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## The Communicator

### Tribute to James Lee Geter, Jr.

#### Office/Retail Space for Rent

Are you thinking of starting or expanding a small business, then Eagle Market Streets Incubation Center may be just the place for you. The EMSDC Small Business Incubation Center offers:

- Below Market Rate Rentals
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- 46 South Market
  - ✓ Mr. C's
  - ✓ A & M Snacks
- 70 South Market
  - ✓ Getting Back to the Basics
  - ✓ Living Waters Ministries

#### Contact EMSDC Incubating Businesses :

Mr. C's @ The Kutt  
828 • 255 • 7791

A & M Snacks  
828.582.5333

*"Bout the business of doing business"*

#### Eagle Market Streets District Block Businesses

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- Soce's Hair Braiding
- Shea Tree
- Smooth's Do Drop In
- Limones
- Stephanie's Hair Saloon
- Mr. C's The Kutt
- A & M Snacks
- Simma Down Café

[www.eaglemarketsts.net](http://www.eaglemarketsts.net)

James L. Geter\_\_ A Tribute to Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation President Emeritus.

Mr. Geter (never Jim or James), always Mr. Geter, has been a strong supporter of businesses on The Block. To the people who frequent and frequented EMSDC from 1998 until present, Mr. Geter, in his person, and now in our memory, is our President Emeritus, our guiding light and is as core to the work of community building and revitalization as President and Founder, Dr. John H. Grant. No doubt it was Dr. Grant who first persuaded Mr. Geter to respond to this all-consuming calling.

We cannot ever thank either man enough, for the gifts of vision, of energy, for the endless hours, the countless meetings, the encouraging, the cajoling, the courage, the talent and the healing after disappointment and mishaps. Mr. Geter always rebounded without bitterness and with a steely determination to forge ahead.

And if EMSDC was not

enough of a challenge, what followed was helping Dr. Charles Blair to start the Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement. I remember when it was just their idea, one that emerged into a force for good in the health care for our community! Rites of Passage— Always Mr. Geter was conscious of making life better and services more accessible to African American males.

Know this: he was not a man to put up with nonsense, although he had a fine sense of humor and was a person of great compassion. He encouraged the business incubation project for autistic youth that started on The Block at 46 South Market Street. This program quickly outgrew the facility and still is providing work for individuals with special needs. Mr. Geter was quick to tell us that no one is perfect—least of all himself. If you forgot something, he would quickly come to your aid and reassure you that it would be okay to get him the information later. But he *never* forgot that you were supposed to do just

what you told him you would do. He did all this while he worked several jobs, put in 20-30 hours a week at EMSDC, and completed his degree at Montreat School of Professional and Adult Studies

Much has happened on The Block over these fourteen years. A great deal of it happened because he, James Geter, called upon himself and others, and he, our leader, empowered us to rise, to build, to insist, to thwart, to fall down and get up, to reach deep within, to deal without, time and time again. He involved himself in the following: Hearing Our Voices, Visioning Our Future, The Business Development Programs, countless Community Partnerships (AB Tech, the NC Center for Creative Retirement and The City Within, City of Asheville, Asheville Police Department, Janirve Foundation, Asheville Merchants Association, Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Asheville Youth Symphony, YMICC, Enterprise Real Estate Services, Mountain Microenterprise now Mountain

## *Tribute to James Lee Geter, Jr.*

Bizworks, Mount Zion Community Development, the IDA Program for Education, Business Development/Incubation, Mid-night Basketball, The Block Gazette, the You Stand Program, the South Market District and now the Eagle Market Place Project, The Block Academy, the purchase of 6 properties, the repurposing of a building once a Club (where he said he had experienced some of the hardest work known to mankind) into a Community Center (for \$34 a square foot, for heaven's sake). After the Community Center opened, within a year, area crime dropped 30%.

He continued his work right up to the present. Only a short time ago, he was sitting around the board room table with us, making sure we didn't forget and that we pressed on to meet our goals. What's important? Rebuilding, rekindling the spirit of our forbears who understood that we must reach up and within to attain a better world for ourselves and our children. It is possible, now and always, to attain the goal of our fullest participation in the life and riches of all kinds, in the community.

The ghosts of those who came before us are still continuously encouraging us to press on. A few of those earlier mentors we still hold in high esteem are: Earline McQueen, Eleanor Lloyd, Greg Weaver, and Bennie Lake. For those of us who continue this work, Mr. Geter will forever be our inspiration, our resource, and our mentor.

One among us went to bid him farewell last weekend. And as did so many of us, we found him sleeping

and seemingly at peace. This visitor thought to wait until he would wake, and finding that taking some time, left him a message on the white board in large letters as if he would wake and read it. Then, this visitor sat down by the window and began to pray that Mr. Geter would be well received and that he would one day see all his dreams come to fruition, however distant the view and however many of us it would take. And as this person closed this fervent prayer, Mr. Geter opened his eyes and looked plainly at his visitor. Silently he moved his lips as if to speak and then, closed his eyes to sleep and rest for the journey home.

Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation's purpose is twofold: (1) To address and remedy the blighted condition of the area known as The Block, Asheville's historic African-American community business district, and (2) To create an atmosphere conducive to decreasing the rate of unemployment and increasing the availability of affordable housing for area residents. We could not have done this—not any of it—without him. Thank you, Mr. Geter



Join us online & become a fan on our Facebook page!! Get all the Latest information regarding forums, starting your own business, and referrals to free resources, in the community Search us on Facebook @ [eaglemarketstreetsdevelopmentcorporation](#)

## **The BLOCK ACADEMY**

**Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation's Building Lifelong, Opportunity, Community and Knowledge (BLOCK) Academy**, is pleased to announce the success of its second Graduation ceremonies. Services were held August 18, 2011 at the Historic YMICC Cultural Center. The Academy graduated 4 promising new minority businesses. The graduating businesses were covered the spectrum from technology to health and wellness.

Attendees included, City of Asheville's Community Development Director, Jeff Staudinger, Minority Business Coordinator, James Lee, Dr. Joseph Fox, Fox Management Consulting, LLC, AB Technical Community College Business Administration Chair, BLOCK Academy Instructor, Ms. Sharon Oxendine, Mt. Bizworks, Women's Business Center, Regional Director, Darryl Hart and Dave Nutter.

Featured speakers were, BLOCK Academy Alumni, Ms. Jewana Grier McEachin and Mr. Akeem Scott.

**Please join us in congratulating our Spring BLOCK Academy graduates: Anthony Thomas, Susan Warren, Jennifer Poore, and Howard Foster.**

# **Welcome**

**Sarah Williams, returning  
AmeriCorps Vista\* Intern  
Many thanks to  
NC IDA Collaborative for  
selecting EMSDC as a  
Vista site.**

**Eagle Market Streets Alliances**

- Asheville-Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement
- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
- Bank of Asheville
- City of Asheville
- Empowerment
- First Citizens Bank
- Getting Back to the Basics
- Home Trust Bank
- Housing Authority of Asheville
- Living Waters Ministries
- Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
- Mountain Bizworks
- Progressive Minority Business Alliance
- Shoe Shine Boy
- The Urban News
- WRES-LP
- YMI Cultural Center

Service Providers @ EMSDC  
Getting Back to The Basics

Living Waters Ministries

Diamond Star Cleaning Service

**The Block Academy is Underway!**

We welcome ambitious pioneers to take advantage of our wonderful program resources.

For **BLOCK** Academy details or to enroll in the program please contact:

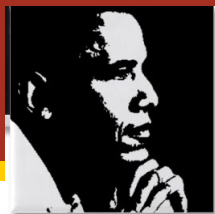
Sara Williams  
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Fax: 828..378.0143

*Keeping  
hope Alive*



## Eagle Market Streets Business of the Month

### OUR MISSION

To assist Small Businesses and Organizations with leveraging the power of mobile technology and its ability to cultivate a personal and interactive relationship with their audiences while maximizing their return on their investment.

### WHO WE ARE

Cytext Mobile Marketing Solutions provides complete mobile phone technology solutions for Small Business and Organizations who are seeking to enhance their communications with clients, customers or staff. Through the use of Cytext Mobile's "State Of the Art" SMS Text Messaging platform, our clients have the ability to reach their audiences no matter where they may be. To compliment our SMS platform; Cytext also offers custom Mobile Website Design and QR Code (2D Code) marketing services to help our clients keep up with the fast pace of mobile technology and mobile search. See the power of Mobile Marketing - Text the word CYTEXT to 59769.

You could be missing out on thousands of potential customers  
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or Call: 828 582-5865



- Restaurants
- Medical Offices
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Real Estate Agents
- Government Agencies

For Information on Eagle Market Streets programs, to donate or to enroll in the **BLOCK** Academy contact Eagle Market Streets: 828.281.1227 or email: [www.eaglemarketsts.net](http://www.eaglemarketsts.net)

**Support EMSDC in carrying out our mission!**

**Transforming Individuals into Assets:**

**Investing in Sustainable, Personal, Economic, and Community Development**

**Donor Pledge Information**

Name

Billing address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

E-Mail

I (we) pledge a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid: \_\_\_ now \_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_ yearly.

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of: \_\_\_ cash \_\_\_ check \_\_\_ other.

Please make checks or other gifts payable to: EMSDC

P.O. Box 3015 All donations made will receive a receipt

Asheville, NC, 28802 within 5-7 business days and are tax deductible.