

## URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

**Presents** 

73RD ANNUAL AWARDS & FUNDRAISING



Friday, September 25, 2020

## Wake Up Everybody

A VIRTUAL ANNUAL REPORT INSPIRED BY THE HAROLD MELVIN & THE BLUE NOTES SONG

Year in review from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019



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## URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.



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### 2020

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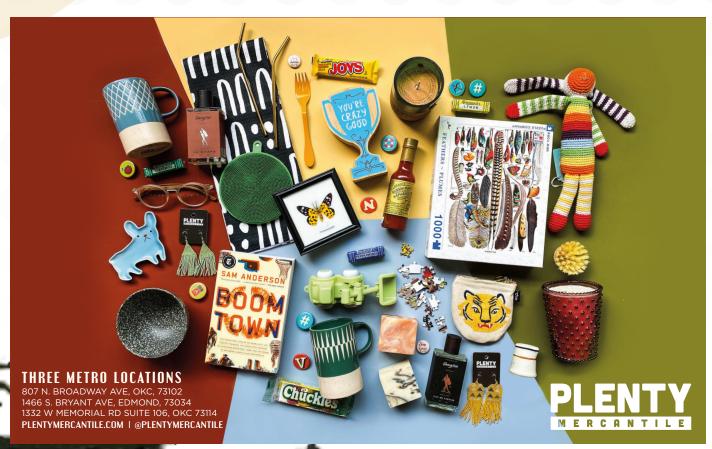




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### **TOGETHER®**

## We energize our communities

OG&E committed to a week of service to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., beginning with performing weatherization services at the Mount Olive Senior Cottages. Owned and operated by the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, the Cottages offer affordable housing for seniors in the community. OG&E employees volunteered to help change out light bulbs, seal windows and various other energy efficiency improvements.



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## Letter From Our President & CEO

he Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc. recognizes that our city, state, and nation is at a critical point in American history. In the wake of the death of George Floyd and the outcry to end police brutality, demonstrators across the country have ignited a larger push to persuade people to organize and vote. As the impact of COVID-19 changes each day, we continue to assess our clients' needs and adapt our service delivery to do our best to address their needs. Through the COVID-19 crisis, the Urban League continues to become more creative, innovative, and relevant to meet the fluid nature of COVID-19 for children. their educational needs, and future job-related and

To quote a song as meaningful today as it was in 1975 -- "Wake Up Everybody. The world won't get no better. If we just let it be. The world won't get no better. We gotta change it, yeah, just you and me."

technological changes for families.

Over its seventy-three-year history, the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City has promoted and championed equity and equality for African Americans, other minorities, and the poor in the OKC metropolitan area. As a United Way partner agency, the Urban League directly operates affordable housing programs, educational programs, workforce training, and poverty eliminating initiatives that touch some 8,500 people annually.

Contributions support the Urban League's services to low to moderate-income families. Funds are continuously needed for our mission-oriented

programs and services. Many of our parents are struggling with remote learning. Parents are feeling overwhelmed and in some cases, parents lack academic skills and access to technology to help their children with school assignments effectively.

Many of our workforce clients have lost their jobs or are experiencing a significant reduction in their income. Clients that have small businesses have also experienced a delay in securing unemployment benefits. These challenges have left clients with little or no income to support their families' basic needs.

In this chaotic and trying year, it is our privilege to continue our mission. It is our honor to persevere against injustice, it is our ongoing struggle to break the cycles of poverty and prejudice that plague our communities, and it is our continued hope to wake up, rise up, and make Oklahoma City a better place for all.

I want to congratulate all of our award winners this year. Their contributions to this community and to our state are bright and shining examples of what it takes to make Oklahoma City a better place to live. Be sure to reach out to those you know and tell them "thank you, and great work." Things may be a little different, but we are still just as excited to honor of our supporters, awardees, members, staff, this year. Thank you again for waking up, joining us, and being a part of the change we want to see.

