

Hands Together!

A publication of the
BLACK UNITED FUND OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY, INC.
AFRICAN AMERICAN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP
VOL. 5 FALL/WINTER 2011



The Year in Review & the Year Ahead

2011 Full and Challenging

It is hard to believe that 2011 is just about over. The realization that the year is about to end sparked thoughts about how the Black United Fund engaged with the community throughout 2011. As a matter of fact, the organization was quite busy.

Here is a summary.

- **January:** MLK Jr., Day of Service. With help from friends and volunteers, we assembled personal care packages for the homeless and distributed to three organizations: Wellspring Women's Center, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing, and Loaves and Fishes.



BUFSV supporters after spending an afternoon assembling personal care packages for the homeless.



- **February, April, and June:** Growing Our Own Workshops on starting a nonprofit.
- **May:** Co-sponsored bringing author Michelle Alexander to Sacramento to discuss the New Jim Crow, her controversial book on the criminal justice system.
- **July:** Co-sponsored Pastors for Peace Caravan through Sacra-

mento on its way to Cuba.

- **August:** Co-sponsored the 75th Anniversary celebration of WCIC, and co-sponsored the Mike B Foundation's rally to stop violence in our communities.
- **September:** Co-sponsored and facilitated workshops during the annual Congress of African Peoples' Convening.
- **October-December:** Growing Our Own Workshops and our annual Kwanzaa.

Our brief look is just the beginning of the strategic planning for 2012, and it is a step all nonprofits should undertake. What were the challenges, the triumphs? How does the organization need to expand or contract? What are the fundraising, board development and staffing issues? And just as importantly, what is the organization's potential through these difficult times? There are no easy answers, but now is the time for nonprofit organizations to begin discussions with their boards and supporters.



Growing Our Own & Still Growing Strong

In June 2007, the Black United Fund of Sacramento Valley, (BUFSV) rebranded its nonprofit training services into a program called *Growing Our Own, Nonprofit Development Workshops*. Since then, trainings have been held quarterly on a variety of topics. The overall mission and vision of the program is to build and support organizations that strengthen communities by becoming integral to local economies and social service safety networks. The program has five aims:

- To stimulate new start-up nonprofits,

- To stimulate micro-nonprofits serving local neighborhoods,
- To promote practices needed to move nonprofits from start-up to long term sustainability,
- To raise awareness about the economic potential of a strong nonprofit sector in economically challenged communities,
- To serve as a source of on-going nonprofit leadership.

The program is implemented in three phases, mentoring participants from start-up through full recognition as a nonprofit organization. Topics covered include:

- State and federal start-up requirements,
- Creating the organizational mission and vision,
- Growing a committed board,
- Grassroots, down-home, fundraising, and
- Developing community partnerships and collaborations.

At the end of each annual program cycle, organizations that successfully complete the process receive a certificate of recognition and a micro-grant.

Since 2007, dozens have attended the workshops, and many have gone on to establish an organization serving specific local needs.

The Black United Fund readily admits that negotiating the labyrinth of state and federal requirements to establish a nonprofit corporation, keeping track of legal obligations, and at the same time, growing the organization, can be and is a daunting proposition. However, the goal is achievable with consistent, deliberate action, perseverance, and clarity of purpose.

Hands Together!

A publication of

BLACK UNITED FUND OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY, INC.
AFRICAN AMERICAN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP
VOL. 5 FALL/WINTER 2011

Growing Our Own and Still Growing

The Black United Fund readily admits that negotiating the labyrinth of state and federal requirements to establish a nonprofit corporation, keeping track of legal obligations, and at the same time, growing the organization, can be and is a daunting proposition. However, the goal is achievable with consistent, deliberate action, perseverance, and clarity of purpose.



Introducing the Mike B Foundation



Shirley Rhodes attended the Growing Our Own workshops in 2008 after losing her oldest son, Michael Barron, to one of the most pernicious challenges plaguing the black community—gun violence. Mike, a young man in his prime and father of seven, was shot while sitting in a car parked near a convenience store.

Shirley was seeking a healing outlet for her family and herself, one that would help the community as well. The outcome of her effort is the Mike B Foundation, a nonprofit organization she founded in her son's memory to address the problem of gun violence and the epidemic number of deaths, especially among

young men, that results from this violence.

After attending each workshop, Shirley followed up by performing the steps discussed. That means she submitted all of the required documents to the Secretary of State, the State Franchise Tax Board, and to the Internal Revenue Service, in a timely fashion, well in advance of the deadlines set by those agencies. The payoff was receiving the organizational 501 c 3 status without a hitch.

Following up also means she successfully established a board of directors, established a start-up budget, searched for other organizations with which to partner and collaborate, and established a modest set of goals to direct the organization's efforts over the next few years. Her mission statement states simply that the Mike B Foundation will "offer an alternative to crime by providing transitional service to young adult men ages 18-30, being released from a correctional facility or county jail, to assist them in reintegrating back into the community."

