Implementing Transformational Programming in the Central Area

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Special acknowledgments and appreciation are given to Link Delores Bolden Stamps, Jackson (MS), former National Program Director who provided the inspiration and guidance for the National Program Manual as well as Links Michelle M. Spady, Old Dominion (VA), the late Kimberly Newman-McCown, Denise M. Cooper Savannah (GA) and Pamela Freeman-Fobbs, Fresno (CA) current National Program Director who made contributions that appear in this book.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letters from the Area Director and Program Coordinator .......................................................... page 5

Pictures of Program Facet Chairs................................................................................................... page 7

National Influences......................................................................................................................... page 8

The Heart of Programming in Linkdom........................................................................................ page 14

Central Area Director’s Initiatives ................................................................................................ page 18

Best Practice Program Chapters

• Umbrella Facet............................................................................................................................. page 21

• Integrated ..................................................................................................................................... page 57

• Single Facet
  
  o Services to Youth........................................................................................................................ page 91

  o The Arts .................................................................................................................................... page 95

  o National Trends Services ........................................................................................................ page 102

  o International Trends Services ................................................................................................. page 113

  o Health and Human Services .................................................................................................... page 121
Programming is the Heart of Linkdom,

How many times since your induction into our beloved organization have you heard this phrase? And no matter how many times you have heard or repeated the phrase, your acknowledgment of the importance of programming continues to validate the thousands of service hours we, as Links, provide to our communities.

If your chapter has a focus on early childhood development, mentoring and leadership development of adolescent black teenagers, education and awareness of the diseases that affect our communities, voter registration drives, single mothers, the elderly, financial literacy, community activism, our brethren on the Mother Continent, or the continuation of our ancestral and current artistic accomplishments – You as an individual and as a member of one of the 70 chapters in the Central Area commit yourself to not only reaching back to uplift and bring forward, but to support one of the foremost goals and objectives of The Links, Incorporated. CONGRATULATIONS on your hard work and continued encouragement for your future endeavors. Participate and maintain the excellence in programming that the Central Area is known.

Sincerely,

Glenda Masingale Manson
19th Central Area Director
Greetings My Link Sisters:

It has been my pleasure to serve as your program coordinator over the last four years. I enjoyed getting to know you and hearing about the wonderful programming that your chapters have been implementing. The Links in the Central Area have worked hard in program implementation, evaluation and redesigning, all in an effort to transform our communities. You have delivered transformational programming with excellence.

The Best Practice Programs in this book represent two years of programming 2017-2019. They received the unbiased score of 80 and above from our sisters in the Eastern Area. Moreover, they illustrate the pride of the Central Area – our programming.

It is my hope that this program book will serve as a resource and an inspiration. You will note three perspectives of programming: 1) From the National level which includes how our programs come together; 2) At the Area program initiatives from Link Glenda’s administration and; 3) The perspective of our best practice chapters at the local level.

Thank you for all of your efforts that have exceeded the 48 hour service requirement. You have given your time, talent and treasure and our communities are far better off because of you.

In Friendship and Service,

Dr. Karen Patricia Williams
Program Coordinator (2015-2019)
Lansing/East Lansing (MI) Chapter
CENTRAL AREA PROGRAM FACET CHAIRS

Lauren Hicks Barton, MD
Health & Human Services
Oakland County (MI)

Melanie Cates
International Trends and Services
Twin Rivers (OH)

Janice Garnet, Ed.D
National Trends and Services
Omaha (NE)

Schylbea Hopkins
The Arts
Great Lakes (MI)

Cecelia Sawyer
Services to Youth
Shelby County (TN)
NATIONAL INFLUENCES

History of Programs: A Legacy of Service

For nearly 70 years, The Links, Incorporated’s core value of service—the time, effort, and resources expended to develop and implement innovative programs designed to meet the ongoing challenges faced by our communities—has remained prominent. In 1946, that first circle of nine friends set a standard of service and today more than 14,000 members commit to promoting and engaging in educational, civic, and intercultural activities in order to enrich the lives of our members and the larger community.

With pride, we can cite significant service programs and events throughout our history, beginning with the first national program, the NAACP Life Membership Project in 1952, and including the first documentation of chapter accomplishments in the 1957 program book. The adoption of five facets focused and enhanced our service mission: Services to Youth, 1958; National Trends and Services, 1962; The Arts, 1966; International Trends and Services, 1978; and Health and Human Services, 2010.

Our tagline, “Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service,” speaks to the abiding spirit and consistent practice of friends providing service that makes a difference in the lives of others.

The Influences of our Presidents

1949-1953 Sarah Strickland Scott
- Launched first National Project, NAACP Life Membership

1953-1957 Margaret Rossell Hawkins
- Launched project to support NAACP Legal Defense Fund
- Promoted Educational Forums geared toward integration
1957-1962 Margaret Pauline Weeden Maloney Ralston
- Established common theme for programming. Educate for Democracy
- Instituted the first facet Services to Youth/ Implemented The Search for Talented Youth
- Established 2nd Facet National Trends and Services to promote civic endeavors, human welfare and public affairs
- Widen scope to international services in emerging African nations

1962-1970 Vivian Jones Beamon
- Expanded National Trends and Services to include International Trends
- Approved Freedom and The Arts as a facet-previously apart of Services to Youth
- Initiated $100,000 pledge to the Urban League Forward Trust Program
- Approved a $75,000 grant for the NAACP Education and Legal Defense Fund

1970-1974 Helen Gray Edmonds (a two time national program director during Beamon’s tenure)
- Completed $100,000 Pledge to the NAACP
- Promoted exemplary services among chapters equating programs/services with needs of the community
- Established Grants-in Aid
- Initiated $1 Million pledge to UNCF

1974-1978 Pauline Allen Ellison
- Elevated International Trends to independent status
- Major thrust was to maximize programs
- Promote initiatives that focused on the Black family, especially children
- Presented $150,000 to UNCF, bringing total to $500,000

1978-1982 Julia Brogdon Purnell
- Initiate $100,000 Juvenile Justice Initiative
- Presented the first awards of the National Achievement Scholarship Program
- Published the first Chapter Program Manual

1982-1986 Dolly Desselle Adams
- Initiated Project Lead/First Umbrella Program
- Formed partnership with Africare, spurred creation of 75 water wells in Africa
- Obtained United Nations status as Non Governmental Organization
- Secured grants of hundreds of thousands, including funding for Black Women’s consultation and Project Discovery

1986-1990 Regina Jollivette Frazier
- Instituted Project Lead: High Expectations, with a $900,00+ grant from the Office of Substance Abuse and mental Health Administration
- Initiated the establishment of The Black Family Institute
- Steered the selection of NAACP Legal Defense Fund as $1 million grant recipient
1990-1994 Marion Schultz Southerland
- Continued Project Lead: High Expectations
- Adopted African Americans and people of African descent lingo

1994-1998 Patricia Russell McCloud
- Initiated several program initiatives that eventually became National Signature Programs:
  - Links to Success: Children Achieving Excellence
  - Education Across the Miles
  - National Walk a Thon for Health
  - Linkages to Life
- Launched the first major fundraiser for the Links Foundation, $770,000
- Convened the National African American Leadership Summit

1998-2002 Barbara Dixon Simpkins
- Initiated the approval of National Signature Programs rooted in the previous administration Links to Success: Children Achieving Excellence, Linkages to Life, Education Across the Miles
- Initiated Youth Talk: Links Listen
- Built 52 schools in South Africa
- Presented $100,00 to NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

2002-2006 Gladys Gary Vaughn
- Established 48-hour requirement
- Elevated existing programs like the Ritz Chamber Players and unique features MAAMA Birthing Kits
- Initiated programming Awards with cash prizes and introduced Promising and Best Practices recognitions
- Completed $1 million pledge to NAACP Legal Defense Fund
- Established permanent Link Endowment

2006-2010 Gwendolyn Byrd Lee
- Initiated approval for the Service Delivery Model: Approach for Programming
-Introduced HeartLinks and Classic Through the Ages as National Signature Programs
- Lead a delegation to South Africa to tour schools built and supported by Links
- Formed strategic alliances with Komen for the Cure, National Cares Movement and Heart Promise
- Championed aid to HBCU’s
- Guided second installment of payment to National Civil Right Museum
- Established the Health and Human Services facet

2010-2014 Margot James Copeland
- Focused on student achievement /closing the gap
- Expanded Education Across The Miles to Liberia
- Initiated approval for the National STEM, Childhood Obesity and Oral Health Initiatives
- Introduced and initiated our current Strategic Planning Model with # number 1
priority Delivering and Sustaining Transformational Programs
• Secured more than $1.7 million dollars to support programs

2014-Present Glenda Newell-Harris
• Focused on Healthy Living Principles for Links
• Focused on health and well-being of members and those we serve
• Initiated the approval of three health related initiatives: HIV Aids, HEP C and Mental Health
• Galvanized internal and external support for national initiatives, Black Lives Matters and Human Trafficking
• Developed a strong partnership with the Center for Disease Control
• Expanded Education Across The Miles to Jamaica

Today, we are well structured and an organized enterprise prepared to steer the course to transformational programming; utilize the skills of members in a larger, more complex organization; meet the critical needs of our respective communities; and, set the stage for organization-wide alignment and greater impact.
**Types of Programs**

**Signature Program**

Signature programs are national programs that epitomize the core values and mission of The Links, Incorporated. They are designed and implemented to be transformational and address current issues, concerns and needs that impact the lives of a target population within the global Black community. A program must have run successfully and have proven results, measured using the Service Delivery Model, for at least five years within all four geographical areas of The Links, Incorporated before being established as a signature program. Its distinctive features are action, collaboration, leadership, excellence, sustainability and authenticity. Signature programs must be approved by the Executive Council, and Assembly delegates must ratify both the initiation and discontinuance.

Current signature programs include:
- Links to Success (STY) HeartLinks (HHS)
- Project LEAD (STY) Linkages to Life (HHS)
- Classics Through the Ages (The Arts) Walk for Healthy Living (HHS)
- Education Across the Miles (ITS)

**National Initiatives**

National initiatives are programs designed and implemented in response to critical national issues that affect communities of color (such as our crisis in education and in health). Partnerships and participation opportunities are encouraged in all four geographical areas of The Links, Incorporated. Initiatives are carefully monitored for one to four years allowing time for programs to develop and evolve and to assess their impact and sustainability, utilizing the Service Delivery Model. The Executive Council approves the establishment of national initiatives.

Current national initiatives include:
- National Mentoring Initiative (STY) National Black Woman and Breast Health (HHS)
- National STEM Initiative (STY) National Hepatitis C Initiative (HHS)
- National HBCU Initiative (STY) National HIV/AIDS Initiative (HHS)
- National Childhood Obesity Initiative (HHS) National Mental Health Initiative (HHS)
- National Oral Health Initiative (HHS)

**Umbrella & Integrated Programming**

Umbrella programming integrates program elements from all five facets, with one facet serving as the lead. All members of the chapter should be involved in implementing the umbrella program at some point during the program year.

An integrated program is a program formulated on one lead facet and has program elements from at least two other facets. Integrated programming is encouraged in order to increase collaboration and efficiency.
Pilot Program

Pilot programs are newly established programs created to address an emerging or current nationwide issue that is in alignment with the goals and priorities of The Links, Incorporated. A pilot program must be successfully tested and implemented for at least two years, utilizing the Service Delivery Model, and still be relevant in all four geographical areas before it can be voted on to become a national initiative or signature program.

Supporting Programs and Areas of Concentration

Program facets have many supporting programs and areas of concentration that uphold mission, vision and goals of each facet. These supporting elements may include other distinguished programs, national partnerships, committees and areas of focus; these include:

Facet Committees & Area of Focus:

- Education Linkage (STY)
- Women’s Issues and Economic Empowerment Committee (NTS)
- NGO (ITS)

Pilot Programs:

- Trash Talking: It’s No Joke!—Anti-Bullying Program (NTS)
- Black Lives Matter (NTS)
- Human Trafficking (NTS)

Supporting Programs:

- Young Achievers Program (STY)
- National Poster Art Competition (ARTS)
- Trash Talking: It’s No Joke!—Anti-Bullying Program (NTS)
- Get Out the Vote! Program (NTS)
- Linking with Liberia—Maternal Waiting Homes (ITS)

National Partnership:

- AARP (NTS) Colgate (HHS)
- Achieving the Dream Inc. (STY) NAACP (NTS)
- Africare (ITS) NSBE (STY)
- Ally Financial (NTS) Partnership for a Healthier America (HHS)
- American Heart Association (HHS)

Program Collaborators:

- AT&T (STY & NTS) NASA (STY)
- Habitat for Humanity (NTS) The Heart Truth (HHS)
- Mayo Clinic (HHS)
THE HEART OF PROGRAMMING IN LINKDOM

A Transformational Program

• Is strategic, focused and disciplined. Is not merely an extension of, or improvement over the past, but a new level of performance that is audacious?
• Has aggressive goals tied to children, family and/or community development and positive change, including the elimination of health disparities.
• Calls for a new level of collaboration and innovation.
• Excites the members of the organization and unleashes passion and creativity.
• Excites the community.
• Elicits change that is profound, fundamental and irreversible.

The Service Delivery Model

• Undergirds our organizational approach to programming and provides a logical, systematic and visual way for coordinating program planning, implementation and evaluation.
• Is the standardized model for program development, implementation and evaluation among all chapters, and establishes the criteria used in program reporting and review?
• Forms a basis for evaluation and promotes greater accountability.
• Promotes common understanding and greater member engagement.
• Requires community engagement and collaboration.
• Facilitates strategic, focused and disciplined programming.

Alignment and Integration – The Major Levers of the Service Delivery Model and Key Elements to Transformational Programming

• To ensure relevancy and impact, programs and services offered at the area and chapter levels must be aligned with—cascade down from—the national vision, mission, and the 2011-2015 strategic priorities, goals, programs and initiatives. Program alignment is required for effective program integration.
• Programs, initiatives and services at the national, area and local levels should have some alignment with the key organization mission focus: closing the educational achievement gap and/or addressing health disparities in the African-American community.
• Program integration is achieved when all facets and members work in collaboration, share resources to address a problem, as well as plan to deliver and sustain transformational programs.
• Other advantages of program alignment and integration:
  • Promotes comprehensive approaches and multifaceted responses to complex problems and issues.
  • Promotes the development of targeted intervention strategies, best practices and replicable models.
  • Improves operational efficiency, minimizes silos.
  • Builds collective strengths and promotes member engagement.
  • Provides visible common threads/consistent messages and viable lines of sight for enhanced branding and improved accountability.
  • Facilitates strategic, focused and disciplined programming.
Service Delivery Model and More

- Provides visible common threads/consistent messages and viable lines of sight for enhanced branding and improved accountability.
- Facilitates strategic, focused and disciplined programming.

Collaboration

Being mindful that our members have other assignments and responsibilities, chapters are encouraged to work collaboratively in giving sisterly support to each other in providing service. Where possible, collaborating with other chapters that have a common focus.

The next step is to identify the problem or situation to be addressed before setting SMART goals. Chapters must also understand their priorities as resources are usually not unlimited.

SMART goals, as well as Objectives, Strategies, and the Action Plan are included in The Links, Incorporated National Strategic Planning Handbook, and outlined below.

SMART Goals

Your programming goals should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound.

- **Specific.** Clearly and simply define what you are going to do; it’s the what, why, and how of a SMART goal
- **Measurable.** You should be able to demonstrate that you have accomplished the goal. Your SMART goal should include a way to measure whether or not it has been accomplished.
- **Achievable.** You should be able to achieve your goal. Your chapter should have, or have access to, the appropriate knowledge, skills, and resources to accomplish the goal.
- **Realistic.** Accomplishing your goal should be possible. While it’s important to aim high, make sure that given your resources and time-frame that what you are proposing as a goal is attainable
- **Time-bound.** You should have a specific timeframe for completing your goal. Set a specific date for completing your goal.

Note: Chapters may find setting timeframes easier if they use, for example, a program cycle, a calendar year, a grant period, or the time it believes it will take to deliver impact.

A good template for developing SMART goals is something increases or decreases, by a certain amount or percentage, within a certain time frame: e.g. *The goal of the Childhood Obesity Program is to increase participants physical activity and knowledge of health and nutrition principles by 10% annually over a 3 year period (3rd-5th grade), resulting in a 30% overall increase in physical fitness that results in passing the state’s 5th grade physical fitness test.*

Objectives

Objectives detail the specific activities necessary for your chapter to accomplish your goals and they are similar to goals in that they are also SMART.
**Strategies**

Strategies are the detail of the “how.” They are the specifics of the activities, programs and initiatives that your chapter will undertake to meet your objectives and accomplish your goals.

Strategies may include:
- Surveys or training your chapter may conduct
- Programs your chapter may implement
- Fundraising activities
- Scholarship programs your chapter may establish

Strategies should:
- Fit your chapter’s resources
- Be appropriate for your target population
- Advance your chapter’s mission

**Action Plan**

The action plan describes, in detail, how the strategies will be implemented in order to accomplish your chapter’s goals and objectives and should include:

- Action steps; explanation of what will happen
- Who is responsible for each component of the plan
- Completion date
- Resources needed
- Partners who can help advance the work of your chapter

**Programming Planning Calendar - May 1st – April 30th**

1st quarter (May, June, July)
- Review last program report submitted
- Initiate Program Planning including the SDM
- Initiate or renew any partnerships or collaborations
- Plan activities, add creative ideas to keep members interested in your primary program

2nd quarter (August, September, October)
- Create a chapter programming calendar
- Prepare a budget for the next program year, submit to budget committee
- Initiate Program Activities

3rd quarter (November, December, January)
- Review program report process
- Determine which report and how many reports will be submitted (2 reports max, 3 if one is a signature program)
4th quarter (February, March, April)
- Submit program report by Feb 1st
- Evaluate current programs
- Deliver Program Year summary at April chapter mtg.

**Evaluation Planning**

An evaluation plan to assess the program can be superimposed using the Service Model format. Evaluation involves asking key questions.
- Were inputs made as planned?
- Were activities conducted as planned?
- Was the desired level of participation achieved?
- Did clients express or show that they were satisfied with the program?

Outcomes should be measurable and should answer questions such as:
- Did the participants show an increased level of knowledge, awareness, or motivation?
- Were behaviors of the clients modified or were policies changed?
- To what extent did the program affect social, economic, political, or environmental conditions?

Developing appropriate and measurable indicators during the planning phase is key to a sound evaluation. Link your activities and results in order to insure success.
CENTRAL AREA DIRECTOR’S INITIATIVES

Each director provides the Area with a vision. That vision manifests itself in special initiatives that she would like implemented in the Area. For the 19th Area Director Glenda Masingale Manson, she put forth two program initiatives.

My Community Through the Eyes of the 21st Century African American Child

On October 18, 2015, The Links from the Central Area gathered in Nashville, Tennessee at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. The purpose was to roll out a new proposal placing priority on empowering children by engaging them creatively through the visual arts. This new signature arts initiative, “My Community Through the Eyes of the 21st Century African-American Child-Linking Images” is the new photography project for students in grades 5-12 centered around the theme “See My World”.

The Central Area was excited about the possibilities of this project that was based under The Arts Facet. We would see the disciplines of visual arts and photography help promote the development of our children’s creative thinking skills as well as foster their appreciation for the arts. With the use of a camera, we wanted our children to view the beauty in their world and examine what needed to be changed. Children throughout the Central Area were able to channel their energy into wonderful gallery of creativity.

Honoring our Sheroes: Women in the Military

Our military service members represent only 1 percent of our population, but they carry the responsibility of protecting our entire Nation. These dedicated individuals often miss birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and so many of the important event that we spend with the people we love. They make incredible sacrifices on behalf of this nation.

Women have served in the military from the American Revolution to the present. Unfortunately, women have been historically underrepresented in being recognized for their accomplishments. Current statistics illustrate that women make up 15% of active duty and 18% of Guard/Reserves service members. Based on the upward trend, the number of women in the military and veteran women is expected to double in the next decade. To that end, the Central Area of The Links, Incorporated, is committed to ensuring that recognition and services for military women and women veterans are made accessible. Under the leadership of the 19th Central Area Director, Glenda Masingale Manson, the Central Area of The Links, Incorporated Programming Team has created “Honoring Our Sheroes: Women in the Military Initiative” in 2016.
BEST PRACTICE PROGRAM CHAPTERS
Central Illinois (IL)  
Umbrella  
A Better Mind, A Better Life

Number of Members in Chapter: 34  
Number of People Served: 145  
Location: Bloomington/Normal and Peoria, IL

Number of Members Participating in Program: 32  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 14  
Funds Spent on Program: $8,400

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• YWCA, Liz Reardon & Erica Thurman, Stepping Stones Prevention Educator: Anti-Bullying
• State Farm Insurance Company & Black Data Processing Associates, Justin Lewis
• Dr. Kristal Shelvin & Associates: Mental Wellness speaker
• School districts 150, 87 and Unit 5: youth referrals
• Western Avenue Community Center: meeting space, staffing support, youth referrals, vehicle usage, computer lab usage, gymnasium usage.
• Natalie O’Neal, Artist and Photographer: Documentary Film Making
• Haitian Christian Ministries, Tom Moss: introduction of Haitian lifestyles
• State Farm Insurance Companies - State Farm Bank, Lorraine Muhammad, Manager: STEAM and mentoring
• Toni Farrington: Etiquette & Manners
• Peoria Midstate, College Art Professor
• Elaine Hardy RN: Mental Health
• Dr. Dakesa Pina: Mental Health Speaker
• First United Methodist Church, Patty Bush: Fishes and Loaves Program
• Dr. Lisa Szczepura: Charles Morris STEM Annual social at Illinois State University
• Bloomington/Normal Jack & Jill of America: HBCUs

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Create a culture that promotes health awareness, self-esteem, and physical fitness while building mental wellness that will keep individuals and families strong.
• Develop an understanding of the connection of science, technology, engineering, art and math to multiple disciplines demonstrating the correlation in day-to-day activities.
• Build future leaders by developing leadership traits, actions, and behaviors that will help participants gain the ability to influence, motivate, and direct others.
• Develop and enhance oral and written vocabulary through presentations, open discussions, written activities, and event summaries.
• Enlist female community members as mentors for PETALS participants to serve as role models along with CIC Links.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Central Illinois Chapter, The Links, Incorporated created and sponsors “A Better Mind, A Better Life” - PETALS. Utilizing The Links, Incorporated Young Achievers “Developing The Whole Child” objectives, the program serves at-risk female youth between age 12-19 in Bloomington-Normal, IL, and Peoria, IL communities. Our program has served nearly 145 underserved youth through programming focused on academic and personal development, STEM/STEAM and higher education, leadership skills, physical/mental health/wellness, increasing schema and culture development, 1:1 mentoring, and group mentoring. In partnership with schools from District 150, 87 and Unit 5, and community-based organizations such as the Western Avenue Community Center, we expose at-risk youth to opportunities that generate long-range impact such as talking with mentors who assist them with life issues and high school completion breaking cycles of poverty. 70% of the graduating seniors in 2017 are attending college this year.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

• Participants are exposed to an encouraging environment, role models, educational support, and introduced to techniques to assure that they are successful and competent students with guaranteed high school diploma completion and college enrollment for several.

• The strong partnerships and tremendous community support are key qualities of our programming that keeps us financially fit and well under budget.

