

## **AKARAMA FOUNDATION, INC. ~ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT~ MARCH 31, 2016**

During the past three months, the program committee has met monthly, once in January as an orientation and informational meeting and in February and March by conference call, to share information on completed and planned activities.

On Saturday, March 19, the chairman along with the Basileus, Director of Partnerships and the Health Promotion Chairman, attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodlawn Community Summit, where we were able to connect with potential partners and ideas to enhance our programs. The committee has also met with the AKArara Foundation Grants Committee Chairman to begin identifying areas where grants would be beneficial.

### **TARGET I – EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT**

- The ASCEND Program has met monthly for activities and workshops, outlined by the International program guide. During the Central Regional Conference, 100 book bags were prepared and donated.  
*NOTE: During the March chapter meeting, the chapter voted to purchase book bags and supplies as a chapter and members would donate funds to the AKArara Foundation. These funds will replace money withdrawn for the Regional Conference book bag donations. Funds are being collected and receipted. Someone from the Educational Enrichment Committee will be available to accept your donations. (\$770.00 was spent on book bags and supplies donated during Regional Conference.)*
- On January 18, for our first Impact Day, MLK Day a collaborative program was organized with the ASCEND, AYP and Family Strengthening Committees. The program included the donation of seasonal wraps.

### **TARGET II – HEALTH PROMOTION**

- Our second Impact Day, Pink Goes Red for Heart Health Day was recognized on Friday, February 5. Sorors, family and friends attended an informative program that included heart specialists sharing information on preventative care, heart healthy food demonstrations, blood pressure and diabetes screening and more.
- The Health Committee is coordinating our third Impact Day – NAMI Awareness, scheduled for Saturday, March 9.
- The program committee chairmen along with the Health Promotion chairman and Program Chairmen from other Chicago Metro chapters have begun planning for our next Impact Day – The Longest Day that will be held Monday, June 20. Exciting plans, focusing on support for caregivers! Look for more information soon. *This will be a collaborative activity with Chicagoland chapters*

### **TARGET III – FAMILY STRENGTHENING**

- In response to the purpose of the Family Strengthening committee, address critical issues facing families, including lack of food, shelter, and financial means, the committee has adopted the Maria Shelter – a 50 bed shelter for homeless women and children. The facility provides food, shelter, and programs to promote health, wellness, and self-sufficiency to more than 200 women and children. The committee will coordinate monthly chapter donations of various household items.
- During February and March, in collaboration with ASCEND, the committee collected 120 canned foods and dry goods. The committee will also assist with the chapter book bag donations.

### **TARGET IV – ENVIRONMENTAL OWNERSHIP**

The Environmental Ownership Committee has met regularly to plan and coordinate green activities and began planning for the 1908 Playground Project.

- During the March chapter meeting, used and expired prescription medications were collected for proper disposal. *95 containers of expired and/or unwanted pharmaceuticals on March 11th. The medications were safely disposed in the blue collection box at the police station located at 70<sup>th</sup> and Cottage Grove that evening.*
- On Tuesday, March 22, the committee collaborated with the Alderman's office for our 2<sup>nd</sup> document shred-a-thon
- Join us at the AKArara Foundation, Incorporated Community Service Center Saturday, April 23rd 2016 10:00am – Noon. In honor of Earth Day, we will be beautifying outside the center and on our block
- Reserve the date of May 21st for our 1908 Playground Mobilization Day activity.

### **TARGET V – GLOBAL IMPACT**

- The global impact committee will collaborate with ASCEND to implement the UN Training modules, including hosting a multi-generational discussion on world issues. The committee is also planning a fundraiser to support Africare.
- In collaboration with other committees, Global Impact will assist in the plan to donate dresses for the "Little Dresses for Africa" project.

Committee chairmen have been asked to submit the first quarter report, complete their calendar and budget plans for the rest of 2016 and to submit activity reports and documentation for each event that was held between January and March.

As we continue to implement our 2016 program, look forward to new, creative and exciting programs and activities, as we continue to Launch New Dimensions of Service!

Submitted by

Elaine Smith-Singh, Vice President and Program Chairman