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I know that the second half of my life will be better than the first half, and the first half has been pretty good. I've always been a second half basketball player. I might score 4 or 6 points in the first half but I would end up with 25 points at the end of the game. I'm challenging everyone and declaring that the second half of our lives will be much better as long as we continue to put God first.

**Collins:**

I must give you the opportunity to say one final thing. As you mentioned the game of basketball and knowing it is a team sport, share with us the importance of your wife, 1st Lady Sharon Barron, being your teammate in ministry.

**Barron:**

Thank God for my wife of 31 years, who have been co-laboring with me from the beginning of the ministry back in 1983. We have been together for 35 years. We went to the same college and were college sweethearts. We've raised our three children together and have enjoyed the ups and downs of life. We celebrated graduations together and have supported each other in times of funerals putting our loved ones away. We have been through the thick and the thin together. She has stood by me when there were only twelve people in church, sometimes six people and now when there's three hundred in church. When the glory of God comes in, she sits there and smiles.

I thank God for her commitment and support throughout the past 30 years of ministry. Also for the past twelve years of pastoring. She doesn't proclaim to be a preacher. She is not one of those first ladies who are very demanding and looking for attention. She just supports us and prays for us and is there when we need her. I thank God for her life and I am glad to be her husband.

**Collins:**

Higher Ground Temple C.O.G.I.C. is located at 203 Vine Street, Camden, NJ 08102. They can be contacted at 856-283-6114 for information and service times. Elder Ed Barron is a remarkable man that is serious about serving the people of God. Not just lip service but by his actions. I stand by the statement made a few years ago and will add to it, not only is he the fastest growing ministry in Camden city but the fruits of his labor is highly recognized within that neighborhood. The Anointed News Journal congratulates Elder Barron and First Lady Sharon Barron, as our movers-and-shakers for the months. We look forward to celebrating with the folk that will come from far and near to express our love for the Barrons.

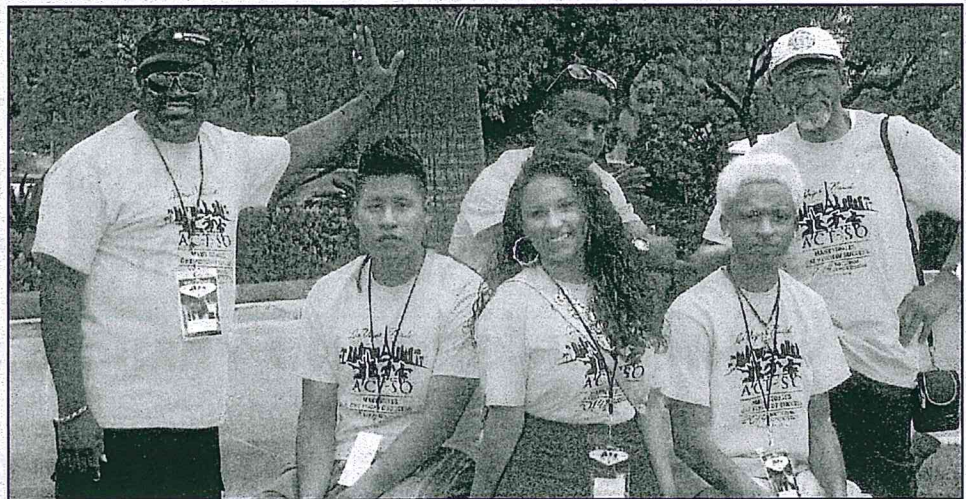
By Chris Collins

## NAACP ACT-SO Camden County Branch Competitors Bring First Gold Medal and Bronze Medal from National Competition In Las Vegas.

The NAACP Camden County Branch boasts of MICHAEL SPEARMAN (17) who won a GOLD MEDAL for "Conversations with my Barber" an original music composition written and composed by the talented Camden resident and TAQUAN ALLEN (18) whose 5 minutes film "WAKE ME UP" wowed the judges to award him a BRONZE MEDAL.

