

NEW KIND OF PHILANTHROPY



PHOTO/SOMMER BROKAW

Barber Timothy McIntosh Jr. (right) trims client's Hanif Omar hair at his shop near Research Triangle Park.

Durham barber to start school for ex-cons

By Sommer Brokaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM — As a former member of the N.C. State Board of Barbers, Timothy McIntosh Jr. saw firsthand the difficulty ex-offenders had in retaining their barber's license.

"My heart always went out to them," McIntosh said. "These were well-meaning folk who wanted to continue with their lives, but they had obstacles in their way of transitioning out of the prison system and back into society."

McIntosh said that many ex-

offenders have families to support and sometimes the only jobs offered to them are minimum wage. He plans to help pay tuition for a small group of former inmates to attend his 10-month barber school at his shop at Park West, near Research Triangle Park, start-

ing in July.

"How many people think about a barber being socially conscious enough to do what he's doing. But he had the tool, and now he's just equipped with the information," said Athan Lindsay, acting chair for the

See BARBER on 3A

Barber school for former convicts

Continued from page 1A

Next Generation of African American Philanthropists.

McIntosh said that he has always been a "giver," but an organization that he joined a few years ago, the NGAAP, taught him the value of organized giving.

"Within mainstream philanthropy, they have a traditional view of what their donor looks like, and those donors are typically white and wealthy," McIntosh said. "Looking at minority communities has generally not been on the radar screen of mainstream philanthropy. We might not have the same type of wealth that these majority donors have, but, collectively, we are able to come together and pool our resources. Through that we're able to leverage that of the mainstream philanthropic world to make sure those dollars filter down to grass-roots organizations in the African-American community."

Darryl Lester, one of McIntosh's barber clients for several years, encouraged him to join NGAAP as one of its founding members. At the time, the Ford Foundation had a growing interest in community philanthropy and had given Lester's consulting group, Hindsight Consulting, a grant to conduct listening tours throughout the South with an emphasis on minority participation. Focus groups of African Americans between the mid-20s to mid-40s were asked what they knew about the tools of giving, philanthropy and charity.

Out of these tours, the "Giving Circle" concept emerged. The circle allows groups of individuals who may not have the money of the traditional wealthy philanthropist to pool their resources and establish matching grants to support the organizations they choose.

NGAAP has established a donor-advised fund with the Triangle Community Foundation, which currently holds about \$50,000. The organization also has \$11,500 worth of grant-making and more than 20 volunteers.

"I believe that each of us has a responsibility to make our community what we want it to be," said Beverly Francis, director of philanthropic service at Triangle Community Foundation. "I

also think that the NGAAP serves as a role model for other African Americans so that we are not always seen as the consumers."

In its three-year existence, the organization has given away seven grants to community organizations: Durham Proud; SPICE, a program of the Southern Anti-Racism Network; the West End revitalization program in Nebo; Glory to Glory House of Refuge in Raleigh; Mekeye Center in Durham; the DuBois Center in Wake Forest; and The Community Wholeness Venture.

"Giving is not just about money, it's about compassion and having a vision for the community, family and church, and youth groups," said Dan Moore, a senior consultant for NCGives, another donor-advised fund for a diverse group of North Carolinians.

McIntosh has a vision of his own with the barber school. He is working on a partnership with the Employment Security Commission and the School of Social Work at North Carolina Central to find case management to facilitate the program.

Originally from Maryland, McIntosh was inspired by a program Phil Mazza, a member of the Maryland State Barber Board, set up in a prison facility for 18 months to help prisoners get licensed before they were released.

"When they graduated, the recidivism rate was cut from 75 percent to 12 percent," McIntosh said.

McIntosh, 32, remained in Durham after earning a degree in business management at North Carolina Central. He is married to Charrisse, and the couple has two children.

"As busy as he is as an entrepreneur, being a father and being a good husband is more important. The love he has for community is illustrated within his household," Lester said.

McIntosh has started a foundation to raise money for the barber school. Anyone would like to contribute can send a check to: Park West Barber School, P.O. Box 13403, Durham, NC 27709-3403, and make the check payable to National Heritage Foundation. On the memo line, write the Barber Foundation; or call 361-9383 for additional information.