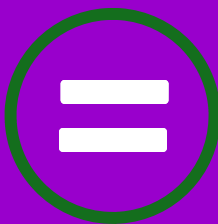




URBAN CONNECTIONS

“EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, CHANGING LIVES”



Project 4 Victory Recognized At White House Ceremony

President George W. Bush was joined by the Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas at a White House signing ceremony today. The Dallas Prisoner Re-entry Initiative represented by Yvonne Young, Project Director was recognized for its outstanding work in reducing recidivism among non-violent offenders in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor's Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (PRI). "The Prisoner Re-entry Initiative works with local faith-based and community organizations to help ex-prisoners learn basic job skills and earn an honest living in our communities," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao.

The Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas works to reduce recidivism by helping people with criminal backgrounds obtain employment

and become self-sufficient. According to figures released today through PRI, the Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas has enrolled 408 participants and placed 85 percent of its participants in jobs. The one-year recidivism rate for program participants is currently 12 percent – or, 73 percent lower than the national average.

"We know that if given the resources and a caring environment, non-violent ex-offenders can become productive citizens," said Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, Ph.D., President and CEO of the League. "This grant provides those resources to train and transition ex-offenders into full-time employment and self-sufficiency."

The department has awarded approximately \$56 million in grants to 30 PRI faith-based and community organizations across the country.

The Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and

Community Initiatives (CFBCI) helps Americans in need by fostering partnerships between government and effective nonprofit service organizations, whether faith-based or secular, large or small. For more information on the CFBCI, visit <http://www.dol.gov/cfbci>.



DHAP Offers Assistance To Hurricane Displaced Families

Like thousands of displaced residents from New Orleans, Neisha Jackson, her fiancé and young daughter relocated to Dallas following Hurricane Katrina with literally nothing. The couple received immediate assistance from the Urban League and that initial meeting forged a partnership that has helped them get back on their feet.

Neisha, a former New Orleans policewoman, kept in touch with her Urban League Case Manager who enrolled her in the Urban League Gulf Coast Initiative, a Department of Labor funded program and later in the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP). Because of the assistance she received from the Urban League, Neisha enrolled in the University of North Texas and graduated last year with a major in criminal justice. Today, she works as a case manager for the Urban

League's DHAP program and recently married. Her husband, who is also a former New Orleans policeman, is a police officer for the Federal Reserve Bank.

The Urban League will receive up to \$1.5 million for DHAP through the Dallas Housing Authority, a HUD-FEMA pilot grant program, to provide case management to over 900 non-HUD assisted families displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Rita. Each head of household is required to participate in case management services in order to continue to receive rental subsidies from HUD.

The goal of DHAP is to move DHAP families to self-sufficiency and permanent housing by March 1, 2009.

"Neisha is able to provide personal knowledge about motivation, social services needs and

poverty among the Hurricane Katrina population," said Treva McDaniel, Project Director of Residential Services. "The case management ratio is 1:50 where the case manager is able to provide in-depth case management consisting of employment, housing, health services and job readiness training and move clients to self sufficiency."

For more information about the DHAP program, call (214) 915-4600.



URBAN LEAGUE JOB SERVICES RECORD NUMBERS

The Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas kicked off the year with the first job fair for 2008. Over 700 participants from throughout the Metroplex attended the all-day event which was held on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at the El Centro College Bill J. Priest Campus.

Over 60 companies offered positions in Information Technology, management, accounting, collections and sales for skilled professionals as well as customer service representatives, data entry workers, assemblers, machine operators, warehouse, production, transportation and construction staff.

Bank of America, Interstate Batteries, City of Dallas, Sam's Club,

UT Southwestern Hospital, Parkland Health and Hospital Systems, Four Seasons, Avis Budget Group, Hyatt Hotel & Resorts, Verizon, UPS, FedEx Express, Wal-Mart, Auto Zone, Tom Thumb were among the companies participating in the Job Fair.

The job seekers were greeted by a team of professional Urban League staffers that matched their skills with open positions and referred the job seeker to the appropriate company.



