

ODESSA N. MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

The Odessa N. Merrill scholarship has been established to provide needed education money to African-American students entering college or students needing additional financial aid to remain in college. Students must be entering an accredited four (4) year university or college, students must be willing to donate volunteer hours to Amethyst Center, Inc. or students majoring in all areas of study may apply for this scholarship.

Who is Odessa N. Merrill?

Odessa N. Merrill was a founding board member and an educator who believed that all people have worth in life and no one should be left without the tools that an education can bring. She also knew the special struggles that those who are less fortunate face. It is that spirit that Amethyst Center, Inc. is proud to offer a scholarship that will help individuals needing assistance pursue their education.



WELCOME MS. QUANTRINA SMITH

Quantrina Smith, Odessa N. Merrill New Resident

We are pleased to welcome Quantrina Smith, the newest resident at the Odessa N. Merrill Residence.

Here is what Quantrina says about Amethyst Center:

"I am very grateful to be here and to be around positive people, who are willing to help me to get my life together. I am pleased to be a part of the Music and Art program with the Amethyst Conservatory. The Amethyst Center program has helped me to correct my mistakes and helped me to work on my weaknesses. This for me is a new chapter in my life. It is no longer about my family. This is about me wanting to be independent and be on my own."

SAVE THE DATE

March 19, 2011
12 NOON- 3PM

Tickets \$25.00 (tax deductible)

ODESSA N. MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

CONCERT AND LUNCHEON

ST. MATTHEW'S &
ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
8850 WOODWARD
DETROIT, MI 48202

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CLAUDIA MERRILL
CEO & FOUNDER
AMETHYST CENTER,
INC

Founder's Message

"We do not sit on our Laurels wallowing in accomplishments of the past, we move forward to bigger and better endeavors, while leaving in our path Love, Honor, Compassion and Gratefulness" Claudia Merrill

I hope everyone has had a blessed summer as we look with joy to the coming Fall. Amethyst Center continues to grow in Michigan and Nevada. We have added a Quality Care Training Program, Community Education and Lecture Series.

I am writing a new book that will encompass all the trials and joys of caring for an elderly or disabled family member, whether Mom, Dad, Brother,

Sister, Aunt or Uncle the journey will take you to places you have never been.

I am so excited to be taking on this endeavor because I know that it will benefit so many people who are now and in the future may be faced with the responsibility of caring for and making decisions for parents, family members. We are truly in the age of living longer.

Amethyst Center is a strong force in this area of living better and living your best life right in your own home.

While we are caregiving we are also helping others with disabilities across the country. In March, Board member Ola Lawyer and myself participated in the Best Buddies Walk for persons with disabilities in Jacksonville, FL. this was an enriching experience as well as an opportunity for Amethyst Center to lend a hand in helping promote programs that support persons with disabilities. We keep moving forward. In July, The Amethyst Center board began planning for the Odessa N. Merrill scholarship and fund raiser. There were two events. Our first was held September 26, 2010 at Sacred Heart Church, this fundraiser was a huge success! In 2011 there are two events planned: March 19, 2011 concert and luncheon and May 7, 2011 at St. Matthews & St. Josephs Episcopal Church. We will keep you posted.

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should be left without the tools that an education can bring. She also knew the special struggles that those who are less fortunate face. It is in that spirit that Amethyst Center is proud to offer a scholarship that will help individuals needing assistance pursue their education.

What else are we doing?

In May I along with board member Mark Merrill presented a series in home care services to the nursing and physician staff at the Children's Heart Center of Nevada.

In August, An in-service for Social Work and nursing staff at Sunrise Hospital and the Dialysis Center of Summerlin in Las Vegas, NV. In September our board members Mark Merrill, Vice President, Andre Robinson and a group of our customers began working on an informational DVD which will be used

throughout the country in our presentations to perspective customers, hospitals, schools, and community based organizations.

In October Mark Merrill and I presented to the American Heart Association Mended Hearts Chapter.

We are not sitting on our Laurels. We are moving forward and leaving in our path Love, Compassion, Honor, and Gratefulness.

We are proud to serve.

