

Upward Bound celebrates a decade of success

By JACOB TIERNEY
post@messengerpostmedia.com

At the Monroe Community College Upward Bound Program's annual end-of-the-year banquet, program alumna and keynote speaker Nicole McCawthran asked the attendees what Upward Bound meant to them. The answers came quickly: success, hope, a college degree and good snacks were just a few.

Upward Bound at MCC is a federally funded program designed to give low-income Rochester high school students the tutoring, guidance and support they need to successfully graduate from high school and obtain a college degree.

McCawthran remembered her own time as one of the first stu-

dents in the program.

"Once you're Upward Bound, you're always Upward Bound," she said. Even though the program ends after high school, students and alumni maintain the strong relationships they have formed. After completing the program, McCawthran went on to attend MCC, transferring to Buffalo State to earn a bachelor's degree before completing her master's at the University of Rochester. She is now a residence-life director at SUNY Geneseo.

"They're very much a part of every success story," McCawthran said of Upward Bound.

The awards banquet, held on May 22 at the Diplomat Banquet Center and Hotel, brought extra cause for celebra-

tion. It marked the 10th anniversary of the Upward Bound Program at MCC, and current students along with alumni gathered to remember their time with their Upward Bound family. As part of the celebration, McCawthran became the first inductee into the Upward Bound at MCC Alumni Hall of Fame.

Stories like this are the reason Upward Bound has existed for so long. It was originally established as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Carmelita Brown-Wallace has directed the program at MCC since its beginning, and has seen many students achieve success. She works with a host of tutors and others to help these students obtain their maximum potential.

"Our goal is a college de-

gree," she said. The program is not an easy one. Sixty students are chosen every year before they enter the ninth grade. They must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and they are constantly pushed to achieve their maximum potential. They often come in for personal tutoring five days a week.

"We challenge them academically," said Brown-Wallace. The work has paid off. 69% of Upward Bound at MCC graduates go on to college, four members have been named valedictorian of their class. The most recent was Derika Williams, who will be graduating from Marshall High School this year.

"They've really helped me a lot," said Williams, who will be going on to RIT where she

will major in Business Administration.

Jamahn Nicholson had similar successes. He has been taking honors calculus classes in high school, significantly raising his grades over the past few years. He was named the Graduating Senior of the Year at the awards banquet.

"Upward Bound stands for everything about the first steps to get into college," Nicholson said.

Nicholson, Williams, and others may be leaving high school, but they will never be truly separated from Upward Bound. They will keep in touch, along with many other alumni who know what Nicole McCawthran learned ten years ago: once you're Upward Bound, you're always Upward Bound.



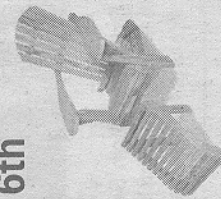
Memorial Day Sale

May 28th - June 6th

25% OFF

EVERYTHING*

In-Stock or Special Order



These 3 charities would like your help

As a community service, Messenger Post Newspapers prints this column to keep readers informed of "wishes" that are submitted by local charities. This article features two of the agencies listed in this year's Community Wishbook.

Good Samaritan Transportation
c/o St. Ann's Community
1500 Portland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14621
Phone: (585) 336-1777

Your donations can make wishes come true.

Volunteers Needed
• Drivers: take seniors to appointments, Mass. and grocery shopping.
• Dispatchers: record calls for rides and find drivers.

joyment. Also provides special programs for youth at risk.

Wish List

- batteries, 9-volt
- CD players
- coffee pot, 12-cup
- computer
- copier toner and copier maintenance
- copy paper
- DVD player
- envelopes, letter size and larger
- pens
- postage stamps

Gates Public Library
1605 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: (585) 247-6446

Contact:
Karen Kase-McLaren
E-mail: kkase@libraryweb.org
Purpose: Public library serving the Town of Gates and surrounding area.
Wish List
• books and audio visual media (VHS, DVDs, CDs, cassettes, computer games) in good condition