Dr. Valerie Thompson President and CEO





#### **OFFICERS**

Board Chair Erin Wilcox

Second Vice Chair Richard Kincade

Treasurer
James Mouton

Secretary Andre' Caldwell

#### **MEMBERS**

Dr. Jeremy Temple Almon
Beverly Barrett
Dr. Angie Christopher
Matthew Clouse
Deano Cox
Hossein Farzaneh
Kristin Greenhaw
Bridgette Hundon
Leslie Johnson
Stephanie Johnson

Rusty LaForge
Walker Milligan
Chelsey McKnight
Jonathan Rule
Brandon Slaton
Matt Tilly
LaShan Wiley
Ashley Wilemon
Jake Whitmore
Rebecca Whitmore



THE THUNDER PROUDLY SUPPORTS

#### THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER OKC

AND THE WORK THEY ARE DOING

TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY

A BETTER PLACE







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United

**United Way** 

**Partner Agency** 



#### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**



Dr. Valerie Thompson
President & CEO
27 years of service



Shani Nealy Senior Vice President 24 years of service



Lonnetta Smith Vice President of Programs 20 years of service



Chip Hobbs Facility & UrbanWorks Manager 11 years of service



Amber Williams
Staff Accountant
5 years of service



Jabar Shumate
Vice President of C.C. & S.J.
Less than 1 year of service

#### WORKFORCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT



Ollivett Brothers
W. & C.D. Coordinator
6 years of service



Dean Riley Integrated Case Manager 3 years of service



Patricia Martinez
Diversion Hub Career Navigator
Less than 1 year of service

#### EDUCATION AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



Dee Liggens Childcare Coordinator 6 years of service



Cedric Currin-Moore

STEM/Coordinator

4 years of service



Stephanie Moore
School Age Specialist/Master Teacher
2 years of service



Shequila Garcia
Assistant Teacher
1 year of service

#### COMMUNITY CONVENING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



Cera Perez Manager of C.C. & S.J. Less than 1 year of service



Anthony Holloway
Marketing Content Manager
Less than 1 year of service



Regina Clear Program Coordinator 3 years of service

### HOUSING AND FINANCIAL LITERACY





**Diedra Davis**Affordable Housing Manager
8 years of service



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As the oldest state banking charter in Oklahoma, we know the importance of having strong leadership in our communities. Now more than ever, a commitment to unity and leadership is needed, which is why The First State Bank is a proud supporter of the Urban League. The Urban League is an integral partner in achieving social and economical equality in our communities.

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#### **WORKFORCE & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

This program specializes in assessing and addressing barriers of individuals to increase their employability opportunities. We serve individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, seeking a career change, and previously or currently justice involved. This program helps strengthen the economic well-being of Oklahoma County's African American families and other families living in poverty by increasing sustainable employment that will lead to self-sufficiency and less dependent on government subsidies. We provide access to industry recognized certification, work readiness training, connections with employers with emphasis in high demand occupations. We served over 1,877 clients last year. Diversion Hub, AT&T Education and Training, Young Adult Re-Entry Partnership (YARP), and After Prison Work Initiative (APWI).

#### **EDUCATION & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

This program specializes in supporting minority children to ensure success in school and development through achieving academic enrichment in subjects of science, literacy, technology, and math; social and personal skills development, and support to parents/caregivers by providing them tools to create environments and experiences that promote their child's academic success. We served 1,714 clients last year. This program provides services through specialized initiatives:

- School Age Learning Center
- Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI)
- Dell Technology

- Community Hope Center (CHC)
- Inasmuch Foundation
- Kirkpatrick Foundation.

#### **HOUSING & FINANCIAL LITERACY**

This program provides information on financial skills (budgeting, credit counseling, and debt management) in order for our clients to improve financial and/or housing stability. We provide access to affordable housing through our rental properties and supportive services. Residents also receive financial coaching to develop money management skills in order to remain self-sufficient and independent. Offers affordable homes by rehabilitating existing structures and constructing new homes, and prepares families for homeownership by hosting home buyer essentials workshops and webinars. We served 582 clients last year.

#### **COMMUNITY CONVENING & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The Community Convening and Social Justice program provides education and advocacy on the barriers African Americans, and other minorities face. The department focuses on voter education and mobilization, criminal justice reform, police reform, economic development, and diversity and inclusion training. We served 3,653 clients last year.





