

DETROIT

Teens blossom into roses at Full and Fabulous 40th anniversary Debutante Ball

NATIVE SUN

ARISE Detroit! Partners with WWJ radio for new podcast series to help city residents



Proud participants in one of the nation's most innovative organizations promoting self-esteem and success for teenagers "glammed it up" at the "A Rose is Still a Rose Debutante Ball" held Aug. 6 at the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, 111 E. Kirby St.

The ball was part of Full & Fabulous anniversary festivities scheduled through Oct. 1 and featured a choreographed musical tribute to observe four distinguished decades.

"Our organization is designed to edify the self-esteem, health and beauty of girls from ages 12 to 21," says founder Sharon DuMas. "If a young woman believes in herself nothing can stop her from achieving her dreams."

Andrea "Chocolate Butterfly" Williams, winner of the first "Miss Full & Fabulous Teen Pageant," addressed the gala, including 20 debutantes in formal gowns and tiaras.

"Self-confidence, self-awareness and self-worth not only helped me win the crown, but win at life," Williams says. "If you're looking for an organization to help your teen land in the winning circle, I recommend you join us for our 40th anniversary ball."

Dads and father figures will escorted the debutantes as entertainment, dancing and dinner highlight the evening. All proceeds from the ball will be used to purchase a van that transports youth to Full & Fabulous' "Girls Exposed" program, exploring such issues as human trafficking, substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

"A new van will help safely bring the girls to educational sessions that offer life-saving knowledge not being taught in school," adds DuMas.

For other 40th anniversary information visit www.fullandfabulous40.org or call (313) 331-4929. Media may contact Delisa Beavers at (724) 492-8789.

About Full & Fabulous

Full & Fabulous, Inc. is a global organization dedicated to the empowerment of curvy and plus-sized girls and women. No woman of any ethnicity will ever be excluded. Full & Fabulous has a recognized support base throughout the United States and is building a global presence.

The Full & Fabulous program specifically works to expand the breadth of health information and self-esteem-building initiatives that benefit disadvantaged female youth through dynamic interactions with teachers, health educators, motivational experts and successful women from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Full & Fabulous believes, with the help and guidance of community partners and alliances, each plus-sized woman and young lady can discover how to achieve her hidden potential. The organization further seeks to enhance worldwide youth empowerment initiatives for young ladies exploring science and technology. Sponsored by Empowerment Zone Coalition, Livewaves, Urban Solutions Training and Development, Mitchell Healthcare Training Center



Detroit -ARISE Detroit!, the nonprofit community coalition, is partnering with WWJ Newsradio 950 for a new podcast series utilizing the expertise of neighborhood organizations and residents to find solutions to neighborhood problems.

The series, "Neighborhood Transformers," features the people and organizations working on issues throughout the year to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods.

The podcast series will cover topics such as organizing block clubs and community organizations, creating neighborhood watch and public safety programs, developing housing, and attracting neighborhood businesses.

"There are more stories being done now by media outlets on what is going on in the neighborhoods, and that is a good thing, but our podcast series will be highly targeted on the specific solutions to address neighborhood concerns," said ARISE Detroit! Executive Director Luther Keith. "The ARISE Detroit! board feels the people in the neighborhoods are the real experts on many issues and have been developing solutions to help the neighborhoods for years."

"It is our hope that the Neighborhood Transformers podcast series will serve as a teaching and learning tool to help other people employ these best practices to help their neighborhoods."

The podcast series is funded through a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

"WWJ Newsradio 950 has been a long-time supporter of ARISE Detroit! and this is another way to help spread the word about the great work being done by the ARISE Detroit! team," said WWJ News Director/Brand Manager Rob Davidek.

The first podcast can be found On Demand at WWJNewsradio.com and on the ARISE Detroit! website at arisedetroit.org.

The pilot podcast features two long-time neighborhood leaders: G. Peggy Noble, president of the College Park Community Association, and George Preston, president of the Mohican Regents Residents Association. They talk about how to form block clubs and community associations.

Both groups are participating in the ARISE Detroit! 16th annual Neighborhoods Day on Saturday, August 6 in neighborhoods throughout Detroit.

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