

Supporting Legacy Leadership

Fundraiser for U.S. Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.



Left to Right - Regina G. Jackson, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., and Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris

By Kevin L. Nichols

Oakland, Calif. - On January 7, 2006, Attorney Robert L. Harris and Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris opened their home for an intimate gathering of other prominent and professional African Americans and youth in honor of U.S. Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. Their mission was to raise money for Mr. Jackson's re-election campaign and to inspire the attendees in general, while specifically focusing on the youth. Both missions were overwhelmingly accomplished.

This event generated \$25,000 towards Congressman Jackson's campaign. Equally as important, is the life changing impact his words had on the youth that participated. His words were so motivating that it inspired 17-year-old Landon Hill to write an essay. (See side bar)

Two organizers of the event, Regina G. Jackson, Executive Director of the East Oakland Youth Development Center, and Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris, Immediate Past President of the Sinkler-Miller Medical Association, shares their thoughts about the gathering. "The most inspirational message that rang true to me was the exceptional need to do more to support our public servants; not just local and statewide but those representing our country," says Jackson. "We must create more opportunities to financially support and volunteer for those who are on the front lines fighting to protect our rights and preserve our freedoms. After all, Congresswoman Barbara Lee is the only one who stood up against the war. She

received death threats and a host of other unmentionables. Given where we are today, she saw the future on our behalf. We should do more to support her."

Dr. Newell-Harris states, "It was inspirational to see a young black male in such a prominent position of national leadership who possesses the uncanny ability to articulate the issues nationally and internationally with animation, enthusiasm and with no notes. To be sure, this example of exemplary leadership and public speaking motivated all who were in attendance and especially the youth who were given an opportunity to have a private session with the Congressman." She continues, "Many of us were motivated to increase our giving to public servants as well as to create new revenue streams within our own communities for our elected officials who are serving in Washington on our behalf. We were further motivated to budget for campaign giving and to remember that we as African Americans must make a special effort to support our own African American representatives in a big way. We need to feel good about writing checks in the thousands for Congressmen and women that we support."

Kevin L. Nichols is President and CEO of KLN Publishing, LLC located in San Francisco. He is also a section editor for CityFlight Newsmagazine

My Experience with Congressman Jackson

By Landon Hill

I had an excellent experience meeting Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. He is a really intelligent man with a lot of things to say and many goals that he wants to accomplish. He talked to us very fluently and with great ease. From what I could tell, none of it was practiced at all. He was just simply speaking his mind. This became

even more true when we began to ask him questions because he spoke with the same ease after we asked him questions that he did while he was simply speaking to us. That was the very first thing that struck me about him while he was talking. I, along with all the other youth, was told that he spoke very well, but I was still amazed.



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. and Landon Hill

"His perspectives and ideas were unbelievable. He explained things in a way that I have never heard before." - Landon Hill, 17-year-old student at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland.

He spoke to us (about 10 youth, mostly males) about a couple of different topics. He was with us for about 15 minutes and the first thing he told us about was the history of African Americans. I was amazed at how easily it came to him. He explained that he was very serious about his African American history and that he wished that everybody was able to recite the history just as he had for us. While I had learned about a lot of the things he mentioned, I was still fascinated by how simple he made it sound. Of course he didn't mention every little detail, but even just the general events that we heard about seemed so much simpler than ever before.

The second thing he spoke to us about was the 10th amendment. It states that if a right is not specifically mentioned in the Constitution, then it is not a human right, but a state right. Therefore, things such as health care, education, and even the environment are all state rights. Even slavery was a state right until the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments (this was one of the reasons the slave states were able to break away from the union). The only way for these to become human rights is if amendments are created to make them human rights. That is the way slavery got overturned and why blacks are extremely unique. We are the only people that could take a state right such as slavery and make it so that it is illegal for anybody in the country to become a slave any more.

His perspectives and ideas were unbelievable. He explained things in a way that I have never heard before. Our government and history classes would never explain anything in the way that he did. And while he spoke very fluently and used "big words," we were still able to understand everything that he was saying and it made sense. He broke down to us without us having any notebooks or semester long courses. All it took was 30 minutes and he changed the way we viewed things such as state rights. I think everybody was moved and learned something from Congressman Jackson. He was a very fascinating person and I'm glad I got the opportunity to meet him.