

Presents

# 76TH ANNUAL EUNDRAISING & AWARDS



Saturday, June 10, 2023

REMEMBER THE TIMES WITH MIDNIGHT STAR

> ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022



# Urban League of Greater •Oklahoma City Congratulates... 30 Years

Movemen

# Dr. Valerie Thompson President & CEO

National Urban League Quarter Century Club Member

2 • URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City

*Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.* 

# Contents

Letter From Our President & CEO
Board of Directors 6
Our Mission 7
Staff 8
Financial Statement 12
Guild 13
Young Professionals 13
Awardees
Life Member Inductees 25
Life Members
Contributors 30
Remember the Times 31
Diversity Partners
Sponsors

# 2023

3900 N. Martin Luther King Avenue Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

main 405.424.5243

fax 405.424.3382 Visit us online at urbanleagueok.org









Congratulations to the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City for all the great work you do in our community!

-Charles Oppenheim



# Partners working TOGETHER

OG&E's partnership with the Urban League will help put young people to work with great careers, benefits, and a bright future.

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For more information, contact the Urban League at 405-424-5243 or visit urbanleagueok.org.

At OG&E, we **do more** than energize a power grid.



We Energize Life

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# Letter From Our President & CEO

elcome to the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City's 76th Annual Gala. Thank you for joining us tonight as we celebrate the outstanding individuals and organizations in Oklahoma City. Tonight, we reflect on the impact of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City on building a stronger, more diverse, and economically inclusive community for over 76 years. Walk down memory lane with us tonight as we "Remember the Time".

According to the local newspapers in 1945, The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City was set up in the Spring of 1945 and was accepted by the Community Chest (United Way) as an accredited social welfare agency. During the Summer and Fall of 1945, the newspapers reported that highly trained social welfare surveyors in Oklahoma City studied the needs of the African American population, specifically, and in general how the needs related to the community as a whole. On December 19, 1946, Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Oklahoma Secretary of State and the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City's journey began in our first offices at 300 N. Stiles.

On November 29, 1946, the local newspaper quoted Lester Granger, National Urban League president, at a dinner in his honor hosted by the Oklahoma City YWCA. Speaking to the audience, Mr. Granger stressed the fact that consideration of a problem based on interracial cooperation is difficult; that qualities of courage and wisdom are of the utmost importance in the people who tackle interracial problems. Granger said "This is necessary: work and financial support of the League is necessary. The League is not a militant group and concerns itself only in those fields which also concern the entire population such as education, health, housing, transportation, and employment. It functions by seeking to understand the problems of a community and doing something about them before friction can arise. It also seeks to bring about equality and opportunity." For over 76 years, the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City's focus has remained the same. The agency has been the premier social service agency and subject-matter expert in the African American community providing affordable housing, minority business support, workforce development, employment, expungement assistance, and education services. Like the past and the present, our formal mission statement is "To assist African Americans, other minorities and the poor achieve social and economic equality." Our focus is on

economic mobility for the poor and people of color. We want educated kids, living in healthy communities whose families have access to jobs and a roof over their heads.

Mr. Granger's statement in 1946 is still true today. Our work is necessary, and it needs financial support. Tonight, we are asking each of you to give \$100 or more to help us raise \$50,000. Your gifts will benefit 50 children in our 4-star DHSlicensed School-Age Learning Center. The Urban League specializes in supporting minority children and offers an academically enriched learning environment where students from kindergarten through 6th grade receive after-school tutoring. Your gifts will help 25 young adults with job training and the development of transferable and functional skills. Our career coaches understand when people come to the Urban League, they struggle to meet basic needs and are often confronted with daily emotional and social challenges that create barriers to employment. As an affordable housing developer for over 25 years, \$50,000 would help us renovate a home for a low-income family who seeks safe, quality, and affordable housing.

A QR Code has been provided tonight for your convenience. Thank you for joining us tonight and remembering the impact and life-changing services of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City.

Dr. Valerie Thompson

President and CEO

Annual Gala 2023 • 5

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Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City

*Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.* 

# **Board of Directors**

## OFFICERS

Leslie Johnson, Chair ULOKC | Arvest Bank Andre Caldwell, First Vice Chair ULOKC | The Boeing Company Matthew Clouse, Second Vice Chair ULOKC | Valliance Bank Chelsey McKnight, Secretary ULOKC | VI Marketing & Branding Jake Whitmore, Treasurer ULOKC | Medical Solutions

## MEMBERS

Jeremy Temple Almon, MD, Mercy Hospital Marleen Arboleda, Enterprise Holdings Beverly Barrett, First Fidelity Bank Brandon Carey, Oklahoma State School Boards Association Angie Christopher, 180 Medical Hossein Farzaneh, Home Creations Bridgette Hundon, Merrill Lynch Stephanie Johnson, Bank of Oklahoma Aaron Ketter, Devon Energy Kelly Kinser, Crowe & Dunlevy Brandon Slaton, Dell, Inc. Nicole Rhodes, OG&E Mickie Smith, Cox Media Jonathan Rule, INTEGRIS Health Edmond LaShan Wiley, Loves Travel Stops & Country Stores Ashley Wilemon, LDWW Rebecca L. Whitmore, The Walt Disney Company



