

Gary native has true revelation of purpose

By Rob Earnshaw
Times Correspondent | Monday, May 11, 2009 |



NWI Photo Store



NWI Photo Store

Although Ball State University graduate and Gary native LaTrice L. Edwards has lent her gift of makeup artistry to many notable figures and celebrities, her true stars are the clients served through Triumphant Transitions, a grassroots effort helping men, women and youth with their transition to successful independent living.

"It was just something the Lord placed in my heart," Edwards said. "It's a way to give back to others, a way to serve and to share."

Edwards launched Triumphant Transitions on Valentine's Day 2005. The Gary-based nonprofit organization has served more than 300 clients from Northwest Indiana, Indianapolis and Chicago.

In February, Triumphant sponsored a makeover and empowerment luncheon for 10 pregnant women from Great Beginnings and N.A.T.A.L.E prenatal care agencies at Frenchie and Company Hair Salon in Merrillville.

Sister Peg Spindler, director of the Sojourner Truth House, said Edwards served some of their clients at the event and at others like it in years past.

"The women always seem to come back feeling better about themselves and that someone cared about them," Spindler said. "I really think LaTrice is just a wonderful young woman who has a mission and is relentless in going about achieving that."

Triumphant Transitions has also served displaced Hurricane Katrina survivors in both Indianapolis and Chicago. Edwards said many of them were in the same state they were in when they left their storm-ravaged homes.

"They may not have had their hair washed in several days or weeks," she said. "It was really important to them. It made them feel well."

Edwards said she's been fortunate to have local salons open their doors for her organization, volunteering space to bring in clients.

"It provides a venue for them to receive our services and our program," she said.

Services each client receives for free have a high value. Triumphant Transitions has a goal this year to raise \$4,000, which is \$1,000 for each year it's been in business.

"We've been very blessed and fortunate to provide those benefits for the clients we serve and we need the financial field to help us continue to grow," Edwards said.

FYI: TRIUMPHANTTRANSITIONS.ORG

Edwards' work seen on stage and Hollywood

LaTrice Edwards has used her talents to help many young men and women in Northwest Indiana move forward with their lives.

She's also brought her creative flair to the stage and screen including the recent Chicago run of the Broadway musical "Wicked," "The Dark Knight," "Prison Break," "Flags of Our Father" and the upcoming "Public Enemies" starring Johnny Depp. Edwards is currently the makeup assistant to Cheryl Thomas for the current Chicago run of "Mary Poppins."

"It's a spectacular show," Edwards said. "I just love the industry. I love every aspect of the production."