

November 2, 2009

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

Fall 2009

Upcoming Monthly Meeting and Retreat

- Saturday, November 21, 2009, 11:00 — 4:00pm at Central Youth & Family 1901 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd S. Seattle, WA 98144
- Refreshments served,
- Join us to participate in BCDI-Seattle's strategic planning

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Tribute to Edith Giles

The Black Child Development Institute and the Northwest African American Museum co-sponsored this tribute to honor BCDI member Edith Giles and her legacy of Service. Over 75 BCDI members, friends and family came to pay tribute to Edith's memory on a Sunday afternoon. The event had smooth jazz, good conversation and mouth watering desserts. The program highlighted the life and light that was Edith's contribution to BCDI and the greater community. She was a warrior for all children and especially African

American children. Edith spent many hours as a math coach at the African American Academy. Because of her commitment and passion for children, Edith was awarded the Zakiya Steward Leadership award posthumously. The subject of genealogy, knowing your roots, was another life long passion of Edith's. As a NAAM volunteer, she touched many lives by sharing her knowledge and expertise on this topic. Her spirit will live on through the work of the many math coach volunteers who

were also recognized and received appreciation awards from BCDI for their work. (Get their names from Wanda and the story) A plaque honoring Edith hangs in the Northwest African American Museum as inspiration and a reminder for us all to live and leave a legacy of service to our community.



Plaque honoring Edith Giles with Germaine Covington, BCDI-Seattle; Barbara Earl Thomas, NAAM; Dwayne Evans, BCDI-Seattle

President's Message

Hello Advocates for African American Children and Families,

First of all, I hope that you read about the BCDI-Seattle activities that are described in this newsletter. Then, you

should join us on Saturday, November 21st for a day of strategic planning that will help us to advocate for public policy and innovative and progressive methods to eliminate institutional racism and support posi-

tive social change. Together—for our children—we can overcome any challenge.

Dwayne Evans,
President



2009 BCDI Seattle Affiliate Awards: Celebrating Leadership and Action!

Submitted by Dr. Wanda Hackett, Chair Youth & Education Committee

The Black Child Development (BCDI)—Seattle Affiliate’s Mission is “*to look into the eyes and lives of African American children and families and advocate for positive social change.*” Our mission is actualized through public policy advocacy and direct service within the community. As many of you know, in the spring of 2009, BCDI was actively engaged in both the debate and advocacy to STOP the Seattle Public School closures, particularly the closure of the African American Academy. Working with the Friends of the African American Academy (of which BCDI was a founding member) alternative proposals were written and submitted to the Seattle Public School (SPS) Board; testimony made at SPS Board meetings and individual meetings convened with SPS Board members; participation in community marches; and letters written to newspapers, all to no avail. The School Board voted 5 to 2 to close the Academy along with several other schools (T. T. Minor, Meany Middle School, etc.).

Mary Bass Receives Dr. Zakiya Stewart Award

During this process of debate and advocacy, School Board Director Mary Bass provided wise advice and counsel which influenced BCDI to engage in a more collaborative community approach than we initially envisioned. Rather than fight amongst the various school communities, Mary advised that we work together and advocate for what was in the best interest of our children—children who attended all the schools on the closure list. As a consequence, a culture of collaboration and inclusion was created, with result such as, (a) the BCDI created posters which asked the community to “Save Our Schools!” identified all the affected schools, not just the African American Academy. These 500 posters were also distributed throughout the various school communities. Another example, at SPS Board Meetings when the Academy was not included on the list to testify, speakers from other schools (observing this persistent trend), generously ceded some of their time to Academy speakers! On May 6, 2009 at a SPS Board meeting it was BCDI’s privilege to publically recognize and honor Director Mary Bass for her vision, courage and leadership especially during this school closure crisis with the first ***Dr. Zakiya Stewart Award for Courageous Leadership***, congratulations, Director Bass!



African American Academy Community Math Coaches Honored

Submitted by Dr. Wanda Hackett, Chair Youth & Education Committee

Throughout BCDI's 36 year history within Seattle/King County, direct service on behalf of the African American community has been a high priority. Our members actively advocated for the establishment of the African American Academy in 1990 and in 2000 partnered (as a founding member) with the Seattle Chapter of the Links (convener) of the Friends of the African American Academy (FOAAA), the school's community advisory group. Beginning in 2001 and for the next seven years BCDI would coordinate FOAAA's Community Math Coaching program for Academy scholars in grades first through fourth. These "*angels in disguise*" provided more than 12,000 volunteer hours and supported a 40% increase in math fourth grade WASL scores over the program years! Working individually with scholars and in partnership with building administrators and classroom teachers a wonderful relationship evolved that supported reciprocal learning!



FOAAA's Community Math Coaching Program

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A Special Invitation!

We Need the Community

You can help to build a groundswell of community support around preventing youth violence!

November 9, 2009

5:30pm Reception / 6:00 to 8:00pm Forum

**Location: Garfield Teen Life Center
 428 23rd Ave., Seattle, WA**

Event Highlights

Despite the tragedies you read about in the newspapers — or, experience in your own neighborhood — there's a good deal of work underway attempting to prevent youth violence.

Do you know what that work is? Are you involved?

Our purpose with this meeting is to build a more obvious groundswell of support for the youth violence prevention work. You'll hear from several government agencies and resource organizations about what roles they're playing and how they are working together on behalf of Seattle youth.

Everyone has a part to play if the efforts are to be successful — and failure simply is not an option.

You need to be there as a participant. Bring your questions, plus your ideas around what more needs to be added to the solution.

**RSVP / Registration: www.tabor100.org
 Information: education@tabor100.org**

**Sponsored by the Coalition for Equal Education Rights
 (CEER)**

**CEER Board: Tabor 100 (chair), Black Child Development Institute,
 Seattle Breakfast Group, The Mockingbird Society, and the
 Praxis Institute for ECE**