# **Our Mission**



#### 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 1,900 clients last year.

• 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 1,816 clients last year. This program provides services through specialized initiatives:

• School Age Learning Center • Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) • Dell Technology • Community Hope Center (CHC)

#### 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 542 clients last year. This program provides services through specialized initiatives:

• City of Midwest City • Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)

#### COMMUNITY CONVENING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Community Convening and Social Justice Department (CCSJ) works to close gaps related to social mobility and economic vitality for under-resourced communities. The department focuses on voter education and mobilization, criminal justice reform, police reform, economic development, and diversity and inclusion training. CCSJ hosts one of the largest Expungement Expos in the state helping clients gain access to better jobs and housing through the records expungement process. We also have a historic partnership with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce- helping corporate partners and the city of Oklahoma City expand inclusive economic development programs in the city and region. We served over 5,924 clients last year.

- Expungement Expo
   Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce DEI Partnership
- National Urban League's Reclaim Your Vote Initiative 
   Mayors Law Enforcement Policy Task Force



# Urban League of Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Staff

# **EXECUTIVE TEAM**



Dr. Valerie Thompson President & CEO 30 years of service



Shani Nealy, PHR, LMFT Senior VP of Administration 27 years of service



Lonnetta Smith, MBA Vice President of Programs 22 years of service



Amber Williams Staff Accountant 8 years of service



Jabar Shumate, MHR VP of Community Convening & Social Justice 3 years of service



Constance Tran HRSA Marketing Coordinator 4 years of service



Chip Hobbs Facility & UrbanWorks Manager 10 years of service



Corey Woodley HRSA Compliance Coordinator & Community Health Navigator 1 year of service



**Kendall Walton** PR/Communications Assistant Previous Lisa "Lee" Evans Scholarship Intern 2 years of service



**Nicole Williams** Executive Assistant & Community Health Navigator Under 1 year of service

URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

## WORKFORCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT



Ollivett Brothers Director of Workforce & Career Development 9 years of service



Courtenie Jackson YARP Advocate Counselor & CHN 1 year of service



Harold Scarborough Integrated Case Manager & CHN 1 year of service



Dean Riley YARP Job Developer/OGE Case Manager/CHN 6 years of service



Sharryc Smith YARP Assistant Advocacy Counselor/CHN 1 year of service

## EDUCATION AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



Dee Liggens Director of Education & Family Development 9 years of service



A'mani Rashidi Master Teacher 3 years of service



Asreal Hicks Assistant Teacher 1 year of service



Cedric Currin-Moore STEM Coordinator 6 years of service



Claudia Felder Assistant Teacher 3 years of service



Stephanie Moore Curriculum Coordinator, Master Teacher 5 years of service



Dinna Coleman Van Driver 3 years of service



Tammie Wilson School Age Teacher Under 1 year of service



Blanca Vazquez Van Driver Under 1 year of service



Shequila Garcia School Age Teacher 4 years of service

Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Staff

## COMMUNITY CONVENING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



Skyla Parker Diversity Equity & Inclusion Program Coordinator 3 years of service



Shenice L. Huff Director of Integrated Programs/ Community Health Navigator 9 years of service

## HOUSING AND FINANCIAL LITERACY



Diedra Davis Affordable Housing Specialist 10 years of service

## HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)



Crest Woodberry Community Health Navigator Under 1 year of service



Keitano Roberts Community Health Navigator 1 year of service



Kyla Wade Community Health Navigator Under 1 year of service

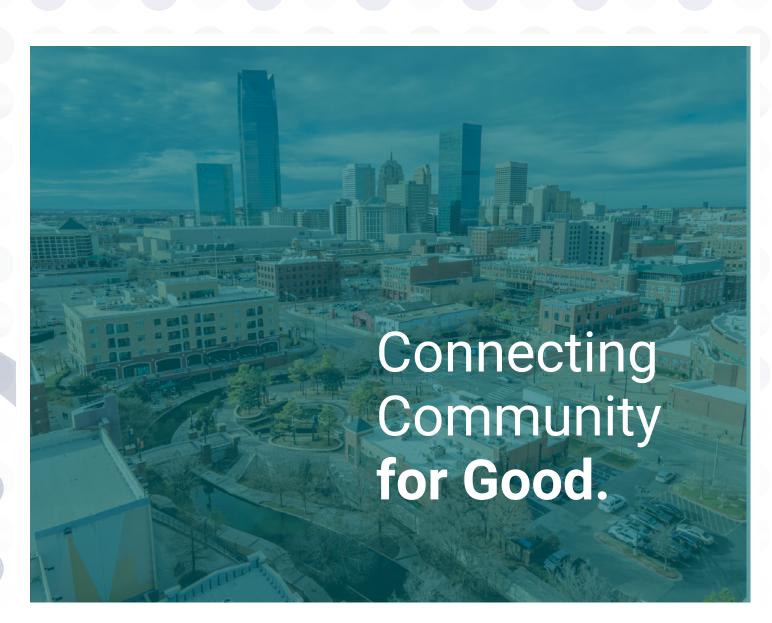


Patricia Martinez Community Health Navigator 2 years of service



Sheila Douglas Community Health Navigator 1 year of service





Inasmuch Foundation champions journalism, education, human services, and community to improve the quality of life for Oklahomans.



