



Theresa Walker
Senior of the Year Award



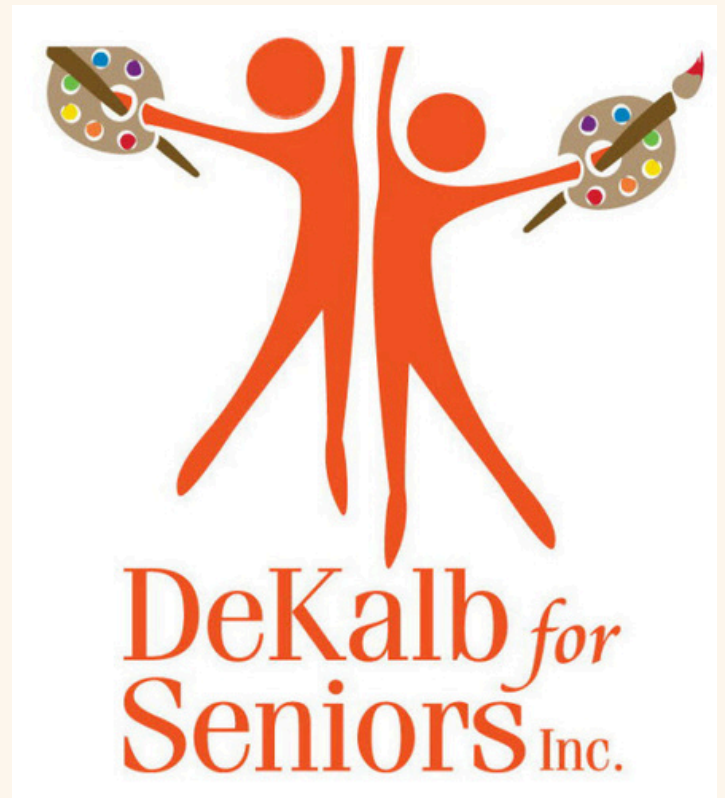
Saturday November 2, 20024

Lou Walker Senior Center

2538 Panola Rd. Lithonia, GA 30058

Welcome

Welcome to the Theresa Walker Senior of the Year Awards Luncheon. DeKalb for Seniors is proud to celebrate the nominees at this year's luncheon by honoring influential Seniors who are community-builders in DeKalb County.



Now in its 21st year, DeKalb For Seniors, Inc. serves as the fundraising arm of the Lou Walker Senior Center with the aim of assisting the center in fulfilling its mission for seniors in DeKalb County. DFSI is comprised of a volunteer board of directors who provide support and advice to generate necessary resources. Our goal is to advocate for seniors and the center while assisting in programming and funding for items not covered by the center's budget.





Congratulations

to the nominees of the
2024 Theresa Walker
Senior of the Year Award



The Lou Walker Senior Center

You are always welcome at the Lou Walker Senior Center! The Lou Walker Senior Center was created for active older adults who are 55+ and reside in DeKalb County, Georgia

VISION

- To create a senior-friendly community where seniors are valued and respected.
- All sectors of the community come together to meet the needs of seniors.
- Seniors have the opportunity to serve and be served.
- Seniors live healthy lifestyles with a focus on prevention
- The community has easy access to information and services.
- Seniors have access to efficient, coordinated and comprehensive services that enhance their quality of life.

MISSION

The mission of the Lou Walker Senior Center is to maximize independence and enhance the quality of life for the growing number of seniors in the community through serving as a focal point for information and services. To work together to deliver a “world class” program of services with emphasis on integrity, fairness, open communication and accessibility



Donna Dees



November 2, 2024

Congratulations to this amazing group of DeKalb County senior citizens who continue to pave the way for our community through their civic involvement. This year's nominees continue to be an integral part of their communities through their volunteerism, church service and work with various nonprofits and organizations.

Retirement does not seem to be a word that they use and as you will hear, they are just as busy now as they were before retirement. The call to be a servant leader stays with you no matter your age and the work continues as well. Each one of our nominees has served their communities and they continue to not only be a major influencer but a much needed voice and source of wisdom.

This luncheon helps support the center in various events, programs and activities. All of the proceeds come back to the center to support the Caregivers Support Group, various events and activities and many needs that are not covered in their annual budget.

