

It Takes More Than 28 Days

Last week I wrote about volunteerism and suggested the Martin Luther King Day holiday as a prompt to find a cause or interest to devote some time to. I was so pleased to see the large number of people who clicked the link to our UWDE volunteer web portal! If you're a person seeking a way to serve, I hope you found an organization or cause that excites you! And if you represent an organization that uses volunteers to help in your mission, I invite you to post your available positions on our site.



Our UWDE team participated in numerous MLK Day celebrations, and you'll read about one of them below. We enjoy this annual recognition of Dr. King's civil rights activism and leadership. Today's view of Dr. King as an American hero is a far cry from how he was seen during his lifetime. When Americans were asked in 1964 which U.S. citizens they had the least respect for, Dr. King came in second at 42 percent, exceeded only by segregationist governor George Wallace of Alabama at 47percent.

Through the passage of time, Dr. King has received the respect he deserved in his lifetime. By 1999, 89 percent of Americans polled said they found Dr. King was a person to be admired. In 2011, that number rose to 94 percent.

I hope the young people of today learn all about Dr. King's life and struggles toward his dream of racial equality, a key part of U.S. history.

As we begin Black History Month in February, we hold up Dr. King's story to demonstrate why knowing history is important. I have long felt that 28 days are not enough to acknowledge the lives and contributions of an entire race. That's why so many of us were thrilled last year when the Delaware legislature passed the Black History Education law, House Bill 198, requiring the integration of Black history into all curricula in public schools. The education community continues to develop the curricula, and the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) is observing the progress. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to the DRJC through our website.

I invite you to devote time during Black History Month to reading Black history books and books written by Black authors, both in reading to our children and in our own reading time. Let's commit to opening our hearts and minds to a broader view of history.

A quick Google Search brings up scores of children's books and history books you can

start with. I was impressed by [recommendations](#) from Good Housekeeping including: *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith, *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation* by Anna Tubbs, and *Unsung: Unheralded Narratives of American Slavery & Abolition*, edited by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

I also invite you to send us your recommendations for children's and adult Black history or experience books that you have read and love. We'll use this space every week in February to share your recommendations -- why not write a short book report for us to publish! Start now – it's hard to believe there's only a week until February begins.

Sincerely,

Michelle

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

We Can Be the Dream

It was evident that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of equality for all resonated through the wall-to-wall crowd of more than 700 at the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Zeta Rho Lambda Chapter's 40th annual *Dr. King Prayer Breakfast* at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover on January 16, which would have been Dr. King's 94th birthday. The event was attended by Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester, Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, and Dover Mayor Robin Christianson.

Keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. John G. Moore, Sr., Director of Philanthropy and Engagement for the United Way of Delaware. Reflecting on Dr. King's famous 1963 "*I Have A Dream*" speech, Rev. Moore offered a modernized version of the speech under the title, "*We Have A Legacy*." His speech riveted the audience which responded with loud applause and a standing ovation.



Rev. Moore said, "So just as in 1963, we are here in 2023 in the Capital City of Dover to cash that figurative promissory note which affirmed in the magnificent words of the Declaration of Independence, that every American; black, white, Hispanic, native American, Muslim, Jew, protestant or catholic, ALL of the divine creator's children was to fall heir to the guaranteed inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We all have a legacy to fulfill the ideals of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and together we can be the dream."

[Click this link](#) to listen to Rev. Dr. Moore's speech.



How Would Life Be Different if You Lived in Poverty?

"There are far too many children living in poverty. And there are far too many families existing...not living...but existing in crisis." - Dan Cruce, COO of UWDE.

On Friday, January 13th, some 115 participants had a unique personal development experiment that challenged them to survive a simulated week of poverty.

The Poverty Simulation is an immersive experience designed to help people get a glimpse of the realities of living in poverty. During the simulation, participants are confronted with a series of complex challenges that mimic obstacles faced many families in our community.

As Dan Cruce said, the Poverty Simulation brings to life the reason why United Way of Delaware exists. This is our reason why.