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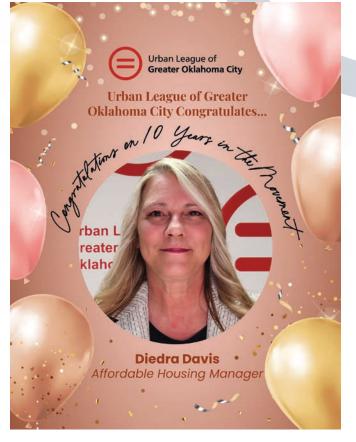
# **Financial Statement**

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

Public Support	
Special Events (Special Events/Fundraising)	61,508
Contributions	
Local United Way Allocation	
Total Public Support	1,106,126
Fees and Grants from Government Agencies	656,006
(Federal and State Financial Asst./Grants)	
Other Revenue	
Program Fees/Misc. & Interest Income	
(Program income/endowment/interest income/rental/misc)	
Total Public Support and Revenue	1,961,425
Expenses	
Program Services	1,781,688
Management and General	
0	
Management and General	
Management and General     Fundraising	
Management and General         Fundraising         Total Expenses	
Management and General         Fundraising         Total Expenses         Change in Net Assets from Operations	23,405 2,193,298 <b>-231,873</b>
Management and General         Fundraising.         Total Expenses         Change in Net Assets from Operations         Capital Additions	
Management and General         Fundraising.         Total Expenses         Change in Net Assets from Operations         Capital Additions         Increase (Decrease) in Endowment Fund Beneficial Interest.	



12 • URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.



# Guild

#### Greetings!

I am Kjulonda Ogles Amous, President of the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Guild. Dedicated 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. We are nearing the third year battling the COVID-19 Pandemic; and our members are still on the frontlines administering Vaccinations, promoting improved Mental and Physical Health Awareness, and Family Advocacy.

Will you accept the challenge and become a member to support these critical activities? 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 and making a lasting impact on our communities.

#### Sincerely,

Kjulonda L. Ogles, MS

#### OFFICERS:

Kjulonda Ogles, President • Chaunte Gilmore, Vice-President • Lynnise Hammon- Treasurer • Tonya Carey- Recording & Corresponding Secretary • Y'vonne Hilmon- Member at Large • Radawn Williams- Member at Large (Not Pictured) • Christopher Harrison, Sr.- Parliamentarian (Not Pictured) • Felecia Wyatt- Sergeant-at-Arms (Not Pictured) • D'Andrea Love -Historian



# **Young Professionals**



#### Dear Urban League Family,

As we celebrate our 76th anniversary, I am extremely excited about this year's Annual Fundraising and Awards Gala. I have immense appreciation for all attendees, organizers, and sponsors that have made this event possible.

The Young Professionals thank the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City for its sustained presence in the community, and for allowing us to grow and thrive as well. Lives continue to change, and our city continues to be positively impacted by this organization's dedication to our people. We support our affiliate and its mission, with many more years of success to come.

#### Thank you, Jerrell Mure President



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Presents the 15th Annual

A Drive Through Event Sat July 22 2023



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**\$75 Uniform/Clothing Gift Cards** (limit 2 per family)

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# Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc. After School Tutoring Program

School Year Monday - Friday 2:30pm - 5:30pm

# NOW ENROLLING/LIMITED SPACE

DHS and Private Pay accepted Transportation provided from local schools

Contact Dee Liggens for more information 405.424.5243 Ext 125

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warder



#### MRS. MELISSA BROOKS Volunteer of the Year

Melissa Brooks is the Director of Legal Information and Engagement at the Oklahoma Access to Justice Foundation. As a director, her efforts support and expand pro bono efforts across Oklahoma, as well as to build resources to connect all Oklahomans with accessible legal information. She is a Certified Legal Link Trainer for the Oklahoma Community Justice Network.

She is a former Equal Justice Works Attorney and Staff Attorney at Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma where she served low income and senior clients with consumer (chapter 7 bankruptcy), estate planning, guardianship, family, and other elder law related issues for 5 years. Additionally, she served as the Pro Bono

Coordinator for the Oklahoma City office. In that role, she maintained and developed several access to justice clinics including wills and trusts clinics, a waiver divorce clinic and a general legal advice clinic and placed pro bono cases with private attorneys.

She continues to be active in her community as Administrator and Lead Trainer of the Oklahoma County Guardianship Clinic, regular volunteer at Legal Aid's Pro Se Waiver Divorce Clinic and wills clinics and is an active pro bono attorney providing direct representation for select clients. In addition to her pro bono work, she is a vital member of the OBA Access to Justice Committee where she currently serves as Secretary and the OBA Estate Planning, Probate and Trust section where she serves as Co-Chair of the Guardianship Handbook Committee.

Melissa earned her Juris Doctor at Oklahoma City University School of Law with a Certificate in Wills, Trusts, and Estates (Estate Planning) and her undergraduate degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Pre-Law. She is an admitted member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Western District of Oklahoma federal bar.

## MR. ANDRE' CALDWELL Marian Beard-Dobberteen Award

Andre' Caldwell serves as Director and Senior Counsel for Boeing Defense Space and Security overseeing the legal needs associated with the U.S. and International AWACS, International AEW&C, Executive Transport Services & Support, and Foreign Head of State aircraft.