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Theresa Walker Senior of the Year Awards Luncheon. Every year It is so good to come together and fellowship and celebrate and this year is no different. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we appreciate you and look forward to a great celebration.

In service
Donna Dees
President



Theresa Sheridan Walker

Theresa Walker was born Theresa Sheridan on March 19, 1945 in Chicago. She graduated from Tolleston High School in Gary, Indiana where she played the flute in the concert band and participated in several clubs. After attending Ball State University in Indiana and working for a time with Gary Public Schools, she married Louis Walker in 1976 and moved to Atlanta. Together they raised four children: three sons and one daughter.

After working in public relations for a handful of Atlanta businesses, Walker and her husband set out on their own business endeavor. They founded Paragon Productions, a public relations firm, in the late 1980s.

In 1997, she and her husband cofounded the Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce, intent on building connections within the African-American business community. They dabbled in a few other business ventures throughout the years.

The Lou Walker Senior Center, which opened in 2005, was her husband's dream but Theresa Walker made it a reality after his death in 2004. It was her proudest accomplishment. She had long worked to improve the lives of seniors and her advocacy efforts only increased into her retirement and later years.

Mrs. Walker served on the DeKalb For Seniors Board of Directors for several years and was instrumental in many of the major fundraisers and activities. In October of 2013 Mrs. Walker passed away from cancer. In honor of her memory, DeKalb For Seniors renamed the Senior of the Year Silver Awards Gala to the Theresa Walker Senior of the Year Awards Luncheon

Board of Directors

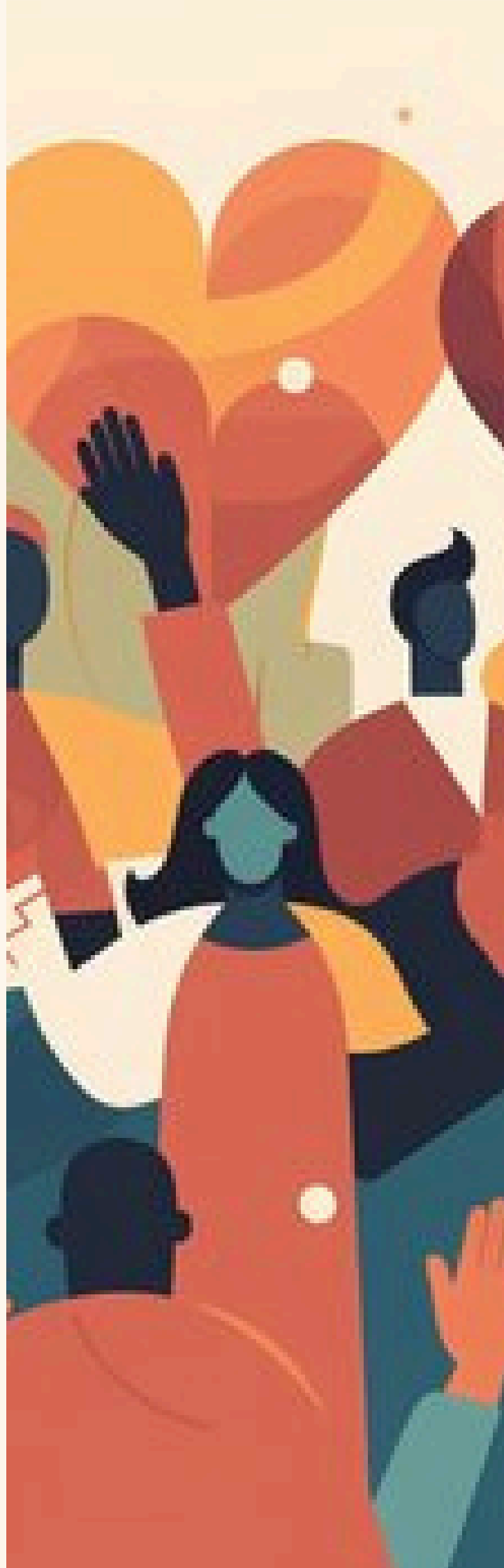
Donna Dees – President
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Renee Cail
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Thomas Powe
Janet Proctor
Constance Talford



In Memory of

Albert Smith
Board Member



DeKalb For Seniors, Inc. honors Board Member Albert Smith who passed away on January 8, 2024. Al was an integral part of the board and was a major donor and supporter of last year's luncheon. There was never a time when Al did not have a smile on his face or a positive and encouraging word for the board and for the work the board was doing. Al is definitely missed as he was not only a devoted board member, but a good person who contributed to his community.