#### **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

#### **Amber Williams**

Amber Williams was born and raised in Sacramento, California. She has called Oklahoma home since 2008 after a short visit turned into the move of a lifetime. Amber joined the Urban League Family in 2015 with over 10 years of experience in the corporate Accounting field, getting her start in accounting with a software consulting firm in the heart of Northern California.

Amber is committed to the Urban League mission and believes the key to maintaining a strong connection to the community is by continuing to develop partnerships and working together as a team to be innovative, celebrate diversity, and stay firm in our beliefs of equity.

Amber lives in Shawnee and is the pet parent of her chihuahua/ terrier mix, Fancy. She is the proud Aunt of three nephews; Ayden, Noah, and Karter. In her spare time, she is an avid baker and old school book reader.

#### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR LaKesha Denton

LaKesha Denton grew up in Oklahoma City and studied in business and accounting trying to figure out her life's road. In her childhood she received the help of charitable organizations and as an adult she grew a love for helping nonprofit agencies. She was ready to return the favor and blessing to other families in the community. After working and helping with so many charities and seeing the smiles on many faces and being able to make a difference brings her joy and pushes her to continue to help out. LaKesha began volunteering with the Urban League four years ago through her job as a volunteer at the Annual Back to School Bash. Her volunteerism has opened up many opportunities to continuously help with the many programs Urban League. LaKesha and four other key Back to School Bash volunteers quickly bonded and labeled themselves the "Dream Team". They have a comradery and look forward to working together each year. LaKesha is

#### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Coletta Webster

married with three boys.

Coletta Webster is a resident of Oklahoma City she started volunteering with Americorps while attending Rust College in Holly Springs, MS. Coletta received a Bachelor in Mass Communication Radio/Television. She moved to Oklahoma City, OK from Memphis, TN in 2011 shortly after graduating college. Coletta also started volunteering with different events such as Susan G. Komen Walk and the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon. She is an active member of Make A Wish Oklahoma and for the past few years she volunteered with the Urban League's Annual Back to School Bash. Coletta quickly formed a bond and comradery with other key volunteers and became a member of Back to School Bash's "Dream Team" volunteers. She has been dependable and trustworthy and feels proud to be able to give back to the community through volunteer service.

#### BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR Andre' Caldwell

Andre' Caldwell is Shareholder with Ogletree Deakins where he has a national litigation and workplace investigations practice defending and counseling employers of all sizes on all aspects of employment law on matters. Prior to joining Ogletree Deakins, Andre' was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. During his tenure at the United States Attorney's Office, he tried over 20 federal cases to jury trial and was awarded the FBI Director's award from FBI Director Robert Mueller for his outstanding prosecutorial skills. Andre is actively involved in the Oklahoma City community presently serving as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Greater Urban League of Oklahoma, President Elect of the Downtown Club of Oklahoma City, a member

of the Board of Directors for Leadership Oklahoma City, and a committee member of the Oklahoma City Black Justice Fund. Originally from South Carolina, Andre' has resided in Oklahoma for 15 years. Andre is married to his much smarter wife, Mary Caldwell and they have three children, Ethan (7), Lincoln (5), and Mahala (3).

#### MARIAN BEARD DOBBERTEEN AWARD Jim & Cathy Blevins

Mrs. Blevins lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Jim. She has worked for Bank of America Merrill Lynch for 31 years. For the last 28 years, Cathy has worked directly with the bank's commercial clients with a focus on building working capital and managing day to day cash through bank treasury solutions as a Director – Senior Treasury Officer.

Cathy received a Bachelor of Arts in Business from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master of Business
Administration in Finance and Economics from the University of Central Oklahoma. In addition, she is a Certified Treasury
Professional (CTP) and an active member in the AFP of Central Oklahoma. Cathy currently serves the Urban League as the
Finance Committee Member and served the last seven years on the Board as Treasurer, President, and Past President. Past
board positions served include Positive Tomorrows Board Member, Oklahoma Zoological Society, Board Member and President
of Sunbeam Family Services Board.