"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire."
- W B Yeats

PROGRAMS & SERVICES HIGHLIGHTED AT ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Hundreds of community leaders and supporters attended the 2008 Urban League Annual Meeting and Luncheon on February 22, 2008 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. The highlights of this year's event was the Award Presentations and The Annual Report presented by Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, Ph.D., President and CEO of the League. This year's Legacy recipients are as follows: Mollie Belt, publisher of the premier community newspaper, The Dallas Examiner which has a readership of over 60,000; Julia K. Jordan, an educator for nearly 50 years with the Dallas Independent School District; and Rev. C.B.T. Smith who was pastor of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church for 45 years

before his retirement. His powerful preaching and unique leadership style helped Golden Gate grow to over 3,000 parishioners and an average annual income of \$1 million annually. The Torch Award recipients include James C. Belt III, Advertising Manager for the Dallas Examiner; Barbara Watkins, President Emerita of Parkland Foundation; and Rev. Lelious A. Johnson, Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church and President of the Oak Cliff Minister's Union. Dr. Brooks outlined successes in all the program areas including Project 4 Victory. This program, which prepared previously incarcerated persons to re-enter society as productive citizens, served nearly 400 clients in

2007. Over half obtained employment with a 70% retention rate. This program was recently recognized by President Bush for its outstanding success. Habib Pourfakhrai, Vice President of North Texas District at UPS and Nafessa M. Belcher, Director of Marketing and Support Systems at J.C. Penney were sworn in as members of the Urban League Board of Trustees during the event.



NEW CHAIR OF URBAN LEAGUE CSBG MANAGING BOARD

Annie Dickson, a community leader and former Garland City Council member was recently elected chairperson of the Urban League's Managing Board of Directors which oversees the operation of programs under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) for seven years. Dickson has been involved in the Garland community for over 40 years. Dickson has received numerous community and state awards for her leadership. "Her strength and compassion knows no bounds and she is an inspiration to not only the City of Garland but all the many lives she touches. We are proud and fortunate to have her serve as Chairperson," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President and CEO Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas.



URBAN LEAGUE EMPLOYMENT & LABOR LAW WORKSHOP



Nearly 100 people attended the Urban League and J.L. Turner Legal Association Employment and Labor Law Checkup Conference on March 13 at the Double Tree Hotel Market Center. Lawyers from throughout the legal community addressed employment and labor law issues, new policies and procedures, compliance requirements, legislative updates and best practices to an audience of human resource professionals, small business owners, staffing agencies and non profit organization, payroll personnel and supervisors. One judge also participated in the event. "The League was honored to partner with the J.L. Turner Legal Association to provide the latest in case law on issues that affect employers and employees throughout our communities," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, Urban League President and CEO. "The content of the workshops was current, practical and informative." *The workshops included At Will Laws conducted by Attorney La Donna Harlan of the Law Office of La Donna Harlan; Sexual Harassment, conducted by Attorney Cynthia Uduebar of Baker Botts, L.L.P.; HIPAA, conducted by Attorney Kenya Woodruff of Jones Day; Hiring Ex-Offenders, conducted by Attorney Wendell Washington, Braccwell & Giuliani, L.L.P.; Termination Dos and Don'ts, conducted by Attorney Sheri Crosby of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, L.L.P.; Understanding Discrimination and Retaliation in the Workplace, conducted by Attorney Tracey Wallace, of Adorno Yoss White & Wiggins; EEOC & Affirmative Action Game Plan, conducted Judge Evelyn Maiben, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Overview of U.S. Immigration Laws and Changes conducted by Attorney Martha James of Badmus Immigration Law Firm, P.C.; Employee Verification: 1-9 Procedure (IRCA) and Response to Social Security Numbers conducted by Attorney Ann Badmus of Badmus Immigration Law Firm; An Employer's Responsibilities Under the Fair Labor Standards Act conducted by Attorney Vista Lyons of Ford & Harrison, L.L.P.; Violence in the Workplace conducted by Attorney Jennifer Johnson of Atkins Gump Straus Hauer & Feld, L.L.P. Attorney Frederick Barrow of Litter Mendelson, P.C., the luncheon keynote speaker, spoke on "Diversity in the Workplace". The next Employment and Labor Conference will be held in October 2008.*

FORMER TOP ACHIEVER HONORED AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY



Abdul-Khaaliq, a native of Duncanville and former Urban League Top Ten Achiever, received a Community Service Award from the Purdue University Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff at its 33rd Annual Academic and Service Awards Program. The event was held on Saturday, April 12 at the Purdue Memorial Union North Ballroom Banquet in West Lafayette, Indiana. Each year since 1975, the Caucus has recognized over one hundred African American students who have distinguished themselves by strong academic performance and noteworthy service and leadership. Anwar received a special certificate, a gift and monetary award.

