



## CELEBRATION OF HOPE AND CARING

Honoring

**SONIA ALLEYNE MATTHEWS and JOSEPH JACKSON**

**March 4, 2010**



**Sonia L. Alleyne Matthews** is Vice President, CRA and Foundation Division Manager, for New England at Sovereign Bank. In this role she makes grants to nonprofit organizations, manages Sovereign's United Way Campaign for New England, and created the company's corporate volunteer program. Prior to joining Sovereign, Sonia was the Director of Community Investment for seven years at the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, and was appointed by former governor William Weld to the Massachusetts Fair Plan, where she served for six years.

Sonia serves on a number of community boards and has received several awards and honors for her involvement. She has been president of the Corporate Volunteer Council of Boston, was a graduate of the class of 2006 UMass Emerging Leaders, and was a Fellow of the Partnership in the class of 2005. She has volunteered at Teen Empowerment for more than 7 years. Most recently, Sonia was appointed to the state's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and to the Board of Overseers of the New England Aquarium.

Sonia is a graduate of Dorchester High School and Northeastern University, has a Masters in Public Administration from Suffolk University, and resides in the Melville Park area of Dorchester with her husband, Peter, and her daughters, Tyisha and Kayia.

Sonia's career is characterized by her ongoing work to support urban youth, help low-income neighborhoods thrive, and improve our communities. She sets an excellent example for all of us.



**Joseph Jackson** has been a special education teacher with the Boston Public Schools since 1977 and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston University. He has been teaching math at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in Roxbury since 1982. For the past ten years, Joe has also been the project coordinator for the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Program at Bunker Hill Community College, an after school college prep program for high school students. He has also been professionally active during the summers, working for 22 years as the education coordinator for ABCD SummerWorks and, more recently, as MCAS prep instructor for Classroom at the Workplace, a Boston Private Industry Council initiative.

Joe has been involved in many student activities at Madison Park. For the past nine years he has been the school's referral partner to Summer Search Boston, a student leadership program that provides opportunities for low income high school students to receive scholarships to summer experiential programs and year-round mentoring. Since 1994, he has been a team leader for AIDS Action Committee's annual AIDS Walk Boston. Through this community service venture, students and staff have raised over \$40,000 for AIDS research, treatment and educational programs.

Joe has been on the Teen Empowerment Board of Directors since 1997 and has served as Clerk. He has received several awards, including Boston Public Schools' Teacher of the Year award in 2004 and the Boston Private Industry Council's PIC Achiever award in 2005. He lives in West Roxbury with his partner, Philip Robinson.

Joseph's commitment to helping urban youth overcome challenges and succeed is unparalleled and inspiring.