Chums, Incorporated

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NEWS RELEASE

October 26, 2026
For Immediate Release

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Oklahoma City Chapter of Chums, Inc. Hosted Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma City Chapter of Chums, Inc. hosted its annual “I’m Every Woman” (IEW) Scholarship Luncheon on September 26, 2026, at Quail Creek Golf & Country Club. The event featured a public luncheon and program attended by more than 190 guests.

A special thank you to Thomas McNeely, Principal of Putnam City North, and Jeremy Scott, Orchestra Director, along with the Putnam City North orchestra students, for providing the live entertainment for this event.

This year’s IEW Honorees were: **Ms. Jessica Johnson**, an educational leader with over a decade of experience improving schools and transforming outcomes for students, and serves as the Head Principal of Thelma R. Parks Elementary School; **Ms. Charlesetta Jossell**, founder of God’s Natural Touch, a natural skincare business created to help others through wellness and self-care; **Ms. Sharon Kay Spratt PhD**, a recognized biotech regulatory strategist whose professional work advances gene therapy innovation and drug development for rare diseases; **Ms. Dana Stevenson**, a dedicated educator, community leader, and lifelong learner with 10 years of experience in education; **Professor Joy Summers-Ables** has dedicated more than 43 years of service to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. As Director of the Robert M. Bird Library, she has championed efforts to expand access to vital health information for underserved populations; **Ms. Launa West** has been a trusted voice in Oklahoma City radio for more than 20 years, informing and engaging the community through her work as host of the Open Mic Talk Show, producer of the Rickey Smiley Morning Show, and News and Public Service Announcement Director for Perry Publishing and Broadcasting; and **Ms. Lena Whitehead Lawson** has dedicated more than 30 years to public education, specializing in supporting students with learning disabilities. Following her retirement, she managed the Even Start Family Literacy program, working closely with parents and coordinating volunteer recruitment. For the past 17 years, she has continued her commitment to youth and education as coordinator of the Whiz Kids program at Prospect Church.

Their many acts of service and professionalism have impacted the citizens of our community and our state,” said Loraine Liggins, president of the Oklahoma City Chapter of Chums, Inc.

The "I’m Every Woman” Scholarship Luncheon supports the Dr. Karen M. Clark Scholarship Program. Organizer and first president of the Oklahoma City Chapter of Chums, Inc., Dr. Karen M. Clark served for more than 20 years in education as a professor, department chair and administrator at the State Department of Education, St. Gregory College, and Langston University.

Dr. Karen M. Clark scholarships were awarded to **Anaya Letshabo**, a 2026 Valedictorian graduate of Classen School of Advanced Studies at Northeast. She is currently a freshman at the University of Oklahoma and plans to major in biomedical engineering; **KhaMauri Rucker** is a 2026 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School. He is currently a freshman at Langston University and plans to major in Animal Science Management; and **Tamia Swindal** is a Valedictorian graduate of Carl Albert High School and is currently a freshman at Howard University and plans to major in Psychology.

Chums, Inc. is a national non-profit 501c3 organization of professional women who use their talents in service to the community to promote civic, cultural, education and social improvement.

The Oklahoma City Chapter was chartered in 2007. Current members include: Chums, Inc. National President, Marsha Ingersoll; Chapter President, Loraine Liggins; Vice President, Karen Carter; Treasurer, Glenda Mosby; Financial Secretary, Annette Johnson-Pegues; Recording Secretary, LaShawn Thompson; Corresponding Secretary, Marcia Talley; National Financial Secretary and Chapter Parliamentarian, Lisa Level; Historian/Journalist, Sharmanlyne Vickers-Mathis; Chaplain, Marsha Lyons; LaVeta Breath, Mary Crook, Renita Crump, Sonya Dulan, Andrea Gaddis, Artisha Harris-Woody, Anita Kirkpatrick, Elaine Nelson-Lewis, Cheryl Pennington, Latrina Rich, Alethea Satterwhite, Verna Scott, Sharon Turner, and Emeritus member Susan Townsend.

For more information, visit www.chumsokc.org.

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