Two of the immediate activities directly address the mission. The Mike B Foundation partners with the Bay Area's Urban Peace Movement which sponsors an annual National Silence the Violence Day each year. For the past two years, the Mike B Foundation organized Silence the Violence activities in Sacramento. This year's Silence the Violence rally was held in the Sears parking lot on Thursday, August 25. In various cities throughout the country, rallies were held to bring attention to gun violence among inner city youth.

Second, the Foundation provides business and casual clothing as well as employment and social service referrals for young men.

The third activity focuses on the families of the shooting victims. It is the Surviving Loss Support Group, and for this, Shirley partners with the Timothy Jones Jr. Foundation. The

group meets monthly.

The Mike B Foundation has a modest but effective web presence. It does not yet have an office or a place to conduct activities, nor does it have a staff. The goals for the next year is to do more fundraising so that it can reach more of its target population with enhanced services.

Shirley is prepared for the struggles ahead for the Mike B Foundation. She says her reward comes from being able to reach out to young men who are throwing their lives away. The young men who shot her son are under thirty and serving the rest of their lives in prison. But there are others like them who might make the same mistake. She wants to help move them in another direction.

For her creativity, dedication and perseverance, Shirley Rhodes and the Mike B Foundation will receive the Walter Bremond Memorial Community Service Award during the Kwanzaa celebration on December 30, at the Brickhouse Art Gallery.



Shirley with six of her grandchildren and her youngest son. From left to right: Azhane Barron (standing, oldest grandchild), Shirley Rhodes, her son, David, Ja'Ana Barron (sitting on left, second oldest), Matthew Barron, (sitting, middle) Michaeliya Barron (sitting, right), Mike Barron Jr., (sitting, left), and Marcus Barron, (toddler).

Hands Together!

A publication of

BLACK UNITED FUND OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY, INC.
AFRICAN AMERICAN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

Save These Dates!

For more information about this newsletter and these events, contact us at: bufsac@sbcglobal.net or (916) 484-5025.

Monday, December 5, 2011

The final Growing Our Workshop for 2011 will be on Monday, December 5. The topic is board development: whom you should recruit to be on the board, whom to avoid and why, and the importance of board training. Time, 6pm to 8pm. Please note the new location:

Oak Park United Methodist Church
3600 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95817



KWANZAA 2011



Friday, December 30, 2011
6:00pm to 8:00pm
location
2837 36th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
NIA—PURPOSE

"To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to our traditional greatness."

Please plan to join the Black United Fund, the Brickhouse Art Gallery, the Sacramento Area Black Caucus, as well as other partners, on the fifth day of

Kwanzaa, NIA, Purpose. We are asking participants in this year's Kwanzaa to bring a dish for the Karamu or feast, **and** bring NEW, UNWORN caps, neck scarves, and gloves for infants, children, women and men. On our MLK Day of service in January, we will assemble them into packets to be distributed to local homeless shelters.



Sunday, January 22, 2012

The Black United Fund and the Sacramento Area Black Caucus are co-sponsoring our third annual MLK Day of Service. Please stop by with **new, unworn caps, scarves, and gloves for infants, children, women and men**. Refreshments will be provided while you help prepare the clothing for distribution to local area homeless shelters. The time is 2pm-5pm. Location:

The Black United Fund Office
4104 44th Street
Sacramento, CA 95820



February 1-29, 2012

The Black United Fund is participating in the National Council of Teachers of English African American Read-in. The idea is to encourage as many people as possible to read as many books as they can written by African American authors during the month of February. This is a great way to organize reading groups for young people, or to incorporate this international reading event into the agenda of your book club. For more information on how the month-long event works, log into:

<http://www.ncte.org/actions/aari/>
Or Google: NCTE African American Read-in 2012.



Monday, February 6, 2012

We will hold our first Growing Our Own Workshop for 2012 and the beginning of the cycle for people just starting to plan how to get started with the process. The topic will be creating the vision and how to get started with state and federal requirements. Time: 6pm to 8pm. Location:

Oak Park United Methodist Church
3600 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95817



Saturday, February 11 and Sunday
February 12
From 10am-3pm

This is the weekend and time for The Black United Fund's electronic recycling, E-Waste Fundraising Campaign. The collection company is All Green Electronics, which dismantles all of the electronics it collects at local sites and locations in the US and does not transport e-waste to developing nations. Please save your worn-out computer towers, laptops, monitors, televisions, and cell phones to drop off at the Black United Fund office. Watch for more information about this event in the Talking Drum and other local media.

The Black United Fund Office
4104 44th Street
Sacramento, CA 95820

The Black United Fund of Sacramento Valley, Inc., BUFSV, is a nonprofit, 501 c 3 organization. Donations are tax deductible. Hands Together is published quarterly featuring news and information for grassroots, nonprofit, organizations in the Sacramento Valley and surrounding areas. All Rights reserved. Newsletter editor, Kakwasi Somadhi. BUFSV Executive Director, Faye Kennedy, and board president, Kakwasi Somadhi. The organization is located at 4104 44th Street, Sacramento CA, 95820, phone number, (916) 453-0190 * email: bufsac@sbcglobal.net, website: <http://bufsacvalley.org>. BUFSV is an affiliate of the national Black United Fund. (NBUF).