



KUOMagazine.com

in association with Caribbean American Diaspora Alliance

presents **4th Annual**

Women of Kulture 365

"Queens Edition" Empowerment Luncheon

March 29th, 2020

At Three Mask, Inc. Art Gallery & Event Center
1023 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32804

Admission \$20

From: 1-4 pm



Felicia Benzo, MHA
2020 Guyana Honoree

Purchase Tickets at www.KUOMagazine.com

CELEBRATING MY CULTURE IS BEAUTIFUL 365

with Felicia Benzo, MHA

Felicia Benzo, MHA (born Guyana), is the founder and CEO of C.A.T.A.L.Y.S.T. Global Youth Initiatives Inc., which created the award-winning community based C.A.T.A.L.Y.S.T. Mentoring Program 2010. Since then she has created DREAM program for Middle school males (dynamic, responsible, educated, achieving, men) and The CATALYST Summer Literacy and Leadership Academy. We currently serve 31 of the 72 schools in Volusia County. We served 509 students with our programs last year and are on track to do the same or more this year. She is the author of two books "Raising Kings" and "No Nonsense Parenting" is pending publication. She has practiced Emergency medicine for 28 years, 16 years as a financial advisor, a popular motivational speaker and conference presenter, master mind group organizer and is a mother of three sons and grandmother of ten.



She founded Horizon Stars Toastmasters Club in Orange City. What you need to know about me is that none of the above except being a mother prepared me for what I do now. What has prepared me is sharing the experience with these children when I was a child. I share their journey. I had both parents until my father died when I was age of 10. He suffered with Adrenal Cancer for 7 years: one of 11 cases in the country. I watched him in pain and dwindle to 100 pounds, but he continued to preach, and my mother continued to prepare to be the head of household. As she did that, I was prepared to be one of those Adult-children we talk about today. My mom worked 3 jobs to support her 4 children, of which I am the oldest. Yes. I did everything a wife / mother would do so that mommy could do what she did. Lights and heat have been cut off for several hours because she was late with payments our until she could arrange to borrow enough to pay the bill.

We ate everything. I know about those big blocks of cheese, free lunch, mayonnaise or ketchup sandwiches. I was late to school every day for preparing my siblings in the morning. I knew my mom's signature, so I signed my own letters of excuse and that of my siblings, as well as every report card. I kept track of the school performance of all my siblings and reported to my mom when there was a problem. Yes. My mom was one of those parents that was not at the school for meetings events nor could you get in touch with her. If she was not at work, she was at school to get her degree. Mom missed all my sporting events, performance events. award ceremonies and even my graduation. I was an honor student, played in the band and orchestra, was advance dance performer and graduated at 16.

My inspirations were my mother who was too proud to go on welfare and struggle to achieve her dreams, my father who expected and demanded greatness from me from when I was small, Uncle Jimmy who studied medicine in France, believed in me and paid for my Violin lessons, Cousin Celeste, Auntie, Aunt Excillie, Lloyd and any number of teachers, neighbors. members of my father's church and other adults that took the time to assist this little girl on her journey. What I do now with the children is a tribute to all the people who invested and sowed in my life. I will touch the lives of 300,000,000 children and youth before I transition. That is a commitment I made to myself. I will need your assistance!

KUOMagazine will be honoring me, at their 4th Annual Women of Kulture 365 "Queen Edition" Empowerment Luncheon 2020, as their "Gyana" Honoree on Sunday, March 29th, 2020 at Three Mask, Inc. Art Gallery & Event Center. Events start at 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Tickets can be purchase on our website at www.KUOMagazine.com

Written by Felicia Benzo, MHA

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