

"If One Fails the Community Fails"

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Our Children ... What do we really support?



As the school year begins, a recurrent, rhetorical question is posed, "What educational achievements do we want from our children?"

As you ponder your response, consider the following.

year.

The youth in our Community are entering the 2014-15 school year with less funding to fuel their development than they had last

And, this decline of educational support (investment) is occurring at the same time as we demand that our youth are prepared to conquer new technologies and better cope with the complexities of a global economy.

Although the "Great Recession" was six years ago, less money is spent on the education of our children today than in 2008, and less than during the 2013-14 school year.

The most common measure of state support for K-12 public education is the amount of "General Aid" provided by the State to local Wisconsin school districts. The General Aid amount in 2007-08 was \$4.63 billion. The General Aid amount in 2013-14 was \$4.26 billion.

Conversely, during the same period, monies (your tax dollars) paid to incarcerate an individual have increased substantially. The current cost to house a prisoner in Wisconsin is more than \$38,000 a year.

MISSION

To provide support to positive efforts that are conducted with and on behalf of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin;

To establish mutually beneficial relationships between African American organizations of Greater Madison, Wisconsin; and

To establish ongoing dialogue concerning common issues of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Note, the cost to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison (tuition, board, books and fees) for an in-state resident is \$19,890 a year.



Now, if you are keeping up with and employ the colloquial buzzwords "data driven" and "evidential results," your answer to the aforementioned question should be quite interesting, if not alarming.

If we only view outcomes from the lens of expenditures (data) and then utilize that platform of thought as evidence, one could logically conclude that although we may express the lofty platitude that we seek the success of every child, evidence (i.e., dollars spent) depicts that we value incarceration more than education.

As we banter about the joy of a new school year and the wonderful journey of learning, lest we forget that possibly our expenditures resonate our true intents much louder than our words.

4th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser

5 September 2014 - The Oaks Golf Course - Cottage Grove, WI

The Caribbean Association of Madison (CAM), a nonprofit group that brings together people of Caribbean descent and friends, will sponsor the 4th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser, 1:30 p.m., 5 September, at The Oaks Golf Course, 4740 Pierceville Road, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

CAM labors to preserve and disseminate information concerning the rich culture, history and heritage of Caribbean people. CAM volunteers at local food pantries and community centers, tutors students, talks to schools and organizations about the Caribbean and offers scholarships to college students.



Please [click here](#) to view the flyer concerning details of the event.

UWSMPH 2014 Health Disparities Symposium

18 September 2014 - Wingra Family Medical Center - Madison, WI



The UW HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care Program and the Midwest AIDS Training & Education Center (MATEC) invite you to participate in a unique conversation among community leaders, public health researchers and others who are interested

in eliminating racial disparities in Wisconsin.

The Symposium, **Incarceration, Infections and Inequities: Creating an Agenda for Research and Community Action in Wisconsin**, will be held from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday, 18 September, in the 1st Floor Community Room of the Wingra Family Medical Center, 1102 S. Park Street, Madison, WI 53715.

For more information, [please click here](#).

Urban League Cabaret

19 September 2014 - Monona Terrace - Madison, WI



The 2nd Annual Urban Cabaret will be held Friday, 19 September, at Monona Terrace and Conference Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Sponsored by the Urban League of Greater Madison, this year's event will incorporate performances by area artists, Cycrophia, the Black Star Drumline, The Bellhops and a theatrical piece created specifically for this event by playwright and First Wave Creative Director, Rain Wilson. In addition, to the main performances there will be strolling magic by Lochlan Masters, stilt walkers, Cabaret Cuisine and a dance party with DJ Chill. The Urban Cabaret is the signature event for Madison's urban community, sponsors and supporters.

This event was created to raise \$100,000 to support Urban League programs, which include workforce development programs, Schools of Hope and Project REACH.

To purchase tickets please [click here](#).

For more information contact Hedi Rudd at 608-729-1268 or hrudd@ulgm.org.

St. Paul AME Church Celebrating 112 Year Legacy of Faith

19-21 September 2014

St. Paul AME Church will celebrate 112 years of service to the Madison Community during the weekend of 19-21 September.

As the oldest, predominantly African-American Church in Madison, St. Paul has ministered to our Community with unparalleled longevity.

Please join the congregation of St. Paul in the celebration of this amazing accomplishment.



The most honorable, Reverend Joseph Baring, officiates as the pastor of St. Paul AME Church, which is located at 4525 Diamond Drive, Madison, WI 53714.

Schedule of Events

Friday, 19 September 2014
Spirit Night - 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 20 September 2014
Anniversary Unity Banquet - 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 21 September 2014
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Service
4:00 p.m. - Afternoon Worship Service

For more information, please [click here](#) to view flyer.

