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* Deceased

Continental Societies, Incorporated

Office of the National Meetings Chairperson
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CONTINENTAL SOCIETIES, INCORPORATED *57th Annual Conclave Dallas, Tx*

-Leadership Training for Local Youths, Philanthropic Support & Town Hall Meeting for Organizations Serving Children-

June 26 - 30, 2013....Annual conferences are often closed events – three-or-four-day gatherings that allow professional, service and social groups to come together to review goals, planning and strategies. However, when the members of The Continental Societies, Inc. (CSI), whose organization's focus is on better serving children, convened for their 57th Annual Conclave, In Frisco, TX, they invited the community in; providing leadership training for local high school and middle school students and philanthropic support for children in need.

Founded in 1956, the Continental Societies is a non-profit public service organization that empowers children by providing them with access to opportunities that will assist them in realizing their potential. With 46 chapters in 20 states in the Continental USA, District of Columbia and Bermuda, its membership volunteers and supports programs that engage and serve children in the areas of health, education, employment, recreation and the arts and humanities. Over the past five years, the organization has reached more than one million children.

Leadership to Local Youth

- Nearly 30 Dallas-area high school girls participated in the Conclave's Leadership Institute which featured nationally acclaimed economist, educator, commentator and syndicated columnist Dr. Julianne Malveaux, and Kaplan Mobray, the noted career coach, author and motivational speaker. In an inter-generational workshop, the students joined CSI members in identifying and understanding the qualities of leadership that accelerate their personal and professional achievement.

- Young men from the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy in Dallas served as host and greeted guest at CSI HEER Program Awards Luncheon. This annual awards luncheon which focuses on chapter program excellence in Health, Employment, Education, Recreation (HEER) plus Arts and Humanities.

Town Hall Meeting

- Community organizations serving children participated in a Town Hall Meeting where representatives from Junior Achievement, First Books, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and Center for the Arts Education shared their best practices for working with and inspiring children, including opportunities on how to collaborate with their organizations on local and national levels.

Philanthropic Support

- In keeping with tradition, Continental Societies members will bring new children's shoes, socks and underwear to the Conclave, which the Dallas chapter will donate to child-centered organizations in Texas and tornado-torn Oklahoma (*CK*). Over the past *five-years*, this initiative has provided *over 7,000 pairs of items* for children in need. This year, the Continentals will launch its National Backpack Campaign where chapters will provide school supplies in thousands of backpacks, provided by national corporate partner Colgate-Palmolive Company, which will distributed free of charge to at-risk children across the United States.

“The Continental Societies, Inc. is a service organization, and whatever we do, and wherever we go, it is essential that we positively impact the lives of children,” explained Florence Blount, DBA, the organization's national president. “Our meeting in Dallas, was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with schools, organizations and individuals who are working in the local community while our membership was able to add value and make a difference.”

To learn more about the Continental Societies, Inc., please visit the organization's website www.continentalsocietiesinc.org.