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HEALTH FAIR AT SADIE G. MAYS DRAWS “SENSATIONAL” SENIORS!



Dr. Ricardo Anderson shares spinal health info with an attendee; Dancers from Helene Mills Sr. Center dazzle audience; Koy Mitchell and Carol Eskew of Kaiser Permanente pose beside sponsor sign at health fair. Photos by S. H. Coleman.

Atlanta - Despite the rainy weather, over 150 people came to participate in the 21st Annual Community Health Fair at Sadie G. Mays Health & Rehabilitation Center on Wed., May 16. Terry Preston, a service provider from Halcyon Hospice, called it “...a great turnout of sensational seniors!” Nearly 100 seniors from high-rises and senior centers made their way to the 206-bed, skilled nursing facility in NW Atlanta to take advantage of the free health screenings and a great line-up of entertainment. Almost 30 service providers offered important health screenings, including bone density tests, vision, hearing, and blood glucose, among others. The health fair was held in honor of National Skilled Nursing Care Week with the theme, “Celebrating Life’s Stories!” In conjunction with this theme, Cynthia Watts, the celebrated storyteller and American Griot, was a featured performer.

“The annual health fair is our way of thanking our community of supporters,” said Charles Robinson, Jr., President and CEO of the non-profit, skilled nursing facility. The award-winning facility was founded by Sadie Gray Mays, social worker and wife of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, and is celebrating 71 years in operation. The Sadie G. Mays Center provides skilled nursing and rehabilitative services such as physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy, on a short-term and long-term basis, as well as respite care and hospice care.

Continued, p. 2



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“We are grateful to our sponsors and contributors who made it possible for us to provide this free event to the public,” Robinson continued. This year’s sponsors were Citizens Trust Bank, Sysco Foods Atlanta, Corporate Insurance Advisors, Kaiser Permanente, Georgia Long Term Care & Consultants, Georgia Power, Darryl Allen’s Plus, JenCare, B & S Pest Control, Felder’s Photography Studio, First Class Transportation, Anonymous, Fortner Communications, Steve Tran, M.D., Mark Dickinson, O.D., PUBLIX, LongHorn Steakhouse (Camp Creek), and Starbuck’s (Cascade).

An assortment of service providers offered valuable health screenings and information. They included: AARP, Academy of CPR, Aquatic Occupational & Physical Therapy, ARC Area Agency on Aging, Avon Foundation, Center for Diabetic Hearing, Council on Aging, Diabetes Assoc. of Atlanta, Eye Specialists of Georgia, Georgia Cares, Georgia Center of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Halcyon Hospice, Healing Community Center, Homestead Hospice, Humana, Inc., JenCare, Kaiser Senior Advantage, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Morehouse School of Medicine – Epilepsy Program, National Black Men’s Health Network, New York Life Insurance, Oasis at Scholars Landing, Odyssey Family Counseling Center, Options for Senior America - Atlanta, Sparlin Healthcare, Spine Align Center, Visiting Nurse Health System, and Wellstar Community Education & Outreach.

The health fair participants enjoyed listening to stories and songs, and dancing and exercising to the music. In addition to the storyteller, outstanding entertainment was provided by the Griot Arts Center, featuring D.J., Barake and vocalist, Najuma Mulefu; Energy Fitness Trainer, John Lewis; and the Urban Line Dancers of Helene Mills Senior Center.

Volunteers from Georgia State University, Hands On Atlanta and the National Women of Achievement Inc. – Midtown Chapter helped the event to run smoothly. Sadie G. Mays thanks all of the participants! For more information, visit www.sgmays.org.