The simulation aims to shift the paradigm from viewing poverty as a personal failure toward an understanding of poverty as a societal failure. Serving as a true eye-opening experience, participants were able to truly empathize with those living below the poverty line.

Many thanks to our partners, First State Community Action Agency and Goodwill of Delaware and Delaware County. We are incredibly grateful to the more than 30 partners and the participants that made this impactful event possible. Thank you for your support and commitment to our cause. Your investment enables us to bring our vision to life.

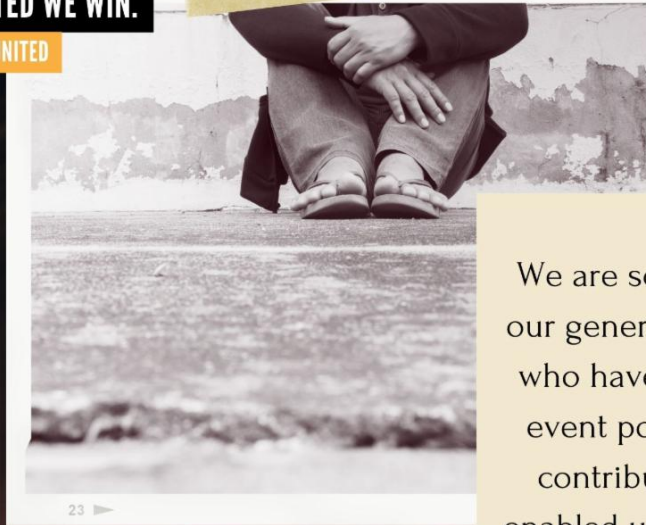
Our hope is that this simulation wouldn't be a one-time experience, but that we rethink poverty and work together to make the issues surrounding poverty an ongoing conversation. For more information visit uwde.org

[Click here to see a video recap](#) of the Simulation.

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED

United Way of Delaware
Poverty Simulation



We are so grateful for our generous sponsors who have made this event possible. Your contributions have enabled us to bring our vision to life and cannot thank you enough!

Thank
You

January 13, 2023 at 1pm to 3pm



Calling All Youth Workers!

The Delaware Afterschool Network invites youth workers and volunteers to be part of the *Power of Us* campaign.

We need 100 youth workers and volunteers to complete the survey, and in sharing your story with the campaign, you can help others SEE themselves as part of the workforce and understand why they, too, should take the survey.

Mentors and tutors, coaches, librarians, camp counselors, afterschool leaders, and more who support youth completed the Power of Us Workforce Survey in 2022 to ensure their experiences are reflected in the survey data.

A special thanks to Delaware's youth workers and volunteers who have already completed the survey!

We hope the rest of you will participate. The deadline has been extended to March 31, 2023. Please take the survey using our state-specific survey link: [Delaware Power Of Us Survey](#)


POWER OF US

2022 WORKFORCE SURVEY

Register Now for *Do More 24*

Calling all nonprofits! Register now for Do More 24 Delaware -- Delaware's Largest giving day. You don't want to miss out on the chance to earn thousands of dollars of undesignated funding for your nonprofit.

Learn more and Sign up TODAY at www.domore24de.org



Join us for
Delaware's Largest Day Of Giving

DO MORE
DELAWARE **24**TM

Delaware's Giving Day. Powered By
UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE United Way SPURIMPACT

MARCH 2-3, 2023

In 24 hours, Do More 24 Delaware raised over \$2.6 million for 450+ nonprofits in March 2022.

Learn more at DoMore24Delaware.org

Support your favorite nonprofit year-round at DEGives.org

Coming Soon! Second Annual *Pitch or Ditch* Minority Small Business Competition

Pitch or Ditch is a business competition for minority businesses and entrepreneurs, modeled after the hit tv-show **Shark Tank**. Nine entrepreneurs will have the chance to win a cash prize. Contestants will have seven minutes to pitch their business and another seven minutes to answer questions from a panel of judges.

The competition will highlight the creativity, innovations, and business strategies in Delaware's small business community. The event looks to bring light to the economic needs of minority entrepreneurs and serve as a bridge to form essential relationships with corporations and potential investors.

