

P H I L A D E L P H I A
ROWHOME
Our neighborhood's official business and lifestyle magazine



1- Robert "Woody" Woodard, Irish Tilson, Darnell Taylor. Darnell received the Good Neighbor Award for jumping into the Delaware River and rescuing a family trapped under water in their van. 2 - Robert "Woody" Woodard, Dr. Carlene Quashie, M.D., Melanin Man, Dr. Brian Work, M.D., Kenny Gamble, songwriter, producer & humanitarian 3 - Trish Tilson, Darlisa Norris & Karima Whitmore received the Good Neighbor Award for rushing into a burning building and rescuing two children from a second floor bedroom.

HUMAN FAMILY DAY CELEBRATES GOOD NEIGHBORS

by MARIA MERLINO

photos by MARIA MERLINO

Robert "Woody" Woodard, 60, learned many positive lessons growing up in his 19th & Fitzwater Street neighborhood. One of his fondest memories was that of the iconic opera star, Marian Anderson. "We lived on Martin Street, just a few houses away from hers," Woodard said. "As a kid, I remember her coming home in a big limo. She would be like a stone after her travels but would totally relax once she got back to the neighborhood. I would sweep and shovel. Clean up for her. My father taught me how to be a good neighbor. Being a good neighbor is the greatest thing in the world!"

Woodard recently was honored by the City of Philadelphia with a Proclamation from Mayor Michael Nutter for his 14th year as founder of the Barbershop Talk Human Family Day Foundation.

"I believe that positive energy is a negative energy deterrent," Woodard explained. "We need to see ourselves as human beings, only one race, one family with many cultures."

Woodard, a barber by trade and founder of Barbershop Talk Network, recently held his annual Human Family Day celebration at the Union Baptist Church, "the historic Church of Marian Anderson," located right around the corner from his childhood home. Philadelphia music legend Kenny Gamble was a guest at the event, which included interactive programs ranging from health to the arts.

Woodard also presented local "heroes" with the *Good Neighbor Award*, a tribute to the late Kevin Bowser, a com-passionate individual who "loved doing neighborly deeds." Bowser, a resident of Southwest Philadelphia, was killed in the 911 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Darnell Taylor received the *Good Neighbor Award* for jumping into the Delaware River and rescuing a family trapped under water in their van.

Trish Tilson, Darlisa Morris & Karima Whitmore received the *Good Neighbor Award* for rushing into a burning building and rescuing two children from a second floor bedroom.

"My mission is to have a grassroots communication network and to celebrate and appreciate the values and traditions of communities across the globe," Woodard said. [PRH](#)

(JULY | AUG | SEP 2014, VOL 24 - ISSUE 34)