Prior to joining Boeing, Andre' served as the co-chair of the national Workplace Investigations and Organizational Assessments for a major labor and employment law firm. Andre' began his career as an Assistant United States Attorney with the Violent Crimes/Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force at the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma. During his tenure as an AUSA, he tried

over twenty cases and was awarded the Federal Bureau of Investigation Director's Award for Excellence from then FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Caldwell is actively involved in the Oklahoma City community presently serving as the First Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Greater Urban League of Oklahoma City, the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Positive Tomorrows Endowment, Inc., a member of the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and a member of the Grants Committee for the Inasmuch Foundation



#### MR. BARRY LOFTON Vilona P. Cutler Award

Barry Lofton is the Executive Director of the Office of TRIO and GEAR UP Programs at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). His responsibilities include administering 14 TRIO and GEAR UP grants that serve over 3000 underrepresented, low-income, first-generation middle, high school, college students and adults that want to enroll in college. He has 30+ years of service in higher education administration and leadership development. He is a firm believer of the African Proverb...Each One, Teach One.

16 • URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

As a child, Mr. Lofton, grew up four blocks from the Urban League and always wondered "What do they do in that building?' As a young adult, he found out exactly what the Urban League does as he joined the Urban League Board of Directors in 1995 and established a UCO/Urban League partnership that has produced outstanding results for 28 consecutive years.

Snippet of Mr. Lofton's connections and contributions with the Urban League include:

- Served six years as an Urban League Board Member from 1995-2001
- Inducted as an Urban League Life Member in 2008
- Facilitated & participated in the Urban League Family Fun Fest from inception to ending (12 years 1996-2007)
- Supported the Urban League Annual Gala for 28 years and introducing over 130 first generation/least advantaged college students to the UL mission through his sponsorship
- Supported the Urban League PEAK Program annually by hosting students on the UCO campus to experience a day 'living the life' of a prospective student
- Sponsored Urban League Equal Opportunity Day annually for more than 20 years
- Supporting the Urban League Young Professionals & Urban League Guild
- · Provided intern students for the Urban League Small Business Center
- Provided students to serve as tutors/mentors for the Urban League America Reads program.
- Supported the Urban League MLK College/Career Fair
- Supported the Urban League Back to School Bash
- Supporting the OKC Police/Urban Minority Recruitment Efforts
- Recipient of the Urban League's Marian Beard Dobberteen Volunteer Service Award (2012)
- Recipient of the Urban league's Equal Opportunity Award (EOD-2016)

Mr. Lofton is a proud member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church and a proud graduate of OKC Northeast High School. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Henderson State University (Arkansas). He credits his life partner, Stepheny Smith, for being the pillar of his success and thanks her for putting up with him for over two decades.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF OKLAHOMA Jay Galt Corporate Partner Award

Mrs. Isabella Lawson is the current Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Centers of Oklahoma. The Mary Mahoney Memorial Health Center has been a viable force in northeastern Oklahoma County since 1973 when it opened its doors in the old Dunjee High School building, approximately three blocks north of the Center's present location. It is a private, nonprofit, and comprehensive primary health care facility sponsored by Community Health Centers, Inc. Computing with the second seco

The building was named after Mary Eliza Mahoney who was the first black professional nurse in the United States. The American Nurses Association awards a medal in her honor at each biennial meeting. This distinguished award is bestowed upon members of the Association who have made significant contributions to integration within the profession.

Leadership in the development of Mary Mahoney Memorial Health Center was provided by five women who resided in Parker's Heights, the community immediately north of the Center. The pioneering leaders were Mrs. Lena Jackson, Mrs. Daisy Mitchell, Mrs. Laura Neff, Mrs. Dorothy Smith and Mrs. Alma Trotter. Mrs. Smith serves as a Member Emeritus of the current board of directors.

This center has served over 16,000 medical, dental, and social service users in 2017. The facility's primary focuses are early detection, diagnosis of conditions, disease prevention, and health promotion. It serves as the entry point into the healthcare delivery system for many of its users.

In 2022, Community Health Centers was a strong leading partner with the Urban League in providing access to COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. This robust partnership lead to 2,900 total vaccinations in Oklahoma (booster shots and 1st and 2nd vaccinations).

#### MRS. CHELSEY MCKNIGHT Board Member of the Year

Chelsey is an accomplished advertising and marketing professional with a passion for creativity and innovation. As the Group Account Director at VI Marketing & Branding, she possesses a keen understanding of market trends and consumer behavior. Her strategic thinking, combined with her ability to seamlessly blend creativity and business objectives, has contributed to the remarkable success of numerous high-profile initiatives under her leadership. Chelsey's skills and dedication to her





craft were recognized when she was awarded the title of 'Young Advertising Professional of the Year' by Oklahoma City Ad Club in 2019.

Chelsey currently serves as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, and she is actively involved on several committees. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing from Oklahoma State University, as well as a Master's in Strategic Communication with an emphasis in advertising and public relations from the University of Oklahoma.



#### MR. KEITANO ROBERTS Special Staff Recognition - Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Program

Mr. Keitano Roberts serves as Community Health Navigator within the Health Resources And Services administration. He was born in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, home of the steel pan, and calypso and soca music. He is the oldest of six children. Mr. Roberts arrived in the United States in 1984, at the young age of 21, after he received an athletic scholarship to play soccer for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. His love for soccer continues today, as he spends time coaching the sport. Mr. Roberts and his wife have four children, three sons and one daughter. His favorite

quote comes from the great Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, "the meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."



