

G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS
February 9, 2011

The G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS was created in 1995 to support academically exemplary graduates of FHHS who were entering freshmen at an institution of higher education. Today, the role of the Fund remains central to the nearly insurmountable challenges we face in educating our children. Although we are proud of our achievements, we still face enormous challenges in widening the pathway to higher education and to the highest levels of leadership in the nation and the world.

When compared to other racial/ethnic groups, Black Americans remain at the bottom of the achievement chain. According to a 2006 report from the U.S. Department of Education, Black students constituted 17.13% of those enrolled in public schools, but comprised 35.67% of those receiving corporal punishment, 37.40% of those suspended and 37.86% of those expelled. In sharp contrast, they constitute only 9.15% of those in Gifted and Talented programs. In terms of higher education, we represent more than 12% of the population, but earned only 9.4% of bachelor's degrees and 5.9% of doctorates. The numbers are even more devastating in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Although we will continue to use our personal resources to address these challenges, we have decided to dissolve the Fund over the next two years. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in engaging and generating "revenue" from alums to build a well-endowed Fund. Thus, current revenue, which exceeds \$20,000, will be used to:

- Place a commemorative plaque at FHHS in honor of the Endowment and its four founding sponsors
- Place a commemorative plaque at the G. James Gholson middle school
- Replace the FHHS sign and logo at the entrance of the school
- Contribute \$1,000 to the FHHS Alumni Association
- Contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of drapes for the cafeteria
- Conduct a public speaking competition among 10 students and award scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to the top competitors

- Award the G. James Gholson Scholarship (\$3,000) at this year's commencement to a student selected by teachers who exemplifies exceptional leadership qualities

These priorities were identified by the principal of FHHS in consultation with members of our board. We seek your "strong" support over the next two years to address these priorities and the graduates of FHHS. Given the urgency to beautify the cafeteria, we would greatly appreciate a tax deductible contribution of at least \$10.00 from each recipient of this newsletter. Please make checks payable to the G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS and mail to:

Barbara Gainey
904 Cox Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20783

You also can support these efforts through the Combined Federal Campaign, in cooperation with the Institute for Black Charities. Please designate your contribution to the:

G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS
CFC#64559

*"Education costs money, but then so does ignorance."
Sir Claus Moser*