

Honoring HIPPY Alabama's Heroes



2008



2008 HIPPIY Heroes

Margaret Bentley



Mrs. Bentley served on the HIPPY Board successfully obtaining contributions from Alabama Power Foundation for trainings in Dallas County and Wetumpka. As Co-Chair of Governor Riley's Black Belt Action Commission, Mrs. Bentley helped facilitate a meeting School Superintendents in the Black Belt with HIPPY...to learn more about the program. All the Superintendents endorsed it and we began work to start programs in their communities! Mrs. Bentley also met with BBAC Co-Chair, Senator Hank Sanders to encourage support for HIPPY.

Mary Briers



Mary Briers is a distinguished educator who now serves on The Montgomery School Board. In 2008, Mrs. Briers was the Chairman of the Montgomery Board of Education and provided strong, fair, and visionary leadership. Because she understands all aspects of school, she is committed to seeing to it that children from poverty stricken areas have a chance to excel because they are prepared. Mary understands HIPPY does this, and she makes sure that HIPPY survives.

Charlie Colvin



Charlie Colvin has been an active HIPPY supporter since 1993 when HIPPY began in Montgomery in 1993. He has diligently worked to include the program in regional and state initiatives that serve families. When the HIPPY State Office opened in 2004, Charlie took an active role in guiding and helping the program expand statewide. He is always on board to make a positive difference for children.

Connie Colvin



Connie Colvin's commitment to creating a HIPPY mascot for Alabama made big things happen. She named the mascot, Hippy P. Potamus, got funding donated for the costume, sewed beautiful tablecloths for the statewide Art Show and Award Presentations held at the capitol, and worked tirelessly to make the event a success. Connie's involvement with HIPPY goes way back to when there was a HIPPY Program at Cedar Park and she worked to get a playground established for the children there. Connie cares and HIPPY is fortunate to have her as one of its heroes.

The Honorable Sue Bell Cobb



Judge Sue Bell Cobb has worked tirelessly to expand HIPPY statewide. She is responsible for getting the community energized in Monroeville to start a HIPPY Program, and she was instrumental to the program starting in Evergreen, her home town. Additionally, she speaks often about her belief in HIPPY, and her advocacy is a big part of HIPPY's growth.

Ryan Cole



Ryan is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®) for A.G. Edwards & Sons here in Montgomery. As a former educator, Ryan remains a lifelong advocate for birth to five educations and an active HIPPY Board Member. Through the Black Belt Action Commission and Rural Action Commission Ryan worked as Rural Education Adviser to Governor Bob Riley and assisted with the expansion of HIPPY in this administration.

Sam Covert



I was introduced to HIPPY sometime in 2005 in Monroeville while serving on the Monroe County Education Foundation. I was active with the committee to bring HIPPY to Monroe County. Upon returning to Mobile in 2007 I became involved with the Advisory Board for Mobile County and now serve as chairman. I am also currently serving as the Chairman of the State Advisory Board for HIPPY.

Dr. John Dilworth



Dr. John Dilworth was a big supporter of the HIPPY Program during his tenure as Superintendent of Montgomery. He worked to preserve the program during trying fiscal times.

Dr. Vivian Figures



Senator Vivian Figures is well known for her belief that children matter, and she has directed funding to the Mobile HIPPY Program for innovative summer programming for at-risk children as well as helping sustain and expand HIPPY Programs statewide. She champions the program each year in the Alabama legislature.

Judy Graham



As a Business Office Manager for Alabama Power in Clarke County, Judy was the organizer for HIPPY Clarke County in 2008. Upon moving to Baldwin County, she made a presentation about HIPPY for Leadership Baldwin. The concept was adopted as a project by Leadership Baldwin participant, Kevin Cook. HIPPY Baldwin began a pilot project this year by partnering with Escambia County HIPPY. In addition, Judy serves on the Mobile HIPPY advisory board. She was instrumental in forming a partnership between Mobile HIPPY and the Junior League of Mobile. Through a Junior League project, Mobile HIPPY children will be the recipient of books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

John Heard



John Heard was determined to do all he could as a Superintendent in the Black Belt to move his county forward. He saw what HIPPY could achieve for his rural and underserved area, and he went to work to get funding and support to begin a HIPPY Program in Perry County. Due to his support and leadership, Perry County's HIPPY Program began in 2007. Way to go, Mr. Heard!