# MRS. CARRIE SMITH

#### Jay Galt Corporate Partner Award – Special Recognition

Carrie grew up in Spencer, Oklahoma and graduated in 1972 from the historically black Dunjee High School. She continued her education and graduated on the President Honor Roll from Southwestern Christian University.

Carrie Smith started her journey in Customer Service and worked in several departments. While there, she was voted by her peers at CHC as the Best Customer Service Staff Person. She has been employed by Community Health Centers for 15 years. Her initial plan was to work for a short period of time to supplement her income. That short period of time has turned into a career that she has loved--

because it has afforded her opportunities to give service to the community. Carrie is currently the Community Liaison/Client Advocate and Special Project Coordinator. As the Community Liaison, she can coordinate, educate, and connect individuals with information and resources in the community.

Mrs. Smith has coordinated CHCI's Annual Back to School Bash; the Community Easter Egg Hunt; Skyline Ministries Food Distributions; Thanksgiving Food Baskets Giveaway, Community Trunk or Treat, CHCI Annual Breast Cancer Awareness - My Sister, Myself Event; Black History Month Program; and partnered with the Urban League's COVID 19 Vaccine Clinic's Events. She gives unselfishly with every project.

Carrie is passionate about outreach in the community. She is a member of the Spencer Chamber of Commerce and serves as the Secretary. She is the Past President of the Dunjee All School Reunion, and one of the co-founders of the Northeast Oklahoma County Collaboration which serves the far northeast quadrant of Oklahoma with jobs, Health Care Training in various areas, and other needed services. Carrie also serves on the committee for the OKC MLK Coalition for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration

Carrie lives in Spencer with her husband Robert of 40 years. She is an active member of Emmanuel Baptist church, serving as Church Clerk, member of the Executive Board, and Praise Team. She is also a loving mother and wonderfully blessed grandmother and great grandmother.

# Creating hope together

What we accomplish together locally has lasting positive impact. Boeing is committed to enriching the communities where our employees live and work.

Learn more at boeing.com/community





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#### MRS. LONNETTA D. SMITH Janice Scott-Lee Employee of the Year

Lonnetta Smith is the Vice President of Programs at the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. She received a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix-Oklahoma City campus. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, OK. Lonnetta has maintained a Behavioral Health Case Manager, Level CM II certification through the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for six years. 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 over 22 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 six siblings. Lonnetta has been married to her best friend, Stanley Smith, a United States Army veteran, and a retired nurse at the Oklahoma City VA Hospital for over twenty-six years. Lonnetta and Stanley have four exceptional young adult children, Courtney, age 32; her husband Thomas; Caisey, age 30; Avani, age 23; and Omari, 20. She is also blessed to have two amazing grandsons, Ari, age 6, and Naji, age four; her first granddaughter is on the way. Lonnetta enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with her family when she is not at work.

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, maintain her well-being, support her family, and expand 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 that 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.

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Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City

Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City Congratulates...

# Lonnetta Smith Vice President of Programs





# *Providing affordable housing resources with an eagerness to serve.*

## HOMEOWNERSHIP

- Down Payment Assistance

   Including special rates for first responders, teachers, and state employees
- Homeowner Assistance Fund

## **RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

- Housing Choice Voucher
- Performance Based Contract
   Administration

## **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

- Affordable Housing Tax Credits
- Multifamily Bonds
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Housing Trust Fund
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS





OKLAHOMA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY 100 N.W. 63rd Street (405) 848-1144 ohfa.org

22 • URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

# Life Member" Spotlight Congratulations to Dr. Jason Banister!



# **Proud Supporters** of Urban League

Together, we create lasting, transformative change.



arnallfamilyfoundation.org



24 • URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.

# E 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 5 extraordinary individuals.

## DR. MONIQUE MILES BRUNER

Dr. Monique Miles Bruner has excelled in her education. She has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Public Administration and a Masters in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma, and doctorate in Educational Leadership at Southwestern College. Monique has been teaching at the college level for over 25 years.

Dr. Bruner has served Rose State College in several areas: academic advisement, tenured political science faculty member, associate dean and interim dean of social sciences division and currently, she is the Executive Director, Diversity and Cultural Affairs. She also has been a long-time adjunct faculty member at Langston University/OKC and Oklahoma Panhandle State

University. Monique has received numerous awards and honors for her teaching and administration at the collegiate level. Most recently, Dr. Bruner has expanded her speaking portfolio in the area of Diversity and Inclusion in all area's education and several corporate partners.

Monique has dedicated endless amount of time and hard work to support the community. She is involved with several community organizations, specifically The Sharing Tree, The OKC Black Chamber, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She spends family time watching movies, putting together jigsaw puzzles, reading, and watching football with her husband BK Bruner, children (Angelique, Domonique, Shayla, and Isaiah) and mother, Wilma Miles.