• Outstanding commitment and engagement from mentees and mentors which is a true testament to the program quality with a 90% retention rate, and having young ladies who had matriculated from high school and gone away to college return, and feed into the young ladies who are currently in the program.
Cleveland (OH)
Umbrella
2017-2019 Cleveland Chapter Links Leadership Academy for Girls

Number of Members in Chapter: 43
Number of People Served: 140
Location: Cleveland, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 30
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 7
Funds Spent on Program: $4,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Karamu
• Great Lakes Science Center
• Medwish
• Cleveland State University
• Cleveland Museum of Art
• Popeye's Chicken
• East Cleveland School District

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The objective of the program is:
• To work in partnership with the East Cleveland municipal schools district to ensure that 100% of girls enrolled in the "Cleveland Chapter Links Leadership Academy for Girls" improve their self-worth and confidence as evidenced by a 50% increase in their self-esteem over current baseline by the conclusion of the Leadership Academy Program at the end of the program year in 2019.
• To partner with local cultural, financial and STEAM-focused institutions to provide enriching, interesting, engaging, interactive and informative content to the girls throughout each program year.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The ultimate challenge of The Links Academy for Girls has been to improve the quality of life for at-risk children who have been identified as having critical needs. The ultimate reward has been to improve the self-worth and confidence of the "whole child". By providing rich experiences and opportunities for academic growth and cultural awareness in a nurturing environment, we have witnessed improved self-esteem and the desire to achieve. By including all the facets in the umbrella program, the Academy provides opportunities to broaden the girls' views of the world and guide them towards a quality of life that they may not be aware is a possibility for them. Our mission is not only exposure, but to enable them to find and use tools such as self-esteem, but also critical thinking and life skills that they can use to get through the turbulent teen and young adult years. The academy sees the middle-school years not as the beginning of adolescence, but as a time to set a strong foundation that, the girls can take wing from and flourish.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Providing outstanding enrichment exposure activities throughout the school year to 4th to 6th-grade girls of East Cleveland and establishing strong ties with the East Cleveland school district.
• Creating a nurturing 'safe space' for the girls to explore and build their self-esteem.
• Giving the girls life-skill tools, including confidence and the ability to establish goals for themselves that they can use in their teenage years and beyond while mentoring the girls and gaining their trust.
Cream City (WI)
Umbrella
Broadening Students Awareness to a World Beyond Themselves at Siefert Elementary School 2.0

Number of Members in Chapter: 30
Number of People Served: 400
Location: Milwaukee, WI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 20
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $7,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Milwaukee Public Schools: granted us access to Siefert Elementary School.
- Milwaukee Area Technical College Dental Department: provided dental health services to students including cleaning their teeth.
- The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee: provided extended services during the after-school Community Learning Center (CLC).
- Link members: decorated a room in the CLC that will serve as the Literacy Room where students can relax and get extra tutoring after school.
- Scholastic Literacy Book Company: provided a discount to the chapter as we purchased materials for the literacy room as well as books that were donated to students.
- The Election Commission (County Clerk): donated materials for our chapter to use during the Mock Election. This included using real voting machines and supervision from the County Clerk’s office. Literature was also provided to share with families regarding voter registration, election polling sites, etc.
- Nordstrom: funds that the chapter received in 2015 are being used to purchase materials, sponsor learning experiences such as field trips to museums and plays, and provide incentives to promote 95% attendance.
- Milwaukee African Women’s Association (MILAWA): assisted with securing individuals from African countries to present information to students so that students could learn about African countries.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Promote literacy and assist students with increasing their reading and math scores as measured by the Milwaukee Public Schools benchmark assessment (STAR).
- Contribute to the “Who am I” theme; we donated African and International children’s books to the school to promote students seeing African Americans in books.
- Promote health and wellness activities to students, staff, and parents at Siefert Elementary School.
- Coordinate art projects with Siefert staff so lessons can be passed forward to future students.
- Support MPS Attendance Matters campaign by offering incentives to students.
- Our overall goal is to be an effective, reliable, change agile, educational partner to Siefert Elementary School Community by being responsive to their needs.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Cream City (WI) Chapter partnered with Milwaukee Public Schools Siefert Elementary School to help address the academic and socioeconomic needs of the students and families. Siefert School is located in an area that was once a thriving black community. Today over 90% of the student population is classified as economically disadvantaged. Cream City (WI) Chapter responded to the call of Milwaukee Public Schools superintendent for community groups to get actively involved with the district’s mission to educate all students for success in higher education, careers, and responsible citizenship. Cream City (WI) Chapter made a commitment to work closely with Siefert Elementary School to offer tutoring and enrichment opportunities. Through an umbrella approach, each facet offers educational opportunities that include one-to-one tutoring, cultural and art experiences, after-school activities, health and wellness activities, financial workshops, and other enriching activities. Cream City (WI) Chapter is mindful of the many challenges that the school community faces and remains in close communication with the staff to respond to needs as they arise. In 2015, it
was noted that the students were in need of hats and gloves for the winter season. Cream City (WI) Chapter addressed that need by providing every student with a new pair of gloves and a hat. Since then we have continued to supply hats and gloves as needed. The students were truly thankful and they expressed their gratitude by creating Thank You cards and writing letters. Our partnership with Siefert School has transformed over the years from being a casual partnership to one that is fully integrated into every aspect of the school. Link Sisters are at the school weekly reading to and with students. We are in classrooms working on art projects, we are involved with the Boys and Girls Club Community Learning Center (CLC), and we provide extended learning opportunities by sponsoring and chaperoning field trips. We presented Financial Literacy workshops, held a Mock Election, purchased books and materials to decorate a literacy area, provided dental hygiene cleaning, promoted a love for the arts and provided exciting learning experiences. Since our involvement, students have made incremental gains in reading and math as measured by the school district's benchmark assessment and the state exam. Cream City (WI) Chapter is proud of the students' achievement and we are committed to their long-term success.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- 5th grade students reading scores have improved as measured by Milwaukee Public School district's benchmark assessment and the state exam since members of the Cream City (WI) Chapter have been working with them.
- Members of Cream City (WI) Chapter have a physical presence in the school every week. Link sisters volunteer to read with 5th grade students and also design and teach art lessons to several classes. When the weather in Milwaukee permits, Link sisters walk weekly with students during recess to help promote healthy choices. The students and teachers look forward to the various activities that the chapter offers or supports.
- Students and families have been provided with opportunities to learn more about countries in Africa through art activities and presentations. Staff and students have also been provided opportunities to visit museums, plays, and other cultural events that have been sponsored by Cream City (WI) Chapter.
Cream City (WI) Umbrella
Continuing to Promote Learning Through the Arts

Number of Members in Chapter: 30
Number of People Served: 445
Location: Milwaukee, WI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 17
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Funds Spent on Program: $6,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Milwaukee Public Schools: grants us access to Siefert Elementary School.
• Milwaukee Area Technical College Dental Hygiene Department: provided dental treatment for students.
• Danceworks- Milwaukee Performance and Dance Company: provides dance lessons for students in grades prekindergarten to third grade.
• The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee: provides extended services during the after school Community Learning Center (CLC) and allows Link sisters an opportunity to volunteer.
• Scholastic Literacy Book Company: provides a discount to the chapter to purchase materials for the literacy room as well as books that are donated to students.
• MILAWA: provides resources and volunteers to teach students about different countries in Africa.
• The Juice Kitchen: provides fresh juice and information to students, parents and teachers.
• The Election Commission (County Clerk): donated materials for our chapter to use during the 2016 Mock Election. This included using real voting machines and supervision from the County Clerk’s office. Literature was also provided to share with families regarding voter registration, election polling sites, etc.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Promote literacy and assist students with increasing their reading and math scores as measured by the Milwaukee Public Schools benchmark assessment (STAR).
• Contribute to the “Who am I” theme through the donation of African and International children’s books to the school to promote students seeing African Americans in books.
• Provide evidence of the impact of persistent disparities on women and children in the areas of education, health, economics, and housing.
• Promote health and wellness activities to students, staff and parents at Siefert Elementary School.
• Coordinate art projects with Siefert staff so lessons can be passed forward to future students.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Cream City (WI) Chapter umbrella approach of providing services to the students, parents and staff at Siefert Elementary School has enriched the lives of all students through arts activities, health presentations, financial literacy workshop, voter education, donation of books, and donations of other materials. Through the collaborative efforts of the chapter and community partners, students are provided opportunities to create drawings, take dance classes with Danceworks, design and sew their own dashiki, design a Kente cloth pattern, tour museums, attend plays, and many other exciting learning experiences. All of these experiences are coordinated to promote a love for learning through art experiences. These experiences are also inclusive of parents and guardians to cultivate learning beyond the school day. Students and families were also given the opportunity to learn more about the continent of Africa through our Passport to Africa project. This project assimilated traveling to the continent of Africa through presentation in the classroom. The presentations were given by individuals from various countries including The Cameroon, Ghana, Somalia, Nigeria and other countries. The staff, students, and parents are extremely receptive to the services provided by Cream City (WI) Chapter. They have expressed their gratitude in several ways and demonstrated that they value our involvement in the school through their support of the events and programs offered. Siefert staff and students are assured that they have a valued partner in Cream City (WI) Chapter and we are extremely honored to serve them.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

• All grade levels are given the level of support that they need. Support is personalized for each class.
• Cream City (WI) collaborates with other community agencies to offer supplemental programs to the students at Siefert Elementary School. This ensures that a variety of art experiences are offered on a consistent basis.
• All students have had enriching arts experiences that they would not have received if Cream City (WI) Chapter was not actively involved at Siefert School. Students have the opportunity to interact with a member of the chapter on a regular basis.
Detroit (MI)
Umbrella
The Big Reveal: Look Out World, Here We Come!

Number of Members in Chapter: 64
Number of People Served: 43
Location: Detroit, MI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 47
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $8,007

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
N/A

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Initially, chapter programs engaged DIA students at various grade levels in diverse activities that included art, culture, health and well-being, careers, and life aspirations, among others. We have helped (and still help) needy students secure uniforms free of charge and even purchased a commercial washer and dryer to allow girls without access to laundry facilities to clean their clothes at school. The chapter has also sponsored school-wide activities. In September 2014, the chapter narrowed its focus to maximize the impact on the students by focusing chapter resources on building strong relationships with a specific group of students – the DIA’s Class of 2018, who was then entering their freshman year. We spent the students’ freshman year developing relationships. In their sophomore and junior years, we focused on helping them prepare for and make the best decisions concerning college and/or post-secondary education. The 2017-18 school year marked the final segment of the chapter’s four-year commitment to the DIA’s Class of 2018.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Detroit (MI) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated successfully concluded its four-year commitment to the Detroit International Academy’s (DIA) Class of 2018. The Links’ program, “Expanding the Borders of the Possible,” focused on preparing the students to navigate the college and/or post-secondary education selection and application process, and to celebrate their graduation from high school. The chapter’s facet groups worked collaboratively for four years, building trusting relationships with the students and responding to their interests in improving their self-esteem, academics, and social skills. During this last year, the facets programs focused on exposing the students to best practices for preparing strong college and vocational school applications. The students toured the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, met with undergraduate students, learned about financial aid, personal finance, interviewing and social etiquette. The year ended with a celebratory lunch at the historic Detroit Golf Club with the students, their parents and the school staff. The Detroit (MI) Chapter of the Links wishes the members of the Class of 2018 well in their future endeavors.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Familiarity: Because we have worked with the same group of girls for their entire high school career, we have developed true relationships with the girls and were able to plan and implement programs that were tailored to their personalities.
• Measured outcomes: We have watched this class mature into young ladies. Although every student that started with the class in 2014, did not graduate with her classmates, many of the students did participate in the four years of programs and were able to express their feedback on the various experiences.
Great Lakes (MI)  
Umbrella  
Impacting the Future with the GENTS

Number of Members in Chapter: 46  
Number of People Served: 795  
Location: Detroit, MI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 46  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4  
Funds Spent on Program: $33,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- Cass Technical High School: the primary venue for activities relationship and students
- Charles H. Wright Museum: partner and venue
- Community Health and Social Services Center: AIDS and STD awareness workshop
- AARP: partnered w/CT GENTS in the Holiday Toy Drive
- Scarlet Communications: social etiquette workshop for the CT GENTS
- Gleaners Community Bank: food drive and service activity
- Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution: recipients of community service project items by CT GENTS and 20 other students
- Detroit Chapter of United Nations: 3-year workshop presenter 2016-2018
- AHA: offered CPR training
- Wallet Wise: sponsored a financial workshop for 100 teens
- Detroit Medical Center Sinai Grace Hospital: provided the venue for Human Trafficking Community Awareness Event
- Detroit Recovery Project (DRP): families received Christmas presents from Links & GENTS
- Alternatives for Girls: Human Trafficking panel participants
- Detroit Crime Commission: Human Trafficking panel participants
- Detroit City Council: Human Trafficking panel participants
- FBI Detroit Division: Human Trafficking panel participants
- Wayne State University Prevention: presented 2 Sex Education workshops
- Beaumont Hospital Detroit Landbank
- Dassault Systèmes: mentor
- General Motors: mentor
- Lion’s Dream LLC Snap Suits: mentor
- Detroit Recovery Project: mentor
- Toyota Motor North American: mentor
- Detroit Police Department: mentor
- Detroit Public Schools: mentor
- Brand Camp: mentor
- Rebrand Cities: mentor
- The Social Club: mentor

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To promote individual learning experiences within a 4-year period which develop cultural self-awareness and self-advocacy.
- To encourage the CT GENTS’ emotional, physical and overall wellness during their high school career and beyond.
- To empower the high school aged male students to gain leadership, financial literacy and organization skills from 9th through 12 grade to prepare for a successful future.
- To nurture the importance of serving others and acquiring 100 community service hours by high school graduation.
- To support the CT GENTS’ efforts to gain entry into college and strategically prepare them for life after high school by May 2019.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

The gender and ethnicity of the students representing the greatest need are that of Black or African American males. For four years, The Great Lakes Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has engaged in its program entitled, "Transforming the Future with the GENTS" Leadership and Male Mentoring Program. The Cass Tech Great, Excellent, Noble, Talented Scholars (CT GENTS) program was created to address issues and challenges facing high school-aged youth and provide an
outlet for male youth to develop academic, life and leadership skills. Through a series of workshops and interactive programs, and the guidance of professional female and male role models, the CT Gents program will support a seamless transition from high school to college and beyond. This program will provide experiences and inspiration for the Gents to step into their greatness and make a positive difference in society. These young leaders have begun to engineer change in the community by being engaged in service opportunities as the program progresses. Service to the Community = Impactful Leadership. The Great Lakes Chapter is committed to providing and promoting the following opportunities for the CT Gents:

- Male Mentoring Public speaking and debate.
- All-around mental and physical wellness education to Gents, families and larger community.
- Academic support and career exploration with an emphasis on careers associated with STEMM College readiness.
- Exposure to historically black colleges and universities as viable options.
- Community Service
- Internships
- Life-skill opportunities with real-world experiences facilitated through our five facets: Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends, International Trends, and Health and Human Services.
- Leadership opportunities: fundraising, event planning, and service activities, grooming tips, global awareness, public speaking and dress for success opportunities.
- Increase appreciation and exposure to photography as an art form while also strengthening their ability to communicate through photography and the presentation of their works of art.

The Gents meet twice per month at Cass Technical High School (or planned field trips) on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of each month beginning in September and culminating with a GENT- planned/facilitated Leadership Conference in May.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- Mentorship and Depth: A formidable quality of the CT GENTS program is its female AND male mentoring component. As female professional leaders in our community, our chapter has diligently provided exposure and leadership opportunities to young males. In addition, the scholars have received a wealth of knowledge, life lessons, and guidance from various male role models who have made an impact locally, nationally as well as globally.
- Service and Friendship: Through the past 4 years, the CT GENTS have built real friendships through this mentoring program that are based on brotherhood and service. This program has given these African-American male scholars a chance to bond outside of sports, violence, social and competition, which is a rare occurrence in these times.
- Scholarships: Lastly, $25,000 in scholarships will be awarded to the graduating Gents in May 2019. These funds will assist in college preparations for 25 GENTS.
Harbor Lites (IL)
Umbrella

STEM Initiative: Do Strawberries have DNA?

Number of Members in Chapter: 27
Number of People Served: 20
Location: Harbor Lites, IL

Number of Members Participating in Program: 12
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 1
Funds Spent on Program: $7,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Abbott Laboratories: provided in-kind services of scientists, lab coats, safety goggles, gloves, strawberries, extraction solution, plastic bags, pipettes, isopropyl alcohol, beakers, and measuring cups.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• To increase student knowledge about the scientific method.
• To provide hands-on experience with complex scientific methodology.
• To provide access to experts in the science profession.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Harbor Lites Chapter teamed up with expert scientists from a leading pharmaceutical giant, Abbott Laboratories, in order to address the need for early exposure of African American students to STEM. This STEM engagement process was completed in a fun manner by way of utilizing strawberries for DNA extraction and scientific inquiry and investigation.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• African American students developing a passion for science at an early age.
• African American students engaged by "real world scientist."
• African American students working in teams to solve scientific problems.
Hendersonville Area (TN)
Umbrella
Closing the Technology Gap and Enhancing Healthy Living and Learning Skills of Elementary After School Students: at Churchwell Museum Magnet School (2018 Report)

Number of Members in Chapter: 48
Number of People Served: 256
Location: Nashville, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 48
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Funds Spent on Program: $2,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- Tim Dawson, IT Specialist: taught binary computer coding and keyboarding
- Tennessee General Assembly State Representative, Harold M. Love: explained the importance of civic responsibility and held mock elections
- Ted Jones, local artist: provided artwork for the aftercare center
- Professor Judy Gentry of Tennessee State University (TSU) and the TSU Dance Ensemble: used danced and cheer routines to engage children in exercise and fun.
- Zekeya Anderson, Artist: taught students about the written and spoken word
- Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet Elementary After School Programs: allowed children to participate
- The PENCIL Foundation of Nashville: linking community resources of volunteers and materials
- Metro Nashville Public Schools: assisted the Chapter with FBI/BCI volunteer checks for the after-school program and tracking service hours
- Gray Dental Care, PC: dental supplies to children

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
This organizational year saw the continued implementation of the Chapter’s Strategic plan; thus, baseline data for each activity for the Churchwell Project Neighborhood After-Care Program has been collected. The goals for the Chapter’s umbrella project align with the goals of the strategic plan and are as follows:

- To improve childhood literacy and life skills through the use of technology tools by 10 percent in the after-school population.
- To enrich student lives through promoting healthy living.
- To instill a sense of civic engagement and responsibility through voting.
- To incorporate social/emotional learning skills and techniques into the learning pattern of after-school children.
- To advance awareness of and appreciation for the visual and performing arts.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Hendersonville Area Chapter of Links, Inc. chose as part of their service agenda to address closing the digital divide and improving literacy and other life skills for students in grades K-4 in the after-school program at Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet Elementary School in Nashville, Tennessee. The nature of this Umbrella project allows the Chapter to not only enhance the children’s technological skills, but it also encourages focusing attention on the other life needs of school-age children in this traditionally under-served segment of the city. In the Nashville community, the Chapter has established a long tradition of designing and implementing projects concentrated on improving the lives of children through service in the after school setting. In collaboration with businesses, state government, and other community agencies, the Chapter has delivered meaningful and beneficial experiences to children and their parents that stimulate: (a) safe and informed living, (b) literacy and cultural awareness, (c) an understanding of the connection between the physical, mental and spiritual well-being, and (d) a respect for education. Programming also focused on promoting civic engagement and responsibility, conserving, and protecting the environment. Links partnered with the parents of participants to provide the most constructive after-school programming for the children. The students also found that activities such as dancing, basketball, and tennis are fun methods they may employ to maintain a healthy life. In other
program sessions, participants were armed with intellectual tools to care for their bodies and prevent disease. The consistent efforts employed through Chapter initiatives should make an impact on the lives of the children in the Nashville community. It is the aim of the Chapter to provide enriching experiences for a population of students who are traditionally under-served.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**
- Five facets have come together to serve the targeted group-Elementary grade students (K-4).
- Community Organizations and other volunteers have joined the Chapter in implementing the project.
- The umbrella approach provides needed services to youth from under-served communities.
- Nashville youth are being provided with experiences that they otherwise would not be able to enjoy.
Jackson County (MO)

Umbrella

Full Steam Ahead Towards Literacy

Number of Members in Chapter: 63
Number of People Served: 450
Location: Kansas City, MO

Number of Members Participating in Program: 42
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 6
Funds Spent on Program: $19,399

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

• Local Investment Commission: coordinated after-school programs, presented activities to the ACCPA students, funded transportation to the Theater
• The Theater League: funding for tickets to performances
• The Coterie theater: pre-performance workshops
• Truman Medical Center: access to the mobile market and fresh fruit/vegetables for distribution
• The Jackson County MO Links: scholarships to the national convention of NSBE
• Black engineers: speaker series
• The Links, Incorporated: award money use to sponsor NSBE Jr. chapter
• NSBE: funds for NSBE Jr. chapter
• Burns and McDonnell: funding for STEAM education

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

• We will close the achievement gap at ACCPA by increasing reading skills and increasing reading scores by a significant percentage and expand STEAM education with the establishment of an NSBE program involving 65 scholars by 2020.
• We will take the ACCPA students to a theater performance enhancing their exposure to performance arts. We will enhance this experience with pre-performance seminars.
• We will provide leadership and teambuilding skills to our NSBE JR chapter.
• We will provide education on healthy eating and the benefits of exercise to encourage a healthy lifestyle.
• We will expose the students of ACCPA to international cultures and encourage them to embrace the concept of being world citizens. We will promote the concept “we are more alike than different”.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

The Jackson County Missouri Chapter of the Links, Incorporated developed the program Full Steam Ahead toward Literacy in 2013 at African-Centered College Preparatory Academy (ACCPA). The program has been expanded to a comprehensive Umbrella program with participation by all five facets of the chapter. A needs assessment was done prior to the development of the program that revealed poor academic performance, a lack of exposure to the arts, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and poor reading and writing skills. Our program provided the students with exposure to theater arts by taking them to performances. We formed and continue to support an NSBE Jr program to enhance exposure to math, science, and technology projects. They also met African American engineers and those working in technology fields. This exposure will allow the students to realize they could have careers in technology and be engineers. This knowledge broadens their horizons and offers them a new direction in life. The students were provided with leadership and teambuilding workshops. We also provided workshops on the importance of healthy eating and exercise and encouraged a healthy lifestyle. The students will participate in a workshop on the International Presence in Space. All of these activities were designed to broaden the worldview of these students. We believe that an expanded view decreases perceived limits. Without limits and fear, accomplishments can be vast. Full Steam Ahead Toward Literacy has enriched the lives of students at ACCPA and the lives of the members of the Jackson County Missouri Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. We join the students in dreaming for a better life for them and a better community for all of us.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

• With the expansion of Full Steam Ahead to Literacy, the Jackson County Missouri Chapter of the Links, Incorporated was able to touch over 400 students at ACCPA.

• We expanded our NSBE Jr chapter and enhanced their experience with a speaker’s series, more math education and a trip to the national NSBE convention.

• We took 160 students to the theater and provided pre-performance education highlighting the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, the influence of Gandhi on his life, the impact Jim Crow laws on his life, and the influence of the Harlem Renaissance.

• We provided a healthy diet, exercise education to 100 students, and sponsored a trip to the mobile market to choose healthy food to take home.

• We provided leadership and team building education to the NSBE JR chapter. We provided a seminar on the International Presence in Space to promote the idea of a global community.
Jackson (TN)
Umbrella
2017-2019 Fitness Links: Building A Healthy Community, Mind, Body & Soul

Number of Members in Chapter: 27
Number of People Served: 600
Location: Jackson, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 20
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $6,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Tennessee Department of Health Director, Dr. Conner: provided data and statistics to identify the target group
• Regional Area Inter-Faith Association: provided data/statistics to identify the target group in need of a healthy meal
• East Jackson Clinic and the Jackson Clinic: physicians provided expertise in the areas of obesity and breast cancer
• Jackson City Police Department and local educators: expertise on bullying and mental health
• Jackson Madison County Schools: identified a school in need of physical education equipment
• Top Ladies of Distinction, Jackson, Tennessee Chapter: partnered with our chapter to provide healthy drinks to students at our target school, Isaac Lane and the Boys and Girls Club
• JAMMIN- Nurses Association: free health screenings

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Ensure 100% of children in the Regional Inter-faith Association (RIFA) Snacks for the Backpack program have nutritious food over the weekend.
• To ensure 100% of children at our target boys and girls club have access to adequate playground equipment and healthy nutritious meals over the weekend.
• To educate and promote physical health in the community through involvement in community walks and chapter-sponsored events.
• To promote science, technology, engineering and math awareness with youth (STEM).
• To continue to mentor young African American males, females, exposing them to different cultures, bullying, arts-performing/poster, childhood obesity, and oral health prevention.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Jackson Fitness Links: Building A Healthy Community is a program designed to increase awareness of preventable health issues that affect African American in the Jackson, Tennessee community. In order to do so, we planned a series of events and activities. One of our major community events, The Emerald Jazz Brunch, was held to increase obesity awareness to 250 people and the importance of physical fitness. Because of the success of the Emerald Jazz Brunch, more than 350 students benefitted from the playground/gym equipment donated by our chapter. Additionally, our chapter collaborated with Alexander Elementary Magnet School's physical education teacher and Regional Inter-faith Association (RIFA) to promote a healthy community. We made monetary and food donations throughout the year to ensure proper nutrition in food insecure homes. Additionally, we held a Jamaican Showcase to promote our health theme and programs. At this community-wide event, the community received free health information to improve their quality of life. Law enforcement and local health care professionals collaborated with the chapter to address major community issues. In doing so, law enforcement officials did a presentation on bullying and how it can affect mental health. Physicians provided free breast screenings to all women in need of an examination. After the examinations, families reported they now understand the importance of having yearly breast cancer screening and where they can get a free annual examination. NAACP officials and members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated attended the event and did a presentation on voting and how voting can affect your healthcare decisions. The community was able to register to vote at this event. The program was featured in the Jackson Sun Newspaper, West Tennessee Examiner, and on WBBJ television station. Overall, the program was a success and impacted the community in a positive way in that - 100% of all ladies in need of a breast screening received a free screening at the Links Showcase, - 100 % of all students at
our target school received access to new physical education equipment, and -100 % of the students at our target school in food insecure homes received weekend meals through our partnership with (RIFA). Culturally, the young men (beaux) service project was to donate t-shirts to the children of Uganda via Dr. Mrs. Quinn. International Trends held an activity to increase African cultural awareness.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- Collaborating with RIFA and donating nutritious foods to 100% of the children in food insecure homes to ensure they would be able to have nutritious meals over the weekend thereby preventing hunger and obesity.
- Collaborating with sponsors and donating funds to provide new playground/gym equipment for 100% of the students.
- Providing free breast cancer screenings to 100% of women attending the Links Showcase in need of an examination.
- Involving young achievers in the Poster Arts contest and Colgate Bright Smiles.
Kalamazoo, MI
Umbrella
Powering The Promise and the Legacy

Number of Members in Chapter: 26
Number of People Served: 30
Location: Kalamazoo, MI
Number of Members Participating in Program: 26
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $21,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Michigan Women Forward
• Battle Creek Public Schools
• Kalamazoo Public Schools

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Promoting education and financial literacy.
• To develop social entrepreneurship awareness.
• To develop social change through community awareness and collaboration thereby improving the lives of young women and girls.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Kalamazoo (MI) Chapter identifies "leadership development" as its umbrella program goal. The Chapter is committed to motivating youth to aspire to achieve their full potential, providing useful information that increases knowledge, increasing and improving their life options, providing and serving as role models and mentors, promoting academic excellence and leadership, and developing potential leaders. We offer academic enrichment programs, exposure to the arts, as well as focused leadership initiatives. Our YWFC program is a collaboration with the Michigan Women's Forward focused on "developing women leaders". Through a series of organized workshops, we have monthly meetings with the participants. The young women created social change projects, for example, one of our projects focused on bullying for elementary school students. Another project was on self-empowerment with the theme of "Black Girl Magic." and this year our theme is Keeping It 100 meaning to be your authentic self while making a difference in your community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
In 2016, YWFC executed a community service project at Maple Street Magnet school presenting an anti-bullying workshop to an audience of over 25 middle school students. The second year, a Buddy Bench was donated and placed in the school garden in expectation of having a safe place to share and boldly take action to stop bullying. The third and fourth year a panel discussion with both middle school and high school students. The success of this program include:
• YWFC have gained confidence in knowing how their personal involvement can be impactful and make a lasting difference in the school and community.
• Information sharing on topics that are relevant including College Readiness with checklist and timelines
• Building a community of like-minded young ladies who are socially and culturally aware and equipping these young ladies with tools to successfully address.
Little Rock (AR)  
Umbrella  
Celebrating Students Doing the Right Thing

Number of Members in Chapter: 39  
Number of People Served: 287  
Location: Little Rock, AR

Number of Members Participating in Program: 39  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3  
Funds Spent on Program: $38,865

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:  
Henderson Middle School: target group, faculty, venue  
Clinton Presidential Library: waived entrance to the Mandela Exhibit

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- By the end of 2018-2019, there will be a 10% decrease in disciplinary infractions in two girls’ groups (Next Generation and Girls Rock) in grades 6-8, at Henderson Middle School using relevant, educational, creative, and fun program activities.
- By the end of 2018-2019, 80% of girls in Next Generation and Girls Rock in grades 6-8, at Henderson Middle School, will increase their base knowledge of historic heroes, technology, cultural experiences through educational/cultural field trips.
- By the end of 2018-2019, 80% of the girls in Girls Rock and Next Generation in grades 6-8, at Henderson Middle School will understand and appreciate the importance of community service, role models, and financial support.
- By the end of 2018-2019, 80% of the Girls Rock and Next Generation in grades 6-8, at Henderson Middle School, will receive training on conflict resolution, bullying, friendship development, career, and healthy lifestyles.
- By the end of the 2018-2019 school year, The Links chapter will provide an end of year incentive celebration students “doing the right thing” for girls in Next Generation and Girls Rock at Henderson Middle School.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Little Rock (AR) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated is devoted to positively transforming underprivileged middle school girls into life-long learners and responsible, productive young adults. To achieve this endeavor, the chapter selected two girls’ groups in grades 6-8 (Girls Rock-100, academically advanced- Next Generation, 49), at risk, who attend Henderson Middle School, located in Little Rock, AR. Many of the girls miss learning opportunities because of disciplinary infractions. During the 2016-2017 school year, there was 149 girls in both groups and 161 disciplinary infractions. Henderson is 81% black, and 91% low income. Test scores are far below the schools in the state of Arkansas. These students face enormous barriers to success. The principal reported extreme poverty with an average of $15,000. During the 2017-2018 school year, the then principal wanted to focus on reducing disciplinary infractions using positive incentives. He titled the plan “Celebrating Students Doing the Right Thing.” He asked the chapter to devise positive incentive activities that would motivate students to improve their behavior. Studies show taking measures to improve academic performance and outcomes starts with the improving behavior of students in the classroom at any level. Armed with that charge, the chapter sprang into action, and over a two-year period, developed nine researched-based, relevant, fun incentive umbrella program, culminating with an end of year incentive celebration. The activities were relevant and fun. For example, students experienced educational/cultural field trips and toured the C-Span Multimedia Coach. What better role models than Elizabeth Eckford and Michelle Obama? The girls were mesmerized to see and hear Elizabeth Eckford of the Little Rock Nine and Former First Lady Michelle Obama share their history-making life experiences—the girls received copies of their book, too. The performance and characters in the Lion King fascinated the girls, and the Conflict Resolution training inspired them. In fact, one student wrote, “It helped me to learn how to relax when I’m frustrated or irritated.” By the end of 2017-2018, the students’ behavior improved with a 19% reduction of infractions. The 2018-2019 results will be analyzed at the end of the year. Goal #1 The chapter commends the students for their improved behavior, and looks forward to hosting their “Celebrating Students Doing the Right Thing” Celebration.
**Most Outstanding Qualities**

- By being exposed to a wide variety of program activities, students acquired base knowledge, gained awareness, and developed an appreciation that served as a catalyst for improved behavior.