Lou Walker Senior Center
2538 Panola Road
Stonecrest, GA 30058
Direct (770) 322-2900
Fax: (770) 322-2901

"Seniors don't RETIRE, they REFIRE!!!"

www.louwalkercenter.com

October 30, 2024

Dekalb For Seniors, Inc.
2538 Panola Road
Stonecrest, GA 30058

Dear DeKalb For Seniors, Inc:

I want to express my enthusiastic support of DeKalb for Seniors, Inc. (DSFI) and their advocacy efforts for Lou Walker Senior Center (LWSC). This collaborative was built to serve the needs of the seniors of the Lou Walker Senior Center as well as seniors Countywide since its inception.

As an organization whose mission is to maximize the independence and enhance the quality of life for seniors in DeKalb County, LWSC appreciates DSFI activism as our fundraising arm. DSFI was instrumental in the undergirding of the Caregivers Resource Network. Caregivers Resource Network meets monthly and is facilitated by LWSC Social Workers. This program has filled a huge void in our community. It offers an avenue for caregivers to share their experiences, concerns, and feelings with other caregivers. In turn, the indispensable opportunities of seminars, workshops and caregiver conferences, avail a multitude of resources to aid in respite care while providing the caregiver time for self-care.

The altruistic efforts of DSFI help the seniors lessen the burden of caregiving and member needs at the center. These efforts work in tandem with the goal of promoting the quality of life, independence, dignity, and overall health of all DeKalb seniors especially the underserved population.

I fully support the efforts of DeKalb For Seniors, Inc., and look forward to the next phase of our collaborative work as Lou Walker Senior Center turns 20 and refiring by serving seniors in our community.

Sincerely,

Ericia King

Ericia King, LWSC Director



Diamond Miller Lewis

Mistress of Ceremonies



Hired as one of the country's youngest news directors at just 23, Diamond Miller Lewis skillfully transformed a nearly obsolete cable station into a fully programmed, award-winning powerhouse. Her leadership at DeKalb County Television has generated more than 200 national awards beating out major cable stations and network affiliates. Following the win of her first-ever EMMY® Award nomination in 2007, Diamond Miller Lewis has earned more than a dozen additional EMMY® nominations.

Serving as director of DeKalb County's Broadcast & New Media Division, Diamond has worked in TV news for more than 25 years. Her extensive background in journalism includes anchoring and reporting for local TV stations, working for ABC's award-winning newsmagazine program World News Tonight with Peter Jennings in New York, directing and producing various TV commercials, PSA's and diverse media programming in both the Atlanta and New York markets. She proudly uses her passion for media to positively impact lives including her work with Usher Raymond, Chris Tucker, 100 Black Men of America, Inc, Dr. Rashad Richey, Frank Ski and Dr. Jackie Walters.

Diamond earned a Master of Science degree from Columbia University's exclusive and accelerated Graduate School of Journalism and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College where she graduated with honors. She is currently working on her dissertation as she pursues her doctorate degree in Strategic Communications.

From telling the stories of survivors of the 9/11 attacks on this country, to documenting the struggle of young women in their fight against breast cancer, Diamond loves to learn about people. Indeed, she strives to use her passion for news and thirst to learn the stories of all humans to better the world by showing that "most of our differences are cloaked in the shadows of our similarities."

Event Program

Welcome

Opening Prayer

**Introduction of Mistress of
Ceremonies**

**Lou Walker Senior Center
Remarks**

Vocal Pointe

Blessing of Food

Lunch Served

Presentation of Honorees

Vocal Pointe

Senior of the Year Award

Acknowledgments

Closing Prayer



2024 Nominees



Gwendolyn Bonner

Gwendolyn Bonner's professional career was spent with the Federal Government for thirty-one years where she received many promotions, awards and certifications. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French and graduated Magna Cum Laude and was selected to study at University of Sorbonne, France. She also holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Georgia State University.

