

Winans concert Oct. 12 to benefit community fund

By **Shelley Byrne** sbyrne@paducahsun.com--270.575.8667

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Grammy-nominated gospel recording artist Vickie Winans will help raise money for the McCracken County Community Career Endowment during a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center.

The concert is hosted jointly by the endowment and Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. Tickets are available at the Carson Center box office or online at www.thecarsoncenter.org. Prices range from \$20 to \$60.

The concert will also serve as the kickoff for the Mount Moriah women's ministry conference, said Danny Fugate, the endowment's treasurer.

Winans, who lives in Detroit, is well-known for her hits "Long As I Got King Jesus" and "We Shall Behold Him." Her "Be Encouraged" album, which included the latter song, earned her a Grammy nomination for best female contemporary soul gospel album in 1985. Her latest album, released last year, is titled "Woman to Woman: Songs of Life."

The late Fred Paxton, the Sun's former publisher, and his wife, Peggy, created the \$1 million endowment, aimed primarily at helping minorities find and keep good jobs locally.

"Fred's philosophy was, 'There's no need in one side of the community going up without the other side,'" Paducah-McCracken

County NAACP President J.W. Cleary said. “It’s a win-win situation for all of us, and we really feel good about it.”

The endowment provided nearly \$15,000 in scholarships to 13 minority college students in April and holds fundraisers throughout the year.

The endowment has also helped create a database to connect hiring employers with qualified minority candidates.

“We believe so much in the endowment,” Cleary said. “We know what money we have, but we need more. We’re trying to do things to help make our part even bigger.”