

Community Unity Initiative

On January 15, 2006, our Chairman issued the call for our community to come together in the spirit of unity and collective work and responsibility to address the need for radical reform in five key areas of our communal and civic lives considered to be essential in building The Beloved Community: - economic development, public education, family stability, public health, and the judicial system. Our outreach and advocacy thrust is fourfold:

- Ongoing research on the best and most promising practices in the aforementioned areas of community engagement;
- Ongoing research on the best and most promising practices being employed to address the deficiencies in systems that negatively impact our lives;
- Ongoing outreach and recruitment of people with good will, resources and a demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of our people; and
- The creation of an infrastructure whereby the masses of our people can participate in structured, informed and collective action to change their minds and lifestyles making it possible to confront and change the institutional arrangements which are responsible for our current situation.

That Infrastructure Is Called the Community Unity Initiative! Please Join Us In This Historic Effort To Create A Better Life For Ourselves & The Future.

Economic Development Committee

"In a real sense all life is interrelated. The agony of the poor enriches the rich. We are inevitably our brother's keeper because we are our brother's brother. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

To provide economic stability for San Diego's African American Community by supporting, both personally and collectively the:

- Building of stores shops and other businesses from which we mutually benefit;
- Engaging in the struggles to create and maintain livable wage employment;
- Creating structures to penalize and/or reward financial institutions based on their equitable treatment of our people;
- Monitoring public works projects, the City/County Reinvestment Task Force, the City Redevelopment Agencies and other governmental entities to ensure the equitable distribution of our tax dollars;
- Working to create an African American Economic Development Fund as an essential act of responsibility for the economic development of our Community (the furtherance of community development through community ownership).

Public Health Reform Committee

"Of all forms of injustice, inequality in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane."

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The mission of the public health reform subcommittee is to engage leaders and others in the process of mobilization, education, organization and eventual confrontation of our personal contradictions as well as societal and institutional practices that perpetuate our poor health outcomes.

Committee members work to create the following:

- A pool of positive models of excellence that will inspire our people to change their lifestyles for the better
- An agreed upon set of views and values that envision, create and sustain a quality and just health care delivery system for all
- A program that involves people on a personal, organizational and communal level in the maintenance and development of good health and good health practices
- A system of communication that would keep us informed of the most current treatment options, political and social barriers to quality healthcare
- A system of resource acquisition that would lead to the provision of quality healthcare for all people.
- An expansion of our Medical Advocacy Program which is addressing eight devastating health disparities: in our community: HIV/AIDS, prostate cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, STDs, illiteracy, violence, and homelessness.

Family Stability Committee

"What hypocrisy it is to talk of saving the new generation to make it a generation of hope—while consigning it to unemployment and provoking it to violent alternatives".

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The goal of the family stability committee is to engage in work and struggle to build, maintain and develop caring and loving families. We will do this by:

- Being better parents, both social and biological, ourselves;
- Ensuring that resources necessary for good parenting are available;
- Working with parents/guardians and progressive professionals in the field of family life to develop instructional materials on parenting;
- Establishing mentoring programs and rites of passage programs ;
- Developing best practices manuals on parenting, marriage, and how to best care for and protect the most vulnerable among us: the young, the seasoned and the disabled;
- Monitoring and improving upon legislation/policies that will address how foster care children and their caretakers are treated;
- Encouraging the adoption of African American children by caring and nurturing African American families;
- Mentally reclaiming ourselves and one another and reestablishing the bridge between generations upon which the transference of wisdom, knowledge and experience may safely cross.

Judicial Reform Committee

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The mission of the judicial reform subcommittee is to engage in the struggle to create and administer a system of justice that recognizes the dignity and divinity of all peoples, whereby they are afforded a moral, material and meaningful context in which to live their lives.

We will accomplish this by:

- Fighting against societal practices and legislative policies that deny equal treatment African Americans in the streets, courts and other like venues in this country;
- Fighting to build and maintain effective citizen review boards that monitor and restrain those entities that participate in the miscarriage of justice on all levels;
- Proposing and developing legislative remedies that will address the disproportionate profiling, convictions and sentencing of African Americans;
- Drawing on the best of our social justice traditions to develop and institutionalize policies, practices and programs that will ensure and maintain a system of justice as an inalienable right for all persons;
- Effectively working to bring about the humane treatment of persons who are currently locked-up in the state's penal colonies and to develop structures to remove the barriers to their successful reentry into the community and world of work.

Public Education Committee

"Education either... is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity, or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world." --Paulo Freire

The goal of this committee is to radically reform the broken public education system and create a system that will educate our children to be academically competent and socially and morally responsible. This will be accomplished by doing the following:

Identifying and analyzing the systemic factors that created this dismal system
Researching promising models and educational interventions;
Research and develop Cultural Saturday Schools to teach and reinforce in our children the ethics and importance of learning;

- Mobilizing the Community to address issues in the public education arena;
Working to develop structures to train teachers in the most current education modalities, with an emphasis on cultural competency;
- Developing schools that promote democratic schooling, equal status for all students and the preparation of students for careers in the 21st century;
- Creating a village culture or ethos which reinforces the importance of education;
- Creating and maintaining dual tracks in high schools – one: in preparation for college and the other – preparation for a successful career in the skilled trades; while ensuring the mental and material equality of both tracks.