



## Putting Smiles on Many Faces

Late August can be a difficult time for families, with school looming in the next month. Especially this year, with rising prices. Parents face an expense of some \$200-\$300 per child for backpacks, lunch boxes, calculators, notebooks and assorted school supplies, and maybe that much again for shoes and clothing.

I was so pleased that United Way of Delaware and Wilmington Library held our second annual Back to School Resource Fair and Bookbag Giveaway with the support of so many organizations in the community. We sincerely thank Wilmington Library for your partnership.



Some 270 children received fresh new bookbags packed with school supplies. You should have seen the smiles on their faces – parents and children alike! In addition, nearly 30 community organizations took the time to set up and staff display tables to answer questions and offer services, and we thank them very much.

Some of the highlights of the day were ***the FREE haircuts, FREE sneakers and FREE laptops*** that two of our partners provided! See the articles below to read about these generous partners. It makes my heart full when I see local businesspersons with small or growing businesses reaching out in such a selfless and impactful way.

I wonder about the other potential school supply donors in our communities who would make similar contributions if they knew of a distribution partner. Well, here we are!

If you own or manage a business, large or small, and you would like to hold a fund drive or conduct a school supplies drive -- if you have a business that could provide personal services or school clothes -- or you take part in a community organization that would like to get involved with a shoe drive or coat drive -- we at [United Way](#) and [Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative](#) will be happy to discuss your plan and try to help you make it happen.

We have close contacts with many schools and community-based programs that would love to be a recipient of your largess. For example, the statewide Learning Pods, the three 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools, and the schools in our eight [promise communities](#) where needs are high, all would be so grateful for your efforts. And we know that our partners from this past weekend, [Kool Kolored Kid Generation](#) and [Black Visionary Designers \(BVD\) Barber Salon](#) would be pleased to provide additional haircuts and sneakers with the funds you raise!

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 93 percent of educators report paying for their own school supplies -- an average of \$750 of their own money to purchase school supplies for their classrooms and students during the 2020/2021 school year.

Let's help ease the burden on parents and teachers while putting smiles on more faces for the new school year!

If you'd like, feel free to send a note to Ken Livingston [klivingston@uwde.org](mailto:klivingston@uwde.org) or Alex Southerst [asoutherst@uwde.org](mailto:asoutherst@uwde.org) and we'll be happy to lend our expertise to your initiative.

Sincerely,

**Michelle**

Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D.  
President and CEO  
United Way of Delaware

p.s. Just remember...[When You Support United Way of Delaware....](#)



## 270 Students Have New Bookbags for Going Back to School

*By Ken Livingston, Director, Get Delaware Reading,  
UWDE*

United Way of Delaware (UWDE), in partnership with the Wilmington Library, recently held the Second Annual “Back To School Resource Fair and Book Bag Giveaway” to provide students a new backpack filled with school supplies for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Highlights from the Bookbag Bash event included: 262 parents and children attended, 270 backpacks distributed, 25 free haircuts given, and 27 resource tables provided community information.



Parents had the opportunity to network and build relationships with several community partners who provided information about resources and support that they can take advantage of for successful school year. Our partnership with the Wilmington Library is critical to the work to foster and move the needle on grade-level reading.

Listen to Sharonda Everett and see a recap of the day in the [video below](#)



***Here's what people said about the day:***

*Orlando Foreman  
Network Connect:*

"Seeing the looks on the many families that were able to use the resources, school supplies and the free haircuts was a blessing. The event was well structured and fit the many needs of our communities and Network Connect was grateful to have been a part of your event and look forward to the upcoming ones in the future."

*Kevin Kidwell, Maya Jackson, and Dorronda Bordley  
The Richards, Layton & Finger Team:*

"From haircuts to health education, the Back-to-School Resource Fair was more than a school supply giveaway; it was a rally and unification of the Wilmington community. It was truly a pleasure to help Delaware's future minds choose the backpack that will hold some of their tools for educational success. With the right size, style, and color of backpack, the students are one step closer to having a successful school year. Seeing each student's personality and enthusiasm made the process very enjoyable. However, more impactful was witnessing the Wilmington community bolster the importance of education with the understanding that health, fashion, mentorship, friendship, nutrition, and even law directly affect a student's success in education and, therefore, their access to knowledge and long-term wealth. When parents and community leaders work together amazing things, as exemplified on Saturday, happen! Richards, Layton & Finger looks forward to attending, serving, and collaborating on future events.

