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Casey kinship caregiver is San Diego 2008 National African American Parent Involvement Day honoree

A Casey kinship caregiver, Ruby Wilson's remarkable skill and passion for raising her grandchildren are not only evident in their success, but she has also been recognized by the San Diego Unified School District. Ruby is a recent recipient of their Feb. 11, 2008 National African American Parent Involvement Day recognition award.

"I am not letting anyone go down the tubes," Ruby Wilson says. When her daughter was still challenged with drugs after four years, Ruby embraced a commitment to the long-haul approach as she took on raising her three grandchildren. Grandson Ashanti's attention deficit problems pulled her right into the epicenter of all her grandkids' educational environments. She says that's the key, "Parents really need to be actively involved with the education part of kids' lives." At 19, Ashanti is now a university student, having conquered the temptation to drop out of high school thanks to Ruby.



A San Diego City College professor teaching fitness and contemporary dance, one of the things Ruby was recognized for is establishing the Parent Center at the San Diego School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA). That's where granddaughter Taatianna, aged 17, is running for Associated Student Body President. Ruby is helping with posters

With third grandchild Amani now 14 and in junior high school, Ruby saw a lack of two-parent support at SCPA and stepped up to make sure the Parent Center became a reality. Her grandkids' school draws a unique population from a strict waiting list. It's more of a melting pot of students from around the region, rather than having the cohesiveness of a single neighborhood. The Parent Center provides that central place for connection.

Parents can linger at the Parent Center while waiting for their kids or other school appointments. It's an information hub with bulletin boards, computer, and a comfortable lounge-like atmosphere that's safe to leave belongings.

Ruby is not only her three grandchildren's grandma, she is also known as the "Campus Grandma," working to get more and more parents involved.

Casey congratulates Ruby Wilson for her well-earned recognition as a 2008 National African American Parent Involvement Day honoree.



For your information

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