Anwar credits the Urban League of Greater Dallas programs and a great curriculum at Duncanville High School in Duncanville with preparing him for college life. He was involved with numerous community projects through the Urban League and was considered a leader among his peers. "It is necessary to give back to the community and help others become successful," he said.

He was recognized with the Urban League's prestigious Top Ten Award through the League's Achievement Matters Program and was a member of the Urban League Microsoft Youth IT Challenge. "My experience with the League exposed me to social welfare programs that help people become self-reliant," he said. "This contact has sealed my belief that ambition, hard work, determination, and giving charity through community service is like hitting the jackpot. Your reward is not money but the gift of having a golden heart." Anwar is the son of Rashidah Madyun and Nashid Abdul-Khaaliq.

IRMA P. HALL (BIG MAMA IN SOUL FOOD)



Irma P. Hall, a supporting actress in films like *Meet the Browns*, *Collateral* and television credits that include the role of

Big Momma in *Soul Food* and *The Bernie Mac Show* discussed Untraditional Careers at a Personal Development Training for two Urban League of Greater Dallas programs, the Urban Youth Empowerment E3 program and Gulf Coast Employment Initiatives.

Hall, a matriarchal supporting

actress of film and television whose quick wit and instantly likable persona has served her well on stage and screen, wowed the students with information about the film industry and the availability of jobs on and off screen. Over 40 students participated in the training. Urban Youth Empowerment E3 Program, funded by the Department of Labor, focuses on education, employment and empowerment and offers students, ages 18 to 23, who are no longer in school and/or adjudicated, GED training, job readiness, life skills

seminars, computer and vocational training, community service and subsidized internships. Gulf Coast Employment Initiative serves at-risk youth ages 18 to 24 who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and have limited education and work experience. It provides job readiness training and job placement as well as other supportive services including housing, healthcare, continued education and childcare.

For more information about the Urban League programs call (214) 915-4600.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Housing Department Home-buyer Workshops **May 10, 2008, June 14, 2008, July 12, 2008, August 12, 2008** Urban League Headquarters 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Urban League Young Professionals Presents Dr. Sherron Patterson "The Generational Voices of Black Women" Join us for a discussion on issues that affect women. **Saturday, May 17, 2008, 1-5:00 p.m.**, Doubletree Market Center. For more information call 214.224.0465

ULCSC @ Pleasant Grove
Job Fair 10325 Lake June Road,
Suite #118 Dallas, TX 75216 **May 29, 2008**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
214.915.4600

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URBAN CONNECTION 2008

HUD/Urban League Partnership Marks 39 Years

The Urban League Housing Department has been a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved counseling agency since 1969 through its Comprehensive Housing Counseling Program.

The League offers education and counseling to homeowners, renters, the homeless, disabled, potential renters, homeowners and the elderly.

The program promotes homeownership, affordable and suitable housing and resolution of tenant/landlord disputes, post and pre-purchase counseling, Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), financial literacy, foreclosure prevention and homelessness prevention and services to the homeless.

To Urban League Friends and Supporters

The Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas is pleased to offer another edition of our Urban Connection. We want to keep you informed about the new and exciting programs that are available at the League. Our headquarters is located in Dallas but we also offer services at our satellite offices in Garland, Pleasant Grove and Irving.

In this issue, we highlight PRI, DHAP and our first annual Employment and Labor Conference. We partnered with the J.L. Turner Legal Association and addressed case law issues that affect employers and employees throughout our communities. Nearly a hundred human resource managers, business owners and staffing services participated in the event. We are now offering additional services to displaced families of Hurricane Katrina and Rita through a new and exciting program: The Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) which provides rent subsidies and case management to displaced families.

Three outstanding Dallas citizens were honored at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon for their exemplary records of achievement and contributions to the Dallas community. The Luncheon also served as a platform for the Urban League's "Year-in-Review" which outlined our accomplishments during 2007.

Visit our website for current and upcoming news and information on the Urban League.

Beverly Mitchell-Brooks
President & CEO