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CQCA BEAUTILLION MILITAIRE TURNS 20

BY BRENDA C. MCCASKILL (BRENDA@ABOUTGREATERCINNATI.COM)
PHOTO PROVIDED

Twenty years ago, a local group set out on a journey to inspire and positively impact the lives of Greater Cincinnati African American high school males. Today, "Preparing Our Sons for Manhood", the heartbeat of this endeavor, and dedication continue to be the mainstay of the program's success. The Beautillion Militaire, a program of the Cincinnati Queen City Alumnae (CQCA) Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., turns 20 and continues its tradition of outreach to young African American males. "To see a young man grow and mature before your eyes is the greatest reward," says Myra Freed, Beautillion Militaire 2010 co-chair.

What has made the program a success over the last two decades? Results. Positive, upbeat, and rewarding in its mission, the Beautillion Militaire is a signature CQCA chapter program that makes a difference in the lives of area young men. Over the past twenty years, 254 young men have participated in the program which is focused on aiding young men to realize their potential as they embark on their next step into manhood – graduation from high school and preparing for life.

Young men have participated in the five month program's unique and exceptional courses designed to promote the educational and personal development of African-American, high school junior and senior males. Throughout the program, the young men interact with adult mentors and are exposed to monthly workshops/activities including career choices/life choices, interviewing skills/resume writing, community service, bonding activities, male health and wellness, college life, relationships, spirituality, and financial matters.

In addition to the many developmental workshops, participants compete for scholarships and awards. The program



Beautillion Militaire participants engage in community service during the five month program. This year, a service project was unloading an 18 wheeler semi truck full of food at the Avondale Food Pantry.

The beaux and mentors pictured at the Avondale Food Pantry are: (center front) Myra Freed (co-chair); (left to right middle row) Erica Johnson (co-chair), Jared Smith, Kaleb Edwards, Ira Thompson, Keith Mitchell (mentor); (left to right back row): Marcus Merritt, Todd Legette, Jr., Anthony Clark, William Moses;

culminates with a formal gala at which the young men, dressed in top hats, tuxedos, gloves, and canes, are presented to well wishers and supporters. Scholarships are awarded. Since inception, the Beautillion Militaire has given over \$250,000 in scholarships and awards.

Representing high schools across Greater Cincinnati, there are 13 young men participating in the 2010 Beautillion Militaire: Marcus Battle (St. Xavier High School), Anthony Clark (Seven Hills High School), Eric Cash (School of Creative and Performing Arts), Ruben Duffie (Walnut Hills High School), Kaleb Edwards (Walnut Hills High School), Christopher Gilvens (Fairfield High School), Taylor Hackworth (Cincinnati Country Day), Todd Legette, Jr. (Cincinnati Country Day), Matthew Mack (Cincinnati Country Day), Marcus Merritt (Walnut Hills High School), William Moses (Walnut Hills High School), Jared Smith (Walnut Hills High School), and Ira Thompson (Taft High School). Mentors for the Beautillion Militaire 2010 are Robert Caldwell, Keith Mitchell (past beau), Roderick Tooson, Hayward Pierce, General Freed, and Lawrence Wil-

liams, II (past Beau). Beautillion Militaire 2010 co-chairs are Myra Freed and Erica Johnson.

The 2010 Beautillion Militaire gala, the program's culminating event, caps off the five months of hardwork, dedication, and perseverance. The culminating gala, a stellar evening of the presentation of the 2010 Beaux, dinner, and celebration, is set to a backdrop of after five attire and exuberant anticipation of beaux potential.

This year, the formal culminating event will be held on April 10, 2010 at the Oasis Golf Club and Conference Center in Loveland, Ohio. Tickets are \$45. In addition to purchasing gala tickets, businesses and/or individuals can support scholarships and awards by also purchasing an ad(s) in the commemorative souvenir book.

The CQCA Beautillion Militaire is a gem that has shined for the past twenty years. A common sentiment among those who have participated, "I'm glad I did it!"

For more information, purchase tickets, or place an ad, contact Myra Freed, co-chairperson, at 513-846-0731.

Got a story idea? Send an email to Brenda@aboutgreatercincinnati.com.