



Wendell James Philanthropy Award



Television, radio and stage personality, Wendell James' blunt style and talent are a hit in Hollywood. Everyone wants to know "Wendell"! Born in Warren, Ohio, it was obvious that Ohio could never hold him. He had too much style, personality and talent to stay in Warren. Wendell decided that California was the perfect place and that is where his journey began.

Mr. James's passion for fashion prompted him to start his own shirt line called Wendell's Designs. The colorful shirt line was an instant hit! In March 2007, the "Talking with Wendell Show" hit the airwaves. The show, both entertaining and informative, aired live every Saturday and covered the Riverside and San Bernardino counties while streamed live on the web. Wendell addressed hot news topics as well as the Hollywood Scoop. His list of celebrity guests and professionals included Loretta Devine, Pat Boone, Omarosa, Dr. Cornel West, Alfre Woodard, Niecy Nash, Rolonda Watts, Kenny Lattimore, Dr. David Kampt, Kym Whitley and Sheryl Lee Ralph. Wendell became the official red carpet host for Sheryl Lee Ralph's DIVA Foundation DIVAS Simply Singing! benefit concert to fight HIV/AIDS more than six years ago and remains the official host today.

With Mr. James' fun personality and great circle of friends, it's no surprise he would land a spot on the new docu-series "Raising Whitley". Raising Whitley is a humorous poignant docu-series following his long-time friend and "Hollywood wife" actress and comedienne Kym Whitley and her chaotic group of friends called "The Village" as they attempt to do something they have never done before "raise a baby" together. The show premiered April 2013 on the OWN Network and has been renewed for a 3rd season.

While Mr. James is best known for his on air personality, few know of the time and resources he has put into numerous causes. Wendell has been an advocate and fundraiser for HIV/AIDS prevention lending both his talent and voice to the cause. Additionally, he has supported community efforts recognizing the importance of fatherhood and supported services for developmentally impaired individuals. His philanthropic efforts also include Kiki Shepard's KIIS Foundation (Sickle Cell), the Mablean Ephraim Foundation (Scholarship Fund), the New Image Emergency Shelter (Homeless), the Rowell Foster Children's Foundation (Foster Care) and the Reed for Hope Foundation (Health and Wellness). These efforts, while largely unnoticed by the public, speak to his commitment to community and humanity in general.

Better Brothers Los Angeles and The DIVA Foundation are proud to present **Wendell James** with the inaugural "**Philanthropy**" **Truth Award** for living and acting on his truth.