



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Birmingham (AL) Chapter

BIRMINGHAM LINKS GAZETTE

Edition: Fall 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RESET (Return to Sisters Engaging Together) is our charge from Ethel Isaacs Williams, National President of The Links, Incorporated. With 99% of our members vaccinated, our organization is ready to re-engage in our community with renewed energy and excitement.

In fact, we have already begun. Our work commenced in September with our first in-person meeting in over two years. We partnered with our two local sister chapters to participate in the National Walk for Healthy Living at Railroad Park. There were lots of steps, dancing, and laughter! We also participated in the annual Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies Sistah Strut, a cancer awareness event at Legion Field. Wellness is a high priority for our organization. For this reason, I am extremely proud of our consistent support for these events.

At the heart of our organization is programming. This will not change. In fact, we were able to serve people during the height of the COVID pandemic. Despite our inability to perform in-person community service, our chapter supported over three thousand individuals through various programs and services this past year.

As our committees finalize programming for the current fiscal year, we are excited about connecting with individuals we hope to serve. Programs for children are a key part of our community platform. As such, our Services to Youth Facet is exploring ways to maximize our support for third graders within our service footprint. This focus is based on research.

According to a report by the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, 22 percent or 11,725 students statewide failed to meet third grade reading standards in 2022. Birmingham City schools reported that 43 percent of third graders and 41 percent of second graders were reading below grade level. There is tremendous opportunity to serve in this area. Our organization, along with others, must create sustainable intentionality to change these statistics. Stay tuned to learn about our engagement plan.

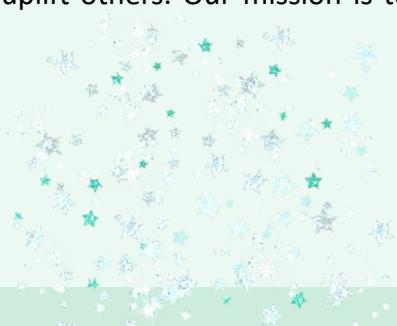
This year our programming will expose elementary, middle, and high school students to culturally stimulating and enriching opportunities in art, science, and math through various STREAM programs. Additionally, our focus will impact our senior population. The National Trends and Services Facet will again offer community programs on estate planning, Medicare and Medicaid, and the fundamentals of retirement planning.

And that is only the beginning! Our chapter is gifted with individuals who have a diverse array of gifts and abilities and who are willing and ready to share their talents to uplift others. Our mission is to serve. Let the year begin!

In service,

Cheryl A. Kidd

Cheryl Anderson Kidd, JD, MBA
President



BIRMINGHAM LINKS GIVE TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Supporting the pursuit of higher education at historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) is a national initiative of The Links, Incorporated. To this end, The Birmingham (AL) Chapter is fulfilling its commitment to this effort. While the Chapter's effort is ongoing, the past 18 months have focused on the academic experience of students at HBCUs in Alabama. These efforts include:

- Donating 50 laboratory coats to Talladega College to support students preparing for STEM careers
- Donating 10 culinary knife sets for use by students enrolled in the culinary arts program at Lawson State Community College
- Organizing and hosting an educational program featuring culinary and hospitality experts at Lawson State College
- Underwriting outstanding debt of graduating seniors at Miles College and Lawson State University.

Additionally, following the onset of the COVID pandemic in 2020, the Birmingham Chapter provided funds to support students impacted by displacement at Miles College "We are challenging ourselves to do more, not less," said Alexis Y. Lee, Chair of the Chapter's HBCU Committee. "We are creating a foundation for success for students and society."



BIRMINGHAM LINKS WALK FOR EDUCATION



Members of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter joined hundreds of area residents at the local UNCF Walk for Education earlier this month. The annual event is part of the nationwide initiative to raise critical funds needed by UNCF to help college and university students become active participants of society through high quality education. Of the states, Alabama has the greatest number of historically black colleges and universities in the U.S. These institutions include Miles College, Stillman College, Talladega University, Tuskegee University and Alabama State University.

LINKS IN PINK RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT BREAST CANCER



Throughout the month of October, the Birmingham (AL) Chapter communicated messages about breast cancer on social platforms. Additionally, members joined efforts during the annual Magic City Classic festivities to heighten awareness about the disproportionate impact of the disease on Black women. With participation organized by the Health and Human Services Facet, Links members joined hundreds of women at the Classic in Pink Affair hosted by Alabama State Representative Juandalyn Givan. At the event, members Debra Nelson and Deveta Peoples celebrated survivors and their families with Brenda Huong, founder of Brenda Brown Bosom Buddies; Birmingham (AL) Links Past President Monique Witherspoon and Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin were among the guests.



USING OUR VOICE, VOTE, AND POWER



Local efforts to encourage voter registration is a mission of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Organized by the National Trends and Services (NTS) Facet, registration drives were held recently at the Birmingham and Bessemer campuses of Lawson State Community College.

Participating Links members included Cheryl Kidd, Monique Garner Witherspoon, Krysten Holloway, Tamula Yelling and alumnae member Carol Kirby McElderry. With the support of the college's student ambassadors, the drives resulted in 50 new voter registrations.

"We believe it is our civic responsibility to encourage voter registration," said NTS Chair Krysten Holloway. "As important, we are encouraging everyone to exercise their right by going to the polls to vote."

The next opportunity for voting in Jefferson County is Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Registered voters should check with the Jefferson County Registrar's Office to verify their polling locations.