The students were awarded the medals at the 36th Annual ACT-SO Awards Ceremony held Sunday, July 20, 2014 at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada after winning regionally and after a full day of competition at the national competition with over 600 ACT-SO students from around the country.

The competitors were accompanied by Crystal Cosme, who competed in both Vocal Music Classical and Contemporary categories as well as Marco Montiel who competed in Drawing. Kelly Francis President of Camden County NAACP and Arthur Leo Taylor Camden County ACT-SO Chair. All of the students attend Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy,



**Kelly Francis President of Camden County NAACP and Arthur Leo Taylor Camden County ACT-SO Chair with Students from Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy**

a Camden public school.

ACT-SO (Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics) is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The ACT-SO programs is centered in dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders; to serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence among African-American students. There are 27 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, performing arts, visual arts and business. Founded by renowned author and journalist Vernon Jarrett in 1978, the idea of the program is to promote and reward achievers the same way sports heroes are honored.

The New Jersey ACT-SO was initiated in 1989 and the Camden County ACT-SO was founded in 2004 by Branch President Kelly Francis and Camden public school teach Arthur Leo Taylor, Chairperson, ACT-SO alumnus and bronze medal winner in Dramatics from the Washington, DC Branch in 1986.

## Camden County OEO Receives Grant From The Baseball Tomorrow Fund

CAMDEN, NJ – Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity, Inc. (Camden County OEO) announced today that it was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$13,275 from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF). The grant will support the South Jersey Pride Baseball Club (SJPBC) and by providing funding for baseball equipment and uniforms.

This project will provide baseball equipment and uniforms to local young adolescents who play America's pastime, baseball. Currently, the players do not have adequate equipment, which can negatively impact their self confidence.

Mr. Arnold Byrd, Executive Director of Camden County OEO said, "We are excited to utilize this generous donation so that the SJPBC can enhance its baseball experience, while continuing to provide a great mentorship program. Camden County OEO and the SJPBC thank the Baseball Tomorrow Fund for awarding this much needed grant."

On behalf of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, we are pleased to support the South Jersey Pride Baseball Club and its efforts to provide more inner-city players the opportunity to play competitive baseball," added Cathy Bradley, Executive Director of the Baseball Tomorrow Fund. "We are happy that this organization is available to the players of Camden and the surrounding communities."

Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity, Inc. is still accepting in-kind and monetary contributions for base-

ball equipment and uniforms. Those interested in donating to the project may contact Ms. Mujiba Parker at (856)-962-6911 x23 or mparker@cccceo.com.

## About the Baseball Tomorrow Fund

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between the Major League Baseball Players Association and Major League Baseball designed to promote the growth of youth baseball and softball throughout the world by awarding grants to support field renovation and construction projects, equipment and uniform purchases, coaches training material and other selected program expenses. Since its formation by the MLBPA and MLB in 1999, BTF has awarded more than 800 grants totaling over \$27 million to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia. BTF also facilitates league-wide clinics. For more information, visit [www.baseballtomorrowfund.com](http://www.baseballtomorrowfund.com) and follow BTF on Facebook, Twitter, and MLBBlogs.

## About Camden County OEO

Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity Inc. is private, non-profit agency dedicated to serving and uplifting economically disadvantaged and moderate income individuals and families in Camden County, New Jersey since 1965. The dual purpose of Camden County OEO is arranging for and providing assistance that gives immediate relief to income-eligible persons in emergency circumstances and providing programs and services that aid individuals to successfully achieve self-sufficiency.

Camden County OEO has many active programs to assist adolescents and young adults such as the SJPBC and the Youth Achievement Program. Both of these programs enlist the guidance and mentorship of youth in an effort to assist them in their academic, socially, and professional goals. For more information visit [www.camdencountyofo.com](http://www.camdencountyofo.com) and follow the agency on Facebook and Twitter

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