In addition to UWDE and Wilmington Library, other sponsors were: Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. Wilmington Chapter of Gamma Theta Lambda Education Foundation, BVB Barbershop, Senator Darius Brown, Campaign for Grade Level Reading, City of Wilmington City Council, Delaware State Alumni Association, Delaware State University, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, Richards, Layton, and Finger LLP, The Solenis Group, Westside Health, 100 Black Men of Delaware

## **It's Not Hard to Be Kool if You Care**

Randal Law of [Kool Koloored Kids Generation](#) (KKKG) distributed 100 pairs of KKKG sneakers and 100 free laptop computers at the Back-to-School event.

As a young, Black entrepreneur from the Southbrigde section of Wilmington, Law reachec back into his comunity and established KKKG to ignite today's youth with the idea that they can create, empower, and inspire each other with their ideas, talents, and abilities to create change.

His KKKG branded sneakers were a huge hit! Each flag on the sneaker represents countries of people of color.



[Watch this video about his initiative by clicking the photo below](#)



## Much More Than a Barbershop to the Community

Free haircuts were offered by *The Black Visionary Designers Barber Salon* at the Back-To-School Resource Fair and Book Bag Giveaway last weekend. Better known as the BVD Barber Salon located at 223 W 8th St, Wilmington, the shop is owned by beloved local philanthropist and small businessman **Terrone Warren**.

BVD is much more than a Barbershop to the community. It's the site of an annual coat drive for the past 12 years, the origin of a sneaker and shoe drive, and where you might find an impromptu barbecue with free food for the entire Community. The popular Barbershop Conversations series addresses critical issues that affect local residents.

Last year, after Warner Elementary School Principal Dr. Terrance Newton died following motorcycle accident, Terrone stepped up to take over Dr. Newton's popular free haircuts at school program "to keep "My Man's" mission alive," said Terrone.

We at United Way of Delaware salute and thank Mr. Warren for his far-reaching support of the Wilmington community.

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TWARRENBVD>



## Financial Coaches Receive Gold Star Standard Award

We are excited to share that our *Stand By Me* – Dept. of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Financial Coaches have recently been awarded by the Department of Social Services, **FIRST** Gold Star Standard Award Team.



Powered by the State of Delaware & United Way of Delaware

The team was nominated by Ms. Shayne Lewis, DHSS – SBM Program Manager who has been successfully managing her team and providing them with support. The team was chosen as a positive example of hard work, effort, and dedication to the Division of Social Services and the many customers they serve.

We congratulate each of the awardees and applaud their continued commitment to not only the Guiding Principles of the Division of Social Services and their excellent service to the community. Each awardee will be receiving certificates, statewide notification, and their names on a marquee outside the Herman Holloway Campus.

Congratulations to the awardees for their hard work and dedication in serving our fellow Delawareans to improve their finances!

- Shayne Lewis, Program Manager
- LaTresha Alston, DHSS, SBM Financial Coach
- Franshell Best, DHSS, SBM Financial Coach
- Rhonda Cain, DHSS, SBM Financial Coach
- Charles Jenkins, DHSS, SBM Financial Coach
- LaRay Raiford, DHSS, SBM Financial Coach
- Damary Todman, DHSS, SBM Financial Coach

Stand By Me helps Delawareans reach financial well-being, free of charge. Personal financial coaching is a confidential one-on-one relationship with a knowledgeable financial coach to help clients Identify financial goals, create a working budget, develop new habits and break old ones, deal with collectors and eliminate debt.

Stand By Me programs include:

- Childcare Partnership
- Stand By Me NexGen: College, Careers & Cash
- Stand By Me NexGen: College Funding Project

- Stand By Me Home
- Stand By Me Hispano
- Stand By Me Minority Small Business Program
- Stand By Me 50+
- Workforce Development

For more information on how a Stand By Me Financial Coach can assist you please visit: [www.standbymede.org](http://www.standbymede.org)

## New Castle County Vocational Technical School District Conducts Summer Institute

The New Castle County Vocational Technical School District (NCCVT) kicked off their Summer Institute for high school students in Wilmington this past week.