- Positive reactions and comments from administrators and students: Administrator: The Links Organization has awarded opportunities for our girls to attend activities and events that they may not have been able to experience, otherwise. These opportunities have served as motivation for these young women to pursue higher heights and bigger dreams. Students: It helped me to learn how to relax when I am frustrated or irritated. - It was cool getting one of her books. - I would like this workshop again. I got a chance to meet someone from history. - I liked that they talked about the Lion King performance, and what to expect. - I didn’t know they had technology like that on wheels. – That was my favorite part to experience going in his jail cell. - It was wow!
Milwaukee
Umbrella
BEAM 3.0A – Boosting Educational Achievement at Metcalfe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Members in Chapter: 46</th>
<th>Number of Members Participating in Program: 27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of People Served: 396</td>
<td>Number (Period) of Years Executed: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location: Milwaukee, WI</td>
<td>Funds Spent on Program: $105,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:**
- Milwaukee Public Schools: access to students/data to participate in our program
- Discovery World Museum: designed STEM-related workshops at a significantly reduced cost
- Black Arts MKE: all school attendance at a critically acclaimed musical, Black Nativity
- Northwestern Mutual: underwrote the Asst. principal & company onsite weekly student read-in
- American Dental Association/National Dental Assn: dental kits for students & Jamaica
- Youth Frontiers: professional development for staff to build trust and cohesiveness and youth development for students to use moral courage, increase leadership & reject bullying
- Milwaukee Succeeds: selected as Transformative Reading Instruction site (in class reading coach)
- Brewers Community Foundation: donated backpacks, school supplies, hats, mittens, & scarves
- Beta Alpha Boule: secured funding for all MPS 6th & 7th graders to attend Hidden Figures
- Fellowship Open/ALIVE: provided backpacks and school supplies to documented homeless families
- Herd-Barber Charitable Fund: financial Support for Parent engagement/Home Ownership
- Nordstrom: store opening gift of $33,000 funded Links-Metcalfe funding for 4 years

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**
- To increase the number of children at Metcalfe in grades K4-8 who are able to read and perform at grade level and improve proficiency in reading and math.
- To engage the children at Metcalfe in a range of activities that will help them build self-esteem, demonstrate respect for themselves and others relate to others with understanding and respect, and to develop global awareness and appreciation for other cultures.
- To promote an understanding of attributes of leadership and begin to positively influence others and ultimately contribute to the improvement of their community and society.
- To provide the students, their parents/guardians, and teachers the tools to more effectively value differences, solve problems, and take ownership of their education through STEAM.
- To increase the student attendance rate which will improve educational outcomes.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT**
Project BEAM 3.0, Boosting Educational Achievement at Metcalfe, is an academic and enrichment program at Metcalfe School that assists students to improve academic performance by reducing the proficiency gaps in reading and math. Our program also aims to develop positive, civic-minded students, create a family school culture and increase leadership capacity at all school levels - students, parents, teachers, and staff. We do this by engaging our facets in the following areas: 1) Services To Youth leads our involvement by supporting tutoring, anti-bullying, building character and through STEAM and parent engagement. 2) International Trends continues the introduction of our students to globalization and culture by supporting the school adopted yearlong international studies and fair activities. 3) The Arts Facet provides experiential learning opportunities to enrich the students’ lives by supporting live theater experiences, art poster contests, drumming and dance. 4) Health & Human Services provides opportunities for improved health outcomes for students and families by supporting the Dental Smiles program VROOM for early brain development, mental health awareness, and talkback sessions with middle school girls. 5) National Trends is focused on empowering Metcalfe
families with information on financial stability, home ownership and overcoming barriers to success in school. In collaboration with Metcalfe School and many other partners, we are closing the gap in reading and math; students have greater global awareness, are improving interpersonal skills and developing a sense of community. With greater neighborhood home ownership, attendance and academic performance should increase.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- Transformative Reading Instruction - Teachers are trained in small group reading instruction. The teachers are using these same techniques in other subject areas and we are seeing math scores increase also - a wonderful incidental benefit. Our gap closure is approximately 36% in reading and 27% in math. Students are more aware and eager to improve their proficiency and growth. At this rate, our current K5 class can be on grade level by 3rd grade.
- Another area of promise is helping parents/caregivers to become financially stable and position themselves to become homeowners. This can improve attendance, academics and stabilize our school families.
- Experiential learning has improved student personal growth and self-awareness. Students are participating in STEAM opportunities and asking how they can participate in plays or become engineers/coders.
Northwest Arkansas (AR)
Umbrella
Distinctively Me!: Developing Culturally Proud Minds and Bodies

Number of Members in Chapter: 32
Number of People Served: 50
Location: Fayetteville, AR

Number of Members Participating in Program: 32
Number (Period) of Years Executed: .5
Funds Spent on Program: $400

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- City of Fayetteville- Yvonne Richardson Community Center provided the venue and its after-school program.
- The Chapter has the opportunity to leverage the other after-school program partners and collaborate on programming ideas. For example, HHS will leverage the YRCC partner, Musicians Inspiring Children (MIC). MIC is an organization of musicians dedicated to exposing children to music and the performing arts. MIC will be able to supplement the HHS session by teaching the children how to play jazz and/or introduce dance steps from the Charleston.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Improve NWA youth’s ability to recognize and instill positive perceptions of self through the lens of the Black experience.
  - Program Objective/SMART Goal: By May 2019, there will be an increase in the selection of positive self-identifiers by at least 80% of the kids.
- Expose the children of NWA to black culture in a fun and engaging way.
  - Program Objective/SMART Goal: By May 2019, at least 80% of children will have an increased understanding of a historic black period of 75%.
- Develop a program that will allow all five facets to work collaboratively.
  - Program Objective/SMART Goal: By September 2018, each facet will develop at least 2 comprehensive and integrated lesson plans focused on building self-esteem and based upon the era of the Harlem Renaissance.
    1. Equip the participants to integrate and practice these learned concepts at home, school and in the community and to become well-prepared global citizens.
    2. Achieve 100% Chapter membership participation by May 2019.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Northwest Arkansas (AR) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated is dedicated to infusing black heritage and enriching the experience of blacks in the Northwest Arkansas community. Current research indicates that African Americans have fared well financially in Northwest Arkansas due to major employers in the area; however, a large number of African American children in Northwest Arkansas (NWA) are growing up in a struggling household below the poverty line. Notably, local African American youth, regardless of socioeconomic backgrounds, contend with the same negative social regard in the community. Given the race-related disparities for health and well-being found in children of color in the United States, it is particularly critical to building positive self-esteem and racial identity among these youth. To this end, the Chapter developed and implemented the “Distinctively Me!: Developing culturally proud minds and bodies” umbrella program at the Yvonne Richardson Community Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In its first year of implementation, the Chapter focused on the Harlem Renaissance to deploy culturally relevant strategies and tools to improve the participants’ physical and mental health and self-esteem. Each session emphasized self-pride, respecting others’ differences and being responsible members of society. The Northwest Arkansas (AR) Chapter expects that this program will equip the participants to integrate and practice these learned concepts at home, school and in the community to become well-prepared global citizens.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The most outstanding quality of the program is the ability of our newly chartered chapter, with 100% participation, to develop and implement an umbrella program focused on building self-esteem by exposing children to the richness of the Harlem Renaissance period while incorporating art, bullying, global awareness, and healthy living practices within the context of black history and equipping the children with tools to see themselves in a positive light.
Oakland County (MI)  
Umbrella  
STEAM: Education Into The Next Decade

Number of Members in Chapter: 63  
Number of Members Participating in Program: 42  
Number of People Served: 386  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2  
Location: Southfield and Pontiac, MI  
Funds Spent on Program: $59,235

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- General Motors: hosted 90 Pontiac Middle School students for a plant visit and lunch on National Manufacturing Day.
- Oakland County Career Center: provided T-shirts for the students to wear on National Manufacturing Day.
- Oakland University: partnered with the chapter to provide in-classroom Math & Reading Tutors for 300 Pontiac Middle School students, hosted a Olympic Challenge before the Oakland University Pontiac Initiative Basketball Game Day, provided a Cinematography & Graphic Design (STEAM) session (organized by Arts Trend) for Rogers Elementary 4th grade students and hosted a Safe Water Walkathon (organized by ITS Trend) on their campus.
- Wayne State University: partnered with the chapter to provide a Cinematography & Graphic Design session for Birney K-8 elementary school.
- Motown Foundation: partnered with the chapter to provide funding for musical instruments and teaching materials for Birney K-8 elementary school.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Heighten awareness of STEAM education in Oakland County (MI) schools with 50% plus African American student populations.
- Broaden reach to serve a larger number of African American students in Oakland County.
- Introduce STEAM to 4th grade students.
- Establish NSBE, Jr. chapters in two 4th grade classes.
- Implement an in-class Math & Reading Tutoring Program for 6th-8th grade Pontiac Middle School students.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
In 2017 we initiated our STEAM Umbrella Programming and in 2018, 2nd year of our STEAM Umbrella Programming, we created two NSBE Jr. Chapters in elementary schools, one in Pontiac, MI. and the other in Southfield MI. The 4th grade classes at Rogers and Birney Elementary schools were targeted based on our most recent environmental scan and area demographics. The targeted service area minority populations range from 50 % to 90% of the student body. Additionally, the environmental scan revealed a significant achievement GAP in the areas of math, reading, and science. Every trend is contributing to education and activities for both NSBE Jr. Chapters. Data from the schools indicate many students are performing below grade level in most of their subjects. In an effort to help close the GAP, the OCC Links programs focus on STEAM topics that broaden the student’s knowledge, heighten awareness of STEAM careers and generate a passion for learning. The OCC links are also providing in-class tutors for over 300 students at the Pontiac Middle School. Our service delivery model includes partnerships with several businesses (in STEAM fields), field trips to General Motors Assembly plants on National Manufacturing Day, and visits to local Universities for hands-on activities. However, our primary programming was focused on “What is an Engineer” sessions with a Black Panther Theme along with cinematography and graphic design sessions. Our final phase for the program year focused on “Safe Water”. Students will perform hands-on experiments focused on water conservation and water filtration. The safe water segment ends with a Walk-a-thon for Clean Water.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The 2018 STEAM Career Day at the Pontiac Middle School exposed the students to STEAM careers and people that looked like them working in STEAM occupations.
- Referencing STEAM in the Black Panther movie helped the 4th grade students identify with STEAM topics and careers and drove excitement due to all the students have seen the movie.
- In 2018, providing after-school Math & Reading Tutors for the Pontiac Middle School students significantly reduced the number of students that were retained in their current grade due to below average Math & Reading skills. As a result of the tutoring, 68% of the students were promoted to the next grade level. For 2019, the chapter is sponsoring In Class Math & Reading Tutors for 300 PMS students.
Pine Bluff (AR)
Umbrella
Lifting Individuals through New Knowledge and Skills L.I.N.K.S

Number of Members in Chapter: 29
Number of People Served: 700
Location: Pine Bluff, AR

Number of Members Participating in Program: 29
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2
Funds Spent on Program: $2,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Watson Chapel School District
• Arkansas River Education Services Cooperative
• UAPB Cooperative Extension
• TOPPS, INC.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Partner with a local school district to bring together community resources to support the district in expanding learning opportunities and outcomes for students through collaborations and partnerships with other organizations and groups willing to commit to a long-term objective of supporting Watson Chapel high school in achieving academic success and developing life-long learning skills among its students.
• Pilot with 10th graders at Watson Chapel High School with facets giving 20-minute presentations on an assigned measure to 10th grade English Classes during the period, March 1- April 30, 2018. Summer 2018: Analyze data from pilot and plan for year one implementation during the 2018-2019 academic year.
• Participate in team readiness programming, sponsored by Arkansas River Education Services Cooperative, in the offering of a cross-discipline unit that embeds the five facets into current learning objectives toward implementing the program for the 2018-2019 school year.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Six program sessions were conducted. Each program Facet developed its own presentation content and format. The Co-Chairs developed the evaluation instruments for the various sessions from the content presented by the facets. Unfortunately, no standards were developed for presentation format and evaluation content or structure. Thus, these elements differed greatly and resulted in wide variability in program design and implementation. Challenges also arose in garnering student participation. The 228 10th grade English students were assigned to nine classes. Three sections were Pre-AP sections and these students were more orderly and attentive than the six non-AP sessions. The Pre-AP teacher also had greater control of the classroom environment than the other teacher did. The number of student responses to the evaluations ranged from 95 to 24 over the six sessions. Evaluations from the Active Involvement session were not retrievable from the school's computer system and responses from the other three sessions were received from 78, 79, and 28 students. Lower evaluation numbers were reported on days when school activities had students out of the classroom. This was a major challenge. However, this first year was a pilot, and the chapter will select program days around school activities in the future. Summary evaluation reports indicate some variability in the appreciation of the discussions and their value to the students. The Pre-AP students were much more participatory, attentive, and engaged in the discussions than the regular classes. The next step is program assessment, improvement, and a discussion with the principal of Watson Chapel and selected faculty, along with the Director of the Arkansas River Educational Cooperative to develop strategies for improving the program during the 2018-2019 school year. The specialists from Arkansas River Educational Cooperative will be more engaged in program implementation during the 2018-2019 school year.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Students helped students recognize their personal responsibility to contribute to their learning outcomes engaging in activities and thoughts that will help them analyze and utilize the classroom instruction and homework assignments.
Renaissance (MI)
Umbrella
Healthy to the C.O.R.E. (Creating Opportunities for Relevant Enlightenment)

Number of Members in Chapter: 53
Number of People Served: 700
Location: Wayne County, MI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 52
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2
Funds Spent on Program: $65,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- American Heart Association of Southeast Michigan (AHA): to provide evidence-based tools, resources, and support for Healthy to the C.O.R.E programming
- Renaissance Chapter: also support AHA programs that promote healthy lifestyles for our target groups
- Michigan Science Center: STEAM events in 2018 and 2019
- Detroit Symphony Orchestra: expose 50 Detroit Public School students to the Arts through our sponsorship
- The Detroit Institute of the Arts: the Healing the Hearts with Music and the Arts program
- Detroit Public Schools: to promote voter registration and civic engagement to improve quality of life for high school students

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Three (3) goals/objectives were established to ensure that we successfully integrated health improvement into our facet programming and to improve the health of Wayne County:

- To incorporate a health activity, event and/or education into each facet encounter with stakeholders (i.e. exercise before/after meetings, healthy food offerings with education to participants, health screenings, etc.).
- Engage, empower and educate the community about reduction of chronic stress and healthy lifestyle choices in partnership with the American Heart Association and other community partners by hosting community events and other means of communication.
- Brand umbrella and facet programs utilizing print, web and social media outlets to promote community programming, special events, education, and partnerships.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The goals of The Renaissance (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated are framed to improve the well-being of vulnerable residents in our community...Healing Hearts through Music and the Arts. The goals that we aspire to are to enrich and reinforce emotional and physical well-being through healthy lifestyles, education, learning and opportunities to succeed. Our umbrella programming is designed to celebrate our African legacy and cultural traditions while fostering a successful future for the targeted groups that we serve. Moreover, we continue to forge long-lasting partnerships with community organizations to reinforce the important aspects of our umbrella programming, such as the United Way, The American Heart Association, and Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. We share the dreams of Martin Luther King, Jr... “Not everyone can be great, however, everyone can serve”.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- 100 participation and buy-in from the chapter has been a tremendous quality for a successful program.
- We have successfully delivered programs to reduce chronic stress, expose the community to healthier lifestyle choices and influenced 700 new persons and their families in our community.
- Our integrated approach to programming for all facets with the American Heart Association, and other partners, to bring evidence-based tools and resources to residents in Wayne County.
South Suburban Chicago (IL)  
Umbrella  
IMPACT II: #Mind, Body and Soul

Number of Members in Chapter: 57  
Number of People Served: 459  
Location: West Harvey/Dixmoor Chicago, IL

Number of Members Participating in Program: 55  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2  
Funds Spent on Program: $70,623

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- West Harvey/Dixmoor School District 147 Staff: provide administrative and technical assistance
- King Elementary School: provide administrative and educator assistance
- City of Harvey, IL: provided Career Day coordination/assistance
- Harvey Police Department: provide anti-bullying instruction
- Harvey Master Gardeners: provide school garden
- Univ of IL Extension: provide horticulture specialists
- 4-H Clubs: provide robotics, nature, pen pal curricula
- Boy and Girl Scouts of America: provide administrative/parent training
- Irons Oaks Environmental Ed Center: provide STEM/team building and leadership training re: anti-bullying
- Morton Arboretum: provide STEM
- Museum of Science and Industry: provide STEM
- Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at Governors State University: provide STEM/art/team building re: anti-bullying
- Center for Performing Arts at GSU: provide STEM/art/cyber-bullying
- St. Mary's Prep School, Jamaica: provide pen pal partner
- McDonald's Corporation: provide gift cards
- Sterling Aero Enhancement: provide aviation/robotics instruction
- O'Hare Airport and American Airlines staff: Career Day
- Stroger Hospital staff: Career Day
- Gabriel Environmental Services: Career Day
- First Ladies Health Initiative: provide materials
- Urban Gateways: provide writing/art/drama
- Aubrey Smith: provide Arco Lab scientist
- Cook County Forest Preserve staff: provide Arbor Day instruction/resources

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To seamlessly integrate relevant foci from the five program Facets in the successful implementation of an Umbrella program during the 2017 - 2019 program cycle. To be measured by evidence of a calendar of activities which demonstrates the participation of all five Facets.
- By May 2019, to increase the number of community-based partnerships that support our program goals and implementation by 50%.
- By the end of the 2017 - 2019 program cycle, to provide evidence of the expansion and deepening of student interest and enthusiasm regarding concepts, events and careers related to STEM, increasing their exposure to expertise and experiences beyond the classroom and continuing to broaden that exposure by integrating and aligning art activities w/ specific science lessons (STEAM). To be measured by student, teacher and partner surveys, as well as a calendar of activities.
- By May 2019, school-wide SWIS data will reflect a decrease in the number of bullying-related discipline referrals among students by 60% through the implementation of an anti-bullying curriculum and a program of activities focused on educating, exposing and empowering students.
PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The South Suburban Chicago (IL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has committed to supporting the children and families in Harvey/Dixmoor School District 147. We have formed strong and productive relationships w/ the District, King Elementary School and numerous community and corporate partners. Our program has been recognized and praised by School Board members, the Superintendent, and the school administration. The teachers are enthusiastic and participate more in the enhanced science, arts, anti-bullying, pen pal and healthy lifestyles programs. There is increased interest and enthusiasm on the part of the students as well. In addition, consolidating all of our efforts thru the Umbrella program has enabled us to focus our energy and resources in an even more impactful way and to be true to our mission and vision of bringing about transformative outcomes in the Chicago Southland. As a result of our STEAM program, the school district has revamped its entire science curriculum, retrained teachers and instituted an after-school STEM program for students in grades 2 - 5. One aspect of that program is an Aviation Club for students introduced to it thru instruction w/ our flight simulators. The district also recently opened a new STEM lab at King School called "SmartLab: Creative Learning System". All classrooms utilize it for science activities once per week. As a result of the anti-bullying component of our program, discipline referrals have been reduced significantly. Thru presentations, reading, journaling, and unique and creative enrichment activities, students have learned what is and is not bullying, the different types of bullying and the consequences of their actions. They have become more collaborative and more self-aware. An additional impact of the anti-bullying aspect of the program is the improved relationship between students and the Harvey Police Dept. Our Jamaica pen pal activities have enabled students to improve their communication and writing skills and to become more interested in and informed about people and cultures different from their own. Finally, in collaboration w/ SSCC, the Univ. of IL Extension, 4-H, community master gardeners, staff and parents, students reinforced STEM concepts and healthy eating habits w/ vegetables grown in and harvested from their own school garden. To quote School Board president Bonnie Rateree, "The Links are really having an impact on our school community and we truly value this partnership!"

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

• The increased and enhanced collaboration between all Facets that served to foster the development and implementation of higher quality, more integrated, better aligned and resourced program offerings.

• The collaboration of the South Suburban Chicago (IL) Links with other community partners and service organizations to successfully fill a void in the educational and enrichment opportunities available to at-risk children in the Harvey/Dixmoor communities.

• Its unique, interactive, engaging, high-energy, high-interest approach to delivering information to the students, integrating literacy and providing opportunities for exposure and enrichment that creatively reinforces concepts related to STEM, art, social science, health (physical/mental) and social-emotional learning.
Springfield (OH) Umbrella
Gammon House/Springfield Links Partnership-2018

Number of Members in Chapter: 22
Number of People Served: 2,548
Location: Springfield, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 22
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Funds Spent on Program: $8,900

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Gammon House Board of Trustees: active partner in the delivery of selected activities; monthly meetings between Facet Chairs and Gammon House Board of Trustees
• Springfield NAACP Minority Health Committee: annual Minority Health Fair
• Naravetla Medical Practice: annual Minority Health Fair
• Clark County Combined Health District: annual Minority Health Fair

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Design and implement in collaboration with Gammon House staff a marketing campaign for enhancing the visibility of the museum house within a radius of 50 miles.
• Increase community participation in Gammon House experiential educational activities, workshops, tours, and the Juneteenth observance by 15% annually over a three-year period.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Gammon House-Links Partnership project provided support essential for expanding educational programs, events, and activities related to recording, preserving, and celebrating the rich history of the African American community in Springfield, Ohio. Built in 1850, the Gammon House was a "safe house" on the Underground Railroad. It is one of only three existing "safe houses" in Ohio owned by free people of color. The partnership afforded the Springfield Links an opportunity to help strengthen the rich history of the black community and to participate in an endeavor that will have a positive and long-term impact on the community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Publication of the first book, "The Safe House," which is sold at various venues and available on Amazon; 2nd book, "Henry's Journey to Freedom" will soon be published.
• "Preserving Our Legacy" project with video recordings along with written transcripts and a booklet highlighting 14 selected community elders; (c) Co-sponsoring of community health fairs in collaboration with several community partners; conducting of health screenings at selected venues; healthy heart initiatives at 3 selected local churches.
Number of Members in Chapter: 58
Number of People Served: 75
Location: St. Louis, MO

Number of Members Participating in Program: 54
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 9
Funds Spent on Program: $16,382

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- College Access & Readiness agencies (specifically, 4-H) provides support in entrance exams, financial aid, curriculum, and career pathways.
- Higher Learning & Research Institutes are instrumental in college tours, admissions and financial aid sessions, and program space. These include Harris Stowe University (HBCU) and St. Louis Community College, Florrisant Valley.
- Health, Science, and Medical Settings assist in achieving our STEM focus and goal of increasing health literacy and outcomes of girls and their communities. These included BJC, Washington University Medical School and Aviation Center
- Community, Cultural, and Global agencies provide enrichment opportunities for civic engagement, cultural appreciation, and national and global affairs. This includes the Urban League, Haitian Relief of St. Louis, Contemporary Art Museum, NAACP, YWCA, and Delta Sigma Theta.
- Financial Institutions & Corporations develop students’ financial literacy and familiarity with resources and tools, while larger & black-owned corporations have underwritten our two signature scholarship fundraisers, including Well Fargo, Alley Wallet Wise, Centene Corp, and Edward Jones.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
In the 2017-2019 program year, the chapter aims to have a 100% high school graduation rate for My Sister’s Keeper (MSK), and a 75% postsecondary education enrollment rate for graduating seniors.
To achieve this we will:
- Offer 36 programs aimed at enhancing the success of MSKs and their communities, including 11 activities directly targeting young people and their educational, social, and cultural development.
- Offer 15 programs to increase health literacy and improve health outcomes.
- increase civic engagement of MSKs by exposing them to African American arts, history, and achievements, and providing advocacy and service opportunities in their communities, nationally, and globally.
- Offer 7 programs to assist all graduating seniors in the successful transition from high school to postsecondary education by providing scholarship money ($2,000 or more) to each student, and continuous communication, support, and mentorship during her postsecondary school years.
- Have 100% involvement of Links members in MSK activities and mentoring in order to increase our collective awareness and ability and commitment to supporting their postsecondary success.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
In 2009, the St. Louis Chapter of The Links, Incorporated initiated My Sister’s Keeper: Pipeline to College to increase the number of lower-income African American students in the region who earn a postsecondary degree, with priority attention to African American girls whose parents did not attend college as well as other vulnerable girls. The program aims to reduce gross racial and income disparities in St. Louis that impact a large portion of the African American community and reproduce disparities in the next generation. Specifically, approximately 60% of jobs will require postsecondary education yet only 26% of African Americans in the region have at least a two-year degree (compared to 43% among all adults). Furthermore, an adult with a bachelor’s degree has a median earnings 40% higher than one with just a high school diploma and 17% higher than with an associate’s degree. In partnership with local schools, civic organizations, cultural institutions, and educational services, My Sister’s Keeper use an integrative approach to disrupt
the school-to-prison pipeline by developing a pipeline-to-college collaborative that enhances girls’ opportunities for postsecondary education access, persistence, success, and attainment. While cohorts serve to support and encourage each other in their educational aspirations, Link members serve as personal mentors to participants, offering them support and connections to resources during their later years in high school and throughout college. Each Chapter facet contributes to the umbrella program by offering enrichment opportunities with the aim of enhancing girl’s holistic development and exposing them to a variety of educational, civic, cultural, and global issues necessary for success in college and the workplace and for economic mobility. Now in its ninth year, MSK has matriculated 75 girls in 10 cohorts. As of May 2019, 22 girls would have graduated from high school (100% graduation rate), nine have advanced to college, five are currently enrolled in college, one has graduated from a 4-year college, and another will graduate in Dec 2019. The results that far exceed the performance of their peers not in the MSK program.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- Successfully transitioning eight lower-income and first-generation girls from 9th grade to college, and supporting them in college through scholarships, mentoring, and linking them to resources.
- Ensuring 100% high school graduation and no unplanned pregnancies among all 22 seniors, and helping those who were unable to transition to college immediately secure a job and design a plan for postsecondary education.
- Increasing awareness of the importance of postsecondary education for mobility in today’s workplace and resources for college assistance among participants, their families, and their communities, with the aims of increasing both college enrollment and success among lower-income students and community advocacy for greater access to college.
West Towns (IL)
Umbrella
Lincoln Elementary: Committing to Academic Excellence

Number of Members in Chapter: 37
Number of People Served: 1,000
Location: Bellwood, IL

Number of Members Participating in Program: 37
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 5
Funds Spent on Program: $10,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Lincoln Elementary PTA: input on needs assessment, participation in various program activities including field trips.
- Bellwood Public Library: Executive Director provided information on the impact of State budget cuts on the Bellwood community and partnered with WT on proposed in-classroom instruction activity.
- Argonne National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, SciTech Museum, Microsoft, AT&T: conducted hands-on experiments with students during STEM Fest.
- The Mission Continues (veteran’s community service organization): provided library Spring cleaning.
- Central Basic School located in Montego Bay, Jamaica: provided an opportunity for students to interact with students in another country via letter writing.
- School District #88 Superintendent’s office: confirmed the need for mentoring programs for boy ages 10-12

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Increase by 5% the percentage of students reading on grade level by Grade 4 starting with Kindergarten students and following them through Grade 4 as demonstrated by standardized test scores each year.
- Increase funding for school improvements including technology enhancement, by at least $1,000 yearly, and involving at least one new program sponsor each year; and purchase PBIS incentives quarterly.
- Increase the number of family members involved in student learning as evidenced by volunteering in school and participation in school events by 5% each program year.
- Increase the number of Links volunteering at school activities by 1% each program year.
- Increase the visibility of WT Links in the community by establishing at least one new program partnership each program year.
- Purchase PBIS incentives quarterly.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
“Lincoln Elementary: Committing to Academic Excellence” increases the percentage of students reading on grade level starting with Kindergarten students and continuing with them through 4th Grade. It takes students who do not know the alphabet or numbers and brings them to perform on grade level. The program benefitted the entire school with school-wide activities and purchases designed to fill gaps resulting from ongoing state budget shortages and food deserts. For example, STY purchased software to assist students to simulate coding and formed an NSBE JR. chapter. The Arts proved that a Lincoln student could become a National Poster Art Contest winner! The Chapter broadened its presence in the community by donating school supplies to the inaugural Back to School Rally in 2015 for over 400 students and 20 classroom teachers. Additional school supply donations increased in December 2017 and 2018 and these donations included items that were used as Christmas donations to 93 underprivileged students, and as positive behavior incentive gifts for the PBIS store. Health initiatives included donating turkeys and non-perishable food items at Thanksgiving and Christmas to a select group of underprivileged families. Recognizing that parent involvement is a leading indicator of academic success, WT hosts activities to encourage family engagement. In 2017, the current principal Ms. Banks heightened engagement efforts with the parents and the PTA rebranded itself as a PTO. The PTO members requested that WT sponsor activities at the monthly meetings and WT provided a series of financial literacy workshops that included Ally Wallet Wise and college savings. The Chapter provides activities that focus on cultural awareness, reading, and the arts. Our activities allow the students to write letters to children in Jamaica and the ability to read literature that
is popular in Africa and the Caribbean. The Chapter also works to support the school’s behavior initiatives. WT purchased items for the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports the program twice quarterly. Our volunteer efforts resulted in the adoption of a school district volunteer policy. WT has also received praise from the superintendent and plans are underway to plan and implement district-wide program activities. We are proudly known in the community as “The Links Ladies,” women who make a difference.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**
The most outstanding qualities of the program are the power of our efforts in transforming individual lives and the community.

