



THE WOODSONIAN



The official newsletter of the Carter G. Woodson Scholarship & Community Service Foundation, Inc.

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“Celebrating 10 Years of Service”

Spring 2004

President’s Corner

By Langston P. Evans

Friends of the Woodson, I am proud and honored to have been elected the fifth president of the Carter G. Woodson Scholarship and Community Service Foundation, Inc. I have gained great experience throughout my six years in the foundation in my responsibilities as a former vice-president, treasurer, and Social Action Program (SA) chair. As I begin my tenure as president, I pledge that the foundation will continue to design and administer the desperately needed programs to improve the lives of Dane county’s disadvantaged children and their families.

I am a Madison native and graduated from West High School in 1990. I ventured to Iowa State University for an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Biology, only to realize how special the Madison community is. I am currently working towards a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Education.

The eminent historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the man who organized Black History Month and the great American for whom our organization is named, believed that no group or people can cultivate a better tomorrow without first recognizing and celebrating their past. This marks the tenth year that the Carter G. Woodson Foundation has operated as a 501(c)(3) public charity. So now is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the tremendous partnership between the Madison community and the foundation.

In 1994, a group of professional African American men saw that many of Dane county’s poor and minority youth lacked crucial social and educational opportunities. These men took the arduous but necessary steps to establish a local charitable corporation to address

the needs of “at-risk” children and their families. The Woodson Foundation dedicated itself to three areas of emphasis:

social action, cultural enrichment, and educational excellence. Since our humble beginnings, we have exponentially expanded our services.

In 1995, the Tutoring/Supervised Reading Program began its tutoring services at the then-South Madison Neighborhood Center, which is now the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County. From 1995-2003, the Woodson Foundation provided tutorial services to elementary students in the areas of math, reading, journal writing, and penmanship. In response to community concerns regarding the “racial gap” in high school achievement, the Tutoring Program is currently recruiting tutors for James C. Wright Middle School in order to help better prepare underachieving middle school students to excel in Madison’s rigorous high schools. Over the past ten years, the Woodson foundation has utilized more than 60 volunteer tutors, in addition to staff from the Boys & Girls Club, and volunteers from the Trek Bicycle Company.

In keeping with our mission of engaging in dynamic social action

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The Woodson Foundation Executive Board of Directors

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Motto

Education
+
Community Uplift
=
An Improved Quality of Life

Woodson "Man of the Year"

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Inc. is proud to announce Ronald Smith as its "Man of the Year." Ron is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently works for the Panvera Corporation as a scientist. Ron's commitment to the Madison community

has been extraordinary. He is a Big Brother through United Way, works with grade-school children to encourage them to pursue careers in science, and volunteers at several area community centers. In addition, Ron's work in the foundation has been nothing short of

inspiring. Having held every position from parliamentarian to 3 years as immediate past president, he has had a whirlwind of ideas and energy. He continues to make invaluable contributions to the Woodson Foundation.

Foundation Helps out During the Holidays

On November 25, 2003, members and other volunteers of the foundation participated in its Annual Food Drive at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in South Madison. Thanks to the efforts of donors and Pat Simpson at Cops Foods on Whitney Way, dozens of families were able to receive a basket with a turkey and canned goods that allowed them to have a true Thanksgiving feast. In addition to supplying the poultry and cans of

vegetables and other foodstuffs, volunteers helped load the baskets into cars and delivered them to those individuals who were unable to make it to the church to pick them up. Anthony Davis, star Wisconsin Badger tailback and member of the Woodson Foundation, helped out with the food drive, even helping to deliver the baskets to many who were too ill to come to the church. This year's food drive marked the end

of the tenure of the current Social Action Program Chair, Atiba K. Dilday. Mr. Dilday has been the Social Action chair since 1998 and has overseen the Thanksgiving Food Drive as well as other charitable endeavors under his auspices. We are saddened to lose him, but we know that his replacement will serve as effectively as he did.

