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Herndon Woman Honored With National Negro Women Award

By Erin E. Fogg
Observer Staff Writer

Joy Trickett, the board chairwoman for the Good Shepherd Alliance emergency homeless shelters, recently received an unexpected honor when the National Council of Negro Women told her she was their Outstanding Humanitarian of the Year.

A lifelong resident of Herndon who retired early from her government job to give back to the community, Trickett balances her time with Good Shepherd with her work as a board member of LINK, a deaconess at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren and a member of the Great Falls Ecumenical Council.

The Outstanding Humanitarian Award was presented Oct. 2 at the annual Bethune Recognition Program, which is hosted by the mid-Atlantic sections of the NCNW in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, to celebrate the legacy of NCNW founder Mary McLeod Bethune.

Shirley Askew, president of the NCNW Reston-Dulles Section, said the criteria for the organization's awards are incredibly sharp. Trickett was nominated by Bea Malone, a member of the local section, but her nomination was up against others across the mid-Atlantic region.

Trickett said she was surprised when she received the phone call inviting her to attend the ceremony.

"It was quite an honor from a national organization, but I'm accepting it as God's gift," she said. "It's not for me."

Trickett said she was most touched by Dr. Dorothy Height, chairwoman of the NCNW, presenting her with the "Illuminated Scroll." The inspirational words in the scroll document the last will and testament of Mary McLeod Bethune to the members of the NCNW.

Janice King, Good Shepherd Alliance director of social services, said that as a current NCNW member, she was also most affected by the presentation from Height.

"Dorothy Height is such a powerful person," King said. "For her to tell

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us this is the highest award given, that is just awesome to me."

King works side by side with Trickett at the Good Shepherd Alliance and said she sees daily proof of Trickett's service to others.

"Yesterday, it was raining hard and there was a man outside drenched," King said. "Joy brought him in and gave him soup. Then she went back out in the rain to the thrift store to get him some clothes.

"That is just the epitome of Joy."

King said that those who know Trickett, know that she is forever quoting the Bible, but that she actually practices what she preaches. She works long hours and has a seemingly endless supply of energy and is humble when recognition is given. King was not surprised that Trickett was shocked when told she had received the NCNW award.

"She probably is so busy doing good that she doesn't even recognize that people notice it," King said. "She does so many things."

After working with Trickett for over two years, King said she knew that she was deserving of this award and many others. But she said the sentiments among attendees at the ceremony were not immediately the same.

"I think some of my club sisters wondered why we would pick a Caucasian lady," King said. "But then Joy opened her mouth and all the love poured out. People were almost in tears."

For more information on the Good Shepherd Alliance visit www.loudounhomeless.org or call 703-433-2631. For the National Council on Negro Women visit www.ncnw.org.

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