



**36th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Mardi Gras Masquerade
Honoring The Lifetime Achievement Dr. Emma Banks**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (April 19, 2010) – The Urban League of Palm Beach County will hold their 36th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Gala on Friday, April 23, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center honoring the achievements and accomplishments of leaders within Palm Beach County to further the mission and vision of the organization.

The highlights of the evening are the entrance, Lifetime Achievement award presentation and crowning of the “King of Mardi Gras,” a notable Palm Beach County celebrity who has worked to help the community. The event will also celebrate the centennial of the Urban League movement and honor the founders of the Palm Beach County affiliate and those that have made large contributions towards the success of the organization.

This year’s gala honors the Lifetime Achievement of Dr. Emma Banks Principal of Inlet Grove Community High School, community advocate and Urban League of Palm Beach County Board member. In 2009, she was named Outstanding Educational Leader of the year by the American Red Cross. An accomplished author and publisher, she also created Palm Beach County's first African-American magazine, *Vision*. Dr. Banks is also an accomplished TV producer having produced “Our Future Generations Teen Talk Show”.

“This is an honored tradition in Palm Beach County that has recognized some of our most influential and important leaders such as Judge Edward Rodgers, Dr. Catherine Lowe and Robert M. Montgomery to name a few,” said sponsor Ted Leopold, Leopold and Kivin, PA. “Dr. Banks has made significant contributions to youth in our community for decades and we are pleased to recognize her for the impact she has had.”

The gala also recognizes the work and contributions of rising leaders and this year will honor Park Vista High School Senior and NULITER, Tiana Price. Ms. Price is a leader and officer of NULITES and participates in the prestigious Digital Connectors program with the City of West Palm Beach.

The awards gala will get people in the Mardi Gras spirit with roaming musicians, jugglers, and magicians, beads tossed from a parade float, a second line, French quarter cuisine and masked guests to fill the festive atmosphere. Performing at this year’s gala is New Orleans favorite Big Sam’s Funky Nation honored for *Best Funk Group of 2008* was awarded to Big Sam's Funky Nation at the 2009 Big Easy Music Awards. Between solos and trombone riffs, Big Sam second-lines (a uniquely New Orleans style of street-dance) will guide attendees to the dance floor where they

will enjoy great entertainment. And reigning supreme will be Mardi Gras Queen Mayor Lois Frankel and Mardi Gras King Clarence Anthony.

The Awards Gala, sponsored by FPL Group and Leopold and Kuvin Consumer Justice Attorneys, is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Urban League. Additional sponsors include Searcy, Denney, Scarola, Barnhart & Shipley, PA, Walgreens, Enterprise Rent A Car, WPTV, Palm Beach Post, PGA of America, Palm Beach Kennel Club and Comcast. Additional sponsorships are still available.

The 36th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Gala will be held on Friday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. Krewes of ten are \$1,500 and individuals at \$150 can be purchased by calling 561.833.1461 ext 3002. For more information about the Urban League and the Equal Opportunity Day Awards Gala please contact Kate Alvarado at 561.833.1461 ext 3002.

About the Urban League of Palm Beach County

The Urban League of Palm Beach County is the leading provider of comprehensive programs and services for families in our community. Serving Palm Beach County for the past 36 years with a mission of assisting African Americans and other minorities in the achievement of social and economic equality. The organization serves more than 15,000 underserved people in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. For more information visit www.ULPBC.org

About Palm Beach County Convention Center:

Since its opening on January 1, 2004, this 350,000 square-foot center has established itself as the premier boutique' meeting destination in South Florida; hosting a diverse array of conventions, trade shows/consumer shows, conferences, social events, and meetings. It features a 100,000 square-foot exhibit hall, a 22,000 square-foot ballroom and 21,000 square feet of flexible breakout space divisible into 19 rooms. The PBCCC resides in the heart of Downtown West Palm Beach within proximity to nearby attractions include CityPlace, a \$600-million shopping, dining and entertainment complex; the nationally acclaimed Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts; Palm Beach's famous Worth Avenue; and South Florida's beautiful beaches.

For more information about the Palm Beach County Convention Center, contact Tiffany Faublas at (561) 366-3017 or tfaublas@pbconventioncenter.com, or visit www.pbconventioncenter.com. For more information about Global Spectrum, visit www.global-spectrum.com.

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