



THE WOODSONIAN



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

Vol. 11

Spring 2010

A Letter from the New President...



On behalf of the membership of the Carter G. Woodson Scholarship and Community Service Foundation, Inc., I bring greetings to the

friends and supporters of the foundation. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Shannon Blackamore, and I have been elected president of the Woodson Foundation for the 2009-10 term.

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and I have lived in Madison since 2001. I attended Western Illinois University where I earned a bachelors degree in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice with a minor in Business Management and have currently worked for the City of Madison Police Department since 2001. I have found Madison to be a city that has a history of serving the community and providing support to those most in need. It is in this spirit that I come to you and ask for your continued partnership and contributions to the Carter G. Woodson Foundation.

The Woodson Foundation, Inc. is a local 501(c)(3) charitable corporation whose mission is to extend scholarships to disadvantaged students and provides community service to the disadvantaged and downtrodden. These scholarships are available to Madison-area, high school graduating seniors who enroll

full time in accredited post-secondary educational institutions that grant baccalaureate degrees, vocational/technical associate degrees, and vocational diplomas, or certificates. The goal of the foundation is to improve the quality of life in the Madison community.

The Carter G. Woodson has been in existence since 1994 under its motto, "Education + Community Uplift = An Improved Quality of Life." Together the community and business partnerships have allowed the Woodson Foundation to help educate our youth and financially assist our local youth and families with their college expenses in the form of scholarships and/or book awards.

The year 2010 will undoubtedly be a year filled with challenges and opportunities. With the downturn in the economy, it will be even more important for organizations like the Woodson Foundation to continue serving the community and providing assistance to those in need.

However, to continue our efforts in the community, we need your financial support. I would like to ask that you consider a financial contribution toward our Scholarship Program, Reading Is Fundamental Book Distribution Program, Cultural Enrichment Program and the Social Action Program.

On behalf of the Executive Board of directors, members, and volunteers of the Woodson Foundation, I thank you for your consideration and support.

Woodson Executive Board of Directors

- Shannon Blackamore, President (Madison Police Department)
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- Robert Jackson, Jr., Secretary (United States Department of Agriculture)
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- Charles Calvin Peevy, Emeritus (General Motors Corporation, retired)

Motto

Education
+
Community Uplift
=
An Improved Quality of Life

Read to Succeed!

Reading is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) and Carter G. Woodson members are bringing this point home with gusto. The Carter G. Woodson Foundation is committed to making reading a mainstay in the lives of low-income and at-risk youth. Productive and successful adults begin as proficient youth readers. As the inimitable Dr. Seuss once said, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." To accomplish this, the Carter G. Woodson Foundation supplies low-income and minority students with high interest reading material and motivational speakers that will spark children's interest in reading and encourage them to become life-long readers. For the 14th consecutive year, RIF has approved the Woodson Foundation's Book Distribution Program.

In 1966, former Teacher Margaret McNamara brought a bag of used books to four boys whom she tutored in reading in Washington, D.C. When she told the children they could each pick out a book to keep, their astonishment and delight led her to discover that these children and many of their classmates had never owned any books. Thus, RIF is the perfect partner to advance the needs of the children in our community. RIF's special approval status gives the Book Distribution Program enormous discounts on the books it donates to students. In addition, RIF supports the program by providing resources to help identify motivational speakers, develop strategies for greater parental involvement, and build community support.



In 2009-10, the Woodson Foundation again sponsored Ms. Knutson's Wright Middle School class. Woodson member Charles Brown of Madison Area Technical College spoke to this class emphasizing the joy, knowledge and confidence reading can give. Following, foundation members took the entire class on a field trip to pick out two free books from the Books 4 School warehouse. In further support of Wright Middle School, the Woodson Foundation provided books for over 100 awardees at the Wright Middle School Honors Breakfast, which recognized students who displayed academic excellence. For the 2nd year, the RIF Book Distribution Committee has worked with Dr. Virginia Henderson at the African American Ethnic Academy to provide high quality multicultural texts to many of the students in this program.

If you would like additional information about RIF and the Book Distribution Program, contact Langston P. Evans, Chair, at (608) 338-4016.



Woodson's Back to School Bowl-A-Thon

This past Labor Day weekend, Woodson members and friends had a fun-filled evening of bowling at Schwoegler's Bowling Alley in Madison. The purpose of the Back to School Bowl-A-Thon is to raise funds that are

used to provide scholarships to high school graduating seniors who are post secondary education bound and demonstrate financial need. There were approximately 50 people in attendance, and between the bowlers

and outside friends that made donations and pledges, the foundation was able to raise \$3000. Because of its success, the Woodson Foundation has considered making the Back to School Bowl-A-Thon an annual event.