## MR. KEVIN JEFFRIES

After 47 years in aviation, Mr. Kevin P. Jeffries is set to retire on June 30th, 2023. Hailing from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, and completed a 20-year distinguished career as an Electro Environmental Specialist. Kevin has been employed as a KC-46, B52, B1B and KC-135 Aircraft Maintenance Training Instructor for OC-ALC (Depot) Flight, Detachment 9, 373 Training Squadron, at Tinker Air Force Base. Mr. Jeffries' military experience includes stops in Hampton,

Virginia, Phoenix, Arizona, Keflavik, Iceland, and Spangdahlem, Germany. He also served a tour in the first Gulf War, from 1990-91, and in 1997 he retired at Tinker Air Force Base. After

retirement from the Air Force, Mr. Jeffries worked at AAR Corporation, US Marshalls, Metro Technology Centers, and as an aircraft electrician at Tinker Air Force Base. Mr. Jeffries' hobbies include being a member of the classic car club and collecting vinyl records.







# **Example 1** Life Member (1) Inductees



### MRS. DEBORAH JENKINS

The first African American to hold the top position at the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency, Deborah Jenkins has been an affordable housing advocate for more than 35 years. As Executive Director and CEO of the organization, she is responsible for an annual program budget of \$165 million and annual operating budget of \$17 million. Ms. Jenkins also works with staff of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on issues ranging from the interpretation of housing policy, to implications of proposed housing regulations. She serves on several boards and

committees, including the MetaFund Advisory and Governing Board, Oklahoma Commission

on Children and Youth, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the National Council of State Housing Agencies, and many others. Deborah is married to Ezekiel (Zeke) Jenkins, Jr., parents of three children (Shaheen, Tayller, Ezekiel III) and six grandchildren.



#### MRS. AYANA LAWSON

Ayana Lawson, currently serves as Vice President, Lifestyle Services & Social Impact for the Oklahoma City Thunder. She holds a BS in Marketing and Business Management from Christian Brothers University, an Athlete Development Professional Certification from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in The Workplace Certification from University of South Florida Muma College of Business. Mrs. Lawson carries a position as board member on several local organizations, including Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma Inc., and The Square One Project Steering Committee (which

strives for better justice and public safety). She also serves on the board of Oklahoma City Public Schools Citizens Committee. A daughter of career Air Force officers, Mrs. Lawson has lived in two countries and six different states while in her youth. She, and her husband Ed, are the proud parents of three children.



#### REPRESENTATIVE JASON LOWE

Criminal Defense Attorney Jason Lowe is a founding member of The Lowe Law Firm, established in 2009, with offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Virginia State University, he continued his education at Oklahoma City University School Of Law. Attorney Lowe serves as Oklahoma State Representative for House District 97, and is the first African American attorney from District 97 appointed to the House Judiciary Committee. As the 2022-2023 Chairman of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus, he spearheaded fundraising of \$135,000 for the Black

Caucus Foundation and Langston University. Attorney Lowe has been recognized many times for his tireless work in the community. His notable awards include the prestigious "John Green Community Service" Award presented by the Oklahoma City Association of Black Lawyers, the "Outstanding Service to the Public" award presented by the Oklahoma Bar Association, and the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher «Diversity Award» from the Oklahoma Bar Association.

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Mrs. Irma Graham

Mr. Daniel S. Adams Mr. Eddie Allen Dr. Jeremy Almon Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Anderson Dr. Jason Banister Mrs. Marian Beard-Dobberteen (d) Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Benton Mr. M.T. Berry Mrs. Dianna Berry Ms. Mary Blankenship-Pointer Mrs. Cathy Blevins Mr. Jim Blevins Mr. Jeb Boatman Mr. Larry Bradley Ms. Ollivett Brothers Ms. Tajuana "Tee" Brown Mr. Andre Caldwell Mr. James Chappel, P.E., PMP Ms. Angie Christopher Mr. Matt Clouse Mr. Sam Combs III Mr. Deano Cox Mr. Frank B. Cox Mr. Cedric Currin-Moore Ms. Devyn Denton Mr. Bruce Dobberteen (d) Mr. David Donchin Mr. Sam Fulkerson Mr. Bryan Gibson

Mr. Ed Hamilton Mrs. Juanita V. Harris Mr. Larry Hawkins Mr. Havered Lee Hill Mr. Kelvin "Chip" Hobbs Mr. Chad Holeman Mr. Carl Holmes (d) Mr. Kenneth Hudson Mrs. Effie Hildreth Hudson (d) Ms. Bridgette Hundon Ms. Shenice L. Huff Ms. Denise Isamah Mr. Lawrence E. Jackson (d) Mrs. Mayme P. Jackson (d) Mr. Darryl Jefflo Mr. Kevin Jeffries\* Mrs. Deborah Jenkins\* Mrs. Danne Johnson Mr. Reginald Johnson The Honorable Willa Johnson (d) The Honorable Bernard M. Jones Mrs. Mautra Jones Mr. Marcellus Jones (d) Mr. Aaron Ketter Mr. Richard Kincade Mr. Percy Kirk Mr. Rusty LaForge Ms. Ayana Lawson\*

