



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **BCRI Volunteers Applauded For Commitment During Tough Times**

*Birmingham, Alabama*— Staff of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) paused recently to recognize the Volunteers who donate their time and energy to the facility in a number of capacities as they celebrated **National Volunteer Month**. Speakers throughout the evening thanked the group for their support and commitment during such tough economic times when volunteer service is often challenged. The **2009 Annual Volunteer Awards Reception** was held Thursday, April 23. BCRI has observed the celebration annually since 1998. Its Rotunda provided an appropriate venue for a festive gathering overflowing with delicious foods prepared by **Chef Michael Glenn and Creative Catering by Ambrosia**.

BCRI President and CEO Dr. Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr. greeted guests as they made their way into the Odessa Woolfolk Gallery. BCRI's Volunteer/Docent Coordinator **La'Quita M. Singleton** gave welcoming remarks. BCRI VP of Finance and Operations **Carol Wells** delivered a fitting invocation followed by **Karen Harris'** *a capella* performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Harris encouraged the audience to stand and join in. BCRI Volunteer **Bernetta Bolden** introduced the event's guest speaker, HandsOn Birmingham President **Noelle C. Fleming**. BCRI Board Member **Peggie Myles** attended to show her support.

Singleton, along with BCRI Head of Education Ahmad Ward, presented certificates of appreciation to BCRI Volunteers. Others in attendance included **James Armstrong, Beth Oliver Ballentine,**

**Dr. Ruby Bender, Joseph Black, Clifton Casey, Ann Downing, Marion Evans, Frances Faulks, Wilma Germany, Oliver Harper, Ron Howard, Patricia Kelly, Shirley Morris, Idella Nemo, Ann Niles, Vernora Patterson, Elois Ramsey, Janice Rodgers, Tommie Rodgers, Queenie Smiley, Seabe Staton, Jr., Queen G. Stratman, Joyce C. Thomas, Phyllis Thomas, Emma Tuggle, Charles Whatley, LaJune White and Evelyn Williams.** BCRI staff on hand for the celebration included **Yvette Chatman, Priscilla Hancock Cooper, Michelle Craig, Dawn Garner, Angela Fisher Hall, James Jones, Lavonda Patton, LeRoy Simmons and Josephine Thomas.**

Sponsors and contributors for the reception included **Creative Catering by Ambrosia, BCRI Gift Store/AA Museums Shop and BCRI Friends.**

The evening had a successful turnout and **Dr. Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr.** thanked all in attendance during his closing remarks.

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