

Black History Month
February 2019

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News, Networking & Information for
Kinship Care Professionals & Advocates

African-American Leaders Strengthening the Fabric of Child Welfare

Today, we conclude our **Black History Month** tribute to past and present child welfare leaders. In this final edition, we feature those who have made it their mission, duty and for some, their life's work, to ensure our children are safe, culturally connected, linked to family and able to thrive.

Throughout African-American history, quilts have been more than decorative pieces of fabric stitched together by the community or one pair of nimble hands. Many are created out of necessity—to warm, shelter, comfort and protect. For families, quilts help preserve traditions, like in rural [Gees Bend, Ala.](#), where quilting is passed down from African-American mothers to their daughters.

It is the power of quilts and the kinship legacy they represent that moved us to honor these African-American leaders and the bold, thoughtful and innovative threads that link them.

Join A Second Chance, Inc. in saluting the child welfare leaders who are woven into our Black History Month quilts (rows from l-r).



Quilt 1

Row 1

Lisa R. Chambers: Executive Vice President for HR, Systems Improvement and Family Service Transportation, A Second Chance, Inc.; Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Stacy Johnson: Sr. Director of Systems Engagement, A Second Chance, Inc.; Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare;

member, Pennsylvania chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America

Chad Dion Lassiter: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare; Executive Director, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; Professor of Race Relations and Co-Founder and President of Black Men, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, Inc.; former Executive Director, Red Cross House, American Red Cross of Eastern Pennsylvania

Sarah R. Guidry: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare; Executive Director, the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc., Thurgood Marshall School of Law; former Supervising Attorney, Special Litigation Unit, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Dale A. Pringle: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare; OSDManager, Chubb Insurance Company of Europe

Row 2

Twanda Toliver-Gainer: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare; Assistant Professor and Nurse Recruiter-Counselor, HU-VETS, Hampton University School of Nursing

Mark Francis: President & CEO, Cysson Enterprises; Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Annetta Wilson: Executive Director, Sankofa Safe Child Initiative; Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Margo Harris: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Alan-Michael Graves: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare; Director, National Fatherhood Initiative, GOOD+ Foundation; former Director, Children's Institute, Inc.

Regina Thomas: Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Row 3

L'Tesha Pettis-Gamble: Vice President of Child and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.; Board Member, the Family Life Center, Inc.

Dr. William E. Smith: Board Member, Black Administrators in Child Welfare; retired educator

Row 4

Tinisha M. Hunt: Executive Program Manager, Macedonia FACE; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Robert M. Jones Jr.: President & CEO, Brothers and Sisters Emerging; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Jackie Smith: Executive Director, Greater Valley Community Services; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Dr. Trisha Gadson: Executive Director, Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Andrew Cheeseboro: CEO, Small Seeds Development, Inc.; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Danielle C. Crawford: Operations Manager, Macedonia FACE; member, African American Strategic Partnership



Quilt 2

Row 1

Dr. Cheryl Hall-Russell: President and Chief Cultural Consultant, BW3; former President & CEO, Hill House Association

Jada Shirriel: CEO, Healthy Start; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Peggy B. Harris: President & CEO, Three Rivers Youth; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Jacqueline D. Wilson: CEO, Three Rivers Adoption Council; former Foster Care Director, Family Services of Western Pennsylvania; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Dr. Lenall Thomas: Executive Director, Center for Family Excellence, Inc.; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Row 2

Rev. Brenda J. Gregg: Founder and Executive Director, Project Destiny, Inc.; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Dr. John M. Wallace Jr.: Senior Pastor, Bible Center Church; David E. Epperson Endowed Chair and Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Dr. Cynthia Wallace: Executive Pastor and Director, Oasis Project, Bible Center Church; , Bible Center Church; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Wendy Guy: Fiscal and Development Manager, Brothers and Sisters Emerging; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Esther L. Bush: President & CEO, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Row 3

Regina Scott: Vice President of Programs & Services, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Dr. Kathi R. Elliott: Executive Director, Gwen's Girls; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Mel Blount: Founder, Mel Blount Youth Home and Mel Blount Youth Initiative; former Pittsburgh Steelers Cornerback; member, African American Strategic Partnership

TiAnda Blount: Executive Vice President, Mel Blount Youth Home and Mel Blount Youth Initiative; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Row 4

Walter Lewis: President & CEO, Homewood Children's Village; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Carlene Parkinson: Founder and CEO, Touching Families, Inc.; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Row 5

Dr. Shannah Tharp-Gilliam: Director, Office of Research and Evaluation, Homewood Children's Village; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Renee Durham: Controller, Homewood Children's Village; member, African American Strategic Partnership

Darlene L. Hart: Owner, Ensuring Our Future, Inc.; preacher and teacher, Christian Tabernacle Church of God, Inc.; member, African American Strategic Partnership

William Phifer: Program Coordinator, Greater Valley Community Services; member, African American Strategic Partnership

W. Aaron Mickens: Vice President of Operations and Performance Management, Three Rivers Youth; member, African American Strategic Partnership



Quilt 3

Row 1

Dr. David Brock: Vice President, Family and Community Engagement, A Second Chance, Inc.

Vonjana Knight: Vice President, Operations, A Second Chance, Inc.

Stacy Renee Glanton: Sr. Director III, Human Relations and Organizational Development, A Second Chance, Inc.

Davida Allen: Sr. Director, Navigation and National Navigation Expansion; A Second Chance, Inc.

Alexandria Thomas: Vice President, Children and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.; Founder, A Promise of Hope Inc.

Row 2

Howard Wright: Vice President, Facilities, A Second Chance, Inc.

B. Denise Hawkins: Vice President of Editorial Content and Public Relations, A Second Chance, Inc.

Jessica Rosa Bishop: Director, Children and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.

Dr. Raymond Thomas: Sr. Director II, Systems Improvement, Research and Data, A Second Chance, Inc.

Willette Walker: Sr. Director, Organizational Development, A Second Chance, Inc.

Row 3

Misty Patterson: Senior Director, Family Services Transportation, A Second Chance, Inc.

Pamela Blackwell: Director, Children and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.; Pastor, Word of God Church of Life & Deliverance

Row 4

Toni Wagner: Director, Organizational Accreditation and Evidence-Based Strategies, A Second Chance, Inc.

Nakeya Berry: Permanency Director, A Second Chance, Inc.

Row 5

Ahmad Kamara: Director, Family Group Decision-Making, A Second Chance, Inc.

Dr. Christine White-Taylor: Education Liaison, A Second Chance, Inc.; retired Administrator, Pittsburgh Public Schools

Bonita Flanagan: Executive Assistant, A Second Chance, Inc.

Tamia Mitchell: Executive Assistant, A Second Chance, Inc.

ASCI Leadership Not Pictured:

William Hughes: Director, Fiscal Operations, A Second Chance, Inc.

Jerome McDaniel: Director, General Services, A Second Chance, Inc.

Eugene Harding: Director, Children and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.

Jacquet Toliver: Director, Children and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.

Jessica Rosa Bishop: Director, Children and Family Services, A Second Chance, Inc.

Cassandra Sloan: Executive Assistant and Point-of-Contact Support,

A Second Chance, Inc.

Taylor McDaniel: Co-Executive Assistant, A Second Chance, Inc.