BIRMINGHAM STUDENTS READY FOR THE WORLD

When an international sports competition announced its intention to come to Birmingham in the summer of 2022, the International Trends and Services (ITS) Facet began collaborating with organizers to help a select group of people get ready to compete. The World Games created a special virtual workshop series to help young entrepreneurs develop marketing skills and strategies to sell their goods and supplies to audiences at the games.

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter was a sponsor of the training series facilitated by Create Birmingham. During the sessions, Links members offered invaluable business advice and shared entrepreneurial stories and experiences. The training was an international initiative of The World Games 2022 to strengthen and encourage the entrepreneurial desire and reliance of the next generation.

This was not the first program of this kind for the Birmingham (AL) Chapter. A few years ago, the chapter established Link Tank at Maranatha Academy, a school that serves critically at-risk students. Modeled after the popular television show Shark Tank, Link Tank was a semester-long program facilitated by the National Trends and Services Facet to help students ideate and develop companies and competitive products for the marketplace. A panel of judges evaluated the student presentations and prizes were awarded. During a subsequent year, Link Tank was introduced to students at Wenonah High School in Birmingham.

The World Games 2022



YES!

Youth Encouragement and
Entrepreneur Strategy

"An intentional initiative of The World Games 2022 to strengthen and
encourage the entrepreneurial desire and resilience of the next generation."

Sponsored by



United in Friendship, Connected in Service
Birmingham (AL) Chapter

Partnership with



Social Committee

GARDEN EVENT DESIGNED TO INSPIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE

Each year members of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter perform more than two thousand hours of service in the community. This work is reflected in programs and initiatives that serve people of all ages throughout the greater Birmingham area.

According to Social Committee Chair Kim Hitchens, the members are ready to connect with the community. "The fall season is the perfect time to bring members together to celebrate their commitment to service," said Hitchens.

The theme "Friends, Flats, and Fabulous Fall Fun" was an apt description of the afternoon event where chapter members enjoyed a delicious meal, created garden inspired art pieces, and toured the beautiful and thoughtfully curated gardens at the home of Links member Carnetta Davis. The members also made pepper sauce using items commonly grown in home gardens. This was followed by tours of the grounds, and stake making using cloisonne' beads, charms, and colorful faux jewels.

"Mission accomplished," said Hitchens. "While reminding 'We are linked in friendship and service,' the event excited us about the myriad of acts of service and care we will offer the community this year," Hitchens said.



Artfully decorated bags held treats for the outdoor luncheon.



Members Tamula Yelling and Debra Nelson found a quaint corner in the garden to dine and enjoy the warm sunshine.



Member Carnetta Davis (far right) and her twin sister Carvetta guided members through the magnificent gardens.



Social Committee

GARDEN EVENT DESIGNED TO INSPIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE



Views of the gardens at the home of Carnetta and Norm Davis in Liberty Park, the perfect setting for a celebration of friendship.



The Social Committee led by Kim Hitchens (far right) planned an excellent event.



Birmingham (AL) Chapter members were all smiles during an afternoon celebrating their friendship and commitment to community service.



Applause



L'TRYCE SLADE

NAMC 2022 Trailblazer Award Winner

SLADE

Congratulations to Managing Director of Slade LLC, L'Tryce Slade, for winning the Atlanta NAMC's Trailblazer Award! As this year's Trailblazer Award recipient, Slade was honored at the Hard Hat Awards Banquet this month.



Elevate Communications, founded by Debra Nelson, was recognized as a top HR Consulting Company by Manage HR Magazine. The award named the firm for successfully addressing complex human resources matters.



Amber Anderson was recently one of five employees selected as a UAB VIP. The UAB VIP Awards honor employees whose work exemplifies and embodies one or more of the university's institutional values.

Announcements

TAKE NOTE!

This is National Friendship Month. Do something special to celebrate and acknowledge your friends.

The Links Incorporated
Southern Area

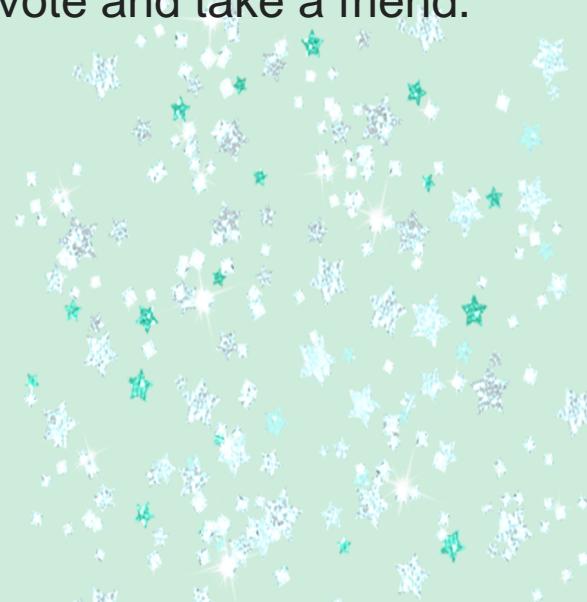
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Happy Friendship Month!

Celebrating **76** years of living our Co-Founders' legacy of Friendship! Enriching our bonds by Engaging, Encouraging & Enlightening our Sisters throughout the Southern Area!

#Friendship365 #salinks #linksinc #collectiveexcellence

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polling stations are open 7 am to 7 pm. Remember to go vote and take a friend.



We need your content! Information to be considered for inclusion in our Chapter's newsletter include your facet activities and photos, upcoming events, and awards and recognitions of members. Please send items to Carnetta Davis at cdavis9616@gmail.com

BHAM LINKS GAZETTE

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