



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY

An Initiative of The Chicago Community Trust

Growing Stronger, Better, Together



Our Community. Our Duty. Our Future.

Giving back, helping out, and paying it forward are at the center of African American culture. Whether it is giving to the church, volunteering through sororities and fraternities, or taking care of family, we know that we are stronger together.

That philosophy rings as true today as it did a century ago when millions of Black southerners moved north to places like Chicago, Detroit, and New York, and supported each other through great changes.

Coming together for the collective is a mainstay of African American resilience. As the home of leaders like Ida B. Wells and Harold Washington, Chicago is a reflection of that spirit.

From the very beginning, with Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, African Americans have played a prominent role in Chicago's cultural and economic growth.

Slowly, but steadily, though, **Chicago's Black population is declining.** African Americans no longer make up the city's largest population group. The Great Migration is moving in reverse, with Black Chicagoans leaving the Windy City for places like Atlanta, Washington D.C., and Baton Rouge.

That is why in 2003, a small cadre of visionaries came together to preserve Black Chicago's rich history, culture, and identity. They recognized what is increasingly at stake and formed a group that could make direct, meaningful investments in the community to nurture it and sustain it for a brighter future. That group became **AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY.**

"If all African Americans did not take responsibility for their behavior, our generation would be remembered for presiding over an increasing division of class that would last for generations."

*Henry Louis Gates, Jr.,
Alphonse Fletcher University
Professor, Harvard University*

MAKING THE CONNECTION, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Since its founding, African American Legacy has served as a model for innovative grant-making by working with a diverse portfolio of nonprofits—from grassroots efforts to long established organizations—to address community-wide needs. **Mutual investment and collective impact are at the core of the work, as funders and as stakeholders.**

AAL funds cohorts that work in concert to address larger, systemic challenges. Identifying that greater need, and connecting those working the hardest on comprehensive solutions to dollars makes a difference.

VOICE NOT VIOLENCE

African American Legacy recognizes the power of voice, and that power is only made impactful by action. AAL supports action by funding programs that deeply engage young people at their core; programs that boost

self-esteem and remind youth of the shoulders they stand on to uncover their own great potential.

For three years, African American Legacy's grant-making has focused on "Voice not Violence," which supports organizations that develop youth voices as an alternative to

violence. Youth use violence as a way to be heard, to protest poverty and neglect, to express anger and sadness, and to feel powerful. AAL believes that through its investment in organizations that support youth, positive futures are being ensured, which ensures the success of the entire Black community.



Action Equals Impact

PROTECTING OUR YOUTH

For nearly 30 years, the **Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County (CASA of Cook County)** has been advocating for children in foster care. The organization applied for an AAL grant during the fund's **Strengthening the African American Family** grant-making focus after realizing it was not fully serving the needs of its young African American clients. That awarded grant allowed CASA of Cook County to strengthen its outreach, recruit, and train Black advocates. Now, children who are already in a vulnerable, potentially traumatic position have someone who understands them and their community.

“Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

RESPECT, DISCIPLINE, OWNERSHIP, AND LOVE

These are the values Englewood youth learn at **Restoring the Path**. After volunteering and living in the neighborhood for years, founder Sally Hazelgrove recognized boxing as a meaningful way to motivate youth to not only stay out of trouble and avoid gangs, but also inspire them to care for their neighborhood. Through a **Voice not Violence** grant from AAL, Hazelgrove was able to add the “Voices of Englewood” program to her organization. When the boys aren't boxing, they can step into a recording booth and release their frustrations and every day challenges into a microphone. For many of these young men, the opportunity to sing, rap, and learn how to produce music is the first time someone has given them the tools to express themselves positively and productively.

A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE

In 1978, Gladys B. Simpson founded the **Academy for Scholastic Achievement**, an education alternative for retrieved high school drop outs. Recognizing the increasing challenges young people were facing—particularly incarceration—that could forever alter the course of their lives, Simpson and her team applied for a **Voice not Violence** grant. To keep students focused on their future and off the streets or in jail, ASA developed a program rooted in social and restorative justice. After school, students from Austin, and the East and West Garfield Park neighborhoods, participate in peer-led peace circles to discuss ways to curb violence, and establish healthy relationships and habits. In sharing their daily experiences navigating their neighborhood, these students not only build positive tools against conflict and temptation, they also give themselves a future.