Jim Blevins is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and has been personally involved in the development of oil and gas law in the Sooner State for more than three decades. He comes from a family of original 89er's, the first wave of pioneers to lay down roots in the twin territories. Born in Oklahoma City, Jim grew up around the law, having watched his father serve as a longtime District Judge for Oklahoma County. Jim studied History at Oklahoma State University, and went on to graduate from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1978. He acquired a broad background in litigation during his first job as Assistant District Attorney of Oklahoma County, and later became more specialized with the technical nature of oil and gas law by serving as a Trial Examiner (now known as Administrative Law Judge) of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Subsequently, he entered private practice, where he has specialized in oil and gas title work, real estate and related litigation, Jim has been at the forefront of oil and gas law in Oklahoma, having left his mark on a number of landmark cases. His experience in Oklahoma title and real estate is reinforced and complemented by his ownership of American Abstract Company of McClain County, Inc., in Purcell, Oklahoma. He is past president of Sunbeam Family Services in Oklahoma City, past president of Purcell Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Purcell Rotary Club, and past president of the McClain County Bar Association.



Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores is the nation's industry-leading travel stop network with more than 520 locations in 41 states. Founded in 1964 and headquartered in Oklahoma City, the company remains family-owned and operated and employs more than 26,000 people. Love's provides professional truck drivers and motorists with 24-hour access to clean and safe places to purchase gasoline, diesel fuel, fresh coffee, restaurant offerings and more. Love's has more than 380 truck service centers, which include on-site and stand-alone Speedco and Love's Truck Tire

Care locations. Love's and Speedco combined is the largest oil change, preventive maintenance and total truck care nationwide network. Love's is committed to providing customers with "Clean Places, Friendly Faces" at every stop.

Love's recently expanded their commitment to help fight racial inequalities in the black community by donating \$150,000 a year – for the next three years – to the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. In making the announcement, the Love's Family of Companies stands against racism and affirms the value and equality of all people.

"Love's has had a long-standing partnership with the Urban League and has always valued the communities in which our customers and team members live and work. We are honored to continue to support the Urban League's initiatives," said Jenny Love Meyer, executive vice president and chief culture officer of Love's. "Here at Love's we actively work to establish an environment that is inclusive and embraces the power of differences, ideas and backgrounds in team members and customers. We stand against all forms of racism and injustices."

"For over 20 years, the Love's family and Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores have been supporters and friends of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City," said Dr. Valerie Thompson, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Inc. "The Urban League is very proud and grateful to Love's for the opportunity to strengthen the Urban League's Community Convening and Social Justice Program.



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## Life Member Inductees

hen a person decides to be identified with an organization for life, it is a monumental commitment. When that commitment is given to the Urban League, it means that the person wants to be involved with the mission, policies and work of the League for their entire sojourn on this earth. They are letting the world know that they are dedicated to vision and work of the Urban League Movement and they are willing to spend a lifetime to help the League live up to its mission. We are proud to welcome into the ranks of life membership 14 extraordinary individuals.

#### JASON BANISTER

Jason Louis Banister was born in Omaha, Nebraska but raised in Del City, Oklahoma. He graduated from Del City High School and attended Rose State College. Seeking a higher calling, he joined the Army and graduated from AMEDD.

Continuing to build on his foundation as an officer, Mr. Banister began a career with Enterprise as a Manager Trainee "MT" and earned multiple promotions. Following a promotion and relocation Jason earned the position, Group Manager (Southwest Operations). He retired in 2020, after 20 years of dedicated service to Enterprise and the community.

Mr. Banister is a successful entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in executive leadership, philanthropy, business and sales management.

A God-fearing man, Mr. Banister remains energized by the young minds he mentored on his speaking engagements and spiritually filled by his fellowship at 5th Street Baptist Church and FreeMasonry.

A man of many talents, Mr. Banister is a Christian, Father and Veteran and now spends most of his time at his dealership, 6th Avenue Honda in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

#### TAJUANA "TEE" BROWN

Tee Brown is a Woman of God who loves the Lord. She also loves to teach, preach, and help spread the Gospel of Christ with anyone she meets. Desiring to legalize her calling, Mrs. Brown was ordained an Evangelist in October of 2002 by Bishop Banner of the Christian Fellowship Assembly.

