

She Matters Conference/Expo a Big Success

On May 16, 2009, Owings Mills New Town High School was transformed into a mega resource center for girls. She Matters, a forum created to address issues unique to girls professionally, emotionally, physically and socially, held its annual Empowerment Conference and Expo. The days agenda included workshops for girls on such topics as gang awareness, internet safety, and public speaking techniques. There were also workshops for adults on such topics as financial planning, organizational tips, and starting your own business.

Keynote speakers were Adrienne Watson Carver (Mrs. Maryland International 2009) and motivational speaker, Kemba Smith. Special distinguished guests included Allison Seymour, Host Anchor at Fox 5, Dr. Karen Bethea, Pastor and author, Kasey Staniszewski, Miss Teen Maryland USA, the Jaguars Cheerleaders and singer, Alisha Frier.

The event featured a variety show, book-signings, a fashion show, shopping with vendors, lunch, and an awards ceremony.

Ten deserving attendees received special awards. They were: Candace Green and Da'Zia Morant (Athletic



Workshops and information on gang awareness.

Awards), Alexaundria D. Leonard and Elyse Elizabeth Preston (Academic Awards), Imani Dawson and Kimberly Moore (Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards), Jazmin Seymour Carter and Tamara Olive (Community Service Awards, and Amanda Leonard and Kati Hoffman (Achievement Awards). She Matters Committee Chairs were Dawn Davis, Yolanda Sonnier, and Kendra Jolivet.

The Conference/Expo achieved its goal of empowering every girl to embrace life, face challenges, pursue her dreams, and fulfill her destiny.

She Matters is inviting you to make a donation towards the organization and towards next year's conference. For information, visit www.shematterstoo.com or call 410-235-2119.



Grandmothers share the day with their girls.



Young attendees were enjoying the many workshops.



Sidney Rosebrough, age 11, is a young entrepreneur with Taylor's Calendars.



Fun classes on T-shirt design.



Chanel Crowder and Katrina Lane man the information booth.



Four of over 100 She Matters volunteer



Ann Quasman teaches workshop on self-esteem



Benjamin Sanders (Homespun), shea butter, handmade jewelry and fabrics