Mr. Kenneth D. Lawson Mr. Rudell Lee Mr. Ronnie Leonard Mr. & Mrs. Marshall & Deidra Liggens Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Lockwood Mr. Barry Lofton (UCO) Mrs. Kendra Loper Mr. Jason Lowe\* Mr. Kenneth MacDonnell Mrs. D. Gayle Maxwell Ms. Chelsey McKnight Mrs. Jenny Love Meyer Dr. Monique Miles-Bruner\* The Honorable Vicki Miles-LaGrange Mr. Wentz Miller Mr. James Moore Ms. Frances Morris Mrs. Shani Nealy Ms. Kjulonda Ogles Amos Ms. Gale Parker Mrs. Thelma R. Parks (d) Mrs. Pat Potts Mr. Ray Potts Ms. Lisa Reed Mr. Derrick Rhone-Dunn Mrs. Sandra Rochell Ward Six Councilwoman Meg Salyer Mr. Matt Sanderson

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The Honorable Mike Shelton Mr. Jerrod Shouse The Honorable Jabar Shumate Mrs. Mildred Simpson Mrs. Lonnetta Smith Mr. Michael Sourie Mr. & Mrs. Horace Stevenson Mr. Clinton Renzi Stone Dr. Valerie Thompson Mrs. Vanessa Thurman Mr. Matt Tilly Mrs. Patricia A. Tisdale Mr. Christopher C. Turner Mr. Darryl Umphries Mrs. Pam Umphries Mrs. Shirley Washington-Reed Ms. Tonjua Whetstone Mr. Jake Whitmore Mrs. Rebecca Whitmore Mrs. Erin Wilcox Ms. LaShan Wiley Mrs. Kathleen Williams Mr. Mark Williams Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Williams, Sr. (d) Ms. Amber Williams Mr. Corey Woodley Rev. Dr. George E. Young, Sr. Mr. & Mrs. James "Bunyan" (d) &

Evelyn "Faye" Greenhoward

The Kerr Foundation

Public Service Company of Oklahoma

The Galt Foundation Mr. Kevin Maxwell

(d) Deceased (\*) Inductee

# Making a Difference

Congratulations, Barry Lofton, on receiving the 2023 Vilona P. Cutler Award!

You make a difference each day through your service to UCO students and the Oklahoma City metropolitan community.

We are proud to call you a Broncho!

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28 • URBAN LEAGUE of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.



# Lisa "Lee" Evans Making a Difference Scholarship Award

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City will award the Lisa "Lee" Evans Memorial Scholarship in this fall to a broadcasting, strategic communications, public relations, or journalism major that is interning or will intern at the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City. The recipient must show significant evidence of service to their community through community service and community involvement.

Lisa "Lee" Evans was a news anchorwoman for KFOR-TV (Channel 4) in Oklahoma City. She enrolled in the University of Oklahoma, graduating with a B.A. in journalism in 1991. While at OU, Lee was a great source of inspiration for other minority students and made a significant difference in their lives by her example of diligent work to achieve goals and dreams. She joined KFOR-TV in 1994, quickly earning a weekend anchor/reporter position through her prestige. Lee was the first reporter from KFOR to deliver news of the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995. She was a rising star in the field of journalism. Lee Evans will always be remembered as a bright, shining star with a bubbly personality, who set an example through her desire and drive to get ahead in life.



• Must be a broadcasting, strategic communication, public relations, or journalism major at an Oklahoma college or university.

• Must show significant evidence of service to their community through community involvement or community service activities.

Must work a minimum of 210 hours at the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City.

• While a specific GPA is not required to obtain the award, the scholarship committee would like to see evidence of a student's commitment to his/her education through GPA or ability to show progress from past semesters to the present

• Must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 hours in the semester for which you apply for the award. This may include an internship.

• Recipients will be required to write a thank you letter to the Evans family and attend the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City's Annual Gala in June.



Please send resumes to humanresources@urbanleagueok.org

Mrs. Awonu Uchechi Lekia Akinrinsola Mr. Mosley Allen Ms. Preseta Anderson Mrs. Felisha R. Anderson Fox Mr. Ron C. Bacy Shanell D. Barnett Ms. Kasi D. Bennett Mr. Everett T. Bradford Ms. Ruseal Brewer Ms. Schnelle E. Broome Ms. Ollivett Brothers Mrs. Sommer L. Brown Ms. Dana R. Brown Mr. Joshua A. Busby Ms. Shirley Butler Mr. Curtis Celestine Mr. James O. Cooper Ms. Sherrye L. Crawford Mr. Greg Cudjoe Mr. Melvin R. Davis Mrs. Nikki Davis Mr. David V. DeGeorge Mr. David V. DeGeorge Mr. Amaziah A. Dominic Mrs. Jana D. Dugar Mrs. Leanna M. Espinoza Mr. Andre M. Francisco Mrs. Kajsa Greenhoward Mr. Christopher L. Gunter

Mr. Zachary Allen Hamen Mr. Reginald C. Harding Ms. Sherri L. Harris Mr. Chip Hobbs Mr. Donnie H. Hoisington

## Nakeia Hoover Ms. Shenice L. Huff Ms. Natalie Diane Hunter Mr. Ibrahim B. Issa Mrs. Courtenie Jackson Mrs. Deborah L. Jenkins Ms. Dana Janette Johnson Ms. Leslie C. Johnson Ms. Natasha Johnson Ms. Patricia Johnson Mr. Craig N. Jones Mr. Homer E. Jones Mr. Ronald D. Jordan Mr. Aaron A. Ketter Ms. Lana Y. Lewis Mr. Randal T. Lewis Ms. Arlisa N. Long Mrs. Lynda S. Loucks Mrs. Damita Madkins Mr. Marcus E. Martin Mrs. Darnita Gayle Maxwell Mr. Kevin E. Maxwell Ms. Robin L. Mayes Ms. Larwetta McGee Dr. Jennifer W. Molock Mr. Cedric E. Moore

