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PRESS RELEASE

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Photos: Courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry

October 15, 2021

Nonprofit Group Spotlights Local Student's Achievements

By Lynn K. Loyd

Jacori Neal, a 2021 Keith McCarthy Academy, Lake Elsinore graduate, was recognized for his achievements by Community Outreach Ministry (COM), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping at-risk children break the cycle of incarceration. COM offers many services along with recreational activities for youth but emphasizes education so that these children become empowered by graduating from high school and setting their sights for college and career. Neal is one of hundreds of youths who has benefited from the many programs and services offered by the Ministry since its inception in 2000.

Serving Riverside County, COM has been an integral part of many students' lives. The ministry has welcomed boys and girls like Jacori Neal to also mentor other children at the "Gearing Up for STEM" Mentor Protégé workshops sponsored by the ministry. He taught himself both engineering and robotics. By building TRON, a Meccano robot, Neal programmed the robot to talk, sing, and dance the "Tango" through his cell phone. His interest in music led him to form the Neal Brothers, a singing duo with his younger brother Jaelin as well as becoming a member of the Titan Thunder Regiment Drumline Band at Temescal Canyon High School playing both bass and tenor drums.

Neal has performed in jazz concerts and music competitions, and his musical talents extend to both the saxophone and piano. He is also a talented singer and often performs "The Prayer" in English, Spanish and Italian. The popular song was originally recorded for the 1998 film Quest for Camelot. The recent graduate was also recognized as the best leading actor as Benny in the musical, "In the Heights" by the Temescal Canyon High School Spotlight Players for 2019-2020. The following year, Neal was again named best leading actor in a one act play by his alma mater. In honor of his graduation, Neal was presented with a State of California Senate Certificate by Senator Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore).

On June 27, the Neal Brothers served as volunteers and performed at Kenny Clark's Fourth Annual Football Camp at Etiwanda High School in Rancho Cucamonga. Clark, a defensive tackle for the Green Bay Packers, is a graduate of Wilmer Amina Carter High School in Rialto. The NFL nose tackle was named a third-team All-American in 2015 as a junior at UCLA. Clark is actively involved with Angel Tree Christmas, a program of prison fellowship that has worked together with Community Outreach Ministry for many years.

At the recommendation of Community Outreach Ministry, Jacori Neal was accepted as a Scholar into the Give Something Back' Mentoring and Scholarships Programs. Give Something Back is a nonprofit organization that pairs scholars with a student coach focusing on life skills, character development, and academic success. Dr. Mona Davies, cofounder of Community Outreach Ministry, contacted Christine Brown, California Program Director for Give Back to find out more about Neal and his work with Give Back. Brown said that, in addition to demonstrating resiliency and ambition, Neal, who is currently a student at Crafton Hills Community College, "has impressed us with his kind heart and his willingness to always help others."

The 21st Annual Angel Tree Christmas party is by invitation only and will be held Sunday, December 12 from 12:30 to 3 pm at the Elks Lodge, 33700 Mission Trail in Wildomar. Will you give an Angel Tree Christmas to a prisoner's child today? We welcome sponsors to purchase warm pajamas and hoodies for partygoers ages zero-18. Sponsors may also drop off unwrapped gifts at Shear Expressions Salon, 40557 California Oaks Road Suite H2 in Murrieta next to Jersey's Pizza. Contributions may also be made by texting "DONATE CHAMPIONS" to 609-212-0627, or online <https://buy.chip-in.us/?nonprofitId=105451>. Give by mail: Send your gift to Community Outreach Ministry, 23905 Clinton Keith Road Suite 114 #116, Wildomar, CA. 92595. For details call 951-698-7650 or send an email to info@communityoutreachministry.org.