Robert Lane



Robert Lane was highly instrumental in finding a lead agency in Lowndes County that would give the newly emerging HIPPY Program the fiscal and programmatic support it needed. Mr. Lane was the chairman of The Lowndes County Board of Education, and he saw to it that the school system took the program. Mr. Lane also volunteered to serve as the first chairman of the Lowndes County Advisory Board and in this role, he led the program to success.

Larry Lee



As the Director for *The Center for Rural Alabama*, Mr. Lee spends 100% of his time dealing with rural communities around the state. One of the things they are extremely interested in is rural education. That's why they spent most of the last year working on a project about 10 outstanding rural schools which they called *Lessons Learned from Rural Schools*. HIPPY is a tremendous program for rural areas where both parents and children benefit in many ways from their HIPPY experience.

Dr. Joe Morton



Dr. Joe Morton, Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education, is a HIPPY Hero because three years ago, he put HIPPY in the Education budget. Thanks to his leadership, HIPPY became a line item in 2007. Additionally, he had made the many services of the state department available for training, grant management, inclusion in STI, etc. His support is invaluable.

Quinton Ross



Senator Ross is serving his second term in the Alabama Senate. He is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law. He is the Director of the Adult Education Consortium of H. Trenholm State Technical College. He is married to J. Kelley Ross and they have two sons, Quinmari T. Ross and Quinton T. Ross, III. Senator Ross is a member of Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Senator Hank Sanders



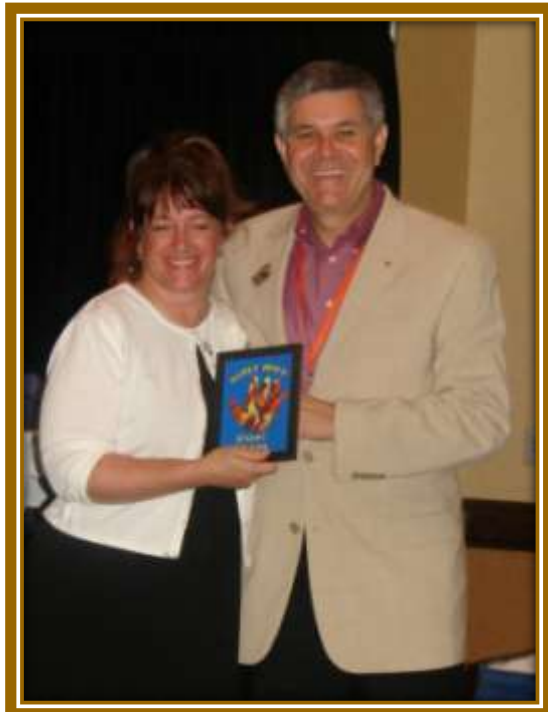
Senator Sanders is serving his seventh term in the Senate. He graduated from Talladega College and Harvard Law School. Senator Sanders and his wife Rose, are the parents of three children by birth: Malika, Kindaka and Ainka, and four children by foster hood: Charles, Maurice, Rosie and Jennifer. Senator Hank Sanders has fought tirelessly for Alabama's children.

Diane Weil



When Mrs. Weil found out about HIPPY through National NCJW (*National Council of Jewish Women*), she thought it would be a fabulous program for Montgomery and when she heard about *Success By 6*, knew it was time to really push for it! Their section got on board going through the steps required by HIPPY USA, meeting with Thomas Bobo and Roslyn King. Mrs. Weil was asked to be the HIPPY Advisory Board Chairman when it started in 1993 and has continued to serve in that capacity. Mrs. Weil says that she is always available if needed by hippy and is incredibly proud of this program. "I know it changes lives and builds stronger families - great for the family and the community!" states Mrs. Weil.

Sheri Wilson



Sherri Wilson is the Director of Alabama PIRC, and she is the grant writer that sees to it that Alabama PIRC gets funded annually. She tirelessly promotes HIPPY through her training workshops as well as her PR work with Alabama PTA. Sherri makes things happen through her tireless energy and boundless optimism.

Jeana Winter



ALABAMA PARENT
EDUCATION CENTER

(Sorry, no picture available.)

Jeana Winter is the Executive Director of The Alabama Parent Center, and she is instrumental in providing 95% of the funds for the HIPPY Alabama State Office through the PIRC Grant. Thanks to her belief in HIPPY, the program has grown by leaps and bounds every year since 2004. If there is a HIPPY need, Jeana will try to fill it!