- There is a solid leadership alignment, strong community partnership and an unbreakable bond with the students.
- The students were introduced to careers in the arts, science, and literature and are beginning to articulate dreams for their future, whereas they previously responded, "I don't know" when asked to imagine a future.
- Students participated in the Links National Poster Art Contest and a 3rd-grade student placed 3rd in her category.
- The school social worker has developed a strong relationship with WT and is able to directly report when there are children who need uniforms, school supplies, food needs, and Christmas gifts.
- The Principal, teachers, students and their families applaud our efforts and have increased participation by 10% at our daytime activities and field trips.
- Our efforts have gotten the attention of the school superintendent.
Wilberforce (OH)
Umbrella
L.I.N.K.S. Learn, Imagine, Nurture Kids, Through STEAM

Number of Members in Chapter: 25
Number of People Served: 350
Location: Greene County, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 25
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $1,230

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
The Wilberforce Chapter partnered with the Parent Teacher Organization at Cox Elementary School. The PTO donated money and supplies for the poster contest and art projects associated with the facets.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Improve literacy to increase the ability to pass the Ohio Third Grade Reading Guarantee.
• Increase healthy communication and interaction among students.
• Develop an increased appreciation for creative arts.
• Increase mental and physical wellness with nutrition.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Wilberforce (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated continues to create an educational, friendship and service footprint in Greene County. Chapter members have developed and nurtured relationships with educational institutions in their local area. The most impactful relationship is with the students, teachers, and parents at Cox Elementary School. Students and teachers from Cox and the Wilberforce (OH) Chapter have weekly interactions and engagement. Chapter members are present in the classroom, providing individualized attention to students identified as needing additional assistance in science, math, and literacy. Chapter members focus most efforts on literacy improvement in order for children to pass the standardized test for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Link members are committed to nutritional health and overall wellness. Students learn to build healthy and strong relationships with adults and peers. They increase their awareness of the world around them as well as how to create a healthy emotional balance within themselves. Students learn about other cultures' similarities and differences while enhancing their nutritional palate with healthy snack preparation activities. Students also learn how to express themselves through various artistic mediums, written word, and role-play and poster creation. Cox Elementary is committed to creating an atmosphere for students and is nurturing, encouraging and challenging. Wilberforce (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated proudly joins with Cox Elementary School and their commitment to the effort displayed in their school Motto “Cox Elementary School, where every Student is a Shining Star!”

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Preparing students for standardized literacy testing.
• Allowing Wilberforce (OH) Chapter continues their educational footprint in Greene County.
• Enhancing students' educational experiences to include experiential assignments facilitated by community volunteers.
Archway (MO) Integrated
Ending Modern Day Slavery-Halting Human Trafficking

Number of Members in Chapter: 58
Number of People Served: 120
Location: St. Louis, MO

Number of Members Participating in Program: 28
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Funds Spent on Program: $317

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- Webster University: provided the venue and representatives from their social work and legal department to serve as panelists.
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri: provided panelist for the forum.
- St. Louis Police Department: The Sergeant/ Detective for the Human Trafficking Unit served as a panelist. Healing Action, Made for Freedom, and International Institute provided exhibit booths with information on resources and prevention.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a bi-annual community forum regarding human trafficking in Missouri inclusive of law enforcement officials.
- Partner with agencies who support victims and survivors of human trafficking.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

Human trafficking is not only a global issue, but it is also a Metropolitan St. Louis problem. With St. Louis being the "Gateway to the West" many times, victims and their exploiters arrive in St. Louis in an effort to move east or west. In an effort to raise awareness of and stop human trafficking, the Archway (MO) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, collaborated with Webster University, The Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, The Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department, and various support agencies in the hosting of a Human Trafficking forum. During the forum survivor stories were shared, strategies used to support victims were explained; the legal ramifications of human trafficking were reviewed. Participants learned the extent of the problem in our community and globally, the "warning signs" to watch for in the identification of victims, local and national resources available to assist survivors and prevention efforts that are underway.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The sharing of "warning signs" to look for when determining if one should report a concern.
- The sharing of resources to use when supporting a victim/survivor.
- Increased awareness in what human trafficking consists of and how victims are lured into human trafficking.
- The awareness of local / state human trafficking statistics.
Central Missouri (MO)  
Integrated  
Healthy Me...Is Easy to Be

Number of Members in Chapter: 34  
Number of People Served: 11  
Location: Jefferson City, MO

Number of Members Participating in Program: 27  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2  
Funds Spent on Program: $463.25

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:  
• Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City in Jefferson City, MO

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
• Educate 3rd graders on healthier eating habits.  
• Practice reading and listening skills, using lessons from Can You Imagine ME? Curriculum.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT  
Our “Healthy Me ... Is Easy to Be” program uses The Links, Inc., Can You Imagine ME? Curriculum, which was implemented in October 2017. To-date the members of Central Missouri (MO) Chapter have actively participated in the promotion of emotional, social and physical wellness with the program participants at the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital City in Jefferson City, MO. We feel optimistic our objectives and activities influence the lives of these girls and boys in positive ways that will be transformational. Educational knowledge gained through discussions and interactive activities from the Can You Imagine ME? Curriculum will allow for these girls and boys to formulate healthy attitudes and lifestyles which will be carried into adulthood. In addition, the program aims to foster qualities youth can use for a lifetime such as patience, creativity, responsibility, and leadership.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES  
• Our program aims to provide support and tools for the 3rd grade girls and boys served, enabling them to understand the many complexities and variables surrounding pre-puberty, puberty and young adulthood.  
• Our consistent monthly sessions and activities focus on building self-esteem and being comfortable with their uniqueness, which enhances their understanding of the importance of developing healthy lifestyle choices.  
• The level of planning and implementation of sessions and activities has been thorough, using the Can You Imagine ME? Curriculum.  
• Sessions and activities focus on the needs of the girls and boys given their development and knowledge, infused with elements of fun and energy.
Chicago (IL) Integrated
Links2Hope: Closing the Mental Health Gap in the African-American Community

Number of Members in Chapter: 56
Number of People Served: 395
Location: Chicago, IL

Number of Members Participating in Program: 50
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $27,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)-Chicago: NAMI, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), focuses on reducing stigma surrounding mental illness; this is done by providing community support, education, awareness, advocacy, and research. NAMI-Chicago provides training, outreach, and scheduling of Bridges Of Hope (BOH) presentations to faith-based African-American audiences on mental health conditions, resources, and services. Our chapter currently has 19 NAMI-trained BOH presenters, an increase from our initial 2017 cohort of 9 presenters. These presenters are trained in how to deliver mental health literacy presentations. NAMI-Chicago, through their relationship with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), provides statistical analysis of pre-and post-test surveys completed by the faith-based congregations to measure the impact of our BOH presentations. The partnership and signed Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)-Chicago specifically identified the Bridges of Hope (BOH) tool to deliver presentations to African-American faith-based organizations in the city of Chicago. Through our grant efforts, our collaboration has extended to additional community organizations that focus on mental health treatment. The site visit served as our “first step” to providing expanded support to these community organizations.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Reduce the stigma of mental illness by 12% in Chicago African-American faith-based congregations who receive mental health presentations by April 30, 2018.
• Increase the perceived mental health knowledge of signs and symptoms of mental illness by 5% in Chicago African-American faith-based congregations who receive mental health presentations by April 30, 2018.
• Increase the 2018 Speaker Series attendance by 50% of the 2017 Speaker Series by June 30, 2018.
• Increase the Chicago (IL) Chapter of Links, Incorporated mental health awareness knowledge base by 10% (over the 2016 baseline) by April 30, 2019.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Good mental health is integral to human health and well-being. Various social, economic, and physical environments operating at different stages of life shape a person’s mental health and many common mental disorders. (1) Our program promotes mental health awareness (for chapter and community), reduces the stigma of mental health conditions and fosters our program and our brand. The Chicago (IL) Chapter uses the Service Delivery Model (SDM) to implement the Links, Incorporated national Mental Health Initiative. Our integrated program, titled “Links2Hope: Closing the Mental Health Gap in the African-American Community,” combines four facets: HHS, NTS, The Arts, and STY. We first formed a partnership with NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness)-Chicago. Chapter members were trained by NAMI to deliver “Bridges of Hope” (BOH) mental health presentations to African-American faith-based audiences. These presentations provided measurable mental health awareness while educating chapter members. Secondly, we involved ourselves with the community by producing an Annual Speaker Series to educate the broader community. In the past 3 years attendance at each Speaker Series has increased by 50%. Mental health has been adopted into all aspects of our chapter’s undertakings. One example is our outreach through mental health grant funding, and subsequent site visits, to youth-serving community organizations impacted by stressors related to trauma and violence. Several of these organizations used art therapy-based interventions. Youth discover how to choose nonviolent responses to stressors, have increased resiliency and improved understanding of their trauma experience. Another example is our chapter’s annual Power and Purpose Luncheon, a civic event employing mental health as its enduring theme. As we complete our
fourth year, the impact of “Links2Hope” proves this model worthy of replication. Other chapters can replicate our partnerships and engagement with community agencies while broadening their impact on mental health awareness, stigma reduction and improving access to treatment. Research indicates 70 to 90% of individuals who receive mental health interventions improve their symptoms and quality of life. The long-term impact of our program is to reduce the disparities and decrease the mental health gap in the African-American community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- An effective curriculum built a mental health knowledge base, provided problem-solving strategies, understanding, and strengthening of safety nets within religious communities. This increased awareness of social determinants of mental health and destigmatized mental illness. The program’s design and flexibility used interactive engagement among audience participants and addressed relevant and contemporary mental health topics. This created a nurturing environment using personal, free and open discussion of mental health concerns, experiences, and questions.
- The use of Links to address the African-American community increased Chapter members’ investment, commitment, and engagement.
- Chapter members from all facets conducted Site Visits to evaluate the impact of the services provided by our grantees’ mental health programs. These visits built a stronger sense of connection and identified further community collaborative opportunities.
Cincinnati (OH)
Integrated
The Links Youth Docent Program at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Number of Members in Chapter: 55
Number of People Served: 396
Location: Greater Cincinnati, OH area

Number of Members Participating in Program: 19
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 16
Funds Spent on Program: $22,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center: implementation by the Freedom Center Staff.
• The Cincinnati (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated: implementation and funding.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• To provide unique learning experiences rooted in African-American history that are outside of the traditional classroom setting. Through these experiences, the students acquire a historical perspective, not only regarding race relations and slavery but also of United States history as a whole.
• Introducing and analyzing historical processes and methodologies.
• The sharpening of oral and written communication skills occurs through a series of oral presentations to visitors of the Freedom Center and written articles and posts about the students' experiences in the YDP.
• Learn practical skills that help prepare them for higher education and to enter the professional workforce (i.e., critical thinking skills and analysis, leadership skills, financial planning, resume writing, public speaking, social media etiquette, tolerance of differences, etc.).

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Links Youth Docent Program at The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is a collaboration between The Cincinnati (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and The Freedom Center. Conceived during the riotous and racially volatile climate of the late 1990's in the Greater Cincinnati Area, The Links Youth Docent Program anticipated the impact of the Freedom Center's historical revelations, not only of the processes, methodologies and long-lasting effects of slavery in the United States, but of slavery throughout history and, perhaps even more profoundly, man's inhumanity to man. The Youth Docent Program seeks to provide diverse high school students with historical and experiential learning about the African American journey that transforms the students into knowledgeable and critical thinkers, confident and skilled communicators, appraisers of the historical past and, hopefully, leaders of change for the future. For sixteen years, the Members of The Cincinnati Chapter of Links, Incorporated, the students' parents and the Freedom Center staff, and patrons have witnessed the transformation of the participants from students into docents, from pupils into teachers, and from observers into change agents. Our gift to the participants is that they can take the knowledge and skills learned in the Youth Docent Program and create a brighter future for themselves and for our community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
The Links Youth Docent Program is truly a transformational program that brings together truly unique and diverse young people, who seek to learn about and understand the past, in order to change the future. The student who chooses to apply to the YDP, in general, has already made thoughtful observations about the world around him or her and/or is curious and open to new experiences and friendships.
• At the induction of each new group, many of the participants display the awkwardness and shyness of adolescents thrust into a diverse, unfamiliar setting.
• In stark contrast, the graduating Youth Docents exude ease, confidence and, a connectedness that results from addressing and experiencing difficult issues of, not only our Nation's but of the world's history.

The YDP uniquely nurtures insight into the human condition while developing practical skills, both of which will be useful throughout the participants' lives.
Circle City (IN)  
Integrated  
Real World for Real Girls

Number of Members in Chapter: 34  
Number of Members Participating in Program: 23  
Number of People Served: 35  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 7  
Location: Circle City, IN  
Funds Spent on Program: $3,360

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Henry W. Longfellow Medical/Stem Middle School: provided the cohort and administrative assistance such as communications with the students and families represented.
- Indianapolis Public Schools Administration: helped identify and introduce our Chapter to Longfellow Administration

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Promote the importance of health and wellness, specifically related to exercise and nutrition.
  - Provide healthy snacks at each of the regularly scheduled gatherings held at Longfellow Middle School.
  - Provide a minimum of five developmental segments about nutrition and physical activity throughout the school year
- Promote the understanding that there is a community of professional women who are waiting to have a relationship with them and mentors
  - Engage a minimum of 28 women from the chapter in participating in the regular sessions.
  - There are nine months in the year when the RGC is in session. (exclude June, July, and August) There will be at least two sessions each month with the RGC each month planned by the chapter.
- Provide opportunities to experience cultural, political and social activities that will broaden the girl’s horizons.
  - Each of the five facets will assume responsibility for planning two months of activities. (four developmental segments) Services to Youth will only be responsible for planning one month because they are the lead facet in the program. They assume responsibility for assuring proper coverage.
- Provide tools to close the financial and educational achievement gap.
  - The percentage of girls committing to go to college from the RGC will be 90%.
  - The girls in our program will have enhanced resumes that include GPAs consistently above 3.0, community service and a portfolio of extra-curricular activities

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Real World Real Girls is an initiative of the Circle City (IN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. The primary objective of this ongoing program is to educate and mentor girls of color in middle school (grades 7 and 8) by providing them with the necessary tools for success relative to their academic and personal lives. Real World for Real Girls activities are scheduled throughout the year and the girls are invited to play, talk, learn, study or just interact with one another and members of the Circle City (IN) Chapter. Activities are planned with a sensitivity to the cultural, mind, body and spiritual needs of minority teenage girls. The program partners with the school(s) that the girls attend, the parents/guardians and the coaching/teaching staff to provide continuity of our messaging and to fortify the safety net for the girls. Each year’s activities culminate with the RWRG conference, an interactive experience that features various workshops, seminars, and activities. While the activities scheduled throughout the year take place at Longfellow Middle School, the outreach for the conference is a citywide initiative. We reach out to several school districts in the greater Indianapolis area to encourage attendance at the conference. RWRG is important because research shows that teens who engage in positive social and academic activities thrive more than their peers who lack such opportunities. When teens have mentors – specifically people they can relate to – their chances of success in life are even greater. Through its programming, RWRG enriches the lives of local girls – immediately influencing them while also laying a foundation for future success well into adulthood.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

• The joy and fun that the girls and our members have in spending time together sharing new, educational experiences. The girls have embraced the concept of being “little sisters” and enjoy being part of a sisterhood. They enjoy and appreciate the exposure to new experiences.

• The excellent relationships that have been established with the leadership at Longfellow Middle School. Time and resources have been made available to support the program. It is a partnership with a singular goal: to aid the girls.

• The framework of the program allows for the interests and skills of the chapter members to be utilized in ways that are inclusive and collaborative.
Dayton (OH)
Integrated
Wellness BEneFITs

Number of Members in Chapter: 40
Number of People Served: 1,633
Location: (Miami Chapel) Dayton, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 40
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 9
Funds Spent on Program: $25,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- Dayton Public Schools: implement wellness in literacy, wellness in mind, body and soul (arts)
- Learning Through Art, Inc.: Books Alive! curriculum, training k-2 program
- Vectren Corporation: co-sponsor, Books Alive!
- Regional Transit Authority: provides transportation for field trip experiences
- The Dayton Art Institute: arts, exhibits
- Premier Hospital Network: African-American Wellness Walk/Mahogany’s Child
- American Cancer Society: annual drive to fund research
- Kettering Hospital: Kettering Walk for Women’s Health
- E.W. Scripps
- Dayton Contemporary Dance Company
- Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
- Dayton Metro Libraries
- Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS): source providing data on demographics, mental health, and trauma-informed care, health forums
- Montgomery County Public Health: data on demographics of targeted 45417 zip code area

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Wellness in Literacy and Greater Academic Success. Implementing the Books Alive program, the Chapter will expose 85% of children in grades k-2, to books addressing anti-bullying, character building and conscious-discipline in the target school.
- The Chapter will increase by 85% its positive, long-term impact by increasing the chapter’s working relationships and partnerships with community agencies that are already working to achieve successful outcomes in the targeted neighborhood.
- The Chapter will increase by 80% the engagement of each facet to lead a wellness programming focus that incorporates at least three other facets in the planning and incites more chapter members to use their expertise.
- The Chapter will leverage an increase of 25% of its financial resources through research and grant writing to ensure that wellness programs are sustained over time.
- The Chapter will continue to seek to collaborate with the sociology and educational departments of our local universities, particularly our HBCUs (Central State, Wilberforce University), University of Dayton, and Miami University, to enhance methods of research and evaluation of the identified needs, design, implementation and delivery of our programs.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Dayton Chapter of the Links, Incorporated creates the Wellness BEneFITs program to address the disparities in education, economic well-being, and mental health that plague one of the most impoverished areas of this targeted community. Through the leveraging of human and capital resources, the Dayton Chapter partners with the school district, churches, universities, county and neighborhood associations to increase exposure to trauma-informed care and to transform the lives of the children and their families.
**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- The Dayton Chapter provided wellness education and enrichment activities for the children, teachers, and families of the targeted community to address issues of mental health and trauma in their lives.
- Teachers enjoyed the Books Alive! training and curriculum and engaged in the activities with great enthusiasm. Many remarked that the experience was one that they looked forward to having each time we met.
- Children appreciated the instruction on anti-bullying and peer-to-peer engagement in the finale presentations was impressive! They exhibited engagement at the final performances; their artwork adorns the walls of the school as messages are being reinforced throughout their school day and into their lives outside of the school.
- The participation of all chapter members, active, alumnae, and platinum, modeled life beyond poverty and served as an example to the children and families.
Fort Wayne (IN)  
Integrated  
2017-2019 Area Program Report: National Trends and Services

Number of Members in Chapter: 19  
Number of People Served: 1,000  
Location: Allen County and Fort Wayne, IN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 19  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4  
Funds Spent on Program: $157

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Local NAACP: shared their toolkit (www.Thisismyvote.org); reviewed NAACP national database of non-partisan candidates’ response to questions; reviewed legislative briefs; met several times throughout the year to coordinate the “Meet the Nov Candidates” forum; worked with NAACP Youth Council to “walk through” the “Candidates Forum” sequence; reviewed youths’ roles and responsibilities for the forum.
- Links Chapter: gave a technical assistance lesson to NAACP youth, “How to Skype using the Public Access; collaborated with the Public Access - TV staff to coordinate camera crew and editing requirements.
- TV Local radio anchors: moderated the Candidate Forum Panels.
- r – youth: served as timekeepers during the forum.
- Election Board: shared their trainings; collaborated with publicity; acquired detailed list of Candidates on the 2018 ballot.
- FWAASC collaborative members: attended the forum and staffed voter registration tables. Candidates Forum, Saturday, September 29, 2018, the McMillen Park Community Center, 3901 Abbott Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806. 9 am - 1 pm - Met, August and September, with McMillen Community Center Staff, to coordinate the “Meet the Candidates” forum; worked with Facilities Manager to “walk through” the “Candidates Forum” sequence; reviewed location, logistics, and Public Access TV roles and responsibilities for the forum.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- To deliver informative voter education and voter engagement programs, including forums, historical reenactments, etc. for citizen’s in Fort Wayne (IN). Timelines -- May primary, National Voter Registration Day, and National Day of Racial Hearing January 23, 2019.
- To teach “state approved” social media voter registration strategies. Focus on the “text” voter registration and the “app” registration. Recruit millennials to train residents.
- Present civic engagement for preschoolers and their parents with historical re-enactments! At our local Martin Luther King Montessori School, 3 - 5 year old children eagerly held their dime prior to boarding an actual “CitiLink” public transportation bus. After dropping their coin in the fare box, students walked past “Rosa Parks” (historical reenactor and storyteller - Chief Condra Ridley) and took their seats. Date: January 22, 2019 (National Day of Racial Healing).
- To extend community partnerships by collaborating GOTV efforts with local advocacy groups. Goals: To establish and implement an African American Voter Initiative that mobilizes Urban League, NAACP, Sororities, and other Social groups. Meet the 2018 Candidates Forum –Goal: to provide the opportunity for Citizens in Fort Wayne and Allen County to 1) meet candidates, 2) hear their platforms, 3) ask questions, 4) inform citizens of issues that impact them and the community,
- Engage local Citizens to Connect Voting to Issues in a Non-partisan environment.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Fort Wayne (IN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated publicly established the Chapter’s in-depth advocacy role by implementing a GOTV and Voter Education and Voter Engagement Campaign during the 2018 election year. A voter collaborative was established. Social media voter registration was promoted and implemented, focus - “text” registration or “app” registration. Furthermore, the Fort Wayne (IN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated organized and
implemented a non-partisan Candidates’ Forum. All legally qualified candidates for all Indiana offices were invited to appear, which included over 30 non-partisan, Democrats, Libertarians, Republican, and Green Party Candidates. Candidates for School Board, Sheriff, County Commissioners, State Senators, US Representatives, and State Treasurer provided answers to questions addressing policy, civil rights, equity, gun violence, etc. Community members and Elected officials (and a few candidates who lost their bids for office) continue talking about the “Meet-the-Candidates-forum.” Previous year comments include: 1) This (the Links) forum was one of the most challenging Q. & A. Sessions; 2) Are you going to repeat this event? 3) Wow! Your questions require a lot of thought; 4) who are the Links? Not only has the GOTV campaign increased the Chapters’ visibility, but also, The Fort Wayne (IN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated extended our community partnerships. Currently, the NAACP and other community groups are following our lead and planning with us as we implement Advocacy for Families and the Community: the 2019 and 2020 GOTV and Candidate Forums! We look forward to broadening our coverage of non-partisan issues, especially in combination with The Public Access TV audience. Evaluating and improving our advocacy role in the community lead to a collaboration with the NAACP on gun violence: “Stop the Violence, Stop the Funerals, Pick Up a Book, Not a Gun! Last, but not least, because of our extended community partnerships, The Fort Wayne (IN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated will facilitate the forum, and increase publicity for Rosa Parks reenactor visits MLK Montessori students aboard bus https://www.wane.com/news/...mlk-montessori.../1035693823 Photos: Freedom Bus Tour at MLK Montessori

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- Youth Civic Engagement held at our local Martin Luther King Montessori School, 3 - 5 year old children eagerly held their dime prior to boarding an actual “CitiLink” public transportation bus. After dropping their coin in the fare box, students walked past “Rosa Parks“ (historical reenactor). Date: January 22, 2019
- We strengthened our Forum “toolkit,” implemented during our 4th Biennial Meet the Candidates Forum, Saturday, September 29, 2018, convened over 30 candidates.
- Outcomes: Lead by our Chapter President, the initial Voter Initiative Committee was established. Advocates include - Fort Wayne (IN) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, Fort Wayne/Allen County Branch #3049 NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Club, Inc., and Fort Wayne African American Service Collaborative - FWAASC.
Great Lakes (MI)  
Integrated  
STOP Human Trafficking in Michigan

Number of Members in Chapter: 46  
Number of People Served: 247  
Location: Detroit, MI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 29  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2  
Funds Spent on Program: $1,893

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Wayne County Department of Public Services (Director of Communications & Community Outreach): moderator FBI (Detroit Division): panel participant
• Sinai Grace Hospital: forum location (auditorium), covered tables, chairs, breakfast
• Alternatives for Girls: panel participant, representatives, agency table, recipient of donations and on-site community service drive
• Sanctum House: representative, agency table and resources
• Common Ground: panel participant (Survivor), representatives, agency table and resources
• Detroit City Council: panel participant AARP – representative, agency table and resources
• Covenant House: representative, agency table and resources
• Urban Organic: sound system, music prior to the forum and during community service assembly activity
• Beaumont Health System: panel participant

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Heighten awareness of Human Trafficking (sex, forced labor, and debt bondage).
• Educate our communities utilizing professionals and agencies that work with the population.
• Impact outreach agencies by engaging the community in supplying resources needed to service those at risk.
• Distribute literature and materials to educate and inform about the human trafficking epidemic.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Just five (5) short years after filing bankruptcy, the city of Detroit and its surrounding suburbs are experiencing a renaissance. In fact, the New York Times recently suggested Detroit might be the nation’s most exciting city! Most Metro-Detroiters welcome all the positive new opportunities, expansion and growth that this economic recovery brings. However, few recognize and understand the negative dark side of our city’s growth. In 2017, we celebrated the opening of a multi-million dollar sports arena just a few hundred yards from a university prep high school in Midtown. And each year we look forward to attending the International Auto Show, without ever suspecting that these venues and attractions serve as havens for predators to exploit members of our community and coerce them into human trafficking.

