

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

JUNE 2002

Serving the need for a black publication, this newsletter features several sections to share information and ideas:

WORD ON THE STREET, section passes along information as to what is going on in the Jonathan Street neighborhood and other communities that can benefit or affect us all.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE, section includes employment opportunities, agency assistance, articles about training, self-help programs and any other information that can possibly empower and increase the reader's potential.

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture, section on local, regional and national African American heritage.

youth news, the opportunity for younger readers to contribute their view point.

SPEAK UP! The opinion and editorial section, if you have something to say, SPEAK UP!

Subscription is free and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc. 131 West North Avenue, Martin Luther King Center 2nd Floor, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, phone 301-393-9290, or visit our website: www.buwdtc.org; email address: buwdtc@hotmail.com or page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

WORD ON THE STREET

Fathers this is your chance.

For years we have been hearing fathers gripe about their parental responsibilities, especially if they are an "absent from the home dad", which means they are probably obligated to pay child support or are in battles for custody or visitation. The "system" is changing to address fatherhood concerns and the role of the father. The Fatherhood Conference is an initiative (a step in the right direction) to help "Dad". Men have not been given the best approach from Social Services in the past, but the system is trying to be more supportive of fathers. I have had the opportunity to become a part of program that has the goal of strengthening fatherhood and you can too. For the past year I have been trying to get a friend to attend the Fatherhood Conference. My friend has been complaining to me for over a decade that Social Services has not helped him in getting his son out of a "bad" home. I explained to this person that by attending the conference, he would have the opportunity to tell the people at the top of the "system" his concerns. My friend, as of the time of this article, has not returned a pre-registration form to even attend this year's conference. Perhaps my friend is being faced with his own fear of being a responsible dad and making a commitment to make his role in his son's life better. If we can't commit a day out of our life to taking a chance to make fatherhood better, please don't complain to anyone. Come join us at this year's Fatherhood Conference in Western Maryland if you would like an opportunity to make fatherhood better. The following invitation has gone out: DADS! MOMS! CLERGY! HUMAN SERVICE WORKERS! Attend the FREE Maryland Fatherhood Initiative Regional Conference. Learn about research, best practices, funding of fatherhood programs. Friday June 21, 2002 7:30am – 3:30 pm at the Four Point Sheraton. Register by calling: David Engle, Washington County Department of Social Services at (240) 420-2120. Brothers United Who Dare To Care will be participating in a workshop that will include gathering feedback from those in attendance. The feedback is your opportunity to allow others to get your input.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The Memorial Recreation Center, a United Way Agency is at risk of closing its doors?

The above statement was the leading remark in a letter written to Brothers United Who Dare To Care from Memorial Recreation Center President Willie Conyers. First let me write that this news is alarming and confusing. The Memorial Recreation Center is a youth center that is a very important part of our community and not only because it serves over 500 homes in and around the predominantly black Jonathan Street neighborhood, the center serves any youth that comes through its doors. Sure, we all know the struggles Ruth Monroe the MRC Executive Director endures such as competing for funding dollars to run the facilities, attracting qualified lifeguards and such issues as any youth center works through. To lose such an institution would inflame such an outcry from within our city and county that consciousness mind people would not endure the cry. If the headline is true, we all need to do something about it. I have not heard of any other United Way funded organizations that work with children at risk of closing its doors. The United Way funded YMCA recently built and opened a new facility. The Boys and Girls Club of Washington County are expanding their outposts throughout the city. How is it that the only black run and operated youth center is struggling to grow and thrive? Brothers United Who Dare To Care is working to find a grant writer to help MRC and other neighborhood organizations that need assistance fund-raising. Call the BUWDTC office to offer a solution 301-393-9290.

Cathy Dotson to do Missionary work in Mexico with Gateway Ministries.

Your prayers and support are needed to help Cathy in this mission she is called on to do. So often we are led to serve others in ministry and fail to follow, or even neglect to try. In a letter from Mrs. Dotson, she wishes to pursue the opportunity to travel with her ministry team to Mexico to join others in taking a message of hope to these precious people. It is important for Cathy to know that she has family and friends praying for her. Also, she writes, if God moves on your heart in prayer to assist financially, please be obedient. Cathy's letter went on to say not only will you be touching other people's lives, she will be eternally grateful for your generosity and any financial contribution will be tax deductible. Checks are payable to Gateway Ministries. Cathy can be contacted at Bethel Garden's office 301-733-3350.

Head Start "POSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENT": Finance / Human Resources Assistance \$9.80 - \$12.50 hour. Contact: Human Resources, Head Start Of Washington County, Inc. 325 W. Memorial Boulevard, Hagerstown MD or call 301-733-0088.

Washington County Government "POSITION AVAILABLE": Sewer – Plant Operator III \$27,770 minimum (with benefits) and Transportation – Part time Bus Operator \$9.81 hour (no benefits). Apply at the Washington County Department of Human Resources, 100 W. Washington St., Room 202, Hagerstown MD or call 240-313-2357.

