



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Department of Human Services

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**City of Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award to be
presented to Mr. Derreck B. Johnson by
Congresswoman Barbara Lee at “In the Name of Love”
on Sunday, January 15, 2012 - 7:00 pm**

The 10th Annual Musical Tribute Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

Oakland, CA—On Sunday, January 15th, **Congresswoman Barbara Lee** will present the **City of Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award** to Mr. **Derreck B. Johnson** for his outstanding work on behalf of the Oakland community at “**In the Name of Love,**” the **10th Annual Musical Tribute honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, an extensive civic and cultural event that pays homage through music, to one of the greatest humanitarians of our time. The 2012 musical entertainment includes the legendary, Grammy Award winner **Mavis Staples**; the Oakland teen sensation and America’s Got Talent Finalist **PopLyfe**; the powerful 65-voice **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**; the renowned **Youth Speaks**; and the 275-voice **Oakland Children’s Community Choir** backed up by the **Oaktown Jazz Workshops**.

Living Jazz (formerly Rhythmic Concepts, Inc) an Oakland based non-profit and producers of the MLK Tribute originally created this award to acknowledge those who give of themselves beyond the call of duty and to inspire others to work for the betterment of the community. The recipient is chosen with the help of Oakland’s Department of Human Services, and in the spirit of Dr. King’s tireless efforts, is presented annually at “In the Name of Love”, the Annual Musical Tribute honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Derreck B. Johnson is President of Home of Chicken and Waffles, some of the most popular and successful soul food restaurants in the country. Johnson is often fondly referred to as the unofficial Mayor of Oakland, the city where the original HCW has been serving up the best comfort food in Northern California for the last eighteen years. The location in Jack London Square became and continues to be one of the Bay area’s favorite restaurants, attracting an incredibly diverse crowd. A sister location has recently been added to his resume and the Oakland San Francisco suburb Walnut Creek. In 2004 Johnson invested in the fledgling Home of Chicken and Waffles, a restaurant which was originally opened as a franchise of the Los Angeles based eatery Roscoe’s but was struggling to survive.

Johnson uses his businesses to give back to the community by hiring individuals most in need of support, young men returning home from prison. Derreck Johnson provides a loving but firm hand in teaching these young men and women the basic skills they need to survive in today’s workplace and economy. He is currently rallying other small businesses to also step up to hire and mentor the young men most in need of employment in order to break the cycle of recidivism. Derreck has truly invested in the City’s Measure Y clients some of whom have risen in the ranks to manage his restaurants. He exemplifies giving back to your community and helps Measure Y model private/public partnerships.

Johnson was raised by his mother Dale Hurley in Oakland and attended the premiere private high school Bishop O’Dowd. Following graduation he headed

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south to Fisk University in Nashville, arguably the most prestigious of the southern based Historical Black Colleges (HBC's). After graduation in 1986, Johnson headed home to Oakland armed with a degree in Business and a determination to give back to the very community that had fostered a strong sense of cultural pride and tenacity in him. He knew that taking the corporate route would not allow him to follow his desire of returning to his community. "The people I looked up to had moved on and I knew it was really important for African-American kids to have strong role models. So much of my ambition and success was driven out those early impressions," said Johnson.

Currently, Home of Chicken and Waffles has an employee base of 60 persons, which includes managers and servers as well as marketing and operations personnel. Johnson takes pride in hiring out of the Oakland community. "Our employees have a significant impact on our business, he said. "Most are from the community we serve, which is incredible because our city is at risk and there are still hardworking, bright young people who want to live and work here. We take tremendous satisfaction in knowing that our goal of serving our community is being met."

Johnson's desire to give back to his community is evident in everything he does. He currently sits on the board of directors for the Khadafy Washington Foundation for Non-Violence, an Oakland based 501C that was born out of the heinous slaying of an Oakland high school star football player.

Johnson is President of the Northern Division of CALPAC, The African-American California State Package Store and Tavern Owners Association founded in 1960. CALPAC is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities of which they live and work by providing education and jobs. Johnson is also a committed participant of Measure Y, a program that funds violence prevention programs, additional police officers and fire services.

Johnson resides in Oakland (of course!) and is currently eyeing the next city to bring his famous Chicken and Waffles.

"In the Name of Love", Oakland's only non-denominational musical tribute to Dr. King, is the perfect platform in which to honor this year's recipient of the Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award and a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge a member from our own community helping to inspire change and positive contribution.

Tickets: Reserved Seating- \$18, children 12 and under- \$8
Lowered ticket price thanks to the generosity of Target.

www.ticketmaster.com 1-800-745-3000 or the Paramount Theatre Box Office

[For more info: http://www.mktribute.com](http://www.mktribute.com) or call 510-287-8880

"In the Name of Love" has been made possible through the generosity of Target Corporation; National Endowment for the Arts; California Arts Council; City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program; Thomas J. Long Foundation; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Clorox Foundation; Zellerbach Family Foundation; R.O.O.F Foundation; See's Candies; Downtown Oakland Association; Lake Merritt/Uptown District Association; Oakland Tribune; BART, Comcast; KRON 4; KTVU Channel 2; KBLX; KDYA; Oakland Local; and Solstice Press.

Living Jazz, a non-profit Oakland based organization created in 1984, is committed to building community, cultivating community, and enriching lives through the love of jazz. RCI created Jazz Camp West in 1984, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir in 1986, Jazz Camp Weekend and the Oakland Jazz Choir in 1992, "In the Name of Love" in 2002, the Oakland Children's Community Choir in 2005; Jam Camp West, a hip music camp for youth ages 10-15, in 2008; and it's newest program Jazz Search West, the Bay Area's Jazz Talent Search in 2010.

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