

7th ANNUAL SCHOOL GRADE REWARDS CEREMONY

AN ACT OF KINDNESS WORTH CELEBRATING

EDITORIAL by James Jackson | Friday, July 1, 2016

With all the negative news we are bombarded with daily; through social media and TV, sometimes we lose sight of those who fight the good fight. There are so many great people out here working to make a difference and many of them never expect anything in return but a smile. I know one of these people, she's a paramedic trying to save lives every day, and I know what some will say... "That's her job."

True it is her job, but to choose a career that forces you to see people at their absolute worst moment in life and possibly death; takes a special person with a loving spirit to do a job most people wouldn't do. But who she is doesn't end there; she runs a nonprofit, a second job with no paycheck, at least not in a monetary sense. It's a labor of love, her desire to reach out to people in need and to celebrate those who some-day may make a difference.

Her name is Marilyn C. Holmes, Founder and Executive Director of Total Sunshine, Inc. many times Ms. Holmes has had to come out of her own pocket to pay for the daily operations of the nonprofit. Working school seminars by day; that focus on keeping children in school and out of trouble, then rushing home to get a quick nap because she's working on the ambulance that night. That's called dedication and love.... In the earlier part of the year Ms. Holmes was working hard to gather support for the 8th Annual School Grade Rewards Ceremony that was dedicated to her sister Ms. Marlena Jackson who passed in February of 2015.

As the event drew nearer, each lead to possible supporters ended in disappointment. On Thursday, June 16th I learned that Ms. Holmes had purchased the technological tools for DC's Top Graduates; I remember texting her back telling her I wish she didn't have to do that and she said "Blessings are meant to be shared." For her it wasn't about the money, it was about the love she has for what she does and the people who benefit from it.

There really are Angels among us and they walk between worlds eclipsed by ego never knowing what they are.... Divine