Blessings To You All,

Claudia Merrill
CEO and Founder

AMETHYST CENTER INC. CONSERVATORY

MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR MS. DIANE MARSHALL

What I've been doing before Amethyst Center –

Most of my 30 years in teaching I spent in the Detroit Public Schools system. My major was in teaching hearing impaired which I enjoyed doing for many years. I also was able to teach science and eventually when the school no longer had a hearing impaired dept. was what I ended up teaching.

I have always been part of a choir – usually working with either sacred music in church and since 1980 as a member of the Detroit Lutheran Singers. My friend and I also developed an act doing many different types of singing and performing for audiences at banquets. When the young man working with the school choir at Dexter Careers Center, a vocational center for special needs students where I was then teaching, decided to leave Detroit, there was not going to be a choir. I had been sitting in

to help the hearing impaired kids with using sign language in the music. When they asked me if I'd be interested in working with the choir I hesitated because I didn't know much about the Gospel and R&B music the kids had been working with. Eventually I decided to do the things I knew how to do and any choir was better than no choir so I started being the "choir director".

During my years as director we started developing some special programs starting with a "Motown Revue" and continuing with "special" adaptations of some plays/movies such as "The Wiz", "Scrooge", "Fame" and "Little Shop of Horrors". My friend and co-worker at the school, Melvin Jones, was a former professional dancer with the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe and did all the choreography and helped with everything in the productions. It was a wonderful time which continued when we

moved to Cooley High School North Wing.

We also became involved in a very special program called America Sings!. This is a non-competitive festival held in several parts of the country each year. Since it allowed everyone to come and perform it was a good fit for us! It also allowed us to travel (quite the project in itself to raise the needed funds) and teach some really special life skills to our students. We went to Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta, Nashville, Washington D.C. and one very special trip to Orlando to perform at Disney-World! We have tried to make this trip annually for about the last 12 years.

Diane Marshall



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.AMETHYSTCENTER.ORG

FOR MORE

INFORMATION ABOUT
AMETHYST CENTER
CONSERVATORY

AMETHYST CENTER, INC

Amethyst Center —Michigan
39111 W. Six Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Phone: 734-779-1631
Fax: 877-202-4811
amethystcenter.org

Amethyst Center, —Nevada
2831 St. Rose Parkway ,Suite 279
Henderson, NV 89052

Phone: 702-589-4830
Fax: 702-589-4831
amethystcenter.org

The mission of Amethyst Center, Inc is to provide housing and humane services to individuals who are mentally, physically and environmentally challenged. The goal of the organization is to assist individuals in becoming as self-sufficient as possible and for their needs to be met in a dignified and human manner.

It is our desire to promote integration into the community, through work, education, and supportive relationships with families, friends and community network.

Amethyst Center, Inc. is here to provide

Companion Services

Home Care

Hospice Care and more

Please visit our website for more information or call any number listed

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REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Mark continues to promote Amethyst Center and talk about the dire need for in-home services for persons with disabilities as well as elders, still living at home or in assisted living. Mark is now a guest lecturer at Touro University school of Nursing and recently shared his life story with student nurses prior to graduation ceremonies in May. In July again, he was asked to come and speak about the challenges of living with a disability at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. I have become an active speaker in the community talking about Amethyst Center wherever I go. Whether I am doing presentations to Hospitals, Community organizations, Churches or at my Doctor's office, I want people to know that there is an organization that can meet the needs of persons with disabilities right here in Nevada. Mark was recently in Michigan and was part of the staff training and information sessions for Amethyst Center's upcoming Operations Manual. Here is what Mark has to say about what he observed during the staff training: "The staff is excellent at what they do and they do their job in a professional manner. The staff maintains Amethyst Center's High Standards of care. I am very impressed with work Amethyst Center is doing in Nevada and Michigan and I am proud to be a board member." Mark will also have a section in the upcoming book speaking about caring for your elderly parent while dealing with your own disability and its special challenges. Mark will also be returning to Michigan to complete a DVD presentation that will be used to educate the community about caring for family members with disabilities, independent living and service resources. Mark also presented at the Children's Heart Center of Nevada in May. As well as being the guest lecturer at Touro University School of Nursing in August.

Vice President, Mark Merrill