

Under **Operation AKA Assist**, AKARAMA Foundation Inc. supports organizations that serve those living in shelters. AKARAMA Foundation Inc. provides toys for children, clothing, food, toiletries, and other necessities along with informational programming on job readiness skills for residents. AKARAMA Foundation supports the St. Martin dePorres House of Hope for Women, the Maria Shelter for Women and the Featherfirst veteran's shelter and hosts an annual Breakfast with Santa event for children in Ada S. McKinley Foster Care Services and Primo Women's shelter.



### **Target IV: The Arts**

Many school districts, due to limited budgets are reducing arts curriculum and failing to view the arts as an integral component of overall student development. AKARAMA Foundation Inc. understands the importance of engaging students in the arts and provides hands-on opportunities for students to explore visual and performing arts. We are dedicated to sharing the rich history of art in Chicago and host a series of seminars on the significance of the Chicago Renaissance, as well as showcasing the work of up and coming Chicago artists. This series is free to the public.

### **Target V: Global Impact**

Through its partners, AKARAMA Foundation Inc. assists the underserved in international areas populated with people of color. **Soles 4 Souls** facilitates the global trans-



portation of gently worn shoes and the **Lions Club International** facilitates the delivery of donated eyeglasses around the world. AKARAMA Foundation Inc. participates in the Pillowcase Project by sewing dresses and shirts to send to children in Haiti.

### **AKARAMA Signature Programs**

#### **Scholarships**

Each year AKARAMA Foundation Inc. gives over \$30,000 in scholarships. Our recipients hail from a variety of universities including Spelman, Howard, Northwestern and Harvard, just to name a few. The AKARAMA Foundation Inc. celebrates scholarship recipients at its annual Scholarship Luncheon.

#### **SAFE (Student And Family Empowerment)**

This signature program is designed to provide support for the students and families in Woodlawn and the surrounding areas. AKARAMA Foundation Inc. provides academic, financial, health and other resources in an effort to strengthen African American families in and around the Woodlawn community. The **Ascending Young Pearls (AYP)** program mentors 6th - 8th grade girls and their parents and assists students with developing leadership skills, self-esteem, and health and wellness related activities as well as providing parents with information to assist them with financial and parenting decisions. The program meets with parents and students once a month.

#### **Free Legal Clinic**

Each second Wednesday of the month, AKARAMA Foundation in partnership with DLA Piper and Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAF) sponsor a free, confidential legal advice clinic. The clinic provides advice to those that need help with issues such as child support, domestic abuse, expungement and other civil legal issues (criminal, traffic or personal injury excluded).



AKARAMA Foundation, Inc.



### **Programs for People**

*AKARAMA Foundation Inc.  
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**Members building individual, family and community strength through impactful programs and service**

*AKARAMA Foundation Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) foundation established in 1981 as a separate entity by Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority® Inc.*

## OUR MEMBERS

With a membership of over 400 college educated women, The AKArara Foundation is focused on “Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service” underscoring our commitment to service to all mankind.



On February 12, 2007, AKArara Foundation Inc., opened a state of the art community service center located at 6220 S. Ingleside Ave in Chicago. The Center provides educational, cultural and socioeconomic development services for residents of Woodlawn and surrounding communities.

### AKArara Foundation Inc. Programs

#### Target I: HBCU for Life: A Call to Action

Lack of funding is one of the primary obstacles that threaten the long-term survival of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). AKArara Foundation Inc. is committed to supporting Alpha Kappa Alpha's HBCU Endowment Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to establish an endowed scholarship at each accredited four-year HBCU to help students complete their course of

study, and receive their college degree. The AKArara Foundation Inc. promotes HBCUs by encouraging students to attend, informing the community of the historic relevance of these great institutions and providing scholarships for students attending HBCUs. The AKArara Foundation Inc. solicits donations from the public and corporate entities to fund the HBCU Endowment Initiative or HBCUs directly.



#### Target I: #CAPSM (College Application Process)

AKArara Foundation Inc. assists students with the college admissions process. This includes assistance with completing college applications, preparing for the ACT/SAT, identifying scholarships and financial aid and celebrating with students when they are admitted. #CAP partners with the University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter school to provide free counseling services to students and parents within the Woodlawn Community.

#### Target II: Women's Health and Wellness

The goal of this program is to raise awareness of three critical health issues impacting African-American women.

**