

IN THE NEWS

COMMUNITY & SOCIETY PAGE

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DeSTI Foundation
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Join Us For

Shred-It & Drug Take Back Day





Bring your old bank statements, checks, contracts, legal agreements, bills and more to have them securely shredded.

Also, bring your unused/expired medications for proper disposal.

Date: June 11, 2022

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (or until truck is full)

Location: Dialysis Center
(2300 East Third Street; Chattanooga, TN 37404)
Directly across from Second Baptist Church and KFC

Limit of 3 small bags/boxes per individual for shredding.



In her book, Eva Jo Johnson details her experiences as a special needs educator

By Camm Ashford

In her book, “My Other Children: Where Teachers Learn and Learners Teach--Inside and Outside the Classroom,” Eva Jo (Saddler) Johnson recounts her experiences as a special needs educator.

Investing in youth is her passion, and Johnson’s book shines a light on the relationships she’s built over the years with her beloved students.

“It started out with me keeping journals on students about what their year was like, and my experiences with them,” Johnson recalled.

Many of her special needs students struggled within the education system, while dealing with emotional problems, behavioral challenges, racial tensions and socioeconomic disparities.

But Johnson said she was determined not to become these students’ “babysitter,” but to “guide them to their strengths as they move on to graduate to independent life.”

Johnson said her life story serves as a testimonial to her dedication for this “most challenging educational area,” and to her helping special needs students “come to terms with their limitations, develop strengths, and still find a way to make a life for themselves and contribute to society.”

Now retired, Johnson moved back to Chattanooga in 2008. She is a true volunteer, working nearly as hard now as she did all those years in the classroom.

“I don’t know, I guess it is just who I am, to get out and do as much as I can for the community,” she shared.

Johnson was born in Chattanooga and raised in the College Hill Courts projects. She graduated from Howard High School, worked hard to attend college and eventually moved to Connecticut--where she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Southern Connecticut State University and served many years as a teacher, with a focus on special education and alternative educational programs.

Johnson’s life has been filled with mission work, social work, church work and community outreach. She was active for many years with the National Urban League, and has received numerous awards for her activism in education, community service and human rights.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

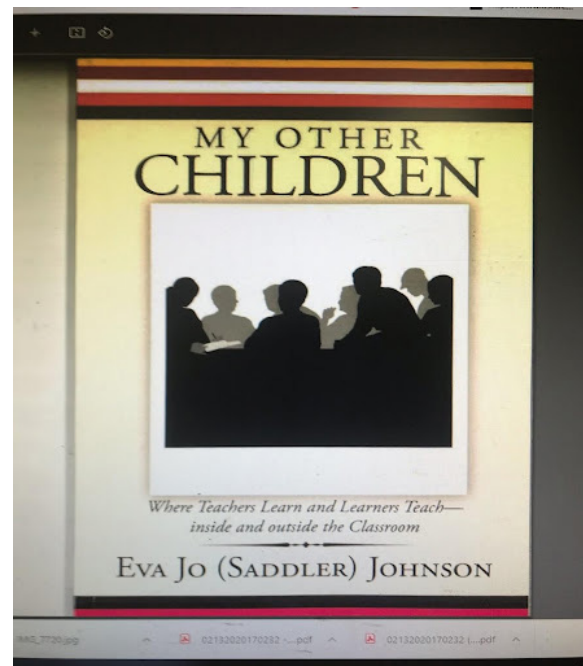
“My main goal in life is inclusion, unity and diversity,” Johnson explained. “I grew up in Chattanooga at a time when people were segregated and they separated themselves. This also happens in schools. Oftentimes, special needs students are so cat-

egorized, and they separate themselves. This harms students. I suppose that’s what I wanted to get across in my book.”

Johnson has three children, and lost another in a construction accident. She has two grandsons.

She is currently working on a book called “Ponder This.”

“My Other Children: Where Teachers Learn and Learners Teach--Inside and Outside the Classroom” is available via Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ebay and AuthorHouse.



LOOKOUTS & THE BESSIE SMITH CULTURAL CENTER TO HOST NEGRO LEAGUE APPRECIATION WEEKEND

Weekend takes place May 27 - 28 at AT&T Field

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – The Chattanooga Lookouts will take the field as the Chattanooga Choo-Chos and play against the Birmingham Black Barons during Negro League Appreciation Weekend at AT&T Field, sponsored by the Bessie Smith Cultural Center in partnership with Food City and TVFCU.

This two-day celebration will take place on Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28. On Friday night the team will cap off the night with a spectacular postgame fireworks show and on Saturday the first 1,000 fans through the gates will receive a commemorative Negro League Weekend seat cushion.

“We are excited and incredibly thankful for Food City and TVFCU for their support of this historic weekend at AT&T Field,” said Paula Wilkes, President of the Bessie Smith Cultural Center. “It is important to honor the incredible legacy of the Negro

Leagues and be able to share their story with the Chattanooga community.”

On Negro League Appreciation Weekend, the Lookouts will wear Chattanooga Choo-Chos jerseys to honor the minor league Negro League team that played at Engel Stadium from 1940 – 1946. The Barons will don the jerseys of the Birmingham Black Barons who were members of the inaugural Negro Southern League in 1920.

The two games between the Choo-Chos and the Black Barons will also feature appearances from former Negro League players including Alfonso Holt, Sr., Reginald Howard, Russell “Crazy Legs” Patterson, and Charles White. On each night the Negro League alumni will be honored in a pre-game ceremony and be available for autographs during the game.

Prior to Saturday’s game, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center is inviting fans to join the Negro League Players for a meet-and-



Archive Photo

greet breakfast, sponsored by Er-langer, at 10:00 a.m. Tickets for the breakfast are just \$10 and can be reserved by calling 423-266-8658.

Tickets for Negro League Appreciation Weekend are on sale now at Lookouts.com! For

more information on how to secure your seats to the season’s best games, call the Lookouts’ ticket office at 423-267-4TIX.