In order to gain more experience in her call to preach, she joined with the Church of the Living God CWFF, Temple 355, with Pastor Elmer Gabriel in 2004. In 2012, she was prompted by the Spirit to join with Pastor Alonzo Ponder at Church of the Living God Temple 290. Where she is presently one of the Associate Ministers

17 years ago, Evangelist Tee founded her ministry named Women Working for Jesus. This ministry serves the community in various capacities, such as sponsoring power packed conferences; feeding and ministering to the homeless; distributing Love Bags packed full of personal hygiene items and a track; volunteering at Infant Crisis Center; The Regional Food Bank;

Urban League; and Skyline Ministries. In 2019 the ministry revised its name to Warriors Working For Jesus. One of her passions is to walk and promote causes that are dear to her heart, two of which are the Walk for Lupus & The Arthritis Walk.

Evangelist TaJuana Brown wants to share her favorite scripture with you. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" She wishes to be known as a nobody, trying to tell everybody, about somebody, who can save anybody.

#### **DEANO COX**

Deano has over 38 years of experience and dedication with AT&T. He has worked in a myriad of company departments, including External Affairs, Network Services, Engineering, Marketing/Sales, Accounting, Procurement, Information Systems and Operator Services. Deano's primary responsibilities include, but certainly aren't limited to managing AT&T Oklahoma's day-to-day activities related to legislative, municipal, community and external affairs while working closely with Legislators, Business and Consumer Leaders, chambers, civic organizations and community leaders. Deano is a board member of the Urban League and Junior Achievement of Oklahoma City. Deano is a lifelong Oklahoma City resident and has two daughters and one grandson that live in Edmond. To get away and relax, Deano enjoys spending time at his lake house and playing golf.

#### **SHENICE L. HUFF**

Shenice L. Huff has been a community contributor for almost twenty years. From hosting free work readiness trainings and employment leads to assistance with tutoring and mentoring to anyone that asks for help. She is also a Certified Life Coach. Shenice is the founder of RearView Resource Services, Inc., an agency she created to inspire formerly incarcerated individuals to focus on the successful path in front instead of the journey they are leaving behind. This agency assists with employment, life skills, coping skills and overall life preparedness. Shenice has more than 10 years of nonprofit experience with strengths in organizing, planning and executing events. She has worked with youth in various capacities for over 10 years, as well. Twelve years ago, Shenice was a founder of the concept of the Urban League's Annual Back to School Bash, providing innovative ideas for the revamping of the community event. She is a current member of the Annual Back to School Bash's "Dream Team".



Shenice is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. as well as an active member at True Vine Ministries. A Spencer native and a huge supporter of Spencer, Shenice gives unselfishly with every project she is a part of. She has two wonderful children, Derwin (23) and Daylen (17).

#### **DENISE ISAMAH**

Denise Isamah-Cameron is a results driven Human Resources professional with extensive experience in: Affirmative Action/Compliance, Equal Employment Opportunity, Employee Relations, Diversity & Inclusion and Talent Acquisition. Ms. Isamah-Cameron's strengths include leadership, coaching, conflict resolution, training, project management, program design/implementation and execution, delegation, performance management and governmental compliance. Denise is a member of The Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM).

Some of Denise's previous board positions include:

Chairperson-Community Action/Business Committee, Zion Hill Baptist Church

Professional Development Chair- Metro Atlanta Industry Liaison Group

Executive Board Member - Metro Atlanta Industry Liaison Group

Chair and Executive Board Member- Georgia Business Leadership Network

Vice Chair - Georgia Business Leadership Network

Voting Member- DirectEmployers' Recruitment Regulatory Compliance Committee

Logistics Chair - 2012 Southeast Industry Liaison Group Conference; 2009 National Industry Liaison Group Conference Chair-DirectEmployers' Strategic Partnership Alliance Committee

 $Ms.\ Is a mah-Cameron\ holds\ a\ B.S.\ Degree\ in\ Broadcast\ Journalism\ from\ Texas\ Woman's\ University.$ 

#### **AARON KETTER**

Aaron Ketter holds the position of Vice President of the Mid-Continent, South Texas, and Rockies Business Unit for Devon Energy. His multi-discipline teams are responsible for creating and executing the corporate strategy encompassing financial performance, capital program, and business development opportunities. Prior to his current position, Aaron held various planning and engineering roles at Devon including strategic planning, midstream and marketing, acquisition and divestitures, deep-water exploration, and multiple onshore engineering assignments.

