FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2020

PATERNON BRANCH OF THE N.A.A.C.P. AND LOCAL CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS DONATE MORE THAN $11,000 FOR CHROMEBOOKS

Donations will help more district students bridge the digital divide

PATERSON – Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer thanked the Rev. Kenneth Clayton, the members of the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and leaders of several Paterson churches and other organizations for their donations totaling $11,871 to purchase Chromebooks for district students. The funds were raised through a coordinated effort of the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. with the support of the Paterson churches.

“When the COVID-19 pandemic led to school buildings being closed, thousands of our students were stuck at home without devices. We put the call for help in raising resources to get students the devices they need,” said Shafer. “We are extremely grateful to Rev. Clayton and the Paterson Branch of the NAACP who responded to our call by leading this effort to put Chromebooks in the hands of more Paterson students, and to the many leaders of Paterson’s churches and organizations who gave their financial support of this effort.”

“All of us have a choice when students are in need. We can wait and hope that someone will come along and solve the problem for us, or we can take action and do everything we can to provide our young people what they need to keep their education moving forward,” said Reverend Clayton. “I thank the members of the Paterson Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and the leaders of the churches and organizations in Paterson for joining together and taking action for the sake of our young people.”

The churches and organizations that supported this fundraising effort are:

Churches
Canaan Baptist Church
Rev. Barry L. Graham, Pastor

St. Luke Baptist Church
Rev. Kenneth D.R. Clayton, Pastor

Seminary Baptist Church
Rev. Alfred Steele

Greater Bibleway Church of Christ
Rev. Pamela Samuels, Pastor
Christ Covenant Church  
Rev. Jason Moody, Pastor

KOINONIA and Christian Ministries  
Rev. N. Princess Curry, Pastor

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Rev. Betty Montgomery, Pastor

Grace of God Church  
Rev. Milena Eason, Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church  
Rev. Janel York, Pastor

Christian Fellowship Center and Outreach Ministries  
Rev. Joel Rudolph, Pastor

Grace and Restoration Fellowship  
Rev. Jerry Wilder, Pastor

First AME Zion Church  
Rev. Dr. Douglas Maven, Pastor

Life Changing Word Church International  
Rev. William Cash, Pastor

Solid Rock Baptist Church  
Rev. Bennett Johnson, III, Pastor

Organizations  
Paterson Branch NAACP  
Kenneth D.R. Clayton, President

Paterson United Pastor's Council  
Rev. James Kuykendall, President

Unity of the Spirit Interdenominational Fellowship  
Rev. Joel Rudolph, Presiding Prelate

Paterson Pastors Workshop/Clergy On Fire  
Rev. Michael McDuffie, President
Individuals
Rev. Betty Montgomery

There are nearly 30,000 students in grades pre-K through 12 in the Paterson Public School District. The district began distributing 7,000 Chromebooks to all high school students at the end of April. At the beginning of May, 1,667 Chromebooks, that were purchased with redirected budget funds, were distributed to as many middle school students as possible. After those efforts, about two thirds of the district’s students remained without a device or access to the internet while schools are closed.

On April 24th, the district launched an online campaign to raise funds to purchase online devices for students to use while schools are closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. The district is continuing its fundraising efforts.

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