She has long been committed to volunteerism and has served in many roles at the Lou Walker Senior Center and in the community. She has been a line dance instructor, helped deliver meals to veterans and has volunteered with St. Jude Children's Foundation. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



Rebecca Carter

Ms. Carter is nominated by Rev. Dr. James C. Clements, Pastor of Shy Temple CME Church and their congregation. Under her leadership as the President of their Missionary Society, they developed a One Church One School relationship with Canby Lane Elementary that the church continues to support. Ms. Carter owned Becky's Home Day Care for twenty-six years where she nurtured, trained and helped to personally develop over 130 children. As a nurturer, she has been the caregiver to two brothers and a grandson. Ms. Carter continues to be involved and supports the monthly food distribution at Shy Temple and leads in the care for their homebound and convalescent members.

2024 Nominees



Mildred Cohen

Mrs. Mildred Cohen is an active centenarian and the oldest member to date at the Lou Walker Senior Center. She participates in several classes at the center: Tai Chi, Healthy Cooking, Total Body Stretch and Chair Aerobics. Her motto is, "Keep moving!"

She earned her degree in Elementary Education at Elizabeth City State University, an HBCU known at the time as Elizabeth City State Teachers College for Black Students in North Carolina. Mildred was an elementary school teacher for 38 glorious and productive years molding young minds.

Mildred also took aviation lessons to learn how to fly an airplane and even took scuba diving. Whenever she got the opportunity, Mildred would travel to some foreign country or visit the countryside.

2024 Nominees



Annette Hill

Annette Hill has served the South DeKalb County community since the 1980s. She began in 1982 as a young parent serving as the team mom for the baseball team at Gresham Park.

As an active member of the Spelman College National Alumnae Association, Mrs. Hill has served at varying levels of leadership. She has served at the local, regional, and national levels.

Mrs. Hill serves as a valued volunteer for Spelman College and also serves as an active leader at the Lou Walker Senior Center. She is a servant leader at Salem Bible Church where she has served as an Intercessor since 1998. Mrs. Hill was ordained as a minister in 2019 and an Elder in 2023. She is a wife, mother of two, and grandmother of five.



Karim Murad

Mr. Karim Murad is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He worked as a production manager for TV productions, feature film, and the music industry. Mr. Murad relocated to Georgia in 2001 after the 9/11 and joined the medical industry, serving the senior community and veterans by providing them with healthcare. Mr. Murad also serves as an Ambassador for Co-Age an organization that represents the best interest of our senior population.

Mr. Murad is an exceptional leader at the East DeKalb Senior Center and the Bruce Street Senior Center. Serving as the Site Council President, his unwavering commitment and leadership has guided the council to achieve vital goals, enhancing operations and fostering robust community outreach.

Congratulations!



Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County, GA

*Proud Supporter of
the Lou Walker
Senior Center*

We Celebrate You!



2024

**THERESA WALKER
SENIOR OF THE YEAR**

Senior of the Year!



