

American Empowerment Fund of Delaware



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DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 connecting people who care
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*There are many ways you can become involved.
 To join a Committee, email AAEFDD@gmail.com*



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Friend of the African American Empowerment Fund of Delaware



Just about two years ago, a group of 25 visionary people got together to explore the idea of establishing a charitable fund to help address worthy causes in Delaware. During the exploratory phase, the recurring question asked was by banding together could we do more collectively than we could individually to make a difference in our various communities?

The answer was a resounding “yes” and in December 2009 the first official annual meeting of the African American Empowerment Fund of Delaware was held. We had our first annual chairperson's report by interim chairperson Sylvia Banks, adopted bylaws, heard from our treasurer Tony Allen, and elected our first-ever board members complete with representation from around the state.

Sylvia Banks and the rest of the interim leadership committee are to be commended for their exemplary achievements in getting us to this point—nearly 80 Founders and Supporters strong with some \$85,000 at the Delaware Community Foundation and another \$50,000 pledged. We are ready to take the next steps to advance our fund to the level where we can award grants every year to nonprofits that meet our mission:

To establish a legacy of leadership in promoting philanthropy to fund causes important to the education, social and economic empowerment of African American Delawareans.

I am proud and honored to serve as your newly elected chair. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with the board, AAEFD members and the DCF to improve the quality of life of African Americans in Delaware. I firmly believe through the AAEFD we all can leave a legacy of philanthropy to generations that succeed us by generously donating our time and resources.

Now we need every one of us to help make the AAEFD a meaningful contributor to those in need. As was stated previously, we currently have \$85,000 in cash and another \$50,000 in pledges. We expect to make some small grants to organizations that are important to African American Delawareans for the first time later this year. It's a small step, but we have only to look at the Fund For Women to see the potential.

After 16 years, they have reached the 1,000 Founder mark. One thousand people have given \$1,000. Today, the FFW has nearly \$2.5 million at the DCF and contributed over \$140,000 last year to worthy causes benefiting women and girls in our state. It took 16 years to get to that point. After their first year, they contributed \$2,500. They were able to make grants totaling \$49,000 after five years, \$103,000 after 10 years, and \$130,000 after 15 years. Their grants to 216 organizations have totaled \$1.2 million!

How did they do this you ask? They did it just like we will—by spreading the word about their collective giving circle and encouraging others to join in; by becoming active by participating in their grants committee; by assuming a leadership role in both word and in deed; by making requests to corporations, small businesses, organizations and individuals; by writing checks and continuing to make the FFW a part of their charitable giving year-in and year-out.

I am asking each of you to get involved and stay involved. Our legacy starts right here with all of us. We need your help as we grow from our fledgling first annual meeting to becoming a strong organization of committed individuals. Want to know how you can help? Call or email me at 302.697.0622 or hstaff@comcast.net.

Thank you for your support of the AAEFD initiative. The board and I will work diligently to maintain optimal transparency through open and constant communication with all of you.

Best wishes in 2010!

Sincerely,

Harold E. Stafford
AAEFD Chairperson

Officers of the AAEFD announced the Fund will donate \$1,000 to the Delaware Black Caucus Haiti Relief Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation to provide continuing assistance to the earthquake victims in that country.

“We were especially gratified when the state’s largest and most prominent private foundation, The Longwood Foundation, contacted us, unsolicited following the New Castle County kick-off and invited us to apply for a dollar for dollar matching grant up to \$50,000 to help us boost membership. By year-end, the fund had met the full match.”

Sylvia Banks
Immediate Past Chair



Are You
A Founder?
To JOIN, email
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