



# THE WOODSONIAN



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

Vol. 14

Summer 2012

## A Letter from the President...



Friends of the Woodson,

I am proud to announce that despite tough economic times, the efforts of private donors

and grant funders have given the Woodson Foundation tremendous support to continue its service to those less fortunate in the Madison and surrounding communities. During my last two years as president, the Woodson Foundation has received ongoing support from Madison Downtown Rotary, South Madison Rotary, American Family Insurance, Wal-Mart, Mary Burke, Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings and of course you to name a few. Because of this ongoing support, the Woodson Foundation has been able to maintain and expand its services in our focus areas.

For example, our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive served nearly 400 families this past year, and we expanded our services to include West Madison via Falk Elementary School and East Madison via local churches. This is in addition to our partnership with Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Wright Middle School. Moreover, as part of our social action programming, the foundation

implemented a basic male mentoring program for at-risk youth at Falk Elementary School. The idea began with Member Rev. Richard Jones, Sr. visiting with a small number of male students at Falk Elementary School once per week, and his presence influenced the youth to make better decisions in their academics and discipline. His efforts became viral, and other members began to mentor at Falk, and during this past year, we served over 50 boys in grades 1-5.

October 2012 will end my tenure as president of the foundation, and I am thankful for the support you have given during my time in office. As I leave office, I am charging the membership of the Woodson and friends to support an education initiative because we are dealing with a racial achievement gap in our schools that are close to being the worst in the nation, and this is unacceptable for Madison. It is our new civil rights fight, and we must do something about it. The education initiative will include strengthening our Madison Reading Is Fundamental Book Distribution Program, building the male mentoring program at Falk as well as providing community building and education awareness programming for the community. If we are ever going to close the gap between white and black students,

the entire community must come together and work collectively to deal with this problem, and the Woodson Foundation is committed and will help lead the way!

### 2012 Woodson Executive Board of Directors

- Percy Brown, Jr., President (Madison Metropolitan School District)
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### Motto

Education  
+  
Community Uplift  
=  
An Improved Quality of Life

## 2012-13 Scholarship Recipients

The Woodson Foundation proudly announces its three scholarship recipients for the 2012-13 academic year. The recipients were awarded the scholarships based on good academic records and a demonstration of service commitment and financial need. **Janise Tucker** is a graduate of LaFollette High School. She has been accepted to Marquette University and Columbia College in Chicago. She plans to pursue a major in journalism or public relations. Some of her extracurricular activities/service efforts include junior class vice

president, Black Student Union vice president, member of DECA, Youth Court and Restorative Justice Circles and Martin Luther King Service Day. She is the first person in the family to go to college. **Aaron Blake** graduated from LaFollette and has been accepted to Morehouse College and Florida A & M University. Some of his service achievements/extra curricular activities include Youth Court Jury member, Restorative Justice Circles, Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Centurion Cycling Competition, Black Student Union, and the African

American Achievement Team. **Souda Yang** is a graduate of East High School. She moved to the United States from Thailand in 1990. Souda has not yet declared a college/university major. Her service achievements/extracurricular activities are also commendable: Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity Youth in Service Day, GEAR UP, and Sherman Middle School Workshop. She is also the first in the family to attend college. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients.

## Madison RIF Forges On...

The key to the success is on the printed page and ensures every child has the skills to read is why the Carter G. Woodson Foundation has been approved for 15 consecutive years by the national literacy foundation, Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF). RIF distributes more than 15 million books yearly across more than 17,000

sites all over the country. The Woodson Foundation's RIF initiative provides high-interest, multicultural reading materials and motivational speakers to local students to Ms. Knutson's Reading 180 course at the James C. Wright Middle School, as well as to the school-wide Honors Breakfast. The Foundation has also served the

former African American Ethnic Academy with two book distributions a year. Next year, the Woodson looks forward to greatly expanding the number of students it reaches so that all young people in Madison get the keys to their future.

## 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. 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. 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



*Dr. Carter G. Woodson*

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.

# 2012 Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Woodson Foundation is planning for its biggest-ever Thanksgiving Food Drive. While the 2011 Food Drive distributed close to 400 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families and individuals, the foundation wants to increase this number to more than 500 baskets. The foundation will continue its partnering with local organizations including the James C. Wright Middle School (Dr. Angela Crawford, principal); Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church (Pastor Everett D. Mitchell); Faith, Hope and Love

Church (Pastor Harold Rayford); Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Senior Pastor Richard Jones, Sr.); Second Baptist Church (Pastor Anthony Wade); and Fountain of Life (Pastor Alex Gee). The food drive will be held November 20, 2012 at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 2019 Fisher Street.



## 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, Alliant Energy Foundation, Fernando & Carla Alvarado, American Family Insurance, Michael Anderson, Associated Bank, 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, Mary Burke, 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, Cindy Douglas, Dearborn Edwards, Judith Emmrich, Epsilon Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Bob Esser, Thomas Evans, Famous

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Thank you.