Aaron earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Aaron grew up in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and currently resides there with his wife, Jennifer, and two sons.

#### KENNETH MACDONNELL

Ken MacDonnell resides in Norman where he chose to retire in 1981, after serving twenty years in the Air Force. While in the Air Force, Ken worked in several fields including heavy ground radar maintenance, electronics, AWACS, and diversity awareness. He earned his BS degree from Auburn University and his MA from the University of Notre Dame. The highlight of his career was teaching at the United States Air Force Academy, where he specialized in issues relating to war and morality. Ken was awarded the OUTSTANDING MILITARY EDUCATOR IN PHILOSOPHY AND FINE ARTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 1978-79.

Returning to civilian life in Norman, Ken worked primarily in real estate sales and community development, until retiring once more in 2008. Since retirement, he remains active. His passion lies with The University of Oklahoma chapter of The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute(OLLI), a program of seminars for people over 50.In honor and memory of his beloved wife, Erna, Ken created the Erna Jona MacDonnell Scholarship Fund, a needs-based scholarship potential OLLI students. Ken is a generous supporter of the Anti-defamation League (ADL), the McKown Homeless Village, and the Norman Battered Women's Shelter. He has two grown children, Niall and Kolleen, who live in Texas. Ken's constant companion is Dudley, his orange and white cat.



for



## Life Member Inductees

#### **CHELSEY MCKNIGHT**

Chelsey McKnight is a senior account executive at Candor. As an experienced advertising and marketing professional with years of management experience, Chelsey is skilled at leading teams to successfully implement new and existing brand initiatives for clients. Some of her specialties include strategy, website development, email marketing, paid media and implementing loyalty programs. In 2019, Chelsey was named the Young Advertising Professional of the Year by OKC Ad Club.

Chelsey currently serves on the Urban League Board of Directors, and she is also actively involved in the United Way of Central Oklahoma. Chelsey received her bachelor of business administration with an emphasis in marketing from Oklahoma State University as well as a masters in strategic communication with emphasis in advertising and public relations from the University of Oklahoma.

#### SHANI NEALY

Shani Nealy is the Sr. Vice President of Administration at the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. Shani began her career at the Urban League in 1996 as an unpaid intern and has been with the Urban League for 24 years. Over the years she has been responsible for many facets of the agency's operations including: the human resources function, special events planning, compliance with the National Urban League, small business development, supervising various departments and providing support to the President/CEO.

Shani has a Master of Human Relations and Bachelor of Busines Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

Shani is also a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), working in in private practice and with counseling agencies delivering individual and family therapy to clients. Shani is an entrepreneur by nature and has owned several businesses throughout the years.

With a deep love for animals, Shani uses counseling to show others how pets can assist in their therapy process by using information gained in pet assisted therapy training. She has been able to introduce the idea that animals can aid in the healing process.

Shani is a native of Spencer, OK. She is affectionately called "Oliva Pope" by her family and is married to Marcus Nealy with four children; Marcus, A'mani, Samariah, Ni'Youna and one loving, loyal dog, Prince.

#### **DERRICK RHONE-DUNN**

Derrick Rhone-Dunn is a 2019 member and volunteer with the Urban League GUILD, and a 1998 Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Awardee of the Outstanding Young Professional Award. He holds a Master's in Public Administration with emphasis in budgeting from the University of Oklahoma. Derrick graduated in the top 15% of his 1991 undergraduate class from Langston University, with concentration in accounting and a minor in finance. He is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, a life member of Langston University Alumni, and a new Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City life member.

Derrick works for the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization, Mission Support Services, Aeronautical Information Services, Organizational Guidance and Planning Group, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Derrick is a subject matter expert in the setup and execution of over 260 external and internal federal agreements providing an addition \$40 million in organizational spending, budget planning and execution for a \$120 million budget, and developing contract

negotiation position papers for the Government.

When Derrick is not attending one of his three sons sporting events, he has been known to volunteer with the FAA, the Oklahoma City Arts Council, Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity, COMPEER a mental health organization, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, or serve as a Staff Reporter and Business Manager, for what was formerly known as the Ebony Tribune Newspaper. Derrick currently serves as the Treasurer of the Oklahoma City Golf Association 501(C),(3), providing transportation services for underserved Oklahoma City youth to attend the First Tee Golf Program.