The day began with a keynote address from State Representative Madinah Wilson-Anton who told the students about her journey to becoming Delaware's youngest legislator and demonstrated how there is no age-minimum for making a difference in their communities.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and learn a bit more about how Delaware's legislative branch functions. Later in the day, students attended leadership workshops and heard from a panel of NCCVT alumni including business owners, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and educators.



Delaware  
Racial Justice Collaborative  
Happenings





Brandon Brice, Director of Philanthropy of DRJC, recently attended the quarterly social of Professional African American Men in Delaware hosted by F. Renarde Hill, Director, Information Technology at DuPont Account.

A presentation by DuPont's African American and retired employees focused on retention, exposure and providing support to more Black male professionals on Executive Boards, C-Suite positions and recruiting more Black talent in the Chemical industry.

Participation with this organization is as part of the DRJC's work to increase diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the business community.



From left: Jacob Higgins, DRJC; Secretary Rick Geisenberger, Dept of Finance; Raina Allen, DRJC; State Treasurer Colleen Davis; Rep. Larry Lambert (HB 205 prime sponsor); Alex Southerst, DRJC

## DRJC Attends Signing of HB 205: EARNS

On Thursday, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) staff attended the signing of House Bill 205, establishing the [Expanding Access to Retirement and Necessary Savings program](#) at MeJah Books, Inc. in Claymont.

During this past session, the DRJC advocated strongly for the passage of the bill which will afford expanded access to retirement and necessary savings for employees who do not work for a company that provides access to traditional retirement savings accounts. The program will be administered by the office of the state treasurer Colleen Davis.

Those in attendance included the bill's prime sponsor, Rep. Larry Lambert, Senate sponsor Sen. Nicole Poore, Governor John Carney, Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long, State Treasurer Colleen Davis, Secretary Rick Geisenberger, state legislators and advocates.

Earlier this year, [Treasurer Davis joined Alex Southerst](#), Coordinator for the DRJC, on her livestream *Tea Time with Alex* to discuss how her office will oversee the creation and implementation of the program.

We are excited to work with the Office of the State Treasurer and see Delawareans engage with the program! Thank you to Secretary Rick Geisenberger, **State Treasurer Colleen Davis**, and **Rep. Larry Lambert** for their hard work getting it across the finish line!



## Celebrating 25 Years of Serving Sussex County at This Year's AFRAM Festival

*By Jalyn Powell, Owner & CEO, OUTLOUD LLC.*

I attended the Eastern Shore AFRAM (African Festival) on Saturday Aug 13, celebrating 25 years of service. This cultural festival is preceded by multiple fundraising events that support the celebration of African American culture filled with fun, food, friends and family.

This year was special because not only has AFRAM reigned as the longest serving



festival in Sussex County, this year's location was The Ross Station in Seaford, Delaware, which was a plantation and slave quarters. The Seaford Historical Society offered free tours of the Governor's Mansion and Slave Quarters.

It was the dream of AFRAM Executive Director Pat Jones to pay homage to our ancestors and their work, trials and tribulations. Where they once were bound, we were able to walk the grounds freely.

This year AFRAM partnered with Cornerstone Community Center and *Outloud LLC* for Mrs. Jones's retirement. The community and several sponsors came together to make this day a success.

The morning started off with a 3.1-mile Wellness Walk hosted by Outloud. Next, contestants took the stage for the Miss AFRAM competition. There were guest appearances from Miss Jr Teen Global Continental, Natalie Scott, and National Miss Juneteenth, Saniya Gay. Miss LaPetite, Bryana Harris; Our Little Miss, Naja Ryan; Universal Girl, Aaliyah Hiton; and Tripoint Regional Official Princess, Makayla Harris.

The opening ceremony, started with a prayer from Pastor John Moore, consisted of a 25-year tribute with special remarks by Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester and local and state legislators. Delaware state legislators and representatives from City of Seaford presented a commemoration acknowledging AFRAM's 25 years of service to Sussex County.