Tutoring Program Continues Partnership

The Tutoring/Supervised Reading Program is continuing its partnership with the Schools of Hope Middle School Tutoring/Mentoring Project at the James C. Wright Middle School. Tutors are committed to assisting underachieving students in preparation for successful completion of algebra and other academic subjects upon entering high school. Tutors will begin their assignments in April 2004. Tutorial support will be provided in some classrooms, on an individualized basis, or in small groups. In the past seven years, the foundation offered tutoring in the late afternoon after 4:30p. Now, we are challenged by a lack of available students in the late afternoons at the Wright Middle School. Therefore, tutors are being scheduled at various times during the day. The impact of this kind of scheduling has made it more difficult to recruit tutors who work during the day. As a result, the foundation still has the urgent need to continue to recruit more tutors. Interested volunteers must undergo a police background check and have a willingness to help students become independent learners, communicate sensitivity, respect, and understanding of underachieving

students, establish trust and a positive relationship with students, help motivate students toward higher educational goals, and abide by school policies and confidentiality requirements.

Recently, the Tutoring Program received its 8th-year approval status from Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) in Washington, DC. The benefits of this special status make it easier for the Tutoring Program to accomplish its literacy and reading goals. RIF provides assistance on motivational activities for reading, strategies for a greater level of parental involvement, fundraising ideas, and access to discounted books up to 75% from selected publishers. In the 2003-04 academic year, the program has sponsored two book distributions at Wright Middle School. Students had access to more than 200 high interest, multicultural books that they could own



and read again and again. The final book distribution for the school year will be in June. The primary goal of book distributions is to encourage students to read for fun and knowledge as a life-long activity. To further support the needs of the book distributions, the Tutoring Program has submitted a book grant to First Book of Dane County. Finally, the Tutoring Program will be jointly sponsoring a field trip with the Cultural Enrichment Program of the foundation for students who actively participate in the program and exceed expectations. Contact Charles Brown, Chair of the Tutoring Program, at 274-0311, if you are interested in tutoring or know others who are.

Scholarship Program Update

The Carter G. Woodson Scholarship is given annually to Madison-area, high school seniors matriculating into post-secondary educational institutions. Since its inception in 1994, the Woodson Scholarship has provided monetary support to graduating seniors in the form of scholarships and book awards. The awards, totaling over \$10,000, have helped several students achieve their educational goal - a college education.

Recipients of the Carter G. Woodson Scholarships have gone on to represent the city of Madison and their respective high schools in institutions of higher education such as Tuskegee Institute (Tuskegee, AL); Fisk University (Nashville, TN); Cornell University (NY, NY); University of Chicago (Chicago, IL); the University of Wisconsin System; and the Wisconsin Technical College System. Some of the educational pursuits have included nursing,

education, hotel and business management, and psychology. In addition, the Scholarship Committee has encouraged students to keep the foundation apprised of their accomplishments and educational endeavors. Most recently, students have been elected to student government positions, received further academic recognition, graduated from college and successfully entered the work force.

The 2003 Woodson Scholarship recipient, Keziah Calmese, is a freshman at Cornell University in the Hotel Administration Program. While in high school, Keziah served actively in the community through organizations such as Fountain of Life Children's Ministries and Roof Over Our Heads Homeless Aide Program. Keziah also served on the West High Student Council and was a peer tutor in Spanish and mathematics while maintaining a 3.56 GPA on a 4.0

scale and serving on the National Honors Society.

If you would like further information on the Carter G. Woodson Scholarship Program, please contact Ron Smith, Chair, Scholarship Committee, Carter G. Woodson Foundation, P.O. Box 1494, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1494. You may also obtain a 2004 Carter G. Woodson Scholarship application through local high school guidance counselors. The deadline for the 2004 scholarship application is 4 p.m. Friday, June 4. Criteria for the Woodson Scholarship require that the applicant (1) be a graduating high school senior and plan on attending a recognized two or four-year post-secondary educational institution; (2) possess a minimum of 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent; (3) show evidence of successful volunteer or community service; and (4) demonstrate financial need.

