

December 8, 2009

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For Immediate Release

**THE CITY OF FIRSTS CELEBRATES THE NATION'S OLDEST AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ESTABLISHED CHILD WELFARE AGENCY**
90 YEARS OF SERVICE AND STILL GOING STRONG

PHILADELPHIA, PA – On Thursday, December 3, 2009, Women's Christian Alliance (WCA) hosted more than 200 civic, corporate and community leaders, foster parents, former staff and alumni at its **90 in 09 Anniversary Dinner** at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia Penn's Landing. This milestone event highlighted the rich history and legacy of Philadelphia's own Women's Christian Alliance.

According to Wanda Mial, WCA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), "As you heard tonight, in 1919, WCA was born out of the vision of Dr. Melissa Coppin and a group of extraordinary women who believed in the power of community, the import of family, and the possibility of building quality futures for kids. Together, they formed an alliance that created supports and opportunities for children and families.

"I promise all of you that WCA is marching forward and that we are still strongly committed to these core principles: Children belong in families; families need strong communities to support them in raising healthy kids with a productive future; and, public systems can't deliver the quality outcomes that we all want for kids with out strong partnerships with communities. Our key goals for 2009 and 2010 involve a strong focus on:

- early childhood development
- youth led and supported programming
- and building, strengthening and enhancing our civic partnerships

We are looking to all of you to help us to grow and stay strong for another 90 years. WCA needs your help...but more importantly, our families need your help. Please feel free to visit our website or call us to get involved," said Mial.

“As Chairman of the Host Committee for this monumental event, I have gained insight into the need for the preservation of the family in our communities,” stated Harold T. Epps, president and chief executive officer of PRWT Services, Inc. “WCA has not only stood the test of time through challenges and social changes, but the agency is also on the forefront of providing services and activities that ensure the stability and permanence for children and families. PRWT is indeed privileged to have formed a partnership with WCA and salutes the organization for its perseverance and integrity.”

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reverend Dr. Kevin Johnson** of Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia gave the keynote
- Department of Human Services Commissioner, **Anne Marie Ambrose** gave remarks on behalf of Mayor Nutter
- Eighty-one year old Daisy Gunby accepted the “**Distinguished Foster Parent**” award for 19 years of providing foster care for WCA children.
- WURD AM Radio Host **Thera Martin-Connelly** emceed the event and committed to broadcasting from WCA during Black History Month in February 2010.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009

Time: **6:00 PM – 9:00PM**
Reception 6:00PM – 7:00PM
Program from 7:45PM – 9:00PM

Host(s): Women’s Christian Alliance and PRWT Services, Inc.

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Founded in 1919 by Dr. Melissa Coppin – one of only 20 female African-American physicians in the country – The Women’s Christian Alliance (WCA) is a non-sectarian, nonprofit multi-service agency that provides resources and support to more than 5,000 children and families in and around North Central Philadelphia annually. For 90 years, WCA has worked to create positive social, educational and economic transformation in its community and beyond. WCA’s current priority areas of focus include providing helpful resources for families, recruiting parents for foster care and developing community and corporate partnerships. WCA is a regional organization that is licensed to provide adoption services throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.wcafamily.org.