



Improving lives in our community matters.



African-American Leadership Initiative Newsletter  
Volume 3 Number 1  
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## Annual Appreciation and Recognition Reception Held

The African-American Leadership Initiative held an appreciation and recognition reception recently at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh. Nearly 70 members attended the event including outgoing co-chairs Frances Dyer and James A. Stewart who were recognized for the leadership during the past two years.

At the reception, Tina Chavis of Durham Companions shared how the group's philanthropic efforts were making an impact on her organization as well as the other member agencies supported by the Triangle United Way Community

Care Fund. The crowd enjoyed music from Jackie White, Founder of the Brother's Keeper Project.



Tina Chavis of Durham Companions poses with Derric Gregory of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.



Seated left to right: Lori Jones-Gibbs and Kenneth Gibbs. Standing left to right: Keisha Sanders, Alexandria Ferguson, Gayle Hurd, Dr. Tara L. Fikes, James Harris, Tracey Flemmings, Tania C. Johnson, Jasmine Smith, Queron Smith. Absent: Creighton Blackwell and David Reese.

*"We believe in African-American philanthropy, and for this reason it gives us great pleasure to serve as the committee chairs for the 2006-2008 United Way African-American Leadership Initiative committee. Through our service and commitment to such a wonderful cause we are able to give unyieldingly of our time and efforts to a committee that gives the Triangle an opportunity to celebrate giving in our community."*

Lori Jones-Gibbs and Kenneth Gibbs  
2006 Co-chairs

### African-American Leadership Initiative Regional Committee

#### Chairs

Lori Jones-Gibbs - Genworth Financial  
Kenneth D. Gibbs - Thomas & Gibbs, CPA Firm

#### Durham County Chairs

Jasmine Smith - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina  
Queron Smith - Mechanics and Farmers Bank

#### Orange County Chairs

James R. Harris - Town of Carrboro  
Dr. Tara L. Fikes - Orange County Government  
Creighton Blackwell - RBC Centura Bank

#### Wake County

David Reese - Inter-Faith Food Shuttle  
Keisha L. Sanders - Raleigh Nursery School  
Tracey H. Flemmings - UPS

#### Media and Public Relations Team

Alexandria E. Ferguson - North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company  
Gayle Hurd - Radio One - WFXC - WFXK  
Tania C. Johnson - The Triangle Tribune

For a full list of AALI members please visit [www.unitedwaytriangle.org/aali](http://www.unitedwaytriangle.org/aali)

**Volunteer Solutions** is a volunteer matching system that connects individuals and groups to volunteer opportunities in the community. Sign up today and have opportunities delivered to your e-mail address. View [www.unitedwaytriangle.org/volunteers](http://www.unitedwaytriangle.org/volunteers) to start making an impact!

For more information on AALI contact Virginia Ricks at 919-463-5028 or email at [vricks@unitedwaytriangle.org](mailto:vricks@unitedwaytriangle.org)

## Together, we do what matters.

Your donation to the Triangle United Way Community Care Fund helps improve lives by touching countless lives in our community. Kitty Banks is one of 500,000 people helped annually through your support of Triangle United Way.

### Meet Kitty...

**Kitty** was a functioning addict. Following a prison sentence, she was determined to make a better life for the sake of her three children. Kitty entered Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Culinary Training Program and graduated valedictorian. She now works at IFFS teaching others the skills that turned her life around. She has been clean for seven years.

*"The Food Shuttle's program, supported by Triangle United Way, has opened doors and provided opportunities that I might never have had. The class was the foundation for everything that I have achieved."* - Kitty Banks



## Mechanics and Farmer's Bank Receives AALI Award

Mechanics and Farmers Bank (MFB) received the AALI Award of Excellence in Leadership Giving at this year's Triangle United Way Annual Meeting and Celebration. This marked the 4th year the organization has received the award. MFB Executive Management took an assertive approach to the United Way

Fundraising Campaign by communicating the role United Way plays in the community, making personal contributions and challenging leadership on all levels to make leadership level contributions. The hard work resulted in an 80 percent increase in participation.

Left to right: Orage Quarles III, 2005 Campaign Chairman and Queron Smith, Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

## African-American Leadership on Triangle United Way Board of Directors

**William "Bill" Bell** - City of Durham, Mayor

**Mary Ann Black** - Duke University Health System, Associate V.P., Community Relations

**Dr. Tara L. Fikes** - Orange County, Housing/Development Director

**Floyd W. Laisure** - John Avery Boys and Girls Club, Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

**Hilda Pinnix-Ragland** - Progress Energy, Vice President Northern Region

**Maria Spaulding** - Wake County, Human Services Director

**James H. Speed, Jr.** - NC Mutual Insurance Company, President and CEO

**Rosetta Wash** - Orange County American Red Cross, Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

**Craig Chancellor** - President and CEO, Triangle United Way

**Community Care Team Volunteers Needed** As a loyal donor, you are familiar with how your investment into the Triangle United Way Community Care Fund gets results that improve lives and builds a stronger community. We invite you to be a part of building a stronger community as a volunteer on a Community Care Team. As a volunteer, you will access the issues plaguing the community and use that information to make funding decisions.

Join us as we bring together people from all across the community to get the results that no one can accomplish alone. Contact Suzanne Deobald at [sdeobald@unitedwaytriangle.org](mailto:sdeobald@unitedwaytriangle.org) or at 919-463-5048 for more information on getting involved.

## AALI MISSION

To support the mission of Triangle United Way by increasing African-American participation in the United Way process by:

- Increasing the understanding of United Way's work toward getting to the root causes of community problems.
- Enhancing collaborative relationships with African-American volunteers, business and community leaders.
- Maximizing fundraising potential by communicating effectively with AALI members on how United Way impacts the community.