



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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W. H. Adams Foundation Names Village Elders

ATLANTA - In honor of Father's Day the William H. Adams Youth Foundation announces new inductees into the **Circle of Village Elders**. Village Elders are premier contributors who help sustain the Foundation or others who are recognized for outstanding community service that is aligned with the Foundation's mission. The Village Elders concept is based on the African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child".

Today's inductees include Emile and Shari Johnson of Chicago, IL; Mary Ann Brown of Lima, Ohio; Carson Kipfer, Sport Ngin, Inc., Minneapolis, MN; and Alan D. McKnight, retired Director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. The new Village Elders join inaugural member Gregory L. Harris of Los Angeles, CA.

Meet The Village Elders

Gregory Harris is President of Lamont Consulting, a Los Angeles based management consulting firm, a former resident of Columbus and graduate of East High School. Foundation Executive Director Rodney Adams said "Greg is an example of how the sons and daughters of Columbus, who have traveled far and wide, still love their hometown and the communities they grew up in. We appreciate and are thankful for his support". Harris has also agreed to join the Foundation's Advisory Board.

Emile and Shari Johnson of Chicago are recognized for their generous donation to the Foundation in memory of Shari's mother Mrs. Frances Smith and uncle, Mr. Johnny Jones. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Jones resided in the Columbus Shepard neighborhood for over 50 years. Emile Johnson is founder and president of Goode Foods, Inc., a distributor of foods that are low in sugar, low in sodium, low in fats and high in whole grains. Goode Foods was founded on the belief that diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and obesity as can be controlled and eradicated through proper nutrition consumption.

Mary Ann Brown of Lima, Ohio, is a 2015 inductee into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The Ohio Department of Aging celebrates outstanding seniors for their achievements and contributions to others; for the roles they play in their communities, state and nation; and for their work promoting productive and enjoyable lives. Brown is regarded as the "mother of services" for people with developmental disabilities in Allen County. For 60 years she has worked across northwest Ohio to ensure all persons with disabilities are able to live within their community as equal citizens, go to school just like any other child and grow to become contributing citizens.



Carson Kipfer is Co-Founder and Chief Evangelist for Sport Ngin, a Minneapolis based provider of website development services, technology and media platforms focused exclusively on the youth and amateur sports market. Sport Ngin helps organizations manage their operations and better connect with their athletes, volunteers and fans. Foundation Executive Director Rodney Adams uses Sport Ngin products in his role as CIO of a high school football booster club in Marietta, Georgia. In working with Rodney, Kipfer learned of the impact Bill Adams had on the East Columbus community and the formation of the Foundation.

Alan D. McKnight is the former Director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. McKnight retired in May of 2015 with over 38 years of service to the city and eight as the department's leader. McKnight worked closely with Bill Adams who was a member of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission. McKnight lead the effort to rename and dedicate the William H. Adams Community Center at Krumm Park in 2013.

Links to more information about the Village Elders inductees can be found on the website at www.whadamsfoundation.org.

About the Foundation

The William H. Adams Youth Foundation provides programs and opportunities for residents of the East Columbus Community in Education, Health & Wellness, Personal Growth & Responsibility and Community Service. The Foundation will provide financial support for qualifying programs offered by the William H. Adams Community Center, East Columbus Elementary School, the Boy Scouts of America and other organizations that serve the East Columbus neighborhood. The Foundation is a tax exempt, nonprofit association registered with the Ohio Secretary of State and the IRS. Additional information can be found on the website at www.WHAdamsFoundation.org.

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