President's corner continued...

programs, the foundation has sponsored an annual Thanksgiving Food Drive that has donated holiday meals and non-perishable goods to needy area families. In 10 years, we have distributed approximately 1,000 turkeys and hams to families and individuals who otherwise would not have had a Thanksgiving meal. In addition, the foundation has sponsored a medical awareness program to tackle health issues that affect poor and minority communities.

Members of the foundation recognize the importance of making continuing education more accessible to those students who need it most. Therefore, we proudly provide college scholarships and book grants to local high school seniors, who have overcome adversity and demonstrate a commitment to community service and academic excellence. Moreover, we have provided financial assistance to twenty deserving high school seniors in the past ten years. The Woodson Foundation is also committed to making yearly contributions to the United Negro College Fund, an organization that supports historically Black colleges and universities.

Exposure to arts and cultural experiences broaden young people's minds and improve their academic performance. In the past ten years, the Woodson Foundation has taken several hundred elementary children on multicultural field trips to such places as the DuSable Museum of African American History, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee, and the Madison Civic Center.

Beyond scholarship and social action programming, the foundation has worked with progressive-minded businesses and compassionate volunteers and has cultivated better futures for innumerable Dane county youth over the past ten years. None of this would have happened without the intensely committed leadership of our organization's past presidents: Anthony Wade, Charles Brown, Anthony Lindsey, and Ronald Smith.

As we move into our second decade of community service, I wish to expand our organization's programs to serve even more children and families. Recent cuts in social services have increased the need for our

services. I would like to increase our joint ventures with other local educational and community service organizations, so that we may pool our resources in our efforts to make Madison more livable. We will continue to foster our relationships with local businesses and increase the visibility of our service projects.

Booker T. Washington once said, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." This is not only how the Woodson Foundation judges the people whose lives we aim to improve, but it is also how we assess our own accomplishments. Over the past ten years, we have encountered and overcome numerous barriers in providing community service, yet we are now even more committed to community uplift than we were in 1994. Thanks to all of you who have donated time, money, or both to the Carter G. Woodson Foundation. Because of you, we have enjoyed ten successful years working to improve the quality of our neighbors' lives.

Thank You, Donors

The Woodson Foundation could not have realized its tremendous success over the years without the financial assistance from its donors and the work of the volunteers. Our donors since March 1996 and up to the publication of this bulletin are Freddi Adelson, Sandra Adell, Peter Albert, Jane Albright, American Family Insurance, Badger Office Supplies, H. John Ball, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Mary and Chuck Belin, Lamarr & Cheryl Billups, Borders Book Store, Peter and Debra Brey, William Brown, Mattie Brown, Patricia Cartwright, Denise Carty, Ed Clarke, Clorox, S.M. and Diane J. Crear, Community Pharmacy, Donald Cooper, Copp's Food Center, Cub Foods, Culver's Frozen Custard, Cuna Mutual Group, Dairy Queen, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Desmoni Enterprises, Inc., Milton and Joan Diehl, Dearborn Edwards, Epsilon Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Bob Esser, Thomas Evans, First Federal, General Casualty

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Cultural Enrichment Update

Throughout the 10 years, the Cultural Enrichment Program has remained committed to promoting cultural opportunities for disadvantaged youth who lack access to major arts and cultural institutions. The program is sponsoring a field trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum in June 2004. The museum

offers educational activities and information on anthropology, African & Oceanic people, science, technology, and many more programs for school-aged children. The field trip will be offered to school-aged children who actively participate in tutoring programs throughout the Madison area and who are

in good academic standing. Consideration may also be given to children who are involved in community service projects.

Contact Anthony Wade, Chair, Cultural Enrichment Program, at 249-4908 for additional information.

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