www.dksuperiorclerk.com

BID WHIST CLUB

Congratulations to all
Senior of Year Nominees



Congratulations



**To ALL
Senior of the Year
Nominees**

**Social Workers - Brenda Colbert,
Sharon Groves, Sharyn Hailey**



*Congratulations
to the*



**Theresa Walker Senior of the Year
2024 Award Nominees**

**“It’s been my plesure serving as the
2023 DeKalb Senior of the Year”**

**Conneva Hall
404-277-8193**

SIATC.org

You did it!
Congratulations



**Seniors In Action Travel Club
Salutes and Congratulates**

**Dekalb For Seniors, Inc For A
Successful Fundraiser**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES!

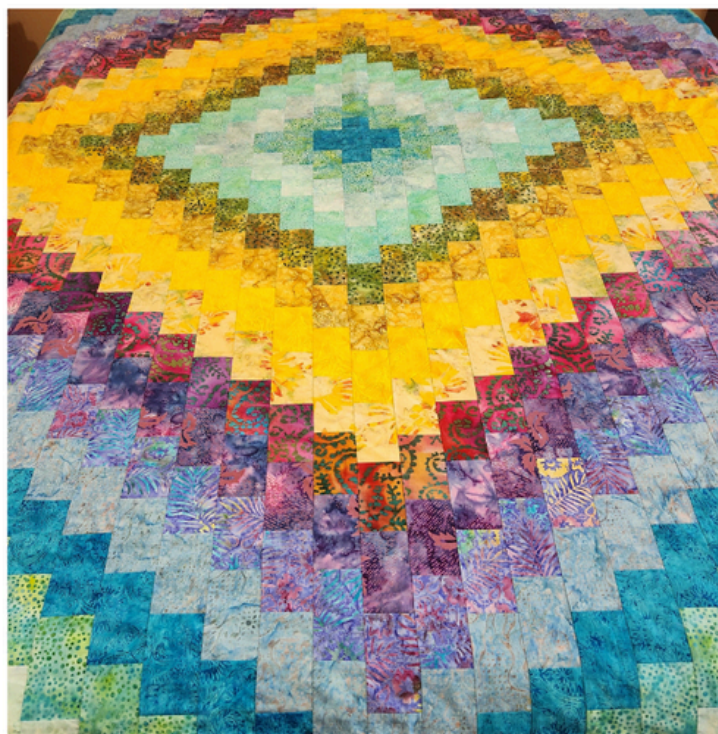
from the
**WARMING HEARTS
QUILTING GUILD**

The Guild **meets on
the 3rd Thursday each
month from 1:00pm to
4:00pm at the Lou
Walker Senior Center**

We are accepting new
members interested in
quilting!

You do not have to be a
member of center to
join our happy band!

President, Marilyn Franklin
404-434-7615





Have you preplanned your funeral or memorial service?

Preplanning is one of the kindest things you can do for your loved ones. Contact me for a free personalized consultation
Donna Dees | 678.982.9805

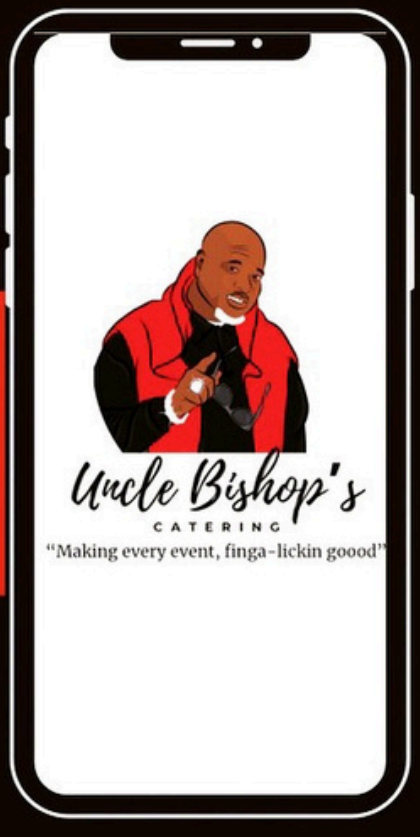


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Bishop's
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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unclebishopscatering@gmail.com

Phone:
470-655-6282



Vocal Pointe



Vocal Pointe is an acapella vocal group under the direction of Jared Duncan who is the Director of Choirs and Vocal Music at the DeKalb School of the Arts.



DeKalb for Seniors

DeKalb For Seniors, Inc. (DFSI), a volunteer Board of Directors with the mission of providing support and advice in order to generate the resources necessary to assist the Lou Walker Senior Center in fulfilling its mission for DeKalb seniors. Their goal is to assist the Center in areas of programming and funding for those items not covered by the center's budget and to be an advocate on issues for the seniors and the center.

Our organization goals:

- To enable seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible;
- To enhance the dignity, independence, and quality of life for seniors;
- To foster interaction among and between seniors and the community.

Some of the ways DFSI has supported the center:

- Payment for programming
- Purchase of Baby Grand piano
- Annual sponsorship of Healthy DeKalb events
- Pay for 20 member scholarships each year
- Sponsorship of annual Volunteer Recognition events
- Transportation for Senior Week at the Capitol and Board of Commissions meetings
- Sponsor events with funding and resources
- Support the Caregiver Support Group and Conference with resources, funds and meals

To date, DFSI has saved the county over \$1 million through volunteer hours, donations, and purchases.



DeKalb for Seniors

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(678) 982-9805

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dekalbforseniors.org

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2538 Panola Road Stonecrest, GA 30058