The “STOP Human Trafficking in Michigan” program sponsored by the Great Lakes Chapter serves as a voice in our community bringing awareness about this global epidemic and its impact in our own back yard. The educational component of our program convenes professionals across the workforce industry in a community forum to engage residents in real talk about a real problem to ultimately identify real solutions. The service component engages the entire community, which creates shared ownership in our responsibility to STOP human trafficking. The Great Lakes Chapter is committed to fulfilling our purpose by educating and transforming our community one neighborhood at a time.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• The speakers brought a valuable message from across industry workforce. We were able to present a topic of discussion that proved relevant to all who attended.
• Our venue is located in a community that serves the under-represented giving them a seat at the table
Greater Kansas City (MO)
Integrated
Community Wellness Through Advocacy

Number of Members in Chapter: 52
Number of People Served: 5,280
Location: Kansas City, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 38
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2
Funds Spent on Program: $25,400

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- The University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Dentistry: provided dentists
- The Concorde Career College School of Dental Hygienist: provided dental hygienists
- The Melcher Elementary School: student/teacher participation
- The Troost Elementary School: student/teacher participation
- Allen Village School: student/teacher participation
- The Kansas City Chiefs Sports Lab: provided admission grant
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation: provided funding
- Colgate-Palmolive Dental Van: provided dental screenings
- Benjamin Banneker Elementary School: student/teacher participation
- Old Mission UMC: provided facility
- St. James UMC: facility and volunteers
- St. Andrews UMC: facility and volunteers
- St. Paul’s UMC: facility and volunteers
- Shawnee Mission East High School: facility/students
- Jack and Jill of America/Johnson County Chapter: volunteers
- The University of Kansas Medical Center Health Education Department: facility and volunteers
- Shirley’s Kitchen Cabinet: forum moderators
- Shawnee Mission School District Diversity Committee
- Johnson County Library Systems: meeting rooms
- Race KC Project: advertisement
- Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity: funding
- Kansas City Missouri School District: notifications
- Blue Valley School District: collaboration
- St. Theresa Academy: partner for community speaker series and tours
- Bridges KC and Princeton Prize in Race Relations Kansas City Chapter

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Greater Kansas City’s mission for this program term was to deliver and sustain transformational programs that improve our community’s health and empowerment that increases their chances for healthy and self-fulfilling futures. During the 2017-19 Program Year, we will:
- Increase the knowledge of children, their families, and the community around the importance of good dental hygiene and healthy lifestyles that increases attitudinal and behavior changes and result in a 10% reduction of dental caries, and childhood diabetes and disease, as ascertained by the administration of pre and post assessments.
- Increase the knowledge on preventable health disparities at all life stages, specifically: childhood obesity; teen bullying and suicide prevention; women’s health; and feelings of depression among the elderly, as measured by pre and post surveys.
- Increase by 30% the underserved voting community’s awareness of candidates running for office and their platforms that translate into increased participation in the voting process as determined by participants’ responses to voting questionnaires.
- Increase the cultural awareness of students and staff in schools with low minority achievement that positively increase students’ self-confidence and reduces by 50% the number of reported bullying incidents in a school year.
- Increase student reading scores by increasing the average number of books read at each grade level from 6 a year to 12 a year.
PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The health and wellness of a community are the cornerstones upon which all other goals and accomplishments stand. This program addresses the wellness of all age groups in a community by expanding their knowledge of, and participation in, the voter registration and candidate interview process. By including the program recipients in the planning and implementation of these initiatives, they became empowered to replicate like activities in the future.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Making the critical link of the importance of quality health care policy and legislation to affected communities by becoming involved in the candidates for office/voting process.
• The opportunity for residents in low-income areas to be empowered with the information and services they require to live healthier, happier, more empowered lives by starting with the voter awareness initiative.
• The gratitude expressed by participants for the information and services they received.
Jackson County (MO)
Integrated
LACE-Links to Arts and Cultural Enrichment

Number of Members in Chapter: 63
Number of People Served: 1,513
Location: Jackson County, MO

Number of Members Participating in Program: 36
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 10
Funds Spent on Program: $10,785

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• LINC: transportation to the theater for students
• The Theater League: funding for theater tickets
• The Kansas City Public schools: students
• ACCPA: umbrella partner and provided students
• Operation Breakthrough: young families and participated in the theater experience

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• We will provide at least 1000 inner-city students per year with a theater experience to spark their creativity, feed their soul, enhance their well-being and introduce STEAM career options.
• We will increase student’s understanding and appreciation of theater production by providing pre-performance workshops on theater etiquette and education to reinforce the lessons of the play.
• We will ensure student transportation to performances by developing local partners to provide funding.
• We will choose theater performances that incorporate concepts from the national initiatives of STY and HHS into our program.
• We will demonstrate a 10% increase in students’ interest in attending live theater performances.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Arts facet developed a cultural enrichment program in 2009. It had a modest beginning with the goal to expose underprivileged students in the inner city to the Arts that were available in our community. We started by serving about 50 students and we have grown over the past 10 years to serve thousands of students yearly. We developed a sustainable program by developing funding partners, The Theater League, for theater tickets and LINC, for transportation to the theater. LINC and the Kansas City Missouri Public schools view us as a resource and contact us regularly for support with Arts education. The Arts facet partnered with STY and HHS to provide theater experiences to support themes in line with their national initiatives. We took ACCPA to see Becoming Martin, a play about the college life of Martin Luther King. We took older students to the theater this year to appreciate a new take on Shakespeare with Othello the Remix and exposed the health risk of STD’s and HIV with The Dramatic Health Project. We also shared a theater night with young mothers from Operation Breakthrough. We hope the love of theater will be passed on to their children. We have worked hard over the past 10 years to plant the seed of culture in the urban core of Kansas City and hope that the fruit of that seed is the expansion of horizons, increased confidence, improved literacy, and improved communication skills that lead to a better life.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
We were able to provide students with an experience that would not have been available to them without this program.
• Attending a theater performance allows them to expand their universe and realize there are options available to them, not just in the arts but in life. The added component of an etiquette workshop teaches social skills and gives them confidence that can be translated into other interactions.
• By increasing the number of students each year and incorporating the program directly into the schools and other community organization sites, our impact in the community only increases further and creates a sustainable, fully funded program.
Knoxville (TN)  
Integrated  
Beauford Delaney in America  

Number of Members in Chapter: 24  
Number of People Served: 300  
Location: Knoxville, TN  

Number of Members Participating in Program: 24  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3  
Funds Spent on Program: $11,400  

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:  
• Knoxville Museum of Art (KMA): lead organization and host for the exhibitions and symposiums  
• Marble City Opera: develop and perform opera about the life of Beauford Delaney  
• McClung Museum: prepare and catalog Beauford Delaney archives  
• East Tennessee Historical Society: prepare and catalog Beauford Delaney archives  
• Beck Cultural Exchange Center: restore Delany home in preparation for use as a school  
• City of Knoxville: secure historical markers for the location of the Delaney homestead  
• University of Tennessee Arts Department  

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
• By January 2018, the Chapter will raise between $30,000 to $70,000 to support KMA’s acquisition and exhibition of Beauford Delaney’s works.  
• Implement an art curriculum at local schools to bring awareness of Beauford Delaney’s life and works.  
• In 2019, raise $25,000 to fund the development and initial presentation of an opera about the life of Beauford Delaney.  

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT  
Beauford Delaney is one of the most successful artists originating from Knoxville, Tennessee. However, due to his leaving Knoxville at a young age and prior to gaining success as an abstract painter in Paris, few in the Knoxville community have heard about him especially African-Americans. Even fewer have seen an exhibition of his works. Delaney works have been exhibited at several American art museums but never in his birthplace of Knoxville, Tennessee prior to 2017. The Knoxville (TN) Chapter in collaboration with other local organizations developed a multi-year plan to raise awareness of this world-renowned artist through city-wide events and initiatives including art in education program. The Knoxville (TN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated sponsored A Toast to the Arts in partnership with the Knoxville Museum of Arts (KMA) and raised over $50,000 to assist KMA with expanding their collection of Delaney’s works. An exhibition of these works is planned for the summer of 2019.  

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES  
• The students were able to replicate Beauford Delaney’s abstract painting and displayed their work at the Knoxville Museum during summer 2017.  
• Because of the program activities, a gathering of a diverse group of people became aware of this internationally renowned artist from Knoxville, Tennessee.  
• In the summer of 2017, there was an exhibition of the Knoxville Museum of Art’s expanding collection of the beginning works of Beauford Delaney.
Louisville (KY)
Integrated
Students Excel with STEAM Education and Diversity

Number of Members in Chapter: 28
Number of People Served: 177
Location: Louisville, KY

Number of Members Participating in Program: 28
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 14
Funds Spent on Program: $4,900

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Kasandra Amboree: graphic artist who assisted the students with the art poster contest
• Captain Houston Mills: connecting Link and UPS pilot that conducted the aviation and flying drones demonstration
• Wonder textbooks and the Wonder movie: teach self-acceptance and anti-bullying
• Park Hill Community Center The Louisville Links chapter members: a venue for the Service to Youth program
• Queen of Sheba Ethiopian Restaurant and Havana Rumba Cuban Restaurant: visited as part of the international diversity sessions
• Mr. Ian Brewster and Mr. Gregory Gravette, middle school science teachers: STEM/Robotic classes

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Goals: The previous year the emphasis was promoting science and technology. This Fall 2018 we will continue to promote STEAM education but with a focus on the principles of drones/aviation and coding robots. The goal is to 1) enhance art education and 2) show students how art can be used to give a voice to issues of National concern (i.e. bullying).

Objective: In addition, our objective was to show students the importance of accepting people's differences, a key principle in diversity education. Adopting this principle will have a huge impact on less bullying. National encourages chapters to integrate and/or expand signature programs and national initiatives into our existing programs. Also, we participated in the National Poster contest.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The chapter changed to an integrated program several years ago. The title of this year’s program is "Students Excel with STEAM Education and Diversity". The lead facet is Services-to-Youth and the other facets are International Trends and the Arts. Our program will provide our youth knowledge on a variety of cultures and their contributions to the world we live in today. Providing these experiences will expose and enlighten youth the value of diversity. Early 2017 the program focused on photography, art, and engineering. The program was modified in late 2017 thru 2018 years to focus on science and technology. Several sessions on robotic coding and understanding the mechanics of flying drones were held. The chapter is diligently expanding the Links brand in the metro Louisville market. More non-profit foundations are willing to partner with this chapter. For example, in January 2017 we received a grant from Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation to promote children’s dental health in the Park Hill neighborhood. This is the first time we were chosen as recipients for this grant. In addition, Park Hill's metro councilman recognized the impact of our programs. He secured government funding to purchase additional robotic computer programs for the Park Hill Community Center. This is an example that a government entity was willing to partner with our chapter to promote our initiatives.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• We had a greater impact on Park Hill students because we used our own community leaders for presentations. Students obtained a better understanding of the information presented when they can ask questions and interact with the speaker versus reading about a subject.
• Learning about robotic coding via Lego-Mindstorms and Fix-a-Factory computer programs. They realized that proper measurements entered into the computer made the robots move and turn the correct direction.
• Another highlight was hands-on instruction on flying drones in the gymnasium.
• December 2018, instead of a typical summary test on the subject matter, we produced an electronic Jeopardy game that was projected on a screen. Our robotic stem education game mimicked the TV Jeopardy game. The game was customized for the lessons taught during the previous semester. Students were divided into teams for competition. The team with the most correct answers were awarded a prize.
Music City (TN)  
Integrated  
Linked to Excellence

Number of Members in Chapter: 47  
Number of People Served: 50  
Location: Music City, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 31  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 6  
Funds Spent on Program: $13,200

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Tennessee State University: facility space, staff, supplies, technical assistance, marketing, and outreach  
• Tennessee State University Women’s Center, Career Center, Counseling Center & Faculty: technical assistance, marketing, and outreach  
• Frist Center for the Visual Arts: introduced students to visual arts  
• Citizens Bank and Regions Bank: products for exam survival kits

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Encourage program participants to optimize their academic performance.  
• Educate students on the professional and social skills needed to be successful in the workplace  
• Equip young Black women with the tools needed for a healthy lifestyle and positive well-being.  
• Empower young women to be leaders in the community.  
• Expose students to a network of professional African American women.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Linked to Excellence is a college to career readiness program designed to empower female students throughout their matriculation on college campuses. Currently, the program is a partnership between the Music City (TN) Chapter and Tennessee State University. Through a series of monthly workshops, experiential learning and mentoring, students are exposed to business, social, leadership and interpersonal skills needed to compete in a global workforce. The main objective of the program is to remove any barriers that would prohibit students from successfully graduating on time and obtaining a professional career within the field of their choice.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Providing consistent mentoring to a group of young women at an HBCU to prepare them for life after college while empowering them to be outstanding leaders on the campus and graduating within 4-6 years.  
• Since the inception of the program, 20 Linked to Excellence participants (most who have been with us for at least three years) graduated from TSU.  
• Preparing young women to seek and obtain internships relevant to their majors while in undergrad.  
• Building confidence and professionalism in the student’s daily activities.
Northern Indiana (IN)
Integrated
STEM

Number of Members in Chapter: 32
Number of People Served: 60
Location: Gary, IN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 18
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $30,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- The Links Foundations, Inc.: fiscal manager
- Boy Scouts of America, Pathway to Adventure Council: sponsor that provided financial support, materials, training of
  adult mentors and Curriculum Program Manager
- NIPSCO Utility Company: sponsor that provided financial support and career awareness activities
- Indiana American Water Company: sponsor of financial support, career awareness activities
- Ivy Tech Community College Northwest Campus and Purdue Calumet: provided mentors and girls toured their
  Challenger Center
- Frankie Woods McCullough Girls Academy, Gary, Indiana: provided students and lab/classroom facilities
- Illinois Bus Central: provided bus transportation
- Powers and Sons Company: sponsored financial support
- Astronauts Kathryn Thornton and Donald Thomas: provided mentorship, career knowledge
- Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson: sponsor financial support
- Haywood and Fleming: sponsor financial support
- Scott King Group: sponsor financial support
- Davis and Dade Security Company: provided laptops
- Tolbert and Tolbert Law Firm: sponsor financial support

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Shorten the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics achievement gap for Northwest Indiana 7 & 8 grade
  students.
- Increase STEM literacy to develop a deeper foundational understanding of the STEM Fields, with the intent to
  increase curiosity and interest in career fields as well as increasing confidence in individual students’ abilities to
  successfully navigate our science and technology-driven society.
- Engage students in problem-based learning with engineering design opportunities that have been shown to increase
  student engagement and excitement for consideration of future coursework in the STEM areas in high school and
  post-secondary course selections and careers.
- Establish active partnerships with science professionals, engineers, stem specialists, and higher educational
  institutions to provide mentoring opportunities for students.
- Educate parents of various opportunities for their children to pursue STEM careers.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

The Northern Indiana Chapter of the Links, Incorporated Services to Youth Facet has partnered with The Boy Scouts of
America to offer this unparalleled opportunity to Gary’s youth. One of the goals of the Services to Youth Facet is to
expand and support STEM education to prepare students to succeed in the global workforce. The Links, Incorporated is
an international, not-for-profit organization committed to providing service that supports the culture and economic
survival of communities.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The active engagement of students in hands-on activities, coupled with field experiences and the opportunity to interact with Stem professionals.
- Stem modules were shared with parents to encourage their active engagement in the teaching/learning process.
Omaha (NE)
Integrated
The Sisterhood: Young Women Empowerment Institute (YWEI)

Number of Members in Chapter: 26
Number of People Served: 22
Location: Omaha, NE

Number of Members Participating in Program: 16
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Funds Spent on Program: $15,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• University of Nebraska at Omaha: Office of Multicultural Affairs and College of St. Mary Office of Multicultural Initiatives were the primary partners, which helped with all of the logistics of the program, access to the young women, and communication.
• University of Nebraska at Omaha: Women Resource Center provided funding for the purchase of toiletries for the Community Project at the Women’s Shelter.
• Ally Wallet Wise: provided 220 financial literacy books and stipend for workshops
• College Possible: provided assistance to the cohort participants and tracking of progress on credit attainment.
• Sparkpositivity.org: provided internships for the cohort participants.
• Sherwood Foundation: provided 3 year grant funding.
• Lozier Foundation: provided funding for materials, resources, and funding for college books for each participant.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• To deliver a transformation program that is aligned and sustained with the goals of The Links, Incorporated National Trends and Services facet by collaborating with various partners.
• By April 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019, 90% of the program participants (20 African American first time, full time freshmen females) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and College of St. Mary (CSM) will increased their knowledge in five developmental assets (i.e. leadership, sexual awareness, wellness, financial literacy and etiquette).
• By the end of April 30, 2018, and April 30, 2019, 100% of participants will prepare and present their life plans at the end of the year culminating event. By May 1, 2018, & May 1, 2019, 80% of participants will pre-enroll for their sophomore year; By May 15, 2018, and May 15, 2019, 100% of participants will complete their freshmen year.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The goal of YWEI is designed to prepare our freshmen women of color for the next stages of life and career through empowerment, support, and connections. The institute is dedicated to the advancement of young women of color by empowering young college women of color to successfully manage the collegiate landscape and graduate ready to engage in the global workforce. Follow up occurs throughout the remainder of their collegial career through the Office of Multicultural Affairs on the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) campus and Office of Multicultural Initiatives at the College of St. Mary (CSM) campus. All successful individuals had mentors and someone to help them along their journey. This is a platform where women can start the conversation about empowerment and mentoring in our communities. The Omaha (NE) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated is working with the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Office of Multicultural Affairs and other partners to provide a comprehensive support system for the first time, full-time freshmen women of color. Being positive role models, providing guidance and advice, assisting with difficult situations and being a cheerleader on the side is a must for the next generation of women of color. It is important to empower young women in our communities to break through stereotypes and assists them with creating a pathway to be leaders in the future. As First Lady Michelle Obama stated, “know the power of sisterhood and every woman should practice it”. The Omaha (NE) Chapter is practicing the power of sisterhood through this program. We have taken the time to invest in the future of the next generation. These empowered ladies will shatter the glass ceiling in our communities in the near future.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- 100% completion.
- 8 out of 14 earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher; 6 out of the 14 were on the Dean’s list for one or both semesters.
- Omaha (NE) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated – YWEI Program were highlighted in Today’s Omaha Woman Winter 2017 Issue, Link to Link Publication Spring 2017 edition, University of Nebraska – Omaha College of Education website & the Community Service Project at the Lydia House (Women’s shelter) was highlighted on the Fox 42 evening news.
- Omaha (NE) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated was awarded the Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of Women (CCSW) Community Service Award for the Young Women Empowerment Institute (YWEI).
- $700 provided to each participant for completion of the program.
- Received $58,000 grant for 3 years to support programming.
Shelby County (TN) 
Integrated 
The Leadership Academy of the Shelby County (TN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

Number of Members in Chapter: 57 
Number of People Served: 25 
Location: Memphis, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 35 
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 9 
Funds Spent on Program: $29,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Hattiloo Theatre: provided curriculum support, workshop presenter, meeting space and tickets
- National Civil Rights Museum: use of The Links, Incorporated Educational Room for Life Skills workshops
- Lemoyne-Owen College: the HBCU sponsors catering and space rental for Father/Son Brunch for 7 years, LOC staff sets-up, serves, and breakdowns. Students with Man Up, a campus group that provides mentoring and support for African American male students who are also 1st generation college students, served as campus hosts, assisting with set up, welcoming attendees, and attending the luncheon.
- Collage Dance Collective: provides choreography and training in personal presentation for Le Beauillion Militaire for the last 5 years. Collage is Memphis’ only African American led, multicultural ballet company.
- The Hyde Foundation: underwriting tickets to NBA or College Basketball Games for six years. The Hyde Foundation funds initiative for youth and education. Staff collects the names of Fellows to communicate with them about available educational supports and internship opportunities.
- Urban Bicycle Food Ministry: Volunteer experience wherein fellows help to supply food and basic needs to those affected by homelessness in the Memphis community.
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center: volunteer experience for the Live! Just as We Are Breast Cancer - Survivor's Summit. Fellows provide logistic support welcoming visitors, directing traffic and assisting with set up and breakdown.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Revise the seven-month Life Skills curriculum to provide sustained engagement with the arts. Research shows that regular and significant engagement with the arts helps young people develop improved critical thinking skills and improved academic achievement.
- Incorporate process groups and group discussion to facilitate the development of emotional skills and coping mechanisms, which form the foundation for successful personal and professional relationships.
- Engage Fellows in local community service projects so that they gain exposure to challenges faced by those in not only our community, but other communities as well. To instill in each of them the personal obligation that they should have in helping solve social issues that disproportionately affect the African American community.
- Provide informal mentoring and networking opportunities with successful adult African American males who can serve as role models.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The "disappearing black male" has become a slogan for many in America who are concerned about the loss of self-identity among black males. Bigotry, oppression, scarcity of advancement opportunities, poor or little education, early exposure to crime and violence and the world of drugs, lack of critical models all can contribute to their loss of self-identity. The Shelby County (TN) Chapter Links Leadership Academy is an eight-month life skills program open to African American young men in the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. It consists of seven workshops, four activities and a community service project that teach the value and importance of non-academic endeavors. Our goal is to help participants become well-rounded individuals ready to embrace life after high school equipped with a new sense of self-confidence.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The primary component- Life Skills Workshops. This training program has three primary attributes: 1. Curriculum. The well-researched curriculum includes a short reading, bibliography, and thought questions to provoke thoughtful conversations and teachable moments between the Fellows and Facilitators. 2. Role Models/ Mentors. Fellows hear from successful men who have walked the walk and are uniquely qualified to help young African American males live with purpose. 3. Process Groups/Small Group Discussion:
- Participants are led through a process group format developed by a psychologist. The process groups allow the young men to practice effective listening and develop critical thinking skills by discussing difficult economic, racial, historical and social issues raised by the works of playwright August Wilson. Participants develop emotional resiliency and maturity by tackling difficult topics in a safe environment.
Shelby County (TN)
Integrated
Shelby County (TN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated-Institute for Women’s Empowerment

Number of Members in Chapter: 57
Number of People Served: 55
Location: Memphis, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 38
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 12
Funds Spent on Program: $14,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

• SCL partnered with local organizations to enhance IWE Program including the: Women’s Foundation of Greater Memphis, Urban Strategies Memphis Hope, LeMoyne Owen College female students, LeMoyne Owen College Community Development Corporation (CDC), Memphis Area Legal Services, Juvenile Court, RestoreCorps (Human Trafficking Group), Tennessee Physical Therapists Association (TPTA), The RISE Foundation, Delta Sigma Theta, NAACP, and Hattiloo Theatre.
• Dress for Success: helped our graduates learn the proper attire for interviews, work, and professional environments.
• Completion of a Life Mapping Plan: affords each participant an attainable strategy to thrive and make viable changes.
• Urban Strategies: provides supportive services for affordable housing: finding meaningful employment to qualify for home ownership.
• NTS: developed the curriculum and delivery of the program, which is both interactive and experiential. The progress of each IWE Fellow is tracked through program completion. We are the impetus to ensure that each participant is successful and that program goals are achieved. For 8 years, NTS helped secure recurring funding sources to ensure ongoing sustainability.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

• Continuously improve the Institute in order to maintain a replicable, sustainable and transformational program annually based on an 8-month curriculum focusing on self-awareness, education and workforce development with an emphasis on economic empowerment to help alleviate participants from a condition of poverty.
• Provide program participants with personal, college, career, business and workforce planning sessions to create and strive toward meeting their short and long-term goals.
• Educate and improve Mental, and Physical Health awareness by offering participants workshops on nationally significant issues and diseases that non-proportionately affect the African-American community.
• Provide IWE Fellows with access to a broad array of cultural, intercultural and civic events at venues throughout the Memphis area so that they are exposed to the diverse community and all it has to offer. NTS Cascading Goals: National, Area or Chapter Goal Met 2017/2018 Facet Membership or Committee Goal Met 2017/2018 Products/Process & Services Met 2017/2018.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Shelby County (TN) Chapter used its 20th Anniversary to model, embrace and align with the vision, mission, and goals of The Links, Incorporated, which stresses strategic planning, programmatic relevance, and impact, as well as development and utilization of meaningful collaborations. The research was done by chapter members who are experts in the various fields of health care, finance, bankruptcy, minimum wages, and social services and are well respected by officials within the Memphis and Shelby County communities. The research revealed and confirmed that 55% of black households in Memphis are headed by black females, 69% of those households have children younger than eighteen (18) and 63.3% of those households live at or below the poverty level. The numbers are daunting in Memphis as well as throughout the United States; consequently, our conclusion is that we must create a model that will eradicate the root of the problem and can be replicated by others. The IWE, our chapter's vision in motion, is an intensive eight-month life skills program using an interactive/experiential curriculum experience, which culminates with each participant who completes the
program. We are proud to have assisted in transforming lives. Eighty-five percent of our Fellows are employed, attending school, have graduated or are entrepreneurs. With the collaborative efforts and partnering of The Women’s Foundation of Greater Memphis, Urban Strategies Memphis Hope, First Tennessee Bank, LeMoyne Owen College, LeMoyne Owen College Community Development Corporation, American Heart Association, Cummins, The Shelby County Health Department, The RISE Foundation, The Neighborhood Christian Center, Universal Parenting Place, Delta Sigma Theta, RestoreCorps (Human Trafficking Group), The Tennessee Physical Therapists Association, and Memphis Area Legal Services, the Shelby County (TN) Chapter greatly impacts the Memphis community by empowering, enabling, enlightening, elevating and assisting participants (African American women) in breaking prevalent cycles of poverty. SCC is immersed in a community that is financially, mentally, emotionally and physically unstable; but IWE is adamant about learning to practice maintainable health habits, which assist our women to survive and thrive.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- Families transformed, as a direct result of leadership, vision, involvement, mentoring and sharing between Chapter members and black women in our community. Watching the growth and development of Links and IWE as we realize the difference we are making today and for future generations.
- IWE provides the Chapter, partners and the Memphis community a new vehicle to change results of community and supportive services data. Women and children learn new skills. Link members assist IWE as mentors. An interactive IWE curriculum and mentors allow Fellows and children to experience a different worldview. The expansion of IWE to include women from other depressed areas of the City, the Chapter continuously addresses affected women in our target group.
- IWE women surviving Cancer because of participation in HHS’ LIVE! Breast Cancer Summit.
Toledo, OH
Integrated
Linked to Leadership 2017-2019

Number of Members in Chapter: 47
Number of People Served: 40
Location: Toledo, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 31
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2
Funds Spent on Program: $9,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- University of Toledo Office of Recreation: Staff collaborates with Services to Youth, as well as Health and Human Services facet members to plan and implement fun, physical and health-focused events at the University Recreation Center. The venue, activities, and personnel are provided at a significant discount. University of Toledo Center for International Studies and Programs: Staff collaborates with International Trends and Services facet members in planning donation distribution in Haiti.

