

My Sister's Keeper

We'll Always Have Your Back!

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Waldorf, MD

At a Glance

April 29 – The Ladies of MSK will host a Bake Sale at the Walmart in Laurel, Md., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds for the sale will go to our scholarship fund.

May 23 – MSK will host a literacy night at Bright Beginnings Child Care Center in DC. The ladies will give parents tips and tools on how to promote literacy in their homes.

June 3 – MSK will host its first Scholarship Luncheon and Silent Auction at 11 a.m. at the Fort Meade Club. Tickets for this event are \$15 each. MSK is currently accepting donations for the Silent Auction. We are currently looking for sponsors for this event.

Aug. 8 – The ladies of MSK will shine at their Platinum and Ice Party at Le Pearl Ballroom in Capital Heights, Md.. Tickets for this event are \$20 each. Proceeds go to the MSK Scholarship Fund.



The ladies of My Sister's Keeper pose in front of a mural on the wall at the Bright Beginnings Childcare Center in Washington, D.C., March 11. The ladies helped with Spring Cleaning at the center.

Photo by Emmanuel Lassiter

Sisterhood lends hand at local childcare center

By Marcia T. Hart-Wise
MSK President

The Ladies of My Sister's Keeper social club rolled up their sleeves March 11 and flexed their cleaning muscles as a part of Bright Beginnings Child Care Center spring-cleaning event in D.C.

During the day, MSK members cleaned and reorganized seven classrooms the center.

"We try to do the deep cleaning of the classrooms twice a year," said Paula Philips, education coordinator at Bright Beginnings. "It's a big task, and we are grateful for the help the ladies of My Sister's Keeper are providing."

Because of the hectic weekly schedule of the teachers at the center, it is hard for them to get into the nooks and crannies of their spaces daily and reorganize them, said Philips. The effort put forth by the ladies of My Sister's Keeper is truly amazing. This organization is a wonderful group of people, she added.

The mission of MSK is to improve the quality of life for women and children in the Maryland, D.C. and Virginia areas. As part of this effort, MSK has partnered with Bright Beginnings, a facility that helps transitioning young women and their children.

"In 2005, we donated more than \$500 in coats and toys to Bright Beginnings as part of its

winter coat drive and toy drives," said Sharon Lassiter, MSK membership director. "We decided then, this facility was engaging in an outstanding service to young women and children in need, and we wanted to help the organization with this mission. So, we determined we would concentrate most of our efforts to the young women and children who use this facility."

While the spring-cleaning event is the first event MSK is doing with Bright Beginnings this year, it will not be the last. The Ladies of MSK will host a Literacy Dinner for the parents and the children of Bright Beginnings in May. MSK members will perform puppet shows and employ other educational methods that can be used to instruct the young parents in skills that can be used to promote literacy.

MSK members will also host a book drive this spring to help replenish educational books and resources needed to enhance the center's educational program.

"It is important to give the children a sturdy foundation on which to build a lifetime of reading," said Veronica Chaney, MSK treasurer. "We are trying to do that by providing books that will instill in them a love for reading that they will carry with them throughout their lifetimes."

Want to become a member of MSK?

Candidacy for membership into My Sister Keeper is open to all women of high ethical and moral standards who would like to participate in the uplifting of others while promoting self awareness and commitment to excellence.

Those seeking MSK membership are required to be on probationary status for 60 days from the date the application is presented to MSK members



Lisa Slappy
MSK Vice President

Member Spotlight

Lisa is the vice president of My Sister's Keeper. She is an instructor at the Defense Information School and teaches Public Relations, Public Affairs and journalism to military officers from all branches of the armed services and officers from more than 23 countries.

Lisa has a bachelor's degree in Communication and a master's degree in Public Administration. She is a licensed real estate agent in Maryland and retired from the Army after 23 years of service.

Lisa is an adjunct professor at Anne Arundel Community College, where she teaches Public Speaking.