AAL GRANT RECIPIENTS (2005–2014)

Academy of Scholastic Achievement
 Alliance For Community Peace
 Austin Peoples Action Center
 Beloved Community Family Services
 Better Boys Foundation
 Bronzeville Children’s Museum
 Cara Foundation
 Carole Robertson Learning Center
 Center for Higher Development
 Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
 The Chicago Community Trust
 Chicago Legal Clinic
 Developing Communities Project
 Faith Organizations Committed in Unity to
 Serve Youth
 Family Rescue
 Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
 Goodcity
 GRANDFamilies
 Greater Roseland West Pullman Food
 Network
 Heritage Community Development
 Imagine Englewood
 Inner City Computer Stars
 The Inner Voice
 Jane Addams Hull House
 Jobs For Youth
 Kids Off the Block
 Kidz Express
 Law Project
 LeClaire Courts Community Development
 Life Directions
 Love To Serve
 Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting
 Civilization (MAGIC)
 MPAACT
 Monroe Foundation
 Neighborhood Capital Budget Group
 New Direction Outreach
 North Lawndale College Prep
 Passages Alternative Living
 Phoebe’s Place
 Quinn Community Services
 Saving Our Seeds
 South Shore Drill Team
 South Side Community Federal Credit
 Union
 Southwest Women Working Together
 Taskforce for Prevention and Community
 Services



Teamwork Englewood
 Trinity Higher Education
 University of Chicago Division of the
 Humanities
 We The People Media
 Young Men’s Educational Network

STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY

Amani-Trinity United Community Health
 Corporation
 Court Appointed Special Advocates of
 Cook County
 GRANDFamilies
 Holy Family Ministries
 The Inner Voice
 Passages Alternative Living Programs
 Proactive Community Services
 Stateway Community Partners
 Young Men’s Educational Network
 Youth Guidance

VOICE NOT VIOLENCE

Academy of Scholastic Achievement
 Community Outreach Volunteers NFP
 (Cycle 1)
 Institute for Positive Living
 Restoring the Path
 UCAN

Together, Better, Stronger.

The enduring spirit of African Americans has always been in the strength and resiliency of the community. Whether it was an individual or an institution in need, those who could give did.

LET'S KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE.

Since 2003,
African American
Legacy has raised
more than \$5
million to date.

A vibrant, lasting, and prosperous community is a collective effort. Pooling resources together not only makes our dollars stronger, it also allows AAL to give more, making for a greater, more impactful investment in the community.

After more than 10 years of operation, African American Legacy wants to continue to support new ideas, innovation, and creativity at a grassroots level—but that takes resources.

Our endowment must expand and our fund must grow so that we can support more organizations working diligently to solve important issues. That is the only way we will succeed.

IT IS TIME TO ELEVATE OUR ACTION AND ACCELERATE OUR GIVING.

AAL was formed because community stakeholders recognized strength in numbers. Success hinges upon *everyone* having opportunities and access—to a quality education, to a safe neighborhood, to a living wage, and much more. This is a group effort.

African American Legacy is driven by its mission and committed to supporting innovation that influences real change in the community—innovation that influences a positive shift toward sustainability, longevity, and prosperity of Chicago's African American community.

IT IS OUR DUTY.
INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY.
INVEST IN THE FUTURE.



ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

African American Legacy activates a diverse network of community members who share a common goal of improving the quality of life among African Americans throughout metropolitan Chicago.

The members of the Board are community and civic leaders with a keen awareness and knowledge of African American issues and needs. The committee actively participates in engagement, donor cultivation and grant making activities.

Corliss V. Garner, Chair
Senior Manager, BMO Harris Bank

Andreason Brown, Vice Chair
*Chief Financial Officer,
Forefront*

Brenda Asare
President & CEO, The Alford Group

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*President, Claudette G. Baker
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Tim Jones
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Northwestern University*

Nicholas Pearce
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Northwestern University*

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Corporation & President, WVON*

Frank Clark, Ex-Officio
Retired CEO, ComEd

Terry Mazany, Ex-Officio
*President & CEO, The Chicago
Community Trust*



AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST
AND AFFILIATES

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP/
ALLIANCE BUILDING/
COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING COMMUNITY

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