

# The Black Voice News

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## Dorothy Grant Receives Jefferson Award, Still has Goals of Helping People

*The Black Voice News*

SAN BERNARDINO

By Kailin Scott

Speaking of her passion Dorothy Grant says "God has been good to me. I keep on giving because God keeps giving. It's my passion." Being a servant to the community for over 25 years has brought her a number a great achievements one of the most impressive is an elementary school in North Fontana named in her honor. Mrs. Grant wakes up daily to greet each and every student when they walk through the

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community service." Growing up in a small town in Louisiana as one of five children Ms. Grant made up her mind early that she wanted to help others. Her mother died when she was very young. One of her early memories was of the loving care of her father. Her father would bake a loaf of bread and fill it with chili when she was on her way to school. He told her she should never be hungry. That lesson followed her all her life. "I never went to school hungry so I don't want anyone to be hungry," she said. Her journey in the Inland Empire started about 24 years ago when she started a food program out of her kitchen using a borrowed truck to pick up food from a local food bank feeding over 40 needy families each week, growing to feeding almost 1300 people a week. Continuing on her path she was influential in helping to establish

gate in the morning.

"This is the highest that I can go," says Mrs. Grant when she describes the feeling about her recent achievement which was the prestigious Jefferson Award in recognition of her "Outstanding Community Service" at a ceremony held near the nation's capital in Washington, DC.

The Jefferson Award, founded by Jacqueline Onassis-Kennedy and U.S. Senator Robert Byrd was created to "encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and

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the Jesse Turner Community Center in Fontana which became a haven for those in the community whether they were a young family struggling and in need of groceries or a senior in need of a ride to a medical appointment. "I want everyone to utilize all the opportunities available and to be able to keep our future generations focused and successful through positive motivation and keeping them with a full belly," she said. Having a calling to be a servant can be demanding Ms. Grant spoke of the person who poured life into her by giving her the positive motivation that she needed to get through the day to day, while living in Oakland for a short time she was able to cross paths with a woman by the name of Rudy Brown. "I wanted to be like her when I grew up," She stated when she thought about Mrs. Brown as an example of what a person rooted in the Lord receives and conquers. Rudy gave those encouraging words to Dorothy that she is able to give to those whom she serves. A dedicated



Dorothy Grant

volunteer member of the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County holding a position on the Board of Directors. she is living a legacy and an epitome of volunteerism. Dorothy Grant never stops and her energy and passion is contagious. At the end of the day with her daughter and extended family members beside her for support what makes her truly happy is helping others. To that end she has started the Dorothy Grant Foundation which will continue to help youth with

scholarships well into the future. What's left for Grant? What else does she desire? If there is anything else she would desire is a place in her small home where she can have room to sew and knit quilts for the elderly and caps for the terminally ill children at the Loma Linda Hospital, "because they ache just like I do." Mrs. Grant will never give up the fight to make this world a slightly better place.