- Girl Scouts of Western Ohio (GSWO): Staff provides support to Services to Youth facet members for implementation of Girl Scout Leadership and Service Award component with participants at Ella P. Stewart Academy. GSWO also collaborates with Health and Human Services facet members to facilitate a Family Engagement plan for the Camp for Every Girl experience.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The top priority of the Linked to Leadership program is to enhance adolescent girls’ overall health, happiness and achievement experiences through a comprehensive and integrated approach as follows: 1) address physical and emotional needs of young girls by promoting healthy lifestyle choices while engaging them in activities that range from structured whole group after-school sessions to field trips, community service projects, cultural exchanges, educational and recreational outings 2) provide access to positive role models who help girls see they can be leaders in their own lives and encourage them to discover healthy lifestyle choices, connect with family and friends as advocates for healthier lifestyles and build healthy habits that last a lifetime.

- Program Goal: To provide school-aged girls with a variety of essential supports and activities that encourage healthy behaviors, motivate community engagement, develop leadership skills and promote positive relationships.

- Program Objectives:
  o 100% of girls will increase their learning of what it means to be physically and emotionally healthy as indicated by pre/post-program year surveys.
  o 100% of girls will increase their learning of community needs and identifying possible solutions as indicated by pre/post-program year surveys.
  o 100% of girls will develop and maintain positive relationships with peers and non-related adults as indicated by pre/post-program year surveys.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

The Toledo (OH) Chapter has made addressing the physical and emotional health of school-aged girls a community service priority. Research indicates more girls are living in poverty and low-income households today than ten years ago. This is significant because such girls face considerable challenges that affect their health, happiness, and achievement. Many reside in urban areas where a high percentage of families live in poverty and have limited access to resources that help ensure healthy development and community engagement. Physical health and emotional wellness are critical to girls’ development, academic achievement, psychosocial adjustment, happiness, and overall well-being. Participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs and other structured activities has a positive influence on girls’ development and leadership skills. All girls, however, do not have access or the means to participate in such activities. Girls are also particularly susceptible to self-esteem issues. Promoting self-confidence in girls is important because low self-esteem can have lasting effects that persist into adulthood and may lead to risky behaviors. Furthermore, girls need engagement with role models who help inspire them to see they can be leaders in their own lives and encourage them
to discover healthy lifestyle choices, connect with family and friends as advocates for healthier lifestyles and build healthy habits that last a lifetime. For girls specifically, the Linked to Leadership program provides a variety of essential supports and experiences that allow them to develop a positive sense of self, build healthy relationships and engage in sustainable service learning opportunities. Girls have access to adult role models and given an opportunity to try new things in an environment where they are comfortable. Linked to Leadership is a comprehensive preventive education program that uses research-based effective approaches and best practices: gender-specific, positive role models, supportive peer groups, interactive teaching methods, and culturally relevant educational components to help adolescent girls make healthy choices. Toledo (OH) Chapter has made a three-year commitment to the implementation of Linked to Leadership and the transformational changes it facilitates for girls, their family, and their community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
- The most outstanding quality of Linked to Leadership is its comprehensive approach to program development. Structured whole group after-school sessions combine Girl Scouts highly acclaimed leadership activities with the nationally recognized Girls Only! Model.
- Strengths-based, skill-building methods from this model help create a safe space to address risky behaviors, build on protective factors and improve relationships in a format that interests and engages girls. A safe space is where girls can freely voice their ideas and opinions. This helps to strengthen their confidence and encourages them to express themselves. In a safe and supportive environment guided by caring role models, girls gain a greater awareness of their options and strengthen their ability to make choices that are beneficial to them, their families and their communities.
Tri-City (MI)
Integrated
Link Scholars

Number of Members in Chapter: 22  
Number of People Served: 20  
Location: Saginaw, MI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 20  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 1  
Funds Spent on Program: $9,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Saginaw Public School District: provided training and guidance on how to implement and assess literacy program.
• Thompson middle school: provided access to students who would participate in the Link Scholar Program. In addition, they provided space and access to computers on site for programming purposes.
• Hoyt Public Library: provided space and training by a local librarian on how to use E-Reader to use Public library resources.
• Saginaw Transit Authority and Regional Services (STARS): provided access to transportation to ensure that Scholars would be transported to programming sites.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• High school graduation for 100% of Link Scholars with a plan for the pursuit of higher education or vocational education.
• Improved reading literacy skills.
• Implementation of STEM-related career awareness.
• The provision of a well-rounded experience which will create exposure to healthy living, college readiness, international travel, positive self-esteem, and the artistic expressions of African Americans.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Saginaw, Mi. - The Tri-City (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, will continue their 37-year legacy of serving the community through ‘Transformational Programming’. In 2018, the chapter will launch the Links Scholars Program in partnership with Saginaw Public School District (SPSD) and The Willie Thompson Middle School. The Tri-City Chapter will lead 20 7th grade students on a six-year learning journey with a focus on college prep through self-development and self-discovery. Year one of the program will focus on increased literacy and will also expose students to their heritage under the theme “Sankofa, which means visiting the past to prepare for the future”. The program will encourage creativity and include literacy projects to explore the topics of ancestry, African American authors, cyberbullying, health and nutrition. “We are looking forward to the creation of the Links Scholar program in partnership with Saginaw Public Schools to serve students in our communities,” said Dr. Linda Moore Holoman, President of the Tri-City (MI) Chapter. “We anticipate the launch of this six-year program will create a new model for education partnership initiatives, will tap into our rich community resources and will leverage the broad experiences of our chapter members. This multi-year program will continue to unfold in creative ways to benefit the Thompson Middle School students and exhibits the Tri-City Chapter’s continued commitment and understanding about the critical importance of bolstering the development of youth in our community.” Dr. Dawn Hinton serves as Vice-President and Chair of Programming for The Tri-City.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• The long-term mentoring relationship, which allows for the development of meaningful relationships with our Link Scholars.
• The identification of scholars who could benefit from long-term literacy coaching, which allows for the ability to effectively measure progress as it relates to literacy.
• The opportunity to engage with other community partners in the implementation of our programming.
Twin Rivers (OH)
Integrated
Preparing Youth for Global Leadership

Number of Members in Chapter: 42
Number of People Served: 88
Location: Columbus, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 34
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 9
Funds Spent on Program: $15,400

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

• Columbus City Schools: provided a facility at a reduced rate and helped recruit students who participated in the program. Collaboration with the District is essential to the ongoing program redesign process. This process ensures that the program is incorporating best practice guidelines and using evidence-based strategies to assist the students in preparing for the college entrance exam process. With the combined resources of Cambridge Learning and the Upward Bound Instructors, our students are able to receive individualized instruction in a group setting, which allows us to serve more students and keep cost affordable.

• HBCU alumni – (Spelman, Howard, Morehouse, Hampton, Central State, Morgan State, Alabama State, FAMU, and North Carolina A&T): panel discussion and student mentoring.

• Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma as well as local churches: identified and recruited students to participate in the program.

• PNC Bank, The Ohio State University, and Dennison University: provided speakers to help meet the financial literacy component of our program.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Objective:

• Is to identify the student’s core curriculum strengths and areas for enrichment to assist each student with the development of a strategy in the following areas: mastering core curriculum concepts and standardized test-taking skills, the college selection and admission process, and making healthy lifestyle choices that facilitate long-term health and well-being.

Goals:

• Complete individual core subject assessment program and develop an individualized study plan for the 40 students who participate in the ACT Preparation Program each year.

• Provide 12 hours of instruction over a 4-week period to help students learn strategies to navigate the ACT Exam.

• Present a 6-member panel of HBCU Alumni that introduces college readiness concepts, STEM career opportunities, and share the benefits of attending an HBCU each year.

• 80% of the student participants will complete the financial literacy workshops and demonstrate an understanding of the FAFSA completion process, how to search for scholarships, and how to build and maintain good credit.

• 80% of the students are able to create a healthy nutrition and fitness plan that will enhance mental endurance when taking a standardized exam.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

In implementing our Services to Youth Initiatives, The Twin Rivers (OH) Chapter has provided high school students with crucial resources needed to prepare them in the pursuit of higher education. Through our Preparing Youth for Global Leadership College Readiness and ACT preparation program, 40 Central Ohio high school juniors, were taught standardized test-taking strategies, which improve reading comprehension, composition, math and science skills. The program also includes information to assist with the college selection and admission process. The students were introduced to S.T.E.M. related career opportunities. A student favorite is the HBCU panel discussion. During this discussion, HBCU alumni share their experiences and the many benefits of attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Students were also presented applications from the Center of New Directions HBCU College tour.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The ability to provide a comprehensive individualized study plan in a group setting. We can now provide a broader range of instruction, from foundational enrichment opportunities to advanced level mastery instruction in each subject area.

- The Mentoring initiative connects each student with a mentor who is invested in his or her successful completion of the program and college matriculation. This program is a great way to involve alumnae, connecting links, heir-o-links as well as our new organizational partners, Zeta Phi Beta, Inc., and Phi Sigma Beta, Inc.

- The strategic alignment of our program with Central Area and National HBCU initiatives. Having HBCU graduates serve as mentors to the students has served as a firsthand example of the networking power, sense of support and empowerment found within the HBCU community. As a result of this exposure, 75% of the students are now considering HBCUs as a viable option.
Youngstown (OH)  
Integrated  
Black Diamond Leadership Program 2017-2019

Number of Members in Chapter: 26  
Number of People Served: 690  
Location: Mahoning Valley, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 20  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 5  
Funds Spent on Program: $15,286

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Raymond Wean Foundation: matching funds for LCCG
• Links to Catalyze Community Giving Grant DeBartolo Foundation: grant money for Black Diamond Leadership Community Celebration
• Ally Financials: Wallet Wise Financial Literacy Curriculum and funds for classes planned for men at Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority (YMHA)
• YMHA: a venue for quarterly financial Literacy classes and males participants in YMHA Fatherhood and Family Self-Sufficiency program
• Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church: venue Meeting Space
• Youngstown Center of Minority Health/Infant Mortality Coalition: collaboration partners to produce "Dad Do Matter" Video Youngstown School District: students for Financial Literacy Workshops and HBCU College Fair participants. Youngstown City Mayor's Office: Mayor as a guest speaker at Black Diamond Leadership Mixer Youngstown Chapter of Jack and Jill Teens: "High School Hero" financial literacy classes facilitator
• HBCU Alumni Council of Cleveland: affiliate membership and host of annual HBCU College Fair NSBE
• JR Chapter Links Incorporated Youngstown OH Chapter: students for Plant Zee and Money Tree
• Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland: Money Museum Tour and activity instructors

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Provide a minimum of 20 “Diamond Chips,” boys ages 8-18, prepare for the real world, learn how to earn money and effectively manage it. Make a successful transition into adulthood as a productive citizen capable of sustaining themselves in the Global market place. Address the need for financial awareness and understanding of budgets, Credit, and banking & investment to become self–sufficient and prepare for homeownership of 20 “Rough Diamonds” young men ages 19-39. They were engaged in at least two activities and experiences to enhance their understanding of how business and economy works, establish creditworthiness and community engagement. Expose a minimum of 10 “Polished Diamonds” men, 40 and older, to financial management strategies to strengthen their ability to achieve greater economic solvency, be nurturing Fathers and to be recognized as leaders in the community.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Black Diamond Leadership Program seeks to change the landscape for Black men in the city of Youngstown. Last year over 30, high school students attend the HBCU Fair. This “college access” learning opportunity changed many students perspective on going to college. Over 60 % of high seniors completed the HBCU Common college application while at the fair. Using a Black Lives Matter” Platform we intentionally seek to promote Black males leaders, nurturing fathers, high achieving students and successful businessmen, who are an inspiration to others through their unselfish dedication and respect for truth and justices. They are referred to as “Black Diamonds” in our community. Last year, through a community-wide nomination process, 55 males were honored and celebrated in a crowd of 450 people. While change is slow for Black men, the Black Diamond Program provides incremental steps that will positively impact how young boys become successful Black men. Our "Black Diamonds" are successful and anchored in the economic mainstream and taking leadership roles to create a community of physically and emotionally healthy Black families.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
The three most outstanding qualities of this program were deliverables that support the “Black Lives Matter” platform:

• Empower the underserved and disenfranchised Black males to learn and understanding financial management tools to earn, manage, save money and become self-sufficient is the most outstanding quality of the program.

• The biennial community celebration and public recognition luncheon honoring 55 Black males as strong, caring and productive members of our society as “Black Diamonds” has created its own “Black Lives Matter” brand in the city of Youngstown.

• A key deliverable of the program was the $1000 financial support provided to the Center of Minority Health to help underwrite to the cost to produce a public awareness video “Dads do Matter” that will bring a greater awareness and attention to fathers important role to his family and will curb the high rate of infant mortality.
Chattanooga (TN)
Services to Youth
STY Links Academy 2019 Report

Number of Members in Chapter: 38
Number of People Served: 650
Location: Chattanooga, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 38
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 12
Funds Spent on Program: $155,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- Hamilton County Department of Education: provides classroom space for after-school programs, parent meetings, and Saturday ACT prep classes.
- State of Tennessee: provides more than $100,000 annually for teacher stipends, study materials, college visits, and related programs.
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: provides meeting spaces and lunch and a debate coach for the annual Links Academy Debate Competition. UTC also provides renewable scholarships for debate team winners.
- Sororities and Fraternities, 100 Black Men and Women, the Boule: Youth Blasts focuses on college and career readiness, health, social issues, and other topics of interest chosen by students for a student.
- Camp College: headed by a Link, this program of the Public Education Foundation gives students and their parents an intensive weekend on a college campus, preparing them to navigate the college admissions process.
- Public Education Foundation/Chamber of Commerce – Step Up Chattanooga: provide a paid internship so that a student can serve his or her internship with a minority business.
- Boule: this partnership pairs our Beautillion participants with lifelong mentors who are professionals in a field of interest to the young men.
- The Community Foundation and the Osborne Foundation executives spoke at our grants writing workshop (sustainability strategy) on grant writing tips for organizations that want to take on some of the work Links have started.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The goals of the program mirror our national goals:

- Close the achievement gap between students of color and other students.
- Increase the numbers of students who succeed in school, causing their schools to be removed from the list of chronically failing schools in Tennessee.
- Prepare students for college, ensuring that they and their families have the knowledge to navigate the college admissions process.
- Ensure that students of color have the ACT scores that make them eligible for admission to the college of their choice and eligible for scholarships.
- To ensure that students have opportunities to visit the campuses of HBCU’s, talk to graduates and faculty, and experience college life, in some cases over a weekend on campus.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Chattanooga (TN) Chapter’s Links Academy is demonstrating that its stellar ACT preparation program is closing the achievement gap for minority students. Two high poverty high schools serving primarily students of color were the only schools of color posting ACT growth in one and all 5’s on a five-point statewide scale for literacy and math in the other. What distinguished these schools? Both schools have Links Academies—after-school programs for struggling students. Both schools have a concentration of students who benefit from our programs for families to help them navigate the college admissions process, six-week summer ACT prep classes, visits to HBCU’s so that students get a flavor of college life, and annual debate competitions to hone verbal skills and boost critical thinking and confidence. Add to this the sustaining element of community partnerships with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (hosting annual debate...
competitions, providing a debate coach for schools, and guaranteeing renewable scholarships for debate winners), the Public Education Foundation (hosting college and career success programs that help the whole family navigate college admissions and providing paid summer internships so that students are working in professional offices of top businesses rather than fast food restaurants while they are beginning to think ahead to a career), Hamilton County Schools (providing facilities, meeting spaces, and a pool of excellent teachers who can articulate connections between after-school tutoring and success during the school day), the YMCA (providing healthy snacks for bus trips to HBCU’s), The Chattanooga News Chronicle (regularly publishing pre and post stories of Links Academy student success to a wide audience), and other community agencies. With a nod of approval from the State of Tennessee in the form of now more than a million dollars in state grant funds, this program is accomplishing what others only aspire to. The results are showing that the achievement gap can be closed, not only for individual students but also the schools they attend.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- One outstanding quality has been the evolution and expansion of the program to meet the demand so that we do not have to “wait list” students wanting to participate in ACT prep.
- The demand for the program has increased because of results. Students in the program are scoring 25+ on the ACT. Student improvement in Links Academy schools has contributed to improving school-wide. One Links Academy school was the only high poverty, high minority school to score all 5’s on the state report card this year. The other high school was the only high poverty, high minority school to show ACT growth this year. Neither of the high poverty predominantly Black schools is on the state’s list of high priority (lowest performing) schools.
- One high poverty high school that dropped out of the program is attending meetings to return after three years of declining scores without a Links Academy.
Oklahoma City (OK)
Services to Youth
Continuation of the Compelling Future in Three D:
Discovery, Decisions, Determination (Part 3)

Number of Members in Chapter: 35  Number of Members Participating in Program: 18
Number of People Served: 53  Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Location: Oklahoma City, OK  Funds Spent on Program: $50

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Mr. Harvey Hightower and Ms. Nina Dorrough: contributed to the lesson of Personal Power/ Affirmations and Reframing.
• Joyce Henderson, past administrator of NE Academy and Civil Rights Activist & Anastasia Pittman, past State of Oklahoma Senator: guest speakers at the Self Discovery session. They were selected as the graduation day speakers for the final program and graduation.
• Mrs. Henderson: facilitator/speaker was selected because of her life’s work to create initiatives empowering children to be successful citizens and make good decisions impacting one’s life.
• Senator Pittman: facilitator/speaker, motivated young adults to make improved life choices that could contribute to a successful future. As these students prepared to graduate, not just from this program, but from middle/high school we wanted him to leave them with parting words and wisdom to carry forward in their adult lives. The students received citations from the State of Oklahoma signed by Senator Anastasia Pittman.
• Mrs. Carla Smitherman and School Librarian at Northeast Academy: helped coordinate the project with the Links.
• Martin Luther King Elementary School, teachers, and administrators: coordinated the community project with the students at Northeast and the Links.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Goals:
• Equip inner-city youth with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to achieve success in life and school.
• Ensure that African America youth are successful, academically, socially, and emotionally
Objectives:
• Promote life-skills and resilience among inner-city African- American youth.
• Promote leadership skills among inner-city African- American youth.
• Promote community and civic engagement among inner-city African-American youth.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Oklahoma City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has institutionalized Compelling Future in Three D: Discovery, Decisions, Determination under its Services to Youth Facet. This initiative was launched to promote leadership, resilience, and life-skills or inner-city African American students in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Developing youth leaders for the 21st century is a worthy goal and dismisses the myths that “leaders are born not made” and that “children should be seen not heard”. Youth have opportunities to be positive leaders in their communities by participating in programs offered by youth service organizations, faith-based establishments, schools, and other civic organizations, like the Links, Inc., which can offer youth development programs. The Oklahoma City Chapter of the Links, Incorporated is aware that more leadership programs are needed to turn the tide and adverse outcomes for many inner-city African American youth. The OKC Chapter is also aware of the need to promote a plethora of life skills among inner-city youth. The initiative also helped students identify qualities needed to become an effective leader and to reach their compelling future. Additionally, a community service project was launched by students entitled “The Links Leadership Reading Challenge”. Academy leaders (middle/high school students) read interesting entertaining grade-appropriate books to younger students. In launching this project middle/high school students learned how to: • Identity, develop, and
implement a project • Develop and give presentations • Advocate for their passions and beliefs • Defend and express their beliefs about a community action project. The student graduation and recognition were published in the Herald, a local newspaper, on May 18, 2018. The outcomes have been absolutely amazing. The students demonstrated great improvements in resilience, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Changes in their behavior and attitudes were visible and their excitement was visibly demonstrated when the Links arrived to engage students in the curriculum. These students are like sponges absorbing every detail of what was offered. There was also an increase in knowledge and understanding of how to manage conflict and communicate with others.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- The interactive nature of the curriculum, which motivated students to discuss, share, reflect, and to make connections to their lives.
- The opportunity for students to give back to their community by working with younger students at Martin Luther King Elementary School.
- The focus on leadership and students’ recognition that they can lead in positive ways as they developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be a leader.
Frankfort/Lexington (KY)
The Arts
Keys to the Community

Number of Members in Chapter: 31
Number of People Served: 47
Location: Frankfort/Lexington, KY

Number of Members Participating in Program: 23
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 7
Funds Spent on Program: $9,533

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Kentucky State University, Division of Fine Arts: involved in providing the instructor, practice location and recital theatre.
• University of Kentucky, Division of Fine Arts: involved in providing the instructor, practice location
• Toyota Motors Manufacturing Company (Georgetown, KY): funding for the 2017.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Our goal is to identify and provide instructors for the piano students. We will follow their progress over the years, from elementary grades through high school. It is our desire that the training our scholarship recipients receive at an early age will situate them to receive college scholarships to further their musical training at the college level. We currently have four students that have participated for four plus years since the advent of the program and nine students that have participated for two or more years.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The “Keys to the Community” program began in program year 2012. We are currently in our sixth year of providing classical piano music instruction to African-American students in the Central Kentucky area. The program strives to enrich the lives of African-American children through exposure to classical music. One method of exposure is by providing free piano lessons. Scholarships are awarded to students ages 6-13. They study piano with classically trained instructors at Kentucky State University and the University of Kentucky. The first year instruction is provided free via scholarship. Students are encouraged to continue their studies with the instructors. Many of the instructors are Ph.D educated or are Ph.D candidates. The students are further exposed to wonders of classical music when presented with opportunities to attend concerts performed by local symphonies and orchestras. The tickets are donated to the Frankfort/Lexington (KY) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated by local non-profits for distribution to the scholarship recipients. A recital is held annually in the Spring and the students provided an opportunity to exhibit their musical achievement.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Measurable mind, body spirit approach to teaching piano to the Lexington students (measured by student and parent written commendations).
Greater Wayne County (MI)
The Arts
Link 2 Arts 4 Life

Number of Members in Chapter: 58
Number of People Served: 53
Location: Detroit, MI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 48
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $59,825

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT)
• Sphinx Organization
• Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO)
• African American Fellows Figure Skating Detroit (FSD)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• To use performing arts to enhance the lives of Detroit area girls by improving their self-confidence, self-worth, academic skills and appreciation of physical fitness.
• To provide support to aspiring young girls throughout their middle and high school years in preparation for professional ballet, classical music and figure skating opportunities.
• To expose Detroit area girls to the world of ballet through attendance at professional performances and interaction with acclaimed professional performing artists.
• To provide ongoing exposure for Detroit area girls to cultural programming throughout our community and help educate girls of color about the important role arts can play in building character, leadership skills and a more profound understanding of the world.
• To provide year-round arts immersion programming to a young women engaged in mastering a string instrument while advancing her music ability, academic skills, behavioral, listening and cooperation skills, self-esteem and confidence.
• To encourage girls of color to explore, learn and pursue opportunities in the world of ballet, classical music and figure skating.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Greater Wayne County Chapter (GWCC) of Links, Incorporated, embarked upon an exciting adventure into the performing arts. Through the Arts Facet program, Link 2 Arts 4 Life, GWCC is immersing over 50 young ladies in a multi-year program celebrating and promoting dance, figure skating and classical music. Aligning with the Links, Incorporated signature program, “Classics Through the Ages”, GWCC supports two young ladies pursuing advanced ballet training by providing scholarships to Ballet Detroit. Ballet Detroit offers serious ballet dancers a world-class Vaganova method classical ballet education. Additionally, GWCC supports violin training through the Sphinx Organization, a Detroit–based national organization, dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity, by covering fees for an instrument, music, instruction, private lessons, master classes and national performing and competition opportunities. To complement the “Classics Through the Ages” programming and expand the Links 2 Arts 4 Life platform, GWCC started a new partnership with Figure Skating Detroit (FSD) that combines the artistic creativity of figure skating with leadership and education. GWCC brought together girls from FSD and our Ballet Detroit Scholars in a variety of performing arts events taking place throughout metro Detroit to experience cultural Detroit.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• The change of attitude and confidence in the young girls we serve. Seeing their excitement from the exposure to the performing arts is wonderful, but watching their changed behavior as they learn new skills, become familiar with a
new art form and improve their accomplishments is amazing. It is satisfying knowing the impact on their families, as they see the growth and believe in new opportunities for their young girls.