Carter G. Woodson Grants Scholarships

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation would like to congratulate the 2009 recipients of its college scholarship. Quentin Badger, Keenen Deer, and Tierney Chamberlain exemplify a passion for education, an ability to overcome adversity, and a commitment to community service. The Carter G. Woodson Scholarship is annually given to graduating Dane County high school seniors matriculating into postsecondary institutions. The Woodson Scholarship provides financial support to students striving to obtain a college degree.

Since 1994, over 20 local youth have won Woodson scholarships. These recipients have proudly represented their families, high schools, and Dane County at institutions of higher learning such as Tuskegee Institute, Fisk University, Cornell College, University of Chicago, as well as, University of Wisconsin System schools, and Wisconsin Technical College System schools. Past winners have earned degrees in nursing, curriculum and instruction, business management, psychology, and engineering. The Woodson Foundation is proud to have supported these individuals and their families in our community.

This year we received more applications than ever before. Every applicant

demonstrated extraordinary academic achievement, significant community service, and inspiring personal resiliency. Our 2009 awardees are extraordinary exemplars of these characteristics. Quentin Badger is a 2009 graduate from Madison Memorial High School. He has received the "Outstanding Young Person Award from the Urban League of Greater Madison, the Certificate of Recognition from the Links, Inc., and the James Madison Memorial High School Academic Award for Scholastic Achievement. Quentin is also a stand out athlete, excelling in football and track. Next year, Quentin will attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to pursue his academic dreams.

Keenen Deer has just earned his degree from McFarland High School. A talented musician, Keenen placed 1st at the Wisconsin Music Association Music Festival for a solo on the marimba / xylophone, as well as, his participation in a percussion ensemble. Keenen lettered in varsity basketball and received a most improved player award in 2008. Flaunting his business acumen earned Keenen an alternate position on the Business Case Competition for advanced placement accounting at Marquette University. Furthermore, Keenen is a very active member of

Evangel Life Center. The University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse has accepted Keenan, and he plans to obtain a degree in physical education or athletic training.

Madison West High Choir Director, Anthony Cao, boasts "Tierney Chamberlain has the most natural talent of almost any student I have encountered." Tierney, a 2009 graduate from Madison West High School, has a musical gift. She was runner up on ABC's High School Musical: Get in the Picture in 2008. A participant in the West High Drama Club, Tierney won lead roles in school musicals all four years of high school. In addition, Tierney participated in chorale, concert choir, and vocal jazz. In April 2009, Tierney won 1st place in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Talent Hunt. In the fall of 2009, Tierney will continue her musical journey at the Berklee College of Music and will major in vocal performance.

If you would like further information on the Carter G. Woodson Scholarship Program, please call Anthony Davis, Chair, Scholarship Program, at (908) 361-2810.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

In November 2009, the Social Action Program sponsored the Woodson Foundation's 15th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive at Wright Middle School and Mt. Zion Baptist Church. For the third year in a row, the foundation has increased its efforts by offering Thanksgiving baskets to families at Wexford Ridge and Faith Community

Church. This is in addition to services being provided to Wright Middle School, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Second Baptist Church. Given the economic hardship that many American families face, Woodson was able to distribute approximately 250 baskets to families in need. This is but one way that the foundation attempts to make a

difference in the lives of less fortunate families and individuals during this special time of the year. If you need more information on the food drive or would like to volunteer, call Anthony Wade, Chair, Social Action Program, at (608) 217-5174.

Thank You, Donors

The foundation could not have enjoyed its tremendous success over the years without the financial assistance from its donors and the hard work of the volunteers. The following are donors since March 1996 and up to the publication of this newsletter: Freddi Adelson, Dr. Sandra Adell, Peter Albert, Jane Albright, Fernando & Carla Alvarado, American Family Insurance, Michael Anderson, Badger Office Supplies, H. John Ball, Vicki Bankston, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Mary and Chuck Belin, Geraldine Bernard, Lamarr & Cheryl Billups, Borders Book Store, Peter and Debra Brey, Dr. Anthony Brown, William Brown, Mattie Brown, Percy & Virginia Brown, Benjamin & Rosalind Bryant, Angela Byars-Winston, Patricia Cartwright, Denise Carty, Ed Clarke, Clorox, Alphonso Cooper, Frederick B. Crawford, 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., Milton and Joan Diehl, Dearborn Edwards, Epsilon Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Bob Esser, Thomas Evans, Famous Footwear, First Federal, Arnold &

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Thank you.