Comedians, singers, artists, poets and bands entertained the crowd for the rest of the day, including well-known *Best Kept Soul*. The festival hosted more than 60 vendors and kid-friendly activities such as bounce houses and face painting. From live music to laughter, fellowship to networking, it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate culture with such a diverse crowd.

I felt at peace. I felt hope. I was able to pause and take in the journey and what those who came before us have accomplished thus far. While there is still a long way to go, moments of pause and reflection are necessary. AFRAM gave us that moment.

To support Easternshore AFRAM for 2023 events, visit the [\*\*Eastern Shore AFRAM facebook page.\*\*](#)



## **Brandon Brice Highlighted in the inaugural edition of *Coalition News Flash* by Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Delaware**

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists has announced that Brandon Brice of the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative will be the guest speaker at their September

meeting. He will speak about diversity in the trades and construction in Delaware. Below is the article about Brandon in the inaugural edition of their newsletter, *Coalition News Flash*.

## September Guest Presenter

Brandon Brice, MS  
Fundraising Professional, Strategic  
Communications Consultant  
Director, Philanthropy & Equity  
United Way of Delaware



Brandon has stayed true to his commitment to service and learning, by earning a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Howard University and a Master's of Science from Rutgers University. As a Graduate student, he served as a fellow for the United Nations Foundation at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. Brandon is currently earning his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Brandon began his career as a staffer working on Capitol Hill for the Office of former United States Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. Upon graduation, he would serve as an Associate with the National Urban League's Economic Opportunity Institute, fighting for financial literacy. He then served as Director of Education and African American Affairs in the Office of the New Jersey Governor, Hon. Chris J. Christie. His work focused on early Head Start programs, youth and education for stakeholders in the cities of Camden, Newark, Patterson and Trenton. He later relocated to Atlanta, where he worked with Veterans Empowerment Organization of Georgia focusing on military families and homeless returning veterans and served in an Executive role with the Boy Scouts of America's Career Apprenticeship Programs. Today, Brandon serves as Director of Philanthropy and Equity for the United Way of Delaware.

Brandon has given lectures at Princeton University, the Baltimore Harbor League, the National Black Law Students Association, the American Enterprise Institute and the Hamilton Society in Washington, D.C. He is a 2018 recipient of the Michigan Chronicle's Distinguished Men of Excellence Award and the Spirit of Detroit Award in 2018. He is a proud member of Alpha Alpha Fraternity, Inc., 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit and Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Brandon serves as the President of the Board of Directors for Advantage Health and Insight Charter Network of Central Michigan University. He resides in Wilmington, DE.



Imagine our surprise and delight when the elevator door opened in the lobby of our building and out walked US Senator Tom Carper! Pictured here with the Senator are staff and members of DRJC and several United Way of Delaware Summer Interns. The interns were impressed to be able to run into a senator and talk with him casually as we did. He asked each their high school and knew each school mascot! The joy of living in a small state!

## Black → Students' Summit

**Uplifting Black Students' Voices  
In The Fight Against Racism**

With the inaugural Black Student Summit, The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative envisioned cultivating the talents of young Black students to combat racism and discrimination within schools. These students would become the next pillars of our communities, fighting for equality in whatever path they choose. To realize this vision, we needed a team committed to the youth and ready for the months of extensive planning.

Our group was teaming with successful adults coming from the United Way of Delaware, the Delaware Department of Education, and even a few with their own personal brands. But adults were not the only planners. Young Black students paving the way for positive change joined the committee ready to take up the mantle. Using the Delaware Racial Justice Consortium's (DRJC) previously formed connections as well as the students' personal connections, we were able to recruit several students to make the Summit happen. Just a few schools that these students attended include Tattnall, St. George's, and Wilmington Friends.

This year's Summit theme was uplifting Black students' voices in the fight against racism. We wanted to ensure



Pictured: Aa'Khai Hollis (far left), Kenny Norwood (third from right) and fellow summit attendees.

that students knew how to express their concerns and what avenues they could take to improve their communities. We centered our workshops, keynote speaker, and student-led panel around this theme to give students the tools necessary for change.

