

Grandma's Afghan

Even in this modern day of machine knitting and crocheting, computers and other mechanical marvels, and the hustle bustle of daily living, grandmas are still hand making afghans for their much loved progeny. Our den sports a lovely one that was made with patience and dexterity some forty-five years ago. Each time we snuggle up in it, we are reminded of the dear one who is no longer living. The following poem is my version of what I think an old, much worn afghan might say to us:

GRANDMA'S AFGHAN

*I'm an afghan you never would notice.
I'm, now, faded and somewhat frayed
You might be surprised had you seen me,
On the day that I was first made.
Grandma knitted me with love,
In many colors, so bright and gay.
I was delighted to be a special gift,
To my family that special day.
The young ones cuddled inside me.
The old ones covered their knees.
My whole life has been devoted,
To creating warmth and to please,
Each person who wrapped me around
them.
I've listened to triumphs and woes.
I've been a faithful companion.
Never, ever, would I disclose,
The secrets that have been whispered,
Nor the tears that I've wiped away.
I've been there to comfort and console,
When the world seemed dismal and gray.
I've helped cure many a fever,
Aided those with a cold or the flu.*



LINES FROM LORIE

By Lorie Pope Pauly
*I'm always around when I'm needed.
My goal is to be ready to do,
Whatever I can to be helpful,
To those who've been placed in my care.
When they come looking for me,
They always will find me right there.
I've heard some happy pronouncements,
Of love, joy, romance and marriage.
Often, I've had the privilege,
To ride in a new baby's carriage.
My life has been full and worthwhile.
I have tried hard to do my best,
To fulfill all of my duties.
I, now, feel contented and blessed.
Although, sometimes, I am weary.
I plan never, ever, to retire.
As I rest, here, on the arm of the sofa,
I just overheard my dear mistress say,
"We'll keep Grandma's afghan forever,
We will never, ever, give it away!!!!"*

Students

Watch Presidential Inauguration

Continued From A1

waved when merited by the ceremony events. There was a standing ovation and applause for the new president.

Rocha made it a point to stay at the

aters until each and every student left with memories of the event in their minds. "I want each of you look at those seating next to you this morning because years from now when you think about this event, you can say with pride that you were there when history happened and say "It's great to have been a part of it," said Rocha.

Rocha also thanked Andy and Emmet, from Trachman-Indevco Developers, and Alex the manager of the Azusa Regency

Theaters for all they did to host close to six hundred students, teachers, and community guests to the pageantry and history of President Obama's inauguration and swear-in to the Presidency of the United States of America.

City Taps Coach Rodney Jefferson to Help Expand Programs to Local Youth

DUARTE — Adding to its tools and resources to build positive programs and recreational outlets for youth, the City of Duarte has enlisted the aid of a local coach highly regarded for his work and mentoring skills with at-risk youth.

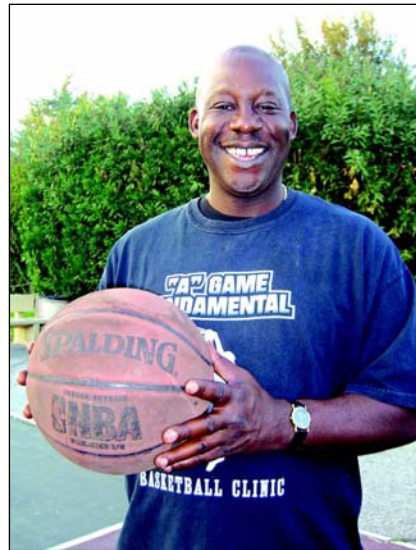
Rodney Jefferson, founder and director of "A" Game Fundamental Basketball Clinic for the past nine years, has been signed to a consulting contract to work with City staff to help develop strategies, resources or programs that the City may utilize to reduce gang-violence and increase youth employment. He is also a former recruiter of athletes for the Citrus College Men's Basketball program and the former head Junior Varsity coach at Monrovia High School.

Jefferson, a life-long resident of the Monrovia/Duarte area has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Cal State Los Angeles. With City staff direction and input, Jefferson has been asked to help create new opportunities and collaborations with existing programs targeted to both youth and young adults, ages 17-25. He will also work to explore and develop for consideration a youth discussion group facilitating open communication and connections to available youth programs and services.

"We've been impressed with Rodney's track record and success in working with all youths particularly through his 'A' Game Fundamental Basketball Clinic," said Deputy City Manager, Karen Herrera. "His program has served hundreds of local children over the past nine years and combines basketball skills training with life skills training, health and nutrition education and high school and college preparation with year-round follow-up. While the City has many positive programs in place for youth, we believe Rodney can help us cast our net even wider to reach more of our community's youth," she said.

Other new programs under consideration are a weekend evening basketball program that would take place at a local school site. Herrera said Jefferson will also bring a basketball clinic to Duarte youth over spring break between April 13th and 17th.


"Our goal is to work with local businesses, high schools and junior colleges to create an avenue for young people to learn



skills that will fortify and enhance their livelihood," said Jefferson.

For more information on this new youth effort, contact Duarte City Hall at (626) 357-7931, ext. 221.

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