Lasting words to leave with you: "Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don't strive to make your presence noticed; just make your absence felt." Unknown.

#### **LONNETTA SMITH**

Lonnetta Smith is the Vice President of the Education and Family Development and Workforce and Career Development programs at the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. She received a Master of Business Administrations degree from the University of Phoenix-Oklahoma City campus, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Central Oklahoma. For the last six years, Lonnetta has maintained a Behavioral Health Case Manager, Level CM II certification through the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Services. Through her formal job-related education and credentials gained through universities, credentialing organizations, and registry approved training Lonnetta has fulfilled the requirement to maintain a professional achievement through the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development, Oklahoma Professional Development Registry. Lonnetta's career span of 20+years at the Urban League has allowed her to develop advanced skills in strategic planning, risk management, problem-solving, and supervisory responsibilities.

Lonnetta grew up in Spencer, Oklahoma; her father, Lonnie Sr. was a minister, and her mother, Norma, was a Sunday school teacher. Lonnetta is the oldest of her six siblings. For over twenty-three years, Lonnetta has been married to her best friend, Stanley Smith, who is a United States Army veteran and a nurse at the Oklahoma City VA Hospital. Lonnetta and Stanley have four exceptional young adult children, Courtney age 29, and her husband Thomas, Caisey age 27, Avani, age 20; and Omari, age18. She is also blessed to have two beautiful grandchildren, Ari, age 3, and Naji, age 1. When she is not at work, Lonnetta enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Lonnetta has been an active church member since she was a child; she currently attends Unity Baptist Church with pastor M. L Woodberry. Lonnetta strives to keep God first in her life, followed by maintaining her well-being, supporting her family, and expanding her professional development. Lonnetta's short-term goals include giving her best in all aspects of her life. Her long-term plan includes being happy, healthy, and financially independent. Lonnetta's motto is, we must become the change we wish to see in the world. — Mahatma Gandhi. Nothing changes by just hoping it to happen; change happens through action.

#### VANESSA THURMAN

Vanessa D. Thurman was educated in the Oklahoma City Public School System. She attended the University of Central Oklahoma where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration and Management.

Vanessa began her federal career as a United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Oklahoma in 1986. While at the probation office, she worked as an officer, an alcohol and drug treatment specialist, and as a supervisor. She worked with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Court in Washington, D.C. as a trainer and as a member of National Program Review Teams, which reviewed the practices and procedures of other United States Probation Offices throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

In January 2004, Federal Judges, under the leadership of then Chief Judge Robin J. Cauthron, appointed Vanessa to be the Chief United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Oklahoma. She became the first African American and the first female to hold this position.

In 2005, Vanessa was nominated by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to serve on the Human Resource Advisory Council. This council reviews national policies and makes recommendations to the Judicial Resource Committee of the Judicial Conference.

Working with U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie Couch, the Western District of Oklahoma designed and implemented the Court Assisted Recovery Effort (CARE), a drug court. This program began in April 2009 and was one of the first twenty re-entry courts in the federal court system. Prior to her appointment as a probation officer, Vanessa was employed as the Residential Program Director of the Oklahoma Halfway House, Inc.

She is a graduate and Lifetime Member of Leadership Oklahoma; a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and a Charter Member of the Oklahoma Sooner City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In 2007 Vanessa was the first African American to be elected to the Board of Directors at Allegiance Credit Union. She currently serves at the Vice-Chairman of the Board.





and resources to create valuable programs, we're fully immersed in making the community the best it can be.



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## Life Member Inductees



#### LASHAN WILEY

LaShan Wiley is the Manager of Benefits at Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores at Oklahoma City corporate offices, where she oversees the team that administers employee benefits in all operations. She helps recommend and implement benefit designs for the medical plan, administers the company's profit-sharing program for store managers, and other benefits. She is also a member of the Love's Employee Emergency Fund Committee which is a financial resource that covers the costs of basic needs for employees who have suffered unexpected tragedies. She graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor's in Business Administration, Human Resources Management. Her volunteer experiences include the Regional Food Bank, Boys & Girls Club of Oklahoma City among others.