Lisa's philosophy is: Not everyone has a right to speak into your life. You are certain to get the worst of the bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person.

Don't follow anyone who's not going anywhere. With some people you spend an evening; with others, you invest a lifetime of friendship.

My Sister's Keeper Officers

President:
Marcia T. Hart-Wise

Vice President:
Lisa Slappy

Treasurer:
Veronica Chaney

Secretary:
Crystal Jones

Event Coordinator:
Eishaw Meade

Membership Director:
Sharon Lassiter

PR Director:
Tonya Dolloson

Scholarship Director:
LaTosha Green

Historian:
JoAnn Joseph

Fundraising Director:
Marie Rodgers

Web Master:
Cynthia Gaskins



Eishaw Meade, MSK Event Coordinator, receives a Combat Action Badge for her service while deployed to Iraq.

News and Events

Eishaw Meade, MSK Events Coordinator, received a Combat Action Badge March 17 during a ceremony at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md.

Pamela Hart, MSK member, hosted an open house April 8 to display the wonderful addition and the hard work she endured to restore her home in Washington, D.C., to its former luster. Pam's combination of color and stylish, vintage furniture gives the space a warm, inviting feel.

Pamela Hart, MSK member, retired from the U.S. Army during a ceremony April 9 at the Pentagon. Pam dedicated

service of 20 years, in the public affairs field, helped her to achieve the rank of lieutenant colonel. Pam and Cosmo, her beloved canine, will reside in Washington, D.C.

The Ladies of MSK would like to welcome their newest sisters into the MSK family. We would like to thank Marie Rodgers, Akeenya Saunders, Yolonda Meaders, Melva Henry and Tami Reiman for making a commitment to the group and the community.

The Ladies of MSK raised \$248 during their Home Interior candle sale, which ended March 31.



MSK members strike a pose at the Divine Literary Book Tour held in February at Gladys Knight Chicken and Waffles in Largo, Md.

Working in the Community

MSK Vision

MSK is a sisterhood of women who have consciously chosen this group as a means of self-fulfillment through volunteer service, spiritual guidance, academic encouragement and cultural awareness.

MSK encourages high moral and ethical standards and promotes unity and friendship among women of every color. We works to alleviate problems concerning children and women in our community while serving our community as a whole.

About MSK

Colors:
Purple and White

Motto:
We'll Always
Have You're your
Back!

Mascot:
Butterfly

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My Sister's Keeper is hosting a business suit drive during the month of May. Please contact us at info@mysisters-keeper.org if you are interested in donating a gently used or new suit for a male or female. The suits will be used in the MSK back to work program for women and men who are reentering the workforce.

Tickets are now available for the My Sister's Keeper Scholarship Luncheon and Silent Auction. Please contact an MSK member if you would like to attend or to sponsor the event. For more information, please visit the

MSK Web site.

My Sister's Keeper is currently looking for corporate and individual sponsors. Sponsors' logos and Web address will be proudly displayed on the MSK sponsor Web page. For more information about becoming a MSK sponsor, please send and email to sponsor@mysisters-keeper.org.

To have something published in the My Sister's Keeper newsletter, please send your submission to mksnews@mysisters-keepers.org.



Women's History Month

Marcia, Crystal, Amy, Lori, Terrina and Eishaw take time out of their busy schedules to attend the Women's History Month celebration at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md. Eishaw coordinated the event and Terrina sang an original song at the event. **Courtesy Photo**

A special message from My Sister's Keeper President

Can you believe it? It has been just six months and look how our organization has grown. I would have never thought I would be involved with so many positive women who are out to do so many positive things in our communities.

I want to thank you for being my sisters. Know that you are a sisterhood of outstanding women whose dedication, knowledge and compassion is what every man, woman and child needs at one time of another.

You ladies are the wives, daughters, teachers, mothers and sisters who enrich the lives of every one you touch. You are the ones who are there to share in the laughter as well as wipe away the tears.

Marcia T. Hart-Wise
MSK President