SPEAK UP!

Is Big Brother watching?

I do not know what the fuss is about the privacy, freedom, and the governments right to watch, search or detain citizens. Our civil rights are manipulated all the time, admit it! Assuring our freedom cost a price. The cost can be in the form of taxes, and or infringement on an individual's rights. Like the character Tony Soprano says, "What are you gonna do?" Comedian George Carlin made me realize most citizens have a NIMBY philosophy; we don't care as long as it's Not In My Back Yard. Well (a deep subject) we have a

situation in our back yard. I don't have cause for alarm, but I do want to put out a word of concern. The Martin Luther King building is a County building with a history back to a time it was the last schoolhouse for blacks in Washington County before desegregation. So, rightfully some blacks from this area have a sense of belonging to the facility and it's future. The County has been sensitive to the local interest for the MLK center and has allowed the community to make use of the building for neighborhood events,

the Head Start program, and offices for Brothers United Who Dare To Care and The Hot Spots Initiative. The Memorial Recreation Center uses the gymnasium. The Head Start Program is taking "security" measures for its program by installing access doors and camera's. I suggested we get volunteers to help monitor entry to the center. I had worked in a U.S. government facility. Cameras and access readers do not secure a facility, they are used for tracking. Is Big Brother watching?

Andy Smith, Editor

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

"It's 2002 what are you going to do?" *Andy Smith, BUWDTC.*

New to the Don Brown BLACK HISTORY Library

BOOKS: "Forbidden Fairways" by Calvin Sinnenette, "Angel On My Shoulder" by Natalie Cole, "The Delaney Sisters' Book Of Everyday Wisdom" with Amy Hill Hearth, "Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight" by Max Bingham, "A Treasure Of African-American Christmas Stories, Vol. 2" by Bettye Collier-Thomas, "Never Too Late: Justice In The Medgar Evers Case" by Bobby Delaughter, "An American Story" by Debra J. Dickerson, "Ella Fitzgerald 1917-1996" by Stuart Nicholson, "A Scrapbook For Daddy – Merle Travis" by Pat Travis Eatherly.

VIDEOS: "Black Aviators – Flying Free" The History Channel, "Birth Of A Nation" Director D.W. Griffith, "The Court Marshall Of Jackie Robinson" starring Andre Braugher, "Magic Johnson – Put Magic In Your Game" Documentary, "Gramblings White Tiger" starring Bruce Jenner and LaVar Burton.

MAGAZINES: Ebony January, March, April 2002; U.S. News May 13, May 20 2002;

This Month's Contest Questions for a \$10 Cash Prize:

Q: Why does only three people a month try for this contest? Is this a reflection of the community's lack of interest in black history and culture? Or don't we care? For \$10 let us know. Call or mail your answers to Brothers United Who Dare To Care. Phone 301-393-9290 at 131 W. North Avenue 2nd floor, Hagerstown Maryland 21740.

Last Month's Contest Question:

Q: What can be done to improve the Jonathan Street community?

A: by Mark Stoner: I think we have to bring a sense of community back to the neighborhood. To have people instill pride in themselves and the way the community looks and presents itself. I think one of the most important factors is that the Church no longer plays an important role. We need to get back our sense of closeness when everyone knew one another and was willing to help each other.

Q: How will you help improve the Jonathan Street community?

A: by Mark Stoner: I think some of the things I can do to help improve the community is to actively get involved with the people, whether it would be tutoring kinds, mentoring, helping spruce up the neighborhood. Just willing to be involved and active to help people try to improve the quality of life for those around me.

Bonus Question for \$20:

Q: In a written response tell: What is the "Ten Point Plan"? And name all ten points of the plan.

A: The Ten Point Plan is a manifesto compiled by the Black Panther Party from the 1960's and 1970's era addressing a demand for equality and fairness for the state of Black America at that time. Though many social reforms have approached a resolution to the problems identified in the Ten Point Plan: The Freedom, the power to determine the destiny of our black and oppressed communities. Full employment for black people. Decent housing, fit for the shelter of human beings. A greater effort is needed to bring a conclusion to the matter request in the Black Panther's plan. For more details visit the Black Panther Party official website at: www.blackpanther.org.

Youth News

Young People, if you want to have your story, poem, drawing published in this section or on the Youth News website page submit your work to Brothers United Who Dare To Care 2nd floor 131 West North Avenue Hagerstown Maryland 21740 or visit our website: www.buwdtc.org or call 301-393-9290

Calendar Of Events

June 21	Western Maryland Fatherhood Conference 7:30am to 3:30pm Four Points Sheraton
June 23	Hotspot Community Mobilization meet 6:00pm at Bethel Gardens Community Police Office
June 27	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK 6:30pm