#### **COREY WOODLEY**

Corey Woodley is a native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A graduate of Northeast High School, Corey enlisted in the United States Air Force, July 1990. During his tenure in the Air Force, Corey served in the capacity of firefighter, paralegal, paralegal instructor, and law office superintendent. He was honorably discharged from active-duty, January 1998 and retired from Air Force Reserves, January 2012 as the Reserve Law Office Superintendent, Base Legal Office, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington.

Corey has been employed by the Federal Aviation Administration since 1998 as a Legal Instrument Examiner, Supervisor and Management & Program Analyst for the Civil Aviation Registry. He earned a Bachelor of Science, General Studies with a minor in English from University of Central Oklahoma.

Corey believes empowerment comes with preparation and engagement. He has been an active member of the Urban League's auxiliaries since the inception of the Young Professionals chapter in 2000. At the affiliate level, he's held the position of membership chair, treasurer and president. He also served on the Program's Committee for the National Urban League Young Professionals. Corey was responsible for spearheading the relaunch of the Urban League Guild in 2019. Corey has set an example of leadership, commitment and dedication by ensuring Christmas programs like adopt-a-family continue and forge partnerships and friendships that galvanizes the "Dream Team's" excellence every Summer during Back 2 School Bash.

Corey and his wife Nicole reside in Oklahoma City and they have two adult children, Corey Jr and Christen, a handsome grandson name Carter and a beautiful granddaughter name Rori.



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### **Financial Statement**

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

<b>Public Support</b>
-----------------------

Public Support		
Special Events (Special Events/Fundraising).		
Contributions		
Local United Way Allocation		
Total Public Support	772,511	
Fees and Grants from Government A	gencies	
(Federal and State Financial Asst./Grants)		
Other Revenue		
Program Fees/Misc. & Interest Income		
(Program income/endowment/interest income/r	ental/misc)	
Total Public Support and Revenue	1,313,715	
Expenses		
Management and General		
Fundraising	34,089	
Total Expenses	1,367,372	
<b>Change in Net Assets fro</b>	m Operations (53,657)	
Capital Additions		
Increase (Decrease) in Endowment Fu	nd Beneficial Interest	
Change in Net Assets from Operation	s	
Net Assets, Beginning as Restated		
Net Assets at Year End		

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## **Young Professionals**

#### Dear Urban League Family,

We celebrate 73 years of service in a year where the need for this organization's constant presence is significant. The nation has provided our community massive challenges in 2020, yet here we are celebrating the magnitude of our continuous progress. I have immense appreciation for all organizers and sponsors that have made this event possible.

The Young Professionals' purpose is to support our affiliate's mission; we thank the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City for supporting us and allowing us to do so. We encourage everyone within the age range of 21-40 to come and join the movement. We need your energy and talents, and we need them today.

Sincerely, Terrell Mure

President







#### **ULOKCYP 2020 Officers**

Jerrell Mure - President • Shawna Anderson - Vice President Danyale Matthews – Treasurer • KeShana Braxton – Secretary

### Guild



#### **Greetings!**

I am Kjulonda Ogles, President of the relaunched Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Guild. Thirty dynamic supporters of the movement have galvanized to assist our affiliate leaders in carrying out the mission of the Urban League. This organization is equipped and excited about the charge to assist in the empowerment of a community. Will you accept the challenge and become a member? Please consider giving what we have coined the "3 T's" Time, Talent, and Treasure. There is plenty of work to go around! We look forward to you joining the movement.

Sincerely,

Kjulonda Ogles

President

#### 2020 Urban League OKC Guild Officers

Kjulonda Ogles, President • Marlon James, Vice-President Nikia Johnson- Treasurer • Chaunte Gilmore- Recording & Corresponding Secretary Violet Ford- Member at Large • Michael Sourie- Member at Large

Christopher Harrison, Sr.- Parliamentarian • Kevin Jeffries- Sergeant-at-Arms • Antoinette Roach-Historian

Annual Gala 2020 • 23

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Mr. Corey Woodley\*

Rev. Dr. George E. Young, Sr.

(d) - Deceased (\*) - Inductee



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