Pitch or Ditch will be moderated by Dr. Randall Pinkett of NBC's show *The Apprentice*. The panel of judges includes Norman Oliver, Owner and President of Rock Solid Works; Brian DiSabatino, President of EDIS, LLC; Tanisha George, President of Trilog One Consulting; Chris Kenny, President & CEO of Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware; and Italo Carrier-Russo, Co-Owner & GM of V&M Italian American Bistro.

Businesses can [Register here](#).

PITCH OR DITCH



An opportunity for Delaware's Minority Entrepreneurs to pitch their business ideas for a shot at a cash prize!

Jan. 26th, 2023 6PM-9PM
Wilmington Public Library
10 E 10th Street | Wilmington, DE | 19801

Featuring:
Dr. Randal Pinkett
Business Consultant &
Winner of "The Apprentice"

Be part of the LIVE audience and cheer on your favorite Minority Small Business at uwde.org/pitch



World Read Aloud Day Is February 1

Get ready for World Read Aloud Day on February 1! This year United Way of Delaware will highlight several Delaware authors who will read at nine schools throughout the state to some 400 students. These events are bound to increase the students' love of reading. Plus, each child will receive a new book to add to their own home library.

World Read Aloud Day is designed to enlighten kids and communities through the power of stories. The well-known publisher **Scholastic sponsors World Read Aloud Day**. Visit their website to learn more about how you can participate and the virtual worldwide readathon. Teachers can get reading materials at the site, as well.

Reading aloud is an opportunity for teachers, authors, volunteers and families to model fluent reading. This frees the students from having to do the work of decoding the written word and allows them to focus on comprehension, acquisition of new vocabulary and phonemic awareness.

- Reading Aloud Builds Vocabulary
- Reading Aloud Improves Comprehension and Active Listening
- Reading Aloud Reduces Stress and Makes People Happy
- Reading Aloud Strengthens Fluency
- Reading Aloud Can Improve Working Memory

Make sure you're preparing for World Readaloud Day -- it's right around the corner!

Do You Love Your Afterschool Program?

Delaware Afterschool Network and The Afterschool Alliance are working to ensure that all children have access to affordable, quality afterschool programs. Afterschool programs are critical to children and families today, yet the need for programs is far from being met here in and nationwide.



If you are an afterschool worker, a family who relies on quality afterschool programming, or a student who uses out of school time programs, we need your help.

We Love Afterschool week is February 7 to 14. We're asking you to create Valentine's Day messages of appreciation for Afterschool programs that will increase awareness of their importance and impact. Then, send your messages to your elected representatives and ask them to support afterschool programming with increased funding. Post your messages on all your social media accounts. Let the world know how important it is to you.

For help creating your messages, [visit this website](#) for suggested art and social media posts.

UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE | DELAWARE RACIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

2nd annual

SAVE THE DATE BLACK STUDENT SUMMIT

The Delaware Black Student Summit is by and for students who want to turn up the volume and activism of Black Student Unions/Associations and affinity groups.

The top 3 schools with the most students in attendance will win a cash prize!

Transportation will be provided in all 3 counties.

 Saturday | March 18, 2023

 St. Georges Technical High School
Middletown, DE

Registration deadline is March 1st, 2023

Learn more at uwde.org/BSU

UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE | DELAWARE RACIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Community Announcements

Save the Date!

The Health Literacy Council of Delaware

Invites you to the:

Statewide Strategic Planning Session

WHEN: Tuesday, January 24, 2022 from 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM

WHERE: Modern Maturity Center, Dover DE

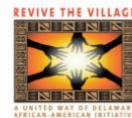
- 📌 Availability for first 100 registrants!
- 📌 Lunch will be provided!
- 📌 Be a part of goal setting for our statewide health literacy plan!

Registration
information
coming soon!

Last Chance to Remember Us When You Shop on Amazon!

AmazonSmile is a way customers can support United Way of Delaware at no additional cost every time they shop with Amazon. The bad news is that Amazon is ending this program on February 20. We hope you will keep us in mind until that time.

Here's how you sign up.



United Way of Delaware | 625 North Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

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