

# Three Rivers Youth celebrates 135 years

by Debbie Norrell

Courier Staff Writer

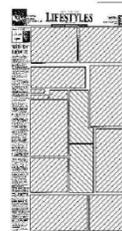
All Aboard! On May 15, at the luxurious Renaissance Hotel, more than 200 people picked up their boarding pass for a night on the S.S. Normandie for an evening celebrating 135 years of Three Rivers Youth (TRY). The Renaissance Hotel was the perfect backdrop for the cruise theme. The ship's captain, who could have doubled for WQED's Chris Moore, greeted guests. Each guest was invited to take a souvenir photograph by premier photographer Ahmad Sandidge and before they ascended the marble staircase to the captain's dinner they enjoyed Carmen Miller as Josephine Baker on the EQT Hall of Fame Grand Staircase. Once guests made it to the second deck, they experienced the Johnson Jazz Trio, the TRY 135 signature drink and the Three Rivers Youth Legacy Displays in the UPMC Heritage Room. Honorees gathered in the PNC Hospitality Lounge for photos taken by Saihou Njie.

One of the highlights of the dinner was hearing from former TRY clients. This year's speakers were Francine Sims-Gates and Kahlil Thomas. Their stories were powerful and expressed the impact that TRY has had on their lives.

On this very special evening, TRY President and CEO Peggy Harris presented the TRY Hall of Fame inductees, a distinguished group of those who have made a difference in the lives

of the tens of thousands of homeless and hurting youth and the struggling families that TRY has served since its inception. The inductees were George L. Miles Jr.—Public Broadcasting Education; The Thornburg Community Club—Community Service; Massaro Corporation—Corporate Responsibility; Robert Hill—Education and Civic Engagement; Cecile and Eric Springer Esq.—Civic Engagement; Pricewaterhouse Coopers—Corporate Responsibility; FedEx—Volunteerism; Esther Bush—Education; Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein—Healthcare; BNY Mellon—Community Engagement; Mt. Lebanon High School—Advocacy; Heinz Endowments—Advocacy; Pittsburgh Pirates—Community Engagement; Duquesne Light—Corporate Responsibility; the Black Association of South Hills—Volunteerism; Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis—Humanitarianism; Gregory Peaslee—Corporate Chair, 2011-2012; Dr. Chenits Pettigrew Jr. and Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew—Honorary Co-Chairs, 2013; Randall Crawford—Corporate Chair, 2014; and Roseanne Ruggiero Wholey and Dr. Mark Wholley—Honorary Co-Chairs, 2015.

This year's event corporate chairs were Evan Frazier and Matthew J. Rhenish.

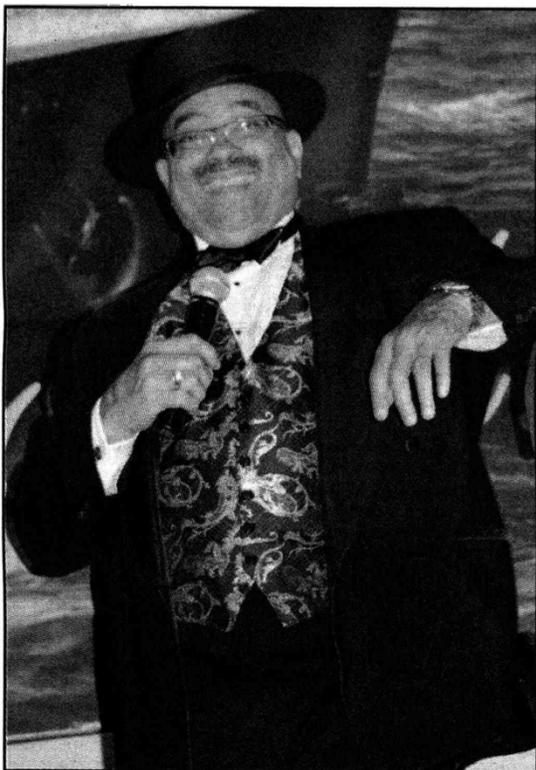




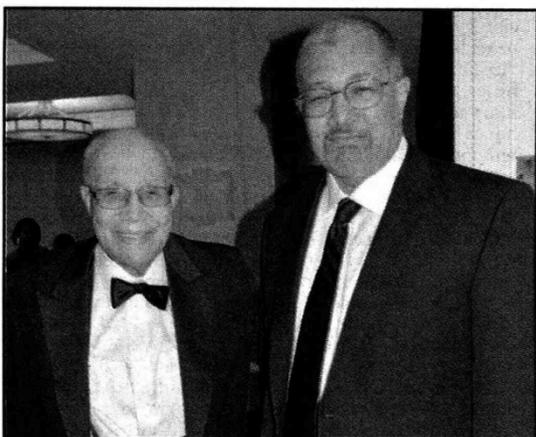
**TRY VIPS**—Carmen Anderson, Evan Frazier and Sheila McCollum



**TRY VIPS**—George Miles, left, with Ingrid and Laurence Glasco



**ALL ABOARD**—Celebrity Captain Chris Moore



**FATHER AND SON**—Reverend Dr. Jimmy Joe Robinson and son, Jimmy Joe Robinson Jr.



**TRY HALL OF FAMERS**—From left: Dr. Chenits Pettigrew Jr., Claudette Lewis, Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, Harold Lewis and Esther Bush



**TRY ALUMNI**—Kahlil Thomas and Francine Sims-Gates



**SETTING SAIL**—Peggy Harris, TRY president and CEO, left, with Roseanne Ruggiero Wholey, host committee co-chair.



**CHANELING JOSEPHINE BAKER**—Carmen Miller