2014 Omega Weekend

19-21 September 2014

Omega Psi Phi, Gamma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter will host the Annual Omega Weekend, 19-21 September 2014.



Special to this year's activity, the Chapter will accept donations from attendees for school supplies that will be given to needy students in one of the MMSD schools.

Schedule of Events

5:00 p.m., Friday, 19 September - Happy Hour and Networking at Madison's Bar in Downtown Madison

10:00 a.m. - Noon, Saturday, 20 September - Community Service Park Clean-up with the Youth at Penn Park

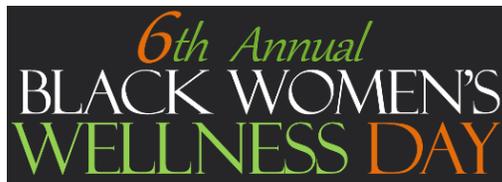
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., Saturday 20 September - Social event/dance hosted at Grey's Tied House in Verona, WI

Sunday, 21 September - Free cookout with the Omega's at Fireman's Park in Middleton, WI.

[Click here](#) for further information and tickets.

6th Annual Black Women's Wellness Day

20 September 2014 - Alliant Energy Center - Madison, WI



The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness will stage the 6th Annual Black Women's Wellness Day Saturday, 20 September 2014, at the

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

This year's event will feature internationally renowned author, holistic health specialist, and Lifestyle Coach, Queen Afua, Founder of the Brooklyn, New York-based Queen Afua City of Wellness.

The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness is a Madison-based nonprofit organization committed to eliminating health disparities and other barriers impacting African-American women and girls.

To register, please [click here](#).

Equity MADR's 5th Annual Diversity Symposium

22 September 2014 - American Family Insurance Education Center

Sponsored by the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable, the Equity MADR's 5th Annual Diversity Symposium will be held, 22 September at the American Family Insurance Education Center - Building A.

The Keynote Speaker for the Symposium is Rinku Sen, President and Executive Director of the Applied Research Center (ARC) and the publisher of Colorlines.com. A leading figure in the racial-justice movement, Rinku has positioned ARC as a national home for media, research and activism on diversity issues.



To register for the Diversity Symposium, please [click here](#).

Opportunities Beyond Obstacles

6-8 October 2014 - UW-Madison Pyle Center - Madison, WI



Opportunities Beyond Obstacles (OBO) is the annual, multidisciplinary conference of the [Consortium for the Educational Development of Economically Disadvantaged Students](#) (CEDEDS). This conference provides an unparalleled opportunity to share new ideas or highlight noteworthy projects, research and practices with other professionals in the field of addressing the educational needs of children in poverty.

OBO is dedicated to the exploration of issues relating to the education of the economically disadvantaged student. The goals of Opportunities Beyond Obstacles include developing a common understanding, focus on the causation rather than symptoms, and strategies to change the paradigm.

On-site and virtual participation is offered.

Early-bird rates apply, so register today!

[Physical Participation Pre-conference Registration](#)

[Virtual Participation Pre-conference Registration](#)

[Event Brochure](#)



Shoes-in-Boots Project

Making a Difference in the Life of a Deserving Little Girl

Many, many years ago, a second-grade little girl was asked by her teacher to come to the front of the classroom and write a word on the blackboard. Although she was more than able to satisfy the academic request, the little girl was reluctant to come forward. Still, she complied.



As the little girl finished writing and placed the chalk back into the tray, she could feel the teacher's eyes fixed on her feet. "Won't you please remove your boots [galoshes]?" the teacher asked. The teacher recognized that it was late spring and not raining outside. Now, the eyes of everyone in the classroom were fixed on her feet.

Pushing her embarrassment down, the little girl politely answered, "No thank you. I would rather keep them on."

What the teacher and her classmates did not understand was that the little girl wanted to remove her boots but she opted to keep them on because they were holding her dilapidated shoes together. Without the support of the boots, the second grader might as well have been barefooted.

This story is not an urban legend; it is a true story that occurred about 86 years ago. The little girl was my Mom. By the grace of God, my Mom transitioned from a childhood of poverty to a very productive and satisfying life, and she is now 93 years young.

In her honor and to provide assistance to other second-grade girls who may be experiencing a similar fate, The Shoes in Boots Project has been created.

The objective of this Project is to provide a new pair of shoes or a new pair of boots to a deserving area second-grade girl. The only requirements, aside from the qualifications of being in the second grade and able to demonstrate need, is for the recipient second grader to write a letter of thank you to my Mother (Lula Rose) within a week of receiving the shoes/boots and supply a picture of her wearing the shoes/boots.