Students took time out of their Mondays every week, even after the event, to plan the summit and what is to follow after. Allocating that time showed how committed the students were. Planning the summit was a challenge due to so many great minds being in one space together, but ultimately a choice was made to keep going. This work always involved laughing and off-topic conversations. But it was those off-topic conversations that helped the planning committee form a family-like bond in such a short period of time. The zoom calls weren't always strictly business; we wanted to find joy in planning, and the laughs helped us to do just that.



State Representative, Madinah Antai-Wilson (pictured center), of Delaware's 26th District, speaking at the summit.



The Black Student Summit wasn't meant to be just for show; it was meant to convey unity and compassion. Students from across the state of Delaware woke up early on a Saturday to come and learn how to be better leaders in their communities. It's these steps that make for a big step in the right direction of change, and the Black Student Summit put all those great minds in one space to network, laugh, and gain wisdom.

The Summit was wildly successful. Students not only enjoyed themselves but learned much about raising their voices for change. To better understand the students' opinion on the Summit, we sent out a survey for feedback. Students loved the dancing group we hosted as well as the workshops. They would have liked to have more opportunities to network with their peers and a conference location closer to Middletown or Dover, as it was a long drive from down state. We will take all feedback to help us improve our Summit next year.

We want anyone who is concerned about change to know that this is only the beginning. The work must not stop here. To everyone who wasn't able to attend this year's summit, there will be more to come. Continue striving for change with actions that stem from and are grounded in a clear sense of purpose. That clear sense of purpose will strengthen your motivation and determination, especially in moments of discouragement. Believe that you have a system around you and that you can accomplish all things you set your mind to. See you next year!



Aa'Khai Hollis recently graduated from St. George's Votek High School and will attend Bowie State University in the fall.



Kenny Norwood recently graduated from Wilmington Friends School and will attend Trinity College in the fall.



There was a large student turnout at the summit which took place at the Chase Fieldhouse in Wilmington, DE.

**For More Info:**  
Visit [www.drjc.org/2022/03/delaware-black-student-summit](http://www.drjc.org/2022/03/delaware-black-student-summit)

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In the current edition of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice quarterly magazine *Black Voices*, you will find a two-page article devoted to the DRJC's Black Student Summit, written by the students themselves. We are so proud of these young leaders and changemakers. Please check out the article [here](#).

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**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Race Toward Affordable Housing!

Central Delaware  
 **Habitat for Humanity®**



## **BUILDER'S DASH 5K RUN/WALK**

*in honor of Hoong Chow*

**Saturday, September 3, 2022**

Registration 8 a.m.

Race 9 a.m.



1284 McD Drive  
Dover DE, 19901

Register  
today:



Registration  
includes a free  
beverage from  
Fordham &  
Dominion, a  
commemorative  
t-shirt and more.



Giveaways

Information tables

Guest speaker

Registration requested but not required:



SCAN ME

# You Matter

Mental Health Information

Food and drinks provided

Kids activities

## CDCDP PRESENTS 1ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY



Dedicated to Women

AUGUST 27, 2022 1PM-6PM KILLENS POND PAVILLION #4



## Coming Soon! Festival Hispano!

In Wilmington on Sept 11  
In Georgetown on Sep 18

In Delaware, the Hispanic Festival has been a tradition since 1976, brought to you by dedicated volunteers serving Nuestras Raices DE Inc. This event is an opening celebration to Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept 15 through Oct 15.



UWDE's Latinos Unidos will be there! Come join the celebration with us!



## National Immunization Awareness Month: It's about more than COVID

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsors National Immunization Awareness Month in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for *people of all ages*.

Check **MyHealthfinder vaccine resources** to learn about vaccines necessary at every age to stay healthy. Do you have all of yours?



## It's Easy to Support United Way of Delaware

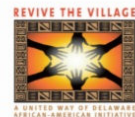
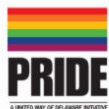
Your donation to United Way helps us work to make Delaware a great state to live, work and play for all our neighbors.



[Make an online donation here](#)

### Start With a Smile

Shopping at Amazon? Start at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com) and feel better about spending money! Just set United Way of Delaware as your charity of choice. Then spend away and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us — no fees, no extra cost!



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