



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Helen Jordan (from left), Ellen Reckhow, and Daphne Magee at the Grandparent Network Awards Ceremony.

### GrandParent awards

I ended my week on Monday, Dec. 22 at the GrandParent Network of Durham's First Annual Awards Ceremony. The event was held in the auditorium at the Durham County Main Library. The GrandParent Network of Durham pairs older adults with young parents in a mentor-mentee partnership. Established in 2007, the organization has had a successful start.

The event on Monday was a festive one and it began with words from Karl Blake, the master of ceremonies and the former host of the "Quiet Storm" for Foxy 107/104.

Following Blake's opening remarks Durham City Councilman Howard Clement III provided the invocation.

Lunch was served promptly, buffet style and was catered by the Chicken Hut of Durham. During lunch, many of the guests took the time to mingle and show off the grandkids that they mentor.

Durham County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow visited with mentors in the program. Reckhow later provided greetings on behalf of the county, noting that when members of the Durham community come together, great things, like the GrandParent Network, become a reality.

I had a chance to meet two of the mentors. Daphne Magee of Durham became a mentor in

March of this year. She noted that the program was a good opportunity to meet young people and the time commitment was quite manageable for her.

Helen Jordan of Durham echoed those sentiments. Jordan joined the network in May of this year. Her mentee is from Vietnam, and she said she is enjoying a cross cultural experience.

Immediately following lunch, we received greetings from Mayor Bill Bell. Bell, whose wife Judith is a member of the network, recognized the work of the organizers and spoke about the importance of grandparents in the lives of children.

Angela Ray is an actress, author and motivational speaker. For comments or tips on future events, e-mail her at [Angela@mahoganydime.com](mailto:Angela@mahoganydime.com).