- The high-level exposure to performing arts by partnering with nationally exceptional organizations, like Sphinx, MOT and the ABT, DSO and Figure Skating in Harlem/Detroit set a high standard of aspirations for the girls and families we serve, as well as the entire programming efforts of GWCC.
- The exposure given these young girls is often never ever experienced by adults. Additionally, the intense training opportunities for our Ballet Scholars and Sphinx Scholars is unparalleled.
Kent Area (OH)
The Arts
My Community through the Eyes of the 21st Century African-American Child

Number of Members in Chapter: 24
Number of People Served: 12
Location: Summit, Stark, Portage Counties, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 24
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2
Funds Spent on Program: $2,858

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Timken Company
• Dr. Shirla E. McClain Gallery
• Massillon Museum

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Experiential learning and community focus are the foundation for the Kent Area Chapter of Links, Incorporated, Photography program. The program focused on the socioeconomic conditions of the homeless population in Summit, Stark and Portage counties. The project’s objectives include providing the venue for the students to:
• To understand that photographs are just reflections of reality but are images that convey many meanings.
• To describe what they see in a photograph.
• To identify the mood of a photograph and determine what elements contribute to the mood.
• To analyze color, light and shadow and their contribution to the photographs meaning.
• To identify the photograph’s point of view.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Under the core signature arts initiative, which is my community through the eyes of a child with theme of see my world, the Kent area chapter primary goal is for children for to look at their world differently to not only find what is beautiful but also what they would like to change. Our photography program produces exceptional photographs that has led us to an opportunity to exhibit in multiple museum across our county footprint. The KAC of Links will continue to enhance and grow this project so that the energy within our youth will yield the creativity of the arts.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• The children’s ability to connect their creative side with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), which should help them with their career plans.
Oklahoma City (OK)
The Arts
Promoting Health and Wellness Through the Arts

Number of Members in Chapter: 35
Number of Members Participating in Program: 20
Number of People Served: 140
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 22
Location: Oklahoma City, OK
Funds Spent on Program: $8,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Millwood Public School District: provides an auditorium for the recitals and actively recruit students from the district who are interested in participating in the dance program.
• Langston University-OKC: provides the space at no cost and teachers, administrators, and staff.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Goals:
• Encourage a lifestyle shift focused on health, through dance, in the African American community starting with youth, which transitions into adulthood.
• Witness a generation that embraces the arts and healthy lifestyles, and passes their knowledge to the next generation.
Objectives:
• Introduce dance through the arts as a cultural and expressive way to increase creativity, cognition (memory) and physical health.
• Help African American youth understand that exercise can be fun and easy.
• Provide an additional opportunity for physical activity.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
This program is 100% dependent on the community; therefore it has a huge presence and significant outcomes for participants. Exposing African American children to dance and the arts has resulted in hundreds of children learning about dance forms that many had minimal experiences with prior to this program. Two recitals are held annually with significant participation from the community. One exciting past theme was "Dancing to the Emerald City" Spring Semester: Selection from the "Wiz." Everything from costumes to music speaks of a 1st class Broadway production. After two decades, this program is now institutionalized in the African American community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Community involvement
• Introduction of African American youth to dance and the arts.
• Benefits that dance has for the participants socially, emotionally, and physically.
Queen City (OH)
The Arts
Classics Through the Ages with Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Nouveau Pre-Conservatory Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Members in Chapter: 42</th>
<th>Number of Members Participating in Program: 39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of People Served: 24</td>
<td>Number (Period) of Years Executed: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location: Greater Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>Funds Spent on Program: $22,535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra: the primary partner, investing a minimum of 1,000 hours per year (September through June) which encompass lessons, coaching, performances, master classes, CSO shadowing, free CSO concerts, and summer study;
- University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Preparatory Advanced Chamber Music Orchestra program and Encore Advance Chamber Music Summer program
- Sphinx Virtuoso Tour concert, featuring professional Black and Latino string players
- College Hill Presbyterian Church: for practice space and performances
- First United Church of Christ (College Hill): for practice space and performances
- Zion Baptist Church: for annual Martin Luther King Vesper Service
- The Voice of Your Customer: for student music stands
- Multicultural Awareness Council of the CSO Volunteer Association
- The Cincinnati Art Museum
- Antonio Violins Kenwood: provided instruments for peer-to-peer workshop

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- GOAL 1: PREPARE HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED SKILLED MUSIC STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY AND/OR CONSERVATORY STUDY AND CAREERS IN MUSIC, CREATING A PIPELINE AND NETWORK OF TALENTED, DIVERSE MUSICIANS by 1) providing financial support for summer educational programs; 2) providing dual mentoring and coaching by Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Queen City (OH) Chapter members; 3) continuing financial sponsorship of the Nouveau Pre-Conservatory Program (NPP); and 4) sponsoring two NPP recitals per program year.
- GOAL 2: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NPP MEMBERS TO ENHANCE THEIR ACADEMIC AND LIFE SKILLS through 1) conducting workshops based on the needs of NPP members and at the direction of CSO leadership, and 2) assigning mentors to help NPP with college preparation.
- GOAL 3: BUILD AWARENESS, SENSE OF PRIDE, AND INCREASED EXPOSURE IN THE ARTS (CLASSICAL, CREATIVE, AND PERFORMING) FOR HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS IN THE CINCINNATI METROPOLITAN AREA by 1) conducting at least one peer-to-peer workshop per program year that exposes school-aged youth to classical music; 2) contributing a minimum of 10 service hours per program year through NPP performances; and 3) marketing NPP activities to schools, churches, and other community organization.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Queen City (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated (QCCL) has partnered with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for twelve years to sponsor the Nouveau Pre-Conservatory Program (NPP) as part of the national Signature Arts Program: Classics Through the Ages. This program originated in 2007 with a focus on increasing the interest, knowledge, and participation of Black/African American youth in the classical arts. NPP is currently a string ensemble of ten middle school and high school African American and Hispanic/Latino students who have a passion for classical music. As the program further develops, woodwind and brass instruments will be added to the strings. NPP continues to be an important part of the CSO's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and is
towards boosting the participation of historically underrepresented students and preparing them for advanced conservatory study. QCCL supports NPP by annually sponsoring via a financial contribution, assisting in marketing the program, purchasing supplies, providing mentoring support and guidance, conducting developmental workshops (e.g. public speaking, dining etiquette, time/stress management, college application preparation, and resume writing), and by donating financial assistance for students to participate annually in private lessons, master classes with CSO musicians, and scholarships to attend summer music camps. The chapter also coordinates opportunities for NPP to provide a yearly peer-to-peer, one-on-one mentoring workshop so that NPP members can work with groups of students who have not had the opportunity to be exposed to and play musical instruments. Since the first notes played in 2007, NPP has amazed audiences with their skill, creativity, and determination and proven that with proper training, mentoring, and education, they can perform and compete at the highest level.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- **COACHING/TRAINING/EXPOSURE**: Nouveau students were provided group and private instruction, mentorship, performance opportunities, complimentary admission to CSO concerts and a network for like-minded, serious music students.

- **QCCL/CSO PARTNERSHIP**: Links chapter members provided career, etiquette, stage presentation, life skills, and college preparation workshops. They also physically supported all of their performances along with the yearly financial contribution to CSO and funds to support summer study. In addition, the leadership of the CSO and chapter have a regular meeting and mutual respect for each other and the partnership.

- **ORIENTATION**: An orientation session for students and parents kicked off each season in September 2017 and 2018. This was the opportunity to meet CSO staff, music coach and members of QCCL.
Ann Arbor (MI)
National Trends and Services
Summer Reading Program/Closing The Achievement Gap

Number of Members in Chapter: 39
Number of People Served: 95
Location: Ann Arbor, MI
Number of Members Participating in Program: 29
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 8
Funds Spent on Program: $3,100

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
AADL (Ann Arbor District Library and YDL (Ypsilanti District Library) were involved, and the bibliographies/reading list were created for various age groups. The bibliographies featured African American authors and illustrators. They also provided a free book to all the students that completed the program. Moreover, 13 of the members are Educators and endorsed this program.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Keep students reading throughout the summer by completing the Summer Reading Program.
• Have at least 80 students participate in the Summer Reading Program.
• Maintain and increase the reading skill by learning at least 15 new vocabulary words.
• Expose 80% of students to at least five quality books that are both developmentally and reflective of the African American experience.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Ann Arbor News has published as front page accounts the disturbing statistics describing the achievement gap between African American and Caucasian students living in Washtenaw County and who attend Ann Arbor Public Schools. The State of Michigan has recently issued a mandate for Schools to address this problem. Much can be done from infancy through college to reduce the achievement gap and many interventions do not cost very much. With this in mind, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links, Inc. begins to look at interventions for their Achievement Gap Plan to address this problem. Research shows that students who do not practice their reading skills over the summer return to school with diminished reading skills. Using the Service Delivery Model and SMART objectives, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links identified elementary literacy as a focused solution, and then met with the Ann Arbor District Library, Ypsilanti District Library, and two Community Centers to form a partnership to develop a Summer Reading Program. This cooperative project with the Links, Inc. involved the creation of bibliographies by both libraries featuring African American authors and illustrators to spark a love of reading for these children. Link members went into the community centers and did Read-aloud with students every week during the summer program. The 95 students since 2017 that completed the program received a certificate of completion and a free book of their choice from the library. In addition, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links, Inc. donated a collection of books to the community center that had the largest number of students to complete the program. The students were very proud to receive their certificate and free book. The Links really enjoyed going in and reading to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-grade students during the summer program.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
The Committee is greatly encouraged by the reliability of this repeated assessment and evaluation methodology indicating increased vocabulary outcomes in these students.
• The number of students that benefited and completed the program as specified by SMART objectives; promotion of National priority for increasing member engagement to participate in the Summer Reading Program.
• The Partnership with the libraries and the community centers to promote the visibility of Links brand.
• The creation of an African American Reading list that is now sustained on each of the library websites.
Chattanooga (TN)
National Trends and Services
National Trends 2019 Report-AARP

Number of Members in Chapter: 38
Number of People Served: 721
Location: Chattanooga, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 28
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $1,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- AARP of Chattanooga Senior Care Center and Service Mobility at Home Patten Towers for Seniors
- Ronald McDonald House
- East gate and Northgate Mall: facilities
- Brainerd Road Washers
- Bi Lo Foods
- The Links, Incorporated
- Chattanooga Fire Department: fire safety information session, free fire detectors
- City Attorney and Colleagues: legal issues information session
- Tennessee Valley Credit Union: free checking accounts for seniors
- First Baptist Church: meeting location, clothes closet, and medical health checks
- Olivet Baptist Church: workshops
- New Monumental Baptist Church: exposure to the Arts Tivoli Theater Ballet TN Golden Gateway
- First Baptist Church: Rave Theater movie days for seniors
- Home Depot: arts and crafts for seniors
- Senior Citizens Dance Group: provided health services
- Media Channel 9 News: provided health services
- Chattanooga College - Health Screenings and follow-up; free make-up and hair care for seniors; meeting location
- Galen Medical Erlanger Hospital
- YMCA for Seniors

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Our goals are to focus on four categories that represent the greatest needs for seniors in our community:

- Healthcare/wellness
- Financial issues
- Legal issues
- Support service/social activity in the community. To offer free workshops, tools, and resources to support African American women and men so that they have ready access to services they need when they need them during this aging period.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Consistent with our overarching goals for the National Trends Facet, the Chattanooga (TN) Chapter’s partnership with AARP provides tools, services, and resources to support African-American women and men who are preparing for life as they age. Monthly meetings include information sessions, health screenings, and “meet and greets” with community service providers who target their messages for senior citizens. The chapter also works with the local AARP chapter and partners to address immediate needs and host annual events to focus the entire community on ways to empower, serve, and honor the value senior citizens continue to contribute to our community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- Being able to serve those that need our services in the community.
- Connecting seniors to agencies that help them navigate the challenges of aging (legal, medical, and other senior services).
- Being able to identify and get to know the senior community.
- Being connected to those that need our assistance.
- Being able to give back to the community.
Des Moines (IA)
National Trends and Services
Link Up and Vote

Number of Members in Chapter: 25
Number of People Served: 2,595
Location: Polk County, IA

Number of Members Participating in Program: 20
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 5
Funds Spent on Program: $350

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• NAACP – Provided data, outreach assistance
• Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – community outreach assistance
• Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – community outreach assistance
• Kappa Alpha Psi – community outreach
• Alpha Phi Alpha – community outreach assistance
• Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – community outreach assistance
• LULAC – community outreach assistance in the Latino community
• local churches – outreach assistance/forum to provide voter education/voter registration
• Evelyn Davis Center – a meeting place for volunteers to organize
• Urban Dreams—meeting place for volunteers to organize

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• To increase awareness of new voter ID law.
• To increase the number of voters participating in the voting process.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Souls to the Polls, Link up and Vote, and Arrive with Five were the messages that powered the actions taken by Links members to engage the faith community and community partners in voter education, registration activities and participation in the voting process. These efforts of leveraging community resources and the spirit of collaboration resulted in reaching over 2500 individuals.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• Broad participation across the community of diverse organizations in the program.
• The collaborative spirit of community organizations.
• increased learning regarding community resources.
Number of Members in Chapter: Hoffman Estates (IL) National Trends and Services Know Your Rights 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Members Participating in Program:</th>
<th>Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: Elgin, IL</td>
<td>Funds Spent on Program: $250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:**
- Cook County Bar Association: moderator and panelist
- St. James AME Church: space and advertising to the congregation

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**
- Increase minority community residents' awareness of how to respond when they have interactions with law enforcement or the criminal justice system.
- Increase the number of community residents registered to vote and voting.
- Decrease the number of negative law enforcement interactions that community minority teenagers encounter.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT**
The Hoffman Estates Chapter (IL), Links Inc., in partnership with the Cook County Bar Association, held its second "Know Your Rights" event was held on September 15, 2018, at St. James AME Baptist Church in Elgin, Illinois. The goal of the event was to educate the community on their rights when dealing with the police and how to reduce negative interactions between the community and law enforcement. The seminar brought awareness to how voting, understanding legislation and being active in the community can foster positive relationships with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Community residents learned valuable information on what to do and say during a traffic stop. Attorneys informed the community of their rights when dealing with the police and prosecutors provided resources information. Panelists included: Canon Lambert, Attorney; Herman Nelson, Retired Special Agent; Lisa M. Taylor, Attorney; Dartesia A. Pitts, Esq., President, Cook County Bar Association 2017-2018; Takia Washington, Detective. Attorney Amir Akbar served as moderator for the panel discussion. On November 18, 2017, the Hoffman Estates Chapter, Links Inc. (IL), held the first in a series of "Know Your Rights" Black Lives Matter events at Harper College in Palatine Illinois.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**
- The feedback from the participants was that they really enjoyed the panel discussion and that they were given information that they would use.
- They were also not aware of much of the information that was presented so they walked away with new knowledge regarding interacting with the police.
Get Out the Vote

**Number of Members in Chapter:** 28  
**Number of People Served:** 1,250  
**Location:** Madison/Dane County, WI  
**Number of Members Participating in Program:** 23  
**Number (Period) of Years Executed:** less than 1 year  
**Funds Spent on Program:** $0

**KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:**
- Wisconsin Voter ID Coalition
- League of Women Voters Dane NAACP Dane County
- ACLU of Wisconsin
- Madison Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Madison Metropolitan Chapter of the Links, Inc.
- South Central Federation of Labor
- Rotary Club of West Towne-Middleton
- YWCA Madison
- Urban League of Greater Madison
- Wisconsin Faith Voice for Justice
- Vote Riders
- Dane County Neighborhood Teams (Team Gold, Madtown O’s, Middleton Action Team)
- Oregon Area Progressives and Teal Team Northside Action Team
- Organizing South Madison
- Stoughton Action Coalition
- Grassroots Organization of Waunakee and DeForest-Windsor Area Grassroots

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**
The overall goal was to ensure that each eligible voter had the opportunity to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted, thereby increasing the percentage of Wisconsin voters by a minimum of 35% over the decline (55.1%) in the voter turnout rate in the 2016 election. Specifically, our goal was to engage and educate unregistered and registered voters about the newly implemented requirement to show a voter photo ID to receive a ballot on Election Day or when voting absentee. In order to accomplish this goal the following objectives were identified:
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition and establish relationships and collaborate with organizations with similar interests and goals.
- Encourage a minimum of one-fourth of the Link members to complete the “Education Ambassador” voter registration training offered through the Madison City Clerk’s Office to ensure that we could partner a trained member with non-trained members to register voters, check and update names and addresses, if needed; answer questions about voter ID, the voting process, voter eligibility, voter registration, absentee ballots.
- Identify target areas in the community where non-registered disenfranchised voters reside and provide information and assistance to them in obtaining acceptable voter’s photo ID’s.
- Participate in community collaborations to host candidate forums.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT**
After years of legal battling, Wisconsin’s voter photo ID requirement passed in 2011 and after a series of legal challenges over its constitutionality was put in place for the first general election in 2016, the 2018 general elections in the state witnessed a sharp decline in voters casting a ballot. The Madison Metropolitan Chapter of the Links Incorporated partnered with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition and participating organizations to educate voters about the
requirements to show a voter photo to receive a ballot on election day or when voting absentee. Voters who may not have acceptable voter photo ID were identified and arrangements made to assist those who need help to obtain an ID. We focused on educating our community about the critical need to allow our voices to be heard. Our program operates under the premise that all eligible voters should be allowed/able to vote and not become disenfranchised because they are not provided adequate information, do not have access to updated laws or lack transportation to the voting polls. The program's mission is to uphold the integrity of the election process and to protect our voting rights legacy, through the provision of information, opportunity, access, and engagement. The program focused on intensive “Get Out The Vote” efforts that aimed at ensuring that every eligible citizen could exercise their right to vote. The voting drive resulted in 1000s of people registering to vote and 100s of those persons securing valid IDs in order to do so. The results of such efforts ultimately aided in a 92.9% turnout for the city of Madison, the highest turnout ever to be reported. 85% of the people affected by not having valid Id’s were people of color, specifically Black males ages 18-50. The efforts of the Madison Links targeting the black community and working with participating organizations led to an increase of voter ID access and registration of voters, many of whom voted for the first time in the 2018 general elections. The Madison Links was recognized with high commendations for participating in voter registration efforts across Dane County.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- The grassroots outreach to the people in the many communities we served. We were able to reach so many people who were passive voters and provide them with information that changed their outlook about voting and the impact of “one” vote.
- Many of whom either had not registered to vote, had never voted, did not think they were eligible to vote, did not think their one vote could make a difference, did not know the location of their polling place, did not know about Wisconsin new Voter ID Laws, etc.
- It was so rewarding to see the engagement of many of these individuals after we shared the history of Voter ID Laws and how this recently implemented law had disenfranchised so many voters across the state and in many other states. After the elections, some have made it a point to let us know that they voted and others began asking about the upcoming 2019 Spring Primary election and the April local elections.
River City (TN)
National Trends and Services
“I A Voter” Strategic Collaborative on Voter Education, Registration, Mobilization & Reform

Number of Members in Chapter: 67
Number of People Served: 7,820
Location: River City, TN

Number of Members Participating in Program: 65
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 8
Funds Spent on Program: $15,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- The following groups were Volunteers: Bluff City Cluster of The Links, Incorporated; 3 Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta; 2 Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha; 2 Chapters of Omega Psi Phi; 2 Chapters of Kappa Alpha Psi; 1 Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha; 2 Motorcycle Clubs; 3 Eastern Star and Mason Halls; Memphis Urban League Young Professionals TN Department of Homeland Security (ID's) 10 Churches
- 7 School Districts In-kind support was provided by the following organizations:
  o Shelby County Election Commission – Voting Machines, Trainers, Deputy Registrars at high schools and forums to certify voter registration cards on the spot- $5,000
  o Federal Express = Bags, Water Bottles, Backpacks, Pads & Pens -$1,000.00
  o NAACP Memphis Branch - Meeting Space, Administrative Staff for volunteer voter registration material pick up & drop off - $1,500.00
  o National Civil Rights Museum. - Meeting Space, A/V Equipment, Staff - $3,000.00
  o Memphis, Light Gas & Water - Bottled Water - $300.00
  o Alpha Kappa Alpha -$500.00
  o Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church - Meeting Space - $2,500.00
  o Jack & Jill of America, Inc.– Crafts For Children and Food For The Watch Party - $2,500.00
  o Carter Malone Public Relations – Buses / Vans and PR To Conduct Roll To The Polls - $2,500.00
  o Delta Sigma Theta w/ Omega Psi Phi – Drivers for Vans and Buses, Street Team - $500.00
  o Kappa Alpha Psi – Graphic Design - $200.00
  o Alpha Phi Alpha - Meeting Space, Reception - $500.00

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- To deliver a transformational program that aligned, advanced and sustained the goal of The Links, Incorporated's Legislative Issues, Public Affairs, and Disaster Relief Committee's "Get Out The Vote" initiative by collaborating with government, civic, corporate and faith-based organizations who collectively designed, implemented, and delivered a strategic and innovative grassroots movement which mobilized and empowered 120% more voters 18-24 to be educated, motivated, registered, and engaged voters by 2019, than initially existed in 2012.
- Innovated the “GOTV” program which had focused on collaborating with college students by expanding it to include nearly 10,000 new easily identified students that turned 18 and became eligible to vote early in an innovative, reliable, measurable, and sustainable manner.
- Increased from 2 registration drives and 1 education forum in 2012 to 100 registration drives and 10 education forums from 2017-2019 by collaborating with 30 plus community partners whose collective influence and resources increased voting among students age 18-24 by 120%.
- To brand and market The Links, Incorporated and the “I AM A VOTER” Strategic Collaborative as the premier “GOTV” program that’s accepted, recognized and supported by the community because it protected and expanded the right to vote, removed barriers to voting, and increased the number of educated and motivated voters who become advocates in a strategic, innovative, sustainable, and transformational manner.
PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

“I AM A VOTER” Strategic Collaborative on Voter Education, Registration, Mobilization & Reform is a sustainable and transformational grassroots movement founded by the River City (TN) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in 2012. It advanced, aligned, and sustained The Links, Incorporated Legislative Issues, Public Affairs, and Disaster Relief Committee’s “Get Out The Vote” initiative by effectively forging successful collaborations with over 30 plus prominent government, civic and faith-based organizations. The program innovated, sustained and enhanced the national, area, and chapter goal to educate, motivate and advocate with college students by expanding the initiative to systematically educate and register nearly 10,000 identifiable, accessible, and eligible high school students that turn 18 yearly, which produced 22,789 new voters age 18-24 from 2012 to date, up from 1,250 new voters when the program launched in 2012. An additional 3,679 other voters were educated, motivated and activated as a result of the program from 2012 to date. The program increased the number of voters by 7,820 new voters from 2017 – 2019 as a result of the expanded initiative. The program achieved its inaugural goal to double the number of registered voters age 18-24 in 2017 and is positioned to more than triple actual voters 18-24 who vote by 2020. These voters, age 18-24, in conjunction with The Links, Incorporated, now advocate against laws, policies, procedures, and practices that suppress, deter, prevent, challenge, disenfranchise, and have a disparate impact on the most underserved and impoverished communities at risk for having their unequivocal right to vote breached. The “I AM A VOTER” Strategic Collaborative fulfills the VISION to eliminate disparities by reducing barriers to voting through advocacy, education, and mobilization. We lobbied the TN Legislature to institute online voting throughout the state at our annual Links Day at the State Capitol with all 10 TN Links Chapters advocating with one voice. The bill was passed and became effective in 2018 which further fulfilled the MISSION of The Links, Incorporated to effectively "Transform Communities and Fulfill Our Purpose" by using the “Power of One” to empower the communities in which we work. It meets the GOALS by increasing the number of sustainable and measurable programs; increasing collaborative partnerships; and extending our existing initiatives to include communities identified as having the greatest need.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- The “I AM A VOTER” Strategic Collaborative fulfills the VISION of the NTS facet to eliminate disparities by reducing barriers to voting through advocacy, education, and service.
- It fulfills the MISSION to empower the River City TN chapter to effectively empower the communities in which we work by registering 6504 voters age 18-24, 622 other voters, and 75 youth who in conjunction with The Links, Incorporated, advocated against laws, policies, procedures, and practices that suppress, deter, prevent, create challenges, disenfranchise voters in the most underserved communities.
- It met the GOALS by increasing the number of sustainable and measurable programs; increasing collaborative partnerships; and extending our existing initiatives to areas of greatest need by collaborating with over 30 government, civic and faith-based organizations. The “I AM A VOTER” Strategic Collaborative is “Empowering People and Transforming Lives!”
Twin Rivers (OH)
National Trends and Services
My Sister’s Keeper: Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking

Number of Members in Chapter: 42
Number of People Served: 1,580
Location: Columbus, OH
Number of Members Participating in Program: 25
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4
Funds Spent on Program: $12,087

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Far East Neighborhood Pride Center: identification & development of neighborhood-based resources
• United Way Neighborhood Partnership: identification of nonprofit tools for students
• City of Columbus Police Department, Officer: educational engagement as a speaker, safety information and statistics
• Leigh’s Legacy Nonprofit: testimony and distribution of resource information
• Survivors Ink: survivor testimony and video presentation
• Brenda Troy Ministries: award-winning rescue leader as speaker
• Grace Haven Home: speaker and resource materials
• Krav Maga: self-defense training
• CATCH Court, Judge Herbert: information and real-world survivor statistics and stories
• Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force: provided informational handouts and pamphlets
• Salvation Army: speaker and resource material

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Objective: To deliver a transformational program that will educate and empower Columbus area teens, ages 13-18, in order to help them understand and avoid human trafficking and the abuse that goes along with this devastating form of exploitation.
Goals:
  o Collaborate with a minimum of 2 Columbus Public School (CPS) Administrators to conduct human trafficking prevention workshops for a minimum of 600 area middle and high school students each program year.
  o Provide education, safety and empowerment strategies designed to ensure that 80% of student participants can identify: signs of victimization, state 3 strategies to decrease victimization, and identify 3 resources to assist potential victims at the conclusion of each workshop.
  o Assist with the development of a pilot "My Sister's Keeper" mentoring club in CPS schools by 9/2019.
  o Develop a pilot “Breaking the Chains” program for young men and present to at least one CPS by 4/2019.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
According to a 2016 article in the Columbus Dispatch, Ohio has a serious problem with human trafficking that is not being fully addressed. Alan Johnson, the article’s author, used statistics, real-life antidotes, and quotes from local civic leaders to validate this point. It is clear that to prevent human trafficking in Columbus, our city needs a champion that is focused squarely on the population being recruited into this modern-day form of slavery; young vulnerable juveniles, mostly girls. The Twin Rivers Chapter (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated provides exactly that, a champion team dedicated to human trafficking prevention in the Central Ohio area. This group of 42 service-oriented women launched a program called “My Sister’s Keeper: Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking”. They collaborated with numerous civic organizations, such as The Columbus Police Department, Grace Haven, Brenda Troy Ministries, and Survivors’ Ink, to develop and deliver a transformational program for at-risk youth in Columbus. Since the chapter’s first program on 2/4/16, Twin Rivers has served almost 3,000 young women. The program, designed to build awareness and prevent human trafficking, leaves no stone unturned. We took 12 months to develop this program to ensure that young women and men would be equipped with the tools to help combat this serious issue. The future of young women and men is too important for us to back down from this challenge. Human trafficking has a devastating impact. We are encouraged
that through education, mentorship, community involvement, that upon program completion, 86% of students say that they have a better understanding of the risk factors and devastation associated with trafficking.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

• Maximizing our opportunity to meet the needs of a vulnerable population of students by providing human trafficking awareness and prevention training.
• Providing human trafficking awareness and prevention training to middle and high school young ladies in a non-threatening and nurturing environment (single-sex environment). Identified several young ladies who were either current victims of human trafficking or survived and connected them to social workers, salvation army and school counselor.
• Building partnerships with organizations and individuals in Columbus that advocate against human trafficking (i.e. Grace Haven, Salvation Army, Columbus Police Department, Office of the Attorney General).
**Western Reserve (OH)**

**National Trends and Services**

**The Community Baby Shower: Addressing Infant Mortality in Cuyahoga County, OH**

**Number of Members in Chapter:** 39  
**Number of People Served:** 95  
**Location:** Ann Arbor, MI

**Number of Members Participating in Program:** 29  
**Number (Period) of Years Executed:** 8  
**Funds Spent on Program:** $3,100

**KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:**
- AADL (Ann Arbor District Library and YDL (Ypsilanti District Library): were involved, and bibliographies/reading list were created for various age groups. The bibliographies featured African American authors and illustrators. They also provided a free book to all the students that completed the program. Moreover, 13 of the members are Educators and endorsed this program.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**
- Keep students reading throughout the summer by completing the Summer Reading Program.
- Have at least 80 students participate in the Summer Reading Program.
- Maintain and increase the reading skill by learning at least 15 new vocabulary words.
- Expose 80% of students to at least five quality books that are both developmentally and reflective of the African American experience.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT**

