



Inner City Youth Golfers' Incorporated

Press Release

“Harris Appointed ICYG Director of Education”

Written by: Malachi Knowles, Westside Gazette Golf Editor

Riviera Beach (USA), August 9, 2009: Gladys Esther Harris has been appointed Director of Education, Inner City Youth Golfers', Inc. (ICYG) by Esmeralda H. Knowles, Executive Director and confirmed by the Board of Directors. As a volunteer, she was very pleased to have her drive, professionalism, qualities, background and willingness to help us be successful with our mission. Mrs. Knowles reaffirmed that “the Board knows that they can count on her and that she shares the same vision for our children.” Upon acceptance of her appointment, she shared her appreciation with the “ICYG Family.” Mrs. Harris stated, “I am 100% committed to using my years of experience to continue shaping the educational mission of ICYG.” “I am also excited with the appointment because it associates me with the first ‘golf & education program’ that is working to grow the game of golf with our children.”



ICYG was started at John F. Kennedy Middle School, Riviera Beach, FL (USA) in 1999. The foundations mission was then and is now “to fill a needed community void for at-risk children of ages 7 to 18 using the game of golf as a “catalyst” to get children to refocus their attention on doing “the right things in life.”

The foundations’ most important initiative is to get our youth and parents to “Say No To Drugs – Say Yes To Education, Culture & Golf.” Mrs. Harris, Assistant Principal at West Gate Elementary School, Palm Beach County School District, West Palm Beach, FL, received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Foundations in Education from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL. Her teaching experience: reading curriculum development, mentoring/peer coaching/team teaching; writing campus improvement plans, scheduling events, preparing teacher schedules/assigning rooms, coordinating and supervising school-testing programs; interacting daily with special needs, at-risk, and multicultural students; building rapport with teachers, staff members, volunteers, and students both bilingually in English and Spanish has certainly added depth to our team. She has already served ICYG well by developing lesson plans dealing with the “model initiative” which have been added to the web site www.icyg.org for others to use anywhere in the world, particularly teachers who desire to educate their children about the subject.

ICYG Director of Golf, Clewis Wright, Jr., a retired coach and educator for many years with Dade County School system expressed his happiness that an educator of her statute had been appointed. He also stated that “my goal is to teach the game of golf to the youth and because she is an educator, they would probably follow similar learning tracks and approaches for achievement.”

Among her current affiliations are LPGA/USGA Girls Golf of Royal Palm Beach/Riviera Beach, Florida; Chairperson of Special Projects, Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Delta Chapter, 2008 – present; BeeEttles, Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., middle school young adult sponsor, 2008 – present and Director of Education, Inner City Youth Golf, Incorporated. She also volunteers for other neighborhood projects from time to time. She has received several awards and certificates for her work.

She is married and has three children. She loves her church, to travel, read, walk and play golf with her daughter; Gabrielle who she hopes will get a “golf scholarship” to college in the future. She hopes that her husband, Elijah, will learn the game of golf very soon.

I have seen Gladys at the height of her competitive spirit when she is attempting to score lower than her daughter. I know who wins most of the time. Who do you think wins?

Congratulations from the entire Westside Gazette newspaper family. We also salute you as our “Educator of the Month.”