

CURRENTS

OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

National Association of Social Workers



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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008 VOLUME 52/NO. 4

NASW-NYC Celebrates Black History Month

State of Black NYC Reveals Growing Disparities

The Black Equity Alliance and the New York Urban League held a press forum on November 29 at JP Morgan Chase announcing the launch of The State of Black New York City 2007, a new report which takes an incisive look at the issues and institutions that impact the lives of Black New Yorkers. NASW-NYC Associate Executive Director, Athena Moore, represented the Chapter in attending the forum. The report is comprehensive and highlights significant findings and recommendations concerning New York City's Black Community and other minorities. The State of Black New York City looks at research based status, disparities, challenges, and recommendations facing Black New Yorkers in the areas of: Health, Education, Housing, Employment, Economic Development, Faith, Child Well-Being, Black Business Ownership, Criminal

Justice, Black Presence on Corporate and Influential Boards, as well as the impact of Advertising in the Black Community at large. The essays and solutions posed in each article challenge the Alliance, the League, and allies to act on behalf of the Black community. Among the authors who helped to amass the enclosed data include: Lucille McEwen, Executive Director of HCCI; David R. Jones, President & CEO of the CSS; Bob Gumbs who recently passed away, "The 100 Black Men's Eagle Academy" success story written by its founding principal David Banks with an introduction by Regent Adelaide Sanford; "Criminal Justice" written by Dr. Divine Prior of the NuLeadership Institute at Medgar Evers College; and "Perspectives of Faith" written by Imam Abdur Rashid Talib and Rev. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook. These authors were joined by Dr. Alma Carten, John Morning, Dennis Derrick,

Darrick Hamilton, and an impressive array of contributors including C. Virginia Fields, former ACS Commissioner William Bell, and Congressman Gregory Meeks, among others.

NASW-NYC recently invited a brief presentation of the report's highlights for discussion at its Social Work in Communities of African Descent Task Force, its Undoing Racism Project, and Board of Directors meetings. The Chapter is looking forward to continuing to work with Black Equity Alliance and NYC Urban League, to share the data published, and to address the needs of the social work community. Free copies of the 200-page book with current statistics, charts, and recommendations are available to the public. A link is available on our website (www.naswnyc.org) for those interested in securing copies or more information.

SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER!

If you are like us, you would probably agree that social workers are an amazing group of people. It is hard to imagine anyone with more insight into the well-being of New Yorkers, especially when we consider all New Yorkers, not only those who are most well off. And there is no organization that understands this about social workers better than NASW-NYC.

For the last four years, NASW-NYC has dedicated itself to highlighting the unique contributions that professional social workers make in this city. We are identifying the challenges that almost all of us face and continuing to lobby to double the funding for the Social Worker Loan Forgiveness Program. Fixing the social work licensing law so that it is fair and responsive to the profession, increasing the number of bi-lingual, bi-cultural and gerontological social workers,

profession through public education and advocacy. The larger issue of concern is assuring that we have a strong and relevant profession and top-notch leadership in the years ahead. This is our job as your professional association and our commitment.

For us to be effective in what we do (work that no other organization does), WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. The members of the NASW-NYC Board of Directors all contribute financially, and we are turning to you as well. For NASW-NYC to maintain its momentum and level of work, please consider making the largest contribution you can afford. All contributions will be listed in our 2007-2008 Circle of Chapter Support for our Annual Meeting.

Your contribution will not be tax deductible as it may go to