The Ann Arbor News has published as front page accounts the disturbing statistics describing the achievement gap between African American and Caucasian students living in Washtenaw County and who attend Ann Arbor Public Schools. The State of Michigan has recently issued a mandate for Schools to address this problem. Much can be done from infancy through college to reduce the achievement gap and many interventions do not cost very much. With this in mind, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links, Inc. begins to look at interventions for their Achievement Gap Plan to address this problem. Research shows that students who do not practice their reading skills over the summer return to school with diminished reading skills. Using the Service Delivery Model and SMART objectives, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links identified elementary literacy as a focused solution, and then met with the Ann Arbor District Library, Ypsilanti District Library, and two Community Centers to form a partnership to develop a Summer Reading Program. This cooperative project with the Links, Inc. involved the creation of bibliographies by both libraries featuring African American authors and illustrators to spark a love of reading for these children. Link members went into the community centers and did Read-aloud with students every week during the summer program. The 95 students since 2017 that completed the program received a certificate of completion and a free book of their choice from the library. In addition, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links, Inc. donated a collection of books to the community center that had the largest number of students to complete the program. The students were very proud to receive their certificate and free book. The Links really enjoyed going in and reading to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-grade students during the summer program.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

The Committee is greatly encouraged by the reliability of this repeated assessment and evaluation methodology indicating increased vocabulary outcomes in these students.
- The number of students that benefited and completed the program as specified by SMART objectives; promotion of National priority for increasing member engagement to participate in the Summer Reading Program.
- The Partnership with the libraries and the community centers to promote the visibility of Links brand.
- The creation of an African American Reading list that is now sustained on each of the library websites.
Milwaukee (WI)
International Trends and Services
Milwaukee (WI) Chapter International Trends & Services
Jamaica Signature Project Central Area Report

Number of Members in Chapter: 46
Number of People Served: 170,255
Location: Milwaukee, WI

Number of Members Participating in Program: 31
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 3
Funds Spent on Program: $31,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Ms. Phyllis Hall, The Ministry of Health for Life & Wellness Foundation Limited: site analysis, evaluation, selection of shipping containers for customs
• The GE Healthcare International Commercial Product Team: facility site evaluation and technology selection process, provided a 400%+ discounting of technology, onsite service support, and personnel training
• Arel Distributors (based in Jamaica): provided local logistics support, customs clearance, onsite installation, on-site service support, and personnel training
• A.L.I.V.E. Inc. Milwaukee, Pastor Leroy, and Mrs. Nordia Rose, Aurora Healthcare: “New Mother” programs and delivery of 100 kits
• Falmouth Hospital, Friends of Falmouth: assess ongoing care delivery needs

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The Milwaukee (WI) Links Jamaican Project had the following three goals regarding Year Two of this project:
• Assist Falmouth Hospital in restoring their critically needed OB/GYN patient care services through the procurement of a “state of the art” Logic V2 Portable Ultrasound and supporting accessories that will allow flexibility for the following uses: Portability for onsite and remote use - Inclusion of Convex and Endo probes for both OB/GYN and surgical care needs.
• Help to enhance Falmouth Medical Staff technical skillset for both Radiologists and other essential medical personnel regarding the use of ultrasound technology.
• Reduce patient care disruption resulting from ultrasound equipment downtime.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane”. (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.) When the Milwaukee Links began this journey two years ago to address the issue of health disparities in Jamaica, little did we know how this project would impact the lives of those in our community, our brothers and sisters in Jamaica and those across the Links Organization? As I wrote in a recent Link to Link article: “We watched as the GE Service Techs hurriedly rushed the shipment containers down the hall so they could set it up and the medical staff could begin treating the anxious patients lined up in the hallway. We watched as a critically injured gentleman who had been waiting 12+ hours in ER was rushed on a gurney to that room for scanning so the Chief Surgeon could perform his life-saving surgery…and many of us also wept. Our hearts were deeply touched by the surgeon, who while in his surgical scrubs, wept as he thanked us for this donation. We quickly came to realize that we were witnessing was a “life-altering” moment that transformed all who had played a role or been touched by this project. We rarely have the chance to witness a truly transformational moment. On that day….in that small waiting room, we learned what the words of the Links National Song truly mean: “We strive to do some good each year, For those why need our aid, It binds us close and brings us joy, And so, we feel repaid”. We have received numerous requests to do both local and national media interviews to share our story. Our hearts and souls are filled. And our cups have truly run over with love.
MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- Immediate Impact – Within 30 minutes of its arrival, the Logiq V2 & Probes were deployed by the Medical Staff treating critically injured patients. Falmouth is one of few Hospital with portable ultrasound equipment which proved to be invaluable in treating patients of Hurricane Maria. Those of us attending the commissioning witnessed the lineup of emergency room patients being shepherded in for scans prior to surgery. The most moving testimonial was when the Head of Surgery stopped by in his scrubs to personally thank The Links for this donation. He wept as he spoke and explained how he now had a better chance to save the life of a critically injured patient who had been waiting in the ER for 12 hours.

- The restoration of critical OB/GYN services for the women of Falmouth eliminating the need to travel 120 miles for care and have to wait 2 years to learn if their breast tumor is benign or cancer.
Nashville (TN)
International Trends and Services
Storm Restoration for E. Benjamin Oliver Elementary School

Number of Members in Chapter: 48
Number of People Served: 356
Location: U.S. Virgin Islands

Number of Members Participating in Program: 48
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 2
Funds Spent on Program: $2,704

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Links Chapters

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Send school supplies for the entire school and provide a printer for the office.
• Work on rebuilding library collection.
• Provide technology for every classroom.
• Collaborate with other Links Chapters, organizations, and corporations. We have sent supplies two years but this is an ongoing need. We have some creative ideas for continuing to build the library that could easily translate to other Links Chapters. One of the Chicago area chapters has already reached out to us to help.
• Research grant sources that will work directly with the school.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Nashville Chapter’s International Trends Facet developed our Storm Restoration Program for E. Benjamin Oliver Elementary School from the pressing needs of the citizens of United States Virgin Islands following the devastation of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. Though we started with individuals and moved on to aid a single classroom, we were able to strategically engage with the principal of the school and build a program to serve the needs of the school as a whole. Working with the schools has been eye-opening in terms of how the United States deals with our territories. We are constantly bombarded with information on Puerto Rico and their recovery but the situation in St. Thomas is just as dire. Add to this situation the fact that most of the citizens of the island are of African descent. After working with the school for over a year, the continued donation of basic supplies is essential to the success of the program. We have begun to help to rebuild the school library with the donation of over 200 books but this is just the beginning. Our work on this program is ongoing and our commitment is unwavering.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
• This program had the ability to address an immediate need. We sent supplies to individuals and a classroom within two months of the hurricanes. There is a long term impact because we have developed a sustainable relationship with the school with goals that do not have an ending date. As long as there is a need, we will keep supporting the school.
• Although we have conducted the program under ITS, it has the ability to incorporate all facets of the Links. It also can easily be adoptable by any Links chapter.
Twin Rivers (OH)
International Trends and Services
Feed a Mind-Help a Nation

Number of Members in Chapter: 42
Number of People Served: 14,363
Location: Grand Goave, Anjubo, Canaan, & Jeremie, Haiti

Number of Members Participating in Program: 29
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 11
Funds Spent on Program: $21,000

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
The Twin Rivers Chapter collaborated with five organizations to deliver resources and services to the residents of Haiti. Our collaboration with these organizations enabled us to meet our goals and objectives for our “Feed a Mind-Help a Nation Program”

- Haiti Mission, Inc.: to build the School Rainwater Catchment system in Canaan. Additionally, Haiti Mission, Inc will purchase and distribute the medicine we purchased for intestinal parasites.
- Lifeline Christian Mission: to build a house for a homeless family, deliver infant formula, food, clothing, medicine, and school desks for women, children, and families in Grand Goave, Haiti. Lifeline Christian Mission graciously provided free shipping and distribution of the supplies we purchased for Haiti.
- Because International: to provide “The Shoe That Grows”, it expands in size for growing children and provides protection against soil-borne diseases.
- The Voice of Children, USA: which operates a school in Anjubo, Haiti. Our partnership allows us to pay for teacher salaries, books, meals, school supplies, to extend educational opportunities to children (preschool-6th grade).
- The Haitian Health Foundation: our partner for the “Give A Goat” program to create a micro-enterprise in the rural area in Jeremie, Haiti. We will purchase 5 pregnant goats for 5 families. The HH Foundation teaches the owners how to breed, barter, produce income and use goats for a food source.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The goal of our “Feed a Mind-Help a Nation” program is to positively impact the systemic issue of poverty in targeted groups in Haiti by providing clean water; decreasing illiteracy, malnutrition, and homelessness for women and children. And, improve the health & quality of life in our target areas: Grand Goave, Anjubo, Canaan and Jeremie, Haiti.

Objectives:
- Funding a Rainwater Catchment system for a school that will hold 6,600 gals of water in its reservoir, to provide clean water for at least 100 students in Canaan, Haiti during the 2017-2019 period.
- Decrease illiteracy rate by expanding educational opportunity for a minimum of 60 children, buying school supplies, salaries for 6 teachers; funding 15 school desks during 2017-2019 program period.
- Decrease homelessness in our target area by funding construction of our 7th house in 2017-2019 program period.
- Improve the quality of life and health in target areas by providing: at least 3,000 doses of parasite medicine, a minimum 100 packages of medical supplies, 44 baby blankets, 50 pairs of shoes, at least 700 feminine pads during 2017-2019 program period.
- Decrease malnutrition in target areas by providing: at least 150 lbs. of infant formula for 150 infants, to sustain life, provide a minimum 11,000 meals via meal packages; purchase 5 goats for 5 families for breeding, bartering, income, and food source in 2017-2019 program period.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The goal of our “Feed a Mind-Help a Nation” program was to meet some of the basic needs of targeted groups in Haiti that would have a positive impact on the systemic issue of poverty. The Twin Rivers Chapter collaborated with five community partners to deliver resources and services. We especially wanted to provide humanitarian aid to Haiti after the catastrophic natural disasters; the earthquake in 2010, and Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Our activities were developed to provide for the basic needs that are vital to human survival such as clean water, food, clothing, and
shelter. We funded a Rainwater Catchment system to provide clean water for a school. Provided a permanent home for a homeless family of four who previously lived in a tent. Bought 160 lbs. of infant formula for malnourished infants to sustain life, provided 11,182 supplement meals to reduce malnutrition and provided 44 baby blankets. We provided educational opportunity; teachers, school supplies, metal school desks, and meals for at least 70 children to decrease the illiteracy rate. This activity will give Haiti a better-educated population. We provided solutions to address health and quality of life needs; 50 pairs of shoes for children to protect their feet from soil-transmitted diseases. CDC-Haiti listed Diarrhea & Lower Respiratory Infections as the #2 cause of deaths in Haiti, We provided 100 over the counter medicines and 3,000 doses of parasite medicine to improve health outcomes for the residents. Our “Give a Goat” activity provides pregnant goats to 5 families to create a micro-enterprise to breed, barter, and provide income and a food source. We provided feminine hygiene pads to help women manage their menstrual cycle and enable women to participate freely in daily activities. Our partners appreciate the fact we have continued our work in Haiti. Our collaboration with our five community partners enabled us to create a program that has helped countless families in Haiti. The primary communities that have benefited from our resources are Grand Goave, Anjubo, Canaan, and Jeremie, Haiti. We have been committed to our program, “Feed a Mind Help a Nation”, and we are proud that our program has had a direct, long term impact on the lives of the citizens in Haiti. Our accomplished activities will lead to long term improvement in social and economic conditions. We believe a healthy and educated population will help Haiti grow and prosper as a nation.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- We have maintained our long-term support and focus on the most vulnerable people who are affected by systemic poverty; women, infants, and children. Our program activities were designed to provide for the vital needs of humans to sustain life: clean water, food, shelter, and clothing.
- Our educational opportunities provide lifelong skills and help reduce the illiteracy rate. The program activities fulfill short term needs of the citizens that we expect will produce long term outcomes to improve the health and quality of life in our target areas.
- We have developed and maintained partnerships with organizations who share our vision to help Haiti. These partnerships, new and long term, are an essential component of our Chapter’s success to provide resources for our target population.
KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
Central State University's Center for Global Studies: provided the venue, literature, refreshments, tea, teapots and invited participants campus-wide.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Building a partnership with a local HBCU to encourage re-enrollment for the following school year.
• Provide additional support for international students to increase the likelihood of completion of studies at the university.
• Increase cultural awareness between international students and chapter members.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
In the tradition for educational advancement held in The Wilberforce (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, the International Trends and Services Facet continues their relationship with Central State University. The International Trends and Services Facet has developed a relationship with the University Center for Global Studies to encourage and foster relationships among students from across the globe. This Facet has gladly joined efforts in assisting international students in becoming acclimated with the university while fostering relationships with other students who are from their home country. In doing so, international students will have an increased connection with the Wilberforce area and maintain their studies to completion at Central State University.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
Chapter members had an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with international students.
Windy City (IL)
International Trends and Services
Linking H-E-ARTS/Central Area International Education Empowerment Initiative

Number of Members in Chapter: 56
Number of People Served: 700
Location: Durban, South Africa

Number of Members Participating in Program: 56
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 6
Funds Spent on Program: $7,700

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
Partner organizations assist in identifying target populations, provide in-kind services and contribute to program evaluation. They also serve as “boots on the ground” facilitators to ensure effective program implementation in SA.
Partner organizations include:
• South African, Durban: Mofu Primary School, GEM School wear, Maphephetheni Clinic, KZN Departments of Health and Education, eThekwini Municipality (Offices of the Mayor, International and Government Relations, Area Based Management/INK, Libraries and Heritage, and Batho Pele), Kwamashu Dance Theater, Colgate Palmolive/Bright Smiles Bright Futures/SA, JOMBA Festival and Proctor and Gamble/South Africa
• Washington, DC: South African Embassy
• Chicago South African Consulate, Chicago Sister Cities International

Our partners provide a range of in-kind and direct resources including general health assessments and immunizations, dental and eye screenings, weekly provision of clean drinking water, buses and meeting facilities, catering, museum tours and excursions to city attractions and workshop materials. Additional donations include sanitary pads, and discounted purchases (uniforms, shoes, underwear). Representatives of these organizations serve as speakers, tour guides and workshop facilitators, and host volunteers for international exchange events.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The goal of Linking HEARTS is to promote healthy lifestyle practices, literacy, and art appreciation and to foster cultural/international exchange within targeted neighborhoods in Chicago and South Africa. Objectives: To raise awareness about risk factors associated with heart disease and puberty.
• To improve literacy skills (verbal and print and social media and promote art appreciation.
• To foster international exchanges involving Windy City members, African-Americans residing in Chicago and South Africans focused on global issues, lifestyles, and cultural traditions.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
Linking HEARTS is an exemplary model of the Links International Signature Program, Education Across the Miles/South Africa. As a collaborative effort between the Windy City Chapter and Mofu School as a primary partner, this innovative program addresses three identified problems: 1) health disparities (specifically risk factors associated with heart disease and puberty education), 2) illiteracy and lack of exposure to the arts and 3) rural isolation. Through direct funding and services, Windy City Chapter led by its International Trends Facet (ITS) supports critical needs of vulnerable children and their families residing in the deep rural community of Maphephetheni and surrounding areas in Durban, SA. ITS also utilizes creative leveraging and partnership engagements to enhance program services and to strengthen cross-cultural relations. During 2017-19, specific activities sponsored or facilitated under Linking HEARTS include the purchase of uniforms and shoes for all Mofu learners, health workshops for parents, general health assessments, eye, and dental screening and gardening. Additionally, Linking HEARTS has resulted in participants experiencing exposure to performing arts through dance instruction and festivals, as well as, making informed decisions in selecting and eating nutritional foods, staying active and incorporating oral hygiene practices into their lifestyles. Linking HEARTS is closely aligned with the Central Area ITS Initiative: International Education Empowerment. Four nearby schools are included in the Proctor and Gamble Always program and along with Mofu receive free sanitary pads and puberty education. New partnerships expanded the program’s impact to include projects focused on literacy, girls’ empowerment and awareness sessions addressing abuse and bullying. Windy City ITS works collaboratively to facilitate international exchange involving Mofu.
learners, chapter members, Chicagoans, and South Africans through presentations to visiting dignitaries, cultural celebrations, and performing arts activities. 100% chapter participation has been achieved in support of the ITS program. An additional outcome has been the acknowledgment of Windy City Links’ actions to make the world a better place by leading governmental officials, community recognition and awards. With the upcoming activities scheduled through April 2017, 700 individuals will have been touched in one or more ways by the Windy City’s international program.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**

- **IMPACT:** During 2017-19, Linking HEARTS affected 700 individuals directly or indirectly in Chicago and SA through in-kind services and direct financial support to 5 schools and 22 girl leaders. Zero of chapter members have been involved in international conversations and engagements.

- **COLLABORATION:** 13 partnerships with key arts, education, health, and NGO organizations along with the SA Embassy and eThekwini Municipality departments has resulted in an extraordinary amount of resources for Mofu learners and their families, e.g., clean water, annual health screenings, immunizations, puberty education, free sanitary pads, cultural enrichment, etc. Joint programming has also involved Greater Hudson Valley (NY) Chapter and three Chicago Metropolitan Cluster chapters.

- **SUSTAINABILITY:** ITS programming has been maintained and enhanced consistently over time with built-in sustainability features: a stable and expanded base of partners, increased numbers being served and ongoing financial support.
Central Illinois (IL)  
Health and Human Services  
Taking STEPS (Screening, Treatment, and Education Program)

Number of Members in Chapter: 34  
Number of People Served: 184  
Location: McLean and Macon County, IL

Number of Members Participating in Program: 17  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 10  
Funds Spent on Program: $11,313

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- Community Cancer Center, Normal, Illinois: women who were unable to afford mammograms in 2017 were sponsored by the Community Cancer Center.
- Susan G. Komen Memorial Affiliate Grant for 2017: $6,500, and 2018: $5,000.
- Advocate BroMenn Imaging center: completed the mammograms in 2017
- Crossing Health Clinic in Decatur, IL: offered mammograms and health coverage for uninsured participants in 2018.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Our goal is to educate African American women in McLean and Macon County on decreasing the impact of breast cancer through awareness, education, and screening, and by providing the impetus for changing health habits. The objectives are as follows:
- Educate on the importance of annual mammograms and how effective early detection increases chances for survival.
- Offer mammogram screenings by collaborating with local medical centers to women who qualify based on age and those considered high risk.
- Educate women on the myths and misinformation surrounding long-held beliefs concerning screenings, breast cancer, and breast health.
- Teach the importance of breast exams and how to properly conduct self-awareness examinations.
- Provide information on the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle including nutrition, exercise, controlling blood pressure, stress, weight management, and support of one another.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The incidence or “rate” of breast cancer is highest in white women, however, the death rates of women dying from breast cancer are highest in black women. As women age, the risk of breast cancer increases, although younger women are not excluded from this devastating disease. Our program features sessions that approach the participants holistically. We offer educational sessions that are conducted by experts in breast cancer screening, treatment, and prevention. We feature spiritual leaders, survivors, and other professionals (i.e., trichologists, registered dietitians, personal trainers, etc.). Childcare is provided so participants are able to focus on the sessions, and lunch is supplied, using local community caterers. Reaching African-American women of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds is important in making a difference in their individual lives, but also their family and community. Our goal of this partnership with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Memorial Affiliate is to educate African American women about breast cancer awareness and the disproportionate impact that breast cancer has on the African American community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
- The eagerness of the participants to attend the program.
- The content of the program.
- The reception that our program has received from participants and community partners.
South Bend Area (IN)  
Health and Human Services  
The Barbershop Initiative 2018

Number of Members in Chapter: 18  
Number of People Served: 129  
Location: South Bend, IN  
Number of Members Participating in Program: 18  
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 4  
Funds Spent on Program: $0

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
- 100 Black Men of Greater South Bend: provides screening equipment in Barbershops for a number of years. They also tabulate the data.
- Memorial Hospital: provides training and calibration of equipment.
- Al's House of Style: the shop where the screens are performed by the member of The Links, Incorporated.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- More African American men will become more aware of their blood pressure and the effects a high blood pressure reading can have on their health.
- Provide information on where the program participants can go to seek advice and help, particularly if they don't have a primary care physician.
- A Decrease in the mortality risk of heart disease among African American males in the Michiana Community.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Barbershop Initiative is a life-sustaining activity that is benefiting African American males and females all across the Michiana region. We are confident based on the increase in numbers of documented blood pressure screens, that through the efforts of the 100 Black Men of greater South Bend in Collaboration with Memorial Hospital and the participating barbershops, that we have helped to remove the anxiety of getting screened for hypertension and eradicate some of the illness and deaths associated with heart disease.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
- We have built relationships with the men who frequent the barbershop.
- They are now more comfortable with us and more willing to have their blood pressure taken.
- They are also more amenable to seeing their primary care physician when it is suggested and follow up with Link sisters at subsequent visits.
- We are able to screen a good number of clients during the 3-hour program.
- We are there during the peak service hours.
Kent Area (OH)
Health and Human Services
Breast Health and Cancer Education, Awareness and Advocacy Program

Number of Members in Chapter: 24
Number of People Served: $3,241
Location: Kent, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 24
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 5
Funds Spent on Program: $12,936

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:
• Akron Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.: implement the education, bra collection, and distribution
• University Hospitals Portage Medical Center/ Portage Medical Center Foundation, Aultman Hospital/Aultman Foundation, AxessPointe Community Health Centers, Summa Health/ Summa Foundation: to establish the processes to provide access to the testing, assist with the education, provide providers/practitioners for clinical exams, identify physician on record, provide fiscal steward/fiduciary for funds, and provide required reporting to the chapter.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
• Improve knowledge of breast cancer risk factors and increase the target population’s participation in self-care and breast cancer screening practices as a result of community outreach programming collaborations.
• Improve access to health care, mammography, and clinical breast exams through funding for these services by way of identified program partnerships with health care systems in the geographic areas from which our members come.
• Provide compassionate, nurturing, culturally appropriate opportunities for education and advocacy which may lead to increased primary prevention as myths in the African American community that prevent women from getting early treatment for breast cancer are dispelled.
• Contribute to eliminating the health disparities related to breast cancer, increase diagnosis of early-stage breast cancers, improve death and survival rates in the target population.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT
The Chapter’s Breast Health and Cancer Education, Awareness and Advocacy Program aligns with the mission statement of The Links, Incorporated, and Health and Human Services Facet. This program addresses well-documented actions required to help improve breast cancer detection and survival: 1. Timely access to quality, affordable screenings and treatment services for low-income, uninsured or underinsured residents. 2. Educational efforts to boost awareness and use of existing breast cancer resources and the importance of early detection, 3. Dispelling myths in the African American community that prevent women from getting early treatment for breast cancer. The outcomes speak for themselves. Since inception-over 6750 bras donated, collected and processed for distribution; breast health education provided to over 11,000 women; 2,096 mammography studies provided at no cost to 1,019 women, and sadly, but importantly, because of these studies, cancer was diagnosed in 8 of these women. Perhaps the greatest confirmation that the work we are doing is worthwhile, needed, accomplishing our objectives, and having an impact, are comments from program participants, chapter members, and our partners. From a patient: “Summa Screens has been a life saver for me! After finding a lump and after abnormalities of my breasts, I was scared! I didn't have insurance and didn't know what to do. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to get the care I needed. I hope that this blessing of Summa Screens will be able to continue for other women. Thank you.” From one of our clients, a homeless woman: "My experience was great today. I can't thank you enough. I really love my helper (you) and I really love my bra. I feel like I'm up on the mountaintop!" From our chapter members: “I have learned so much from the wonderful women our Kent Area Chapter Links serve with bra fittings, breast screenings and (if needed), life-saving mammograms. I have been so blessed to fit around 40 women- some homeless, some underserved, some students, some retirees,- this year, many who have never been fitted for a bra." From our partner-Summa Health: “Thank you for your ongoing and generous support. Your support helped save lives through direct services, education, and awareness. We very much appreciate
the faith you have shown... The Kent Area Chapter, The Links, has made a direct impact in this program” Truly, through this program, we have become “change agents for wellness” who are having an impact.

**MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES**
- Is aligned with Strategic Plan “Delivering and Sustaining Transformational Programming”.
- Makes a difference- based on our interactions/ studies provided and cancers diagnosed. These women may not have been diagnosed until a late stage. We have, in fact, seen women opportunities in the community relative to education and advocacy; and related to the number of mammography with obvious pathology at these events; and because of our partnerships, being able to refer them immediately (same day) to a physician provider.
- Provides an opportunity for 100% participation of chapter members.
- Provides an opportunity to experience first-hand the impact of the service we are providing. Tears of joy, warm and firm hugs and blessings and other expressions of gratitude are a part of each activity.
Youngstown (OH)
Health and Human Services
300 Sisters in Red Heart Awareness Program 2017-2019

Number of Members in Chapter: 26
Number of People Served: 235
Location: Mahoning County, OH

Number of Members Participating in Program: 19
Number (Period) of Years Executed: 13
Funds Spent on Program: $7,500

KEY COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield: financial support, gift bags
- American Red Cross - signage, medical information, printouts
- Mercy Health: planning personal, committee support, site for monthly meetings, program flier, laboratory test
- Youngstown State University: event venue, food preparation.
- Youngstown Chapter of Links, Inc.: planning personal, financial support, committee support.
- American Heart Association: committee support, signage, information for patron's bag
- Delta Sigma Theta: financial support
- Black Nurses Association: do vital signs at the event Buckeye Review - Advertising of the event

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Enlighten the participants on as many health issues as possible that affect them and their families most especially heart-related problems, but other issues as well. We want to ensure that the clients know the signs and symptoms of heart disease.
- Provide screening exams and lab work to keep participants apprised of their numbers for improvement that directly affect their risk for disease. Participants are able to monitor these changes from year to year.
- Offer exposure to the vendors and community experts on topic and services available in the community that can aid the participants in attaining these goals and managing health care concerns through services that already exist.
- Advise and encourage all participants to get active and stay active, especially in conjunction with the yearlong programs offering exercise and dance that the 300 SIR Program collaborates with.
- Decrease morbidity and mortality with improved longevity and better quality of life utilizing the information, contacts, and strategies presented at our program such as promoting healthy lifestyles, healthy foods, community support and encouragement through the partnerships that are made at the events.

PROGRAM SUMMARY/IMPACT

The Youngstown Chapter of Links, Inc. is delighted to have had the 13th Annual 300 Sisters in Red Program that offers heart health information to a community of underserved Afro American women. The program is an ever-changing day of the medical information provided to a community where health care options in the target area are few and limited. The program provides solid, current, pertinent information on issues that directly affect the target community. Discussions are held on heart disease and other issues that affect health care and longevity, provided by community professionals who are at the height of their careers. The program is designed to encourage and empower participants to work toward a better self-using lab test, screenings, exercise, and information. We offer year-round sessions of exercise and additional services at over 10 sites in the community.

MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- Each year we offer free blood work and screening to up to 300 patrons who register for the program. They can access many screening including dental screening exam, make appointments for a mammogram (a few patrons can actually have a screening mammograms the day of the event).
• We offer sessions by professionals on the topics that are felt to have the greatest impact and address a major area of concern that will assist our patrons. Our presenters are top in their fields and provide current information.
• The 300 SIR program is associated with a year-round exercise program called Stepping Out, with over 10 locations to help keep patrons active year round. Stepping Out offers aerobic exercise, Zumba and line dance at the different locations. Stepping Out sessions also check vital signs, do weights and measurements, offer sessions with a dietitian and an exercise trainer.
Implementing Transformational Programming in the Central Area, 2017-2019