

# DANCING AND SINGING TO THE TUNES OF HISTORY



*Ricky Butler in character as  
William Washington Browne  
Kiyonna Jones in character as  
Michelle Obama*

Performance art can inspire as well as instruct, so what better medium was there for the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center to celebrate Black History Month than song, dance, poetry and drama?

The celebration on February 23 at BGACDC focused on the achievements of African Americans from the deep

past to the present and what the historical examples have meant for the future of children. Youngsters dressed for and played historical characters whose struggles and examples laid the foundation for the freedoms and cultural growth of African Americans, from Harriet Tubman, William Washington Browne, Nikki Giovanni and Dr. Martin Luther King to Barack and Michelle Obama.

Guests to the celebration were welcomed by toddler artists. Students of the Delta Visual and Performing Arts sang the Freedom School rendition of Labi Siffre's "Something Inside So Strong." The song is an anthem for African American youth because it inspires them to tap into their inner strengths and overcome the hurdles laid in their paths. When asked why the song was so powerful, youngsters said "because it's true."

"We are beyond proud of our youth and we appreciate the parents and the whole community for their support of the vision and mission of BGACDC," said Beatrice Shelby, executive director of the development agency.

