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Posted at 1:05 AM ET, 07/1/2010

Stacie Turner, soon-to-be "Real Housewives of D.C." star, launches charity to help girls in foster care



Stacie Turner, center, with Barbara Harrison of NBC-4, on her left, and participants in Turner's new Extra-Ordinary Life program. (Amy Argetsinger/The Washington Post)

It was a nice turnout for a new charity -- 150 or so guests including judges, TV anchors, Mayor **Adrian Fenty**. But maybe it helps when the hostess is a celebrity. Or an almost-celebrity. Or a soon-to-be celebrity.

Stacie Turner is the founder of Extra-Ordinary Life, a support group that aims to provide mentorship and cultural opportunities for teenage girls in the District's foster care system. She's kicking things off this month by taking eight young women to South Africa for the World Cup finals.

"It will show them the world is their oyster, and there are no horizons," the real estate agent told us, at the reception at the downtown Bank of America's monument-view top floor.

She's also, as it happens, reality-TV royalty-in-waiting -- one of the stars of Bravo's "The Real Housewives of D.C." premiering next month.

Props to her for leveraging her nascent fame for the sake of good works, rather than a memoir or a fashion line. But Turner, 42, was quick to tell us she started Extra-Ordinary Life last year.

The Washington native (grew up in Alexandria, graduated from Howard) was adopted from foster care at the age of 6 months -- "the best-case scenario," she said. Her family exposed her to mind-broadening travel and culture from an early age; some of her new proteges have never ventured beyond the city. (A BET camera crew will follow the group for a documentary.)

So, about "Housewives"! An advance peek at the first episode shows the mom of two as down-to-earth and likable. But reality TV can be a rough business -- her co-stars, after all, include **Tareq** and **Michaele Salahi**. Why'd she agree to do it?

"I like my reality," she said with a laugh. "I think it's pretty positive. And if the show can bring attention to my real estate business and my charity, that's great."

Extra: [D.C. Fab](#) did a [video interview](#) with Turner at the event. What does she think about being the only African-American cast member on a D.C. "Housewives" series? "I'm surprised too," she says. "All I could think was, oh, the pressure."

By The Reliable Source | July 1, 2010; 1:05 AM ET | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)
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