

8/13/09



Cathy Kightlinger's  
TALK OF OUR TOWN

## Zoo expecting birth of white rhino

**T**here's pregnancy buzz at the Indianapolis Zoo. Seems Gloria, a 30-year-old white rhino, is expecting.

She was observed mating with Spike, a 20-year-old male, about a year ago. Gestation for the white rhino is 16 months, so zoo officials are hoping for a birth late this year.

She is the mother of six, and he is the father of three.

Spike and Gloria replaced two white rhinos from South Africa that didn't successfully breed, said **Judy Gagen**, communications director for the zoo. She said the pair of American-born rhinos are more experienced breeders than the South African pair.

Adult rhinos weigh more than two tons. Their calves weigh about 100 pounds at birth but gain about 30 pounds a week, Gagen said.

### Girls Inc. honors role models

About 500 were on hand at a Girls Inc. Indianapolis luncheon last week as **Ellen K. Annala** and **Alpha C. Blackburn** received the organization's Touchstone Awards this year.

The honor recognizes women who are deemed "strong, smart and bold" role models to the girls served by the organization.

"This is an event to lift up women leaders in the community," said **Pat Wachtel**, president and CEO of Girls Inc.

Annala, president and CEO of the United Way of Central Indiana, and Blackburn, president and CEO of Blackburn Architects, are among a group of 40 local women who have received the designation. Other recipients include U.S. District Judge **Sarah Evans Barker**, who got the award in 1989; educator **Jacqueline S. Greenwood**, who received it in 1994; and **Lyn St. James**, who was the first female Rookie of the Year in the Indianapolis 500. St. James received her Touchstone Award in 1995.

Because the organization is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, past Touchstone Award winners also were recognized at the event, held Aug. 6

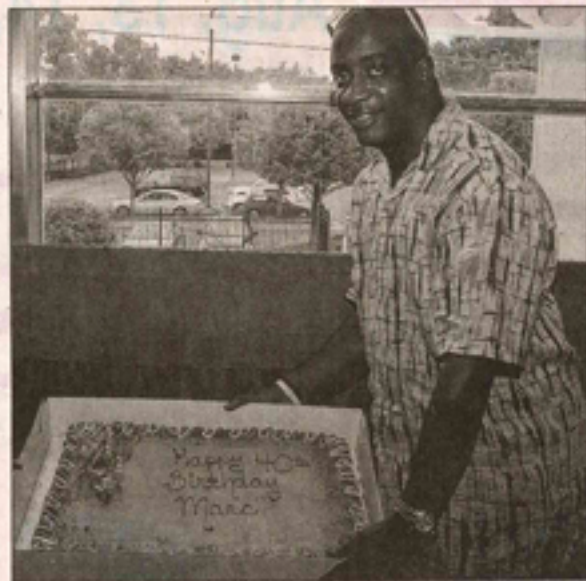


Photo provided by MICHAEL PATTON

**FROSTING ON HIS DAY:** A grateful Marc Williams said he hadn't had a birthday party since he was a child.

at The Westin Indianapolis.

**Lorene Burkhart**, a 1990 Touchstone honoree, was the event's chairwoman, and **Joy Dumandan** of WISH (Channel 8) was the emcee.

### Classic leader gets birthday bash

New Circle City Classic Executive Director **Marc Williams** got some Hoosier hospitality Friday when more than 300 people filled Downtown's 300 East to celebrate his 40th birthday.

Williams, a New Jersey native who turned 40 on Saturday, said the Indianapolis community has been quick to offer support.

The birthday party, he said, is the first one he has had since he was a child.

"I've never received this kind of support this quickly . . . not to this degree," Williams said.