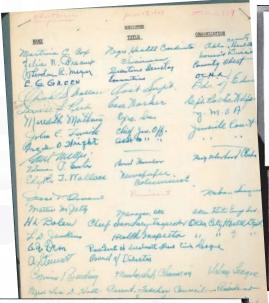
Contributors

Dr. Jennifer W. Molock Mr. Cedric E. Moore Ms. Stephanie Moore Mr. Andrew C. Nealy Mrs. Michelle Nixon Ms. Molly O'Connor Ms. Skyla Parker Ms. Shanita Renea Parker Ms. Elonda M. Quinn Elijah Raheem Ms. Tamesha Rayes

Ms. Nicole M. Rhodes Ms. Rose R. Royal Ms. Mary E. Sheets Mr. Jabar Shumate Mrs. Jasmine N. Smith Mrs. Lonnetta Smith Ms. Brandi Smith Mr. Ryan C. Sonntag Ms. AJ Spriggs-Kirksey Mr. Anthony Sutton Ms. Ayana Talley Tiara Monique Taylor Ms. Icelyn Taylor Dr. Valerie Thompson Mrs. Jacqueline M Thornton Ms. Gwendolyn J. Walter Ms. RaShonda N. Warren Ms. Patricia A. Watson Mr. Johnny W. Whitfield Ms. LaShan L. Wiley Ms. Stephania Williams Ms. Merian Williams Ms. Radawn Williams Mrs. Charmalet Williams Ms. Laura E. Williams-Burkett Ms. Shaquilla G. Willis Mr. Thomas A. Wilson Ms. Judith Wright Ms. Desiree Yearby



Remember the Times



## ague Guild Continues Tradition ring Unsung Black Male Heroes



#### BOOK DRIVE FOR THE WALNUT GROVE COMMUNITY MAY 8 - 15, 1949

The WOMCH'S DIVISION OF THE UEGAN LEAGUE, under the leadership of Mrs. Zelia N, Breaux, conducted a successful Book Drive for the Walmuk Grove Community. This group-realising that the closest library to this community is two miles, consulted the Neighborhood Club Secretary who supervises the Walmuk Grove Cen-ter . Through her guidance and information received the Wann't Division decided to accept the responsibility of developing a small Albrary for the center which is the only Community Check agony perving the more than 250 Negro families who realls in this — one of the more underprivileged neigh-borhood in Ollahnes City.

#### RESULTS:

More than 500 (five hundred) books were collected, classified and dolivered to the Walmet Grove Center. These volumes included all types of books rang-ing from children books can light fiction to books on the serious problems in world affairs. Moreover, a half dozen subscriptions (é) were donated by weam's clube and church surlliaries. These included magazines for grou-ing children and adults.

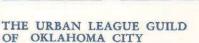
#### URBAN LEAGUE WOMEN'S DIVISION

The URANN LEMOUE Wemen's Division was organized formally in the Spring of 1949 as a result of a number of the wemen's experiences in working together successfully on each projects as the Community Chest Campaigns for for 1946 and 1949, Had Crose Drives for those same years and the Walnut Cover Book Drive. This group also furnished wilnuteers to serve as host-enses for the Salvation Argy Christman Party and themalves gave Christ-mas Chest to the residents of the Oklahoma County Home-Cor Aged Negroes. This division has a membership of approximately thirty (50) wemen who serve in any capacity they are called on to fill. The Vell-Baby Clinic has been one of the channels through which they have contributed time and motor.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1952.







A group of seventy-five ladies dedicated to promoting, encouraging, assisting and engaging in the activities of cul-tural, civic and social nature, which will publicize and further the general well-being of the Urban League movement locally and nationally.

The Guild contributed in excess of five hundred volunteer hours to the Urban League program in 1962.



















Urban League hosts successful Black and White Ball



Pictured above are the 13 men selected as the Urban League's Eligible Bachelora of 1993: Christopher V. Norman, William L. Clear, Robert B. Jackson, William A. Daniela, x, Sherman M. Carthen, Willie B. Rogers, x, Pater John A. Messiah, Michael J. Parham, Michael W. Curry, and Larry L. Free. All 13 men are featured in



The Urban Leaguer a annual stack are virus our was a success, coording to Orban. Leaguer public relations apoles works which are the the ball, a sale-out event, was hold at the Thinker with the ball of the set of the set of the think of the set of the set of the ball of the think of the set works helping the ball on the set of the set works helping the ball on the set of the set works helping the ball on the set of the set of the set of the set of the set works helping the ball on the set of the set the ball on the set of the set of the set of the balance of the set of the balance of the set of the set of the set of the set of the balance of the set of





Young Entrepreneurs Summer Academy June 9 - July 25, 2014 • Mon-Thurs 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.



# Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City

# DIAMOND

T-STONE, LLC

# GOLD

#### **INASMUCH FOUNDATION**

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Thank You!



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