



THE WOODSONIAN



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

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The President's Message by Percy Brown, Jr.



Friends of the Woodson, in 2007, the Woodson Foundation played a profound role in helping unfortunate youth and families of Madison live an improved quality of life. Our efforts were possible through the support and contributions of our friends, and that is you. Our community service efforts consisted of providing scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors that are currently pursuing higher learning; distributing hundreds of books to students at Wright Middle School and the African-American Ethnic Academy; and extending our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive from Mt. Zion Baptist and Second Baptist Churches to Wright Middle School. From our adoption of Wright Middle School and continued partnerships with Mt. Zion Baptist and Second Baptist Churches, we served over 225 Thanksgiving baskets to families and served over 150 people at Mt. Zion Baptist Church for the Homeless Ministry Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Our hope for 2008 is to double our numbers in the area of scholarships, RIF book distributions and families served by our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

The Woodson Foundation will increase its efforts to our existing programs in 2008. The foundation will be sponsoring a mentoring program for middle school boys at Wright Middle School beginning this fall. Our hope is to mentor at-risk males in the areas of academics, life skills, cultural enrichment, self and help shape them into responsible young men who will have love of learning and self. The love of learning and self will help them stay away from juvenile corrections and keep them in the classroom as the dropout rate is becoming an ever increasing problem in our community. Financial assistance and human capital will be required to effectively operate such a program. As president of the Woodson Foundation and educator in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I implore you to consider making a financial donation, volunteering your time towards our mentoring program or doing both. With our economy in a recession and gas prices over \$4 per gallon, it's tough to dig into the pockets, and I understand. However, we must realize that there is someone who is in worse condition than you and I are, and it is our obligation to reach out and help even if we are in a tight squeeze ourselves. Anything helps and I, along with the members of the Woodson Foundation, commend you for whatever you are able to give.

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Motto

Education
+
Community Uplift
=
An Improved Quality of Life

Woodson RIF Book Distribution Program Expands

Reading is fundamental and Carter G. Woodson members are bringing this point home with gusto. The Carter G. Woodson Foundation is committed to assisting low income and ethnic/racial minority students become proficient students. A key to becoming successful students and productive adults is reading. As the inimitable Dr. Seuss once said, "The more you read, the more things you will know, and 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 can spark their interest in reading and encourage them to become life-long readers. For 12 consecutive years, Reading is Fundamental (RIF) has approved the 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 status gives the Woodson Foundation enormous discounts on the books we give to students. In addition, RIF provides assistance for motivational speakers, strategies for greater parental involvement, and fundraising ideas. In 2007-08, the Woodson Foundation sponsored Ms. Knutson's Wright Middle School class. Woodson Member Pastor Richard Jones of Mt. Zion Baptist Church was the motivational speaker for the book distri-

bution. He emphasized the joy, knowledge, and confidence reading can give. Then Foundation members took the entire class on a field trip to pick out two free books from the Books 4 School warehouse. In May 2008, the Woodson Foundation also provided books for over 100 awardees at the Wright Middle School honors breakfast, which recognized students who had displayed academic excellence. In 2007-08, the Woodson Book Distribution Program joined forces with the local, renowned African American Ethnic Academy. The foundation sponsored a Kwanzaa book distribution that ensured that the students present received a new, high interest, multicultural book. Contact Langston P. Evans, Chair of the RIF Book Distribution Program, at 608.338.4016 for more information or if you'd like to volunteer.

Who Is Carter G. Woodson?

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, for whom the foundation is named, was born to former slave parents on December 19, 1875 in Buckingham County, Virginia. Although his parents were illiterate, Dr. Woodson autodidactically learned to read and write by the time he reached 17 years of age. He earned his high school diploma at the age of 23 in 1897. Dr. Woodson earned a Bachelor of Literature degree from Berea College in 1903, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in 1908, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1912. On September 9, 1915, he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). The purpose of this organization was the documentation and chronicling of

facts and figures about Black history and promoting the study of all aspects of Black life for the betterment thereof. On January 1, 1916, Dr. Woodson began publishing the Journal of Negro History, a quarterly publication dedicated to the promulgation of Black history. In 1926, he initiated the celebration of Negro History Week. It was intended to be a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions that Blacks have made to the world throughout history. In the 1970's, Negro History Week was expanded from one week in February to span the entire month of February; thus, the celebration was renamed Black History Month. Dr. Woodson was a prolific writer. His literary compendium

consists of 18 books on various aspects of Black life and Black history. His preeminent work was the Mis-Education of the Negro. It was published in 1933 and was an analysis of the failure and shortcomings of the traditional methods of educating Black people and why those methods did more to perpetuate the second-class citizenship status of Blacks rather than elevate them to first-class citizenship. Dr. Woodson made his eternal transition on April 3, 1950. His body rests in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery just outside of Washington, DC. Dr. Woodson's legacy is one of perpetual pursuit of knowledge and history of Black people.

President's corner continued...

Let us move forward together as a community and adhere to the Carter G. Woodson Foundation's motto,

"Education + Community Uplift = An Improved Quality of Life."



Scholarship Recipients

The Carter G. Woodson Foundation would like to congratulate the 2008 awardees of college scholarships: Dorthea McDonald, Amadou Fofana, Angela Williams, and Sabrie Ritcherson. They all exemplify a passion for education, an ability to overcome adversity, and a commitment to community service. The Carter G. Woodson Scholarship is given annually to outstanding graduating high school seniors matriculating into postsecondary institutions. The Woodson Scholarship provides financial support to students striving to obtain a college degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical diploma.

Since 1994, several 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, the University of Wisconsin System schools, and Wisconsin Technical College System. Past winners have earned degrees in nursing, curriculum and instruction, business management, psychology, and engineering. The Woodson Foundation is proud to have supported these families and individuals in their pursuit of higher education.

This year we received more applications than ever before. Each applicant demonstrated academic achievement, community service, and personal resiliency. We would like to thank the

applicants for their time, honesty, and inspiration. Our 2008 awardees are extraordinary exemplars of scholarship. Amadou Fofana is a 2008 East High graduate, who kept himself busy with an impressive list of activities: soccer, KOJO Drill Team, student ambassador, Black Student Alliance, Health Occupational Students of America, and tutoring at Lowell Elementary School. Amadou received an Outstanding Young Person Award from the Urban League of Greater Madison, as well as, two Outstanding Achievement Awards from the Downtown Madison Optimist Club. Amadou already holds a CNA certification and will attend Edgewood College to pursue a career as a registered nurse.

Sabrie Ritcherson has just earned her degree from Madison West High. A member of the National Society of High School Scholars, Sabrie was an active member of the Black Student Union at West High. Understanding the importance of education and service has led Sabrie to volunteer at the Witness Project of Madison, a cancer education program to educate African American teens and women about breast and cervical cancers. Sabrie plans to attend a historically black college to receive her Bachelors in Child and Family Development.

Maya Williams, another recent East High graduate, was vice president of the Black Student Alliance, participated in a group called C.L.A.S.S. (Creating

Leadership and Supporting Students), and volunteered as an after-school tutor. Maya was proud to represent her community at the Black History Bowl. Looking forward, Maya would like to continue her education so that she may become the next Oprah Winfrey or Coretta Scott King.

Dorthea "Dot" McDonald is our final 2008 Carter G. Woodson Scholarship recipient. She finished her senior year at Madison West High. Dorthea won the Joe Thomas Community Service Award for her commitment to helping others. Dot enjoys displaying her musical and theatrical talent by performing in numerous theatrical productions at the Children's Theater of Madison and West High School. As a longtime participant in the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth, Dot demonstrated her academic prowess in the rigorous accelerated curriculum. Dot has been accepted to Howard University where she will continue her academic career. Dot and our other awardees are young scholars worthy of all of our support; and we at the Woodson Foundation are proud to help them along the way.

If you would like further information on the Carter G. Woodson Scholarship Program, please contact Langston P. Evans, Chair, Scholarship Program, Carter G. Woodson Foundation, P.O. Box 1494, Madison, WI 53701-1494. Our 2009 scholarship applications for graduating high school seniors will be available in February 2009.

Thanksgiving Food Drive Expands to Wright Middle School

The Woodson Foundation through its Social Action Program expanded its community service efforts in 2007 by adopting Wright Middle School as a site to distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families of students who are on the free/reduced lunch schedule. Wright Middle School has become an addition to an existing 12-year partnership with Mt. Zion Baptist and Second Baptist Churches. On November 19, 2007, Nancy Evans (Wright Principal),

teachers from Wright Middle School, members of the Woodson Foundation and other volunteers served 105 baskets to families of Wright students. The following evening, members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Woodson Foundation members served 120 baskets to families from the Dane County area. Moreover, the Woodson Foundation donated turkeys to the Mt. Zion Homeless Ministry, and it served over 150 people at its annual

homeless Thanksgiving dinner. We are anticipating that the Thanksgiving Food Drive in 2008 will surpass the numbers from last year. With the economy in a recession, there will be a greater and more urgent need to serve families during Thanksgiving. If you need more information on the food drive or would like to volunteer, call Shannon Blackamore, Chair, Social Action Committee, at 608.213.3594.

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, 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, 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, General Casual-

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