restructures, resumes advocacy role

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Mary McLeod Bethune established the **National Council of Negro Women Inc.** , a voluntary, nonprofit membership organization helping women of African descent to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and communities, on Dec. 5, 1935.

Working through advocacy and community-based programming in the United States, Egypt, Senegal and Zimbabwe, the Shelby County Section hit the ground running in 2005.

"Though the years, we have sought to encourage African-American women to unite for personal strength and development," said section president and Whitehaven entrepreneur Cora Harris. "After a hiatus for several years, 2004 was a restructuring year for the organization. We are on the move in this community and we really appreciate all the support the community has given us."

The organization's annual fashion show fund-raiser was the foundation for many projects.

The group recently made a monetary donation to LeMoyne-Owen College (for the NCNW Scholarship Fund), donated uniforms to several area schools and is currently working on the Presidents Ball.

"The Presidents Ball 2005 honors corporate and organization presidents for their dedication and service to the community," said Harris. "This year's event will be held April 30 at 6 p.m. in the ballroom at the Holiday Inn Select Airport on Democrat."

In addition to accepting nominations for the Presidents Ball, the organization is also seeking to increase its membership.

The organization meets every fourth Monday of the month at 6 p.m. and will be meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at the Whitehaven Branch Library, 4120 Millbranch.

For additional information, an application or to join, stop by or call 346-1666 or 785-3414.