

December 7, 2010

Upcoming Monthly Meeting

- Saturday, January 15, 2011
12:30 pm -3:30pm
at the Treehouse Building, 2100
24th Ave S, Seattle
98144, Conference Room C

Save the Date
May 21, 2011
BCDI-Seattle Spring Conference

Inside this issue:

Calendar of Black Children	1
BCDI-Seattle Wins Membership Award	1
President's Message	2
Education Committee Report	3
Keep Children Safely at Home	4
2010 Kwanzaa Schedule	4



NBCDI's 2011 Calendar of Black Children now available—\$12.00. Call Patricia Evans at 206-723-8105

Those wonderful calendars with our beautiful children are finally here! This year , we only have 500 and they sell for \$ 12.00 each (down from last year). As you know , this is BCDI-Seattle's only major fun raiser for our scholarship awards. We would like to make several scholarship awards in the upcoming year. So if you would like to buy or sell calendars. please email or call Patricia Evans at pevans@seattleschools.org or call 206 723 8105 or 206 769 5067 to arrange for pick-ups and (delivery for those of you that are selling and need a bunch).

BCDI-Seattle receives Membership Award from National (NBCDI)

In November, at the National (NBCDI) Conference in Anaheim, CCA; BCDI-Seattle President Wanda Hackett PhD received the National (NBCDI) 2010 award for the largest number of new members among the 25 affiliates.

BCDI-Seattle is currently having a membership drive. We want to keep the award for the largest number of new members. To do that, we need for you to renew or join BCDI-Seattle today.

To join BCDI-Seattle, go to the BCDI-Seattle web site (BCDI-Seattle.org) and download the membership application and send it in today. Regular memberships start at \$35 and students are \$10.

President's Message—Wanda Hackett, PhD, President

It's hard to believe that it's been 20 years since many of us were seated at Blackbird Bookstore (a standing room only crowd) eagerly awaiting a presentation from the African philosopher Malidoma Somé. Dr. Somé shared with us his philosophy and tribal wisdom and we shared with him our concerns for African Americans and asked his guidance in solving many of the same challenges facing the community, today (economic underdevelopment, healthcare crises, school underachievement, alarming rates of incarceration, etc.). I will never forget his response because no matter what the question was, his response was the same—"convene as a community and work together to create solutions—I don't have the answers for you, the answers are within the collective wisdom of your community."

When I think of community, the African American community where I grew up in East Denver in the 50s and 60s comes to mind. My great-grandmothers were pillars in that community for more than 60 years; it was where my grandmother and my mother were raised as well. A community where everyone knew my sister and I and were watching out for our well-being. A community that had collective goals for its children—that they develop good character, become well educated, be productive and give back to the community. Many of us experienced this sense of community and it lies at the heart of BCDI's new initiative, Alive and Free, Neighborhood by Neighborhood, which is being led by our Social Justice and Equity for Youth Committee. Over the next five years, BCDI will invite our members and their neighbors, as well as neighborhood community organizations (day care centers, after school programs, youth programs, churches, etc.) to join with us in putting the "neighbor" back into the "hood." Beginning in zip codes 98102, 98122, 98144 and 98118 (neighborhood by neighborhood) we will be establishing community "pillars" (cohorts of folks) to lead grassroots efforts to protect and take back our children, our neighborhoods and our sense of collective purpose using the Alive and Free philosophy (i.e., understanding the "commandments of violence" too many of our children are beginning to live by; recognizing the risk factors associated with the disease of violence; and applying the "rules for life" so our children can be Alive and Free). For more information about this exciting initiative, visit our website: www.bcdi-seattle.org



Dr. Hackett receives National (NBCDI) 2010 Membership Award

African American community welcomes new Human Services Director, Dannette R. Smith

A reception held on Tuesday, October 26th for the Seattle Human Services Department Director (HSD) was cosponsored by the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the East Cherry YWCA and Black Child Development Institute of Seattle (BCDI-Seattle). Ms. Smith was appointed Director of the Seattle Human Services Department in October. She comes to Seattle as the Director of Fulton County Department of Family and Youth Services. Ms. Smith has over 20 years of experience in human services, including child welfare; and a strong passion for working with youth and families. The program introduced Ms. Smith to the African American community and to our respective organizations. The event was successful with approximately 40 community members attending the event.



Dannette Smith and BCDI-Seattle President Wanda Hackett, PhD

Education Committee—Debra R Sullivan, Ed. D/Education Chair

Education Committee Report

"Schooling is what happens inside the walls of the school, some of which is educational. Education happens everywhere, and it happens from the moment a child is born—some say before—until it dies."

Sara Lawrence Lightfoot

The Praxis ECE Curriculum Symposium on Children of African Descent: What Works And Why

This Symposium on appropriate learning environments for children of African descent was held on Saturday, November 20 at the 2100 Building. Participants received an overview of several popular curriculum models including Montessori, Alive & Free, High/Scope, Discipline without Destroying, Reggio Emilia, Parent Empowerment Project, and Black Starline Preschool. The key objectives were to highlight the key features of each curriculum and their benefits for Black children. We examined Black children's learning styles, learning preferences, and how to set up learning environments that feed Black children's strengths – and eliminate those features in learning environments that inhibit Black children from achieving their true genius. By the end of the day, participants were able to create lesson plans that would help them become more intentional in implementing the best practice, the best pedagogy, and the best strategies for guiding the learning and behavior of children of African descent. It was a full and enlightening day and well worth every hour as we work toward eliminating the academic achievement gap. We may run this Symposium again in the spring so if you missed it, keep your eyes and ears open!

Education Committee Postcards

The Education Committee still has post cards available to mail to Seattle School Board members. The post cards feature pictures of our Black children on one side. The other side contains facts and information from the OSPI Report Card (OSPI is the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) and from OSPI's Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. Here are some examples:

The achievement gap is evidence of the inadequacies of Washington's education system, not the inadequacies of African American students' ability to learn. Support Jayden's right to a high quality school and highly qualified teachers.

If nothing changes, Washington will close the 4th grade Math gap for African American students in 32 years. Bryce and his family can't wait 32 years.

The biggest predictor of student success is a highly effective teacher, yet Math and Science WASL scores for African American students resemble those of students from developing countries. You can ensure that Joseph has access to better teachers than that.

If you would like to mail monthly postcards, please contact me at drsullivan@praxis-ece.org or call me at 206.328.5818.

Debra R. Sullivan, Ed. D./Education Committee Chair



Germaine Covington
Child Welfare chair



Elizabeth Thomas
Membership Chair



**P.O. Box 22483
Seattle, WA 98122
206-860-4048**

www.bcdi-seattle.org
Questions about the newsletter?
Contact newsletter@bcdi-seattle.org

**BLACK CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE
Seattle**



KWANZAA 2010/2011

**Sun, Dec 26—Umoja-Unity
AAKEWO**

**Mon, Dec 27—Kujichagulia-Self-
Determination
Black Star/IAK**

**Tues, Dec 28—Ujima-Collective Work
&
Responsibility
Life Enrichment Bookstore/Mshenga**

**Weds, Dec 29th—Ujamaa-Cooperative
Economics
Sistah2Sistah**

**Thu, Dec 30—Nia-Purpose
Ujamaa Trust**

**Fri, Dec 31—Kuumba—Creativity
Beta Nation
Village of hope
Adefua
Multi-Media Center
Zambuko**

**For more information, contact Mayet
Dalila 206-605-1942**

NBCDI President Emeritus Evelyn K. Moore with BCDI-Seattle President Wanda Hackett, PhD and other affiliate members from across the USA.

The Columbia City, Rainier Valley Community
& Child Protective Services
Partnering to Keep Children Safely at Home



Why? Zip code 98118 has the highest rate for African American children removed from their homes in Seattle.

Come Learn and Discuss

- ~ How CPS is working in your community
- ~ How the children in your community are doing
- ~ How you can help keep children safely at home

Thursday, December 9, 2010
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Rainier Beach Community Center
8825 Rainier Ave S, 98118

Refreshments provided

For more information contact Nancy Roberts-Brown at 206-695-3236 or Germaine Covington, BCDI 206-325-2426.

Sponsored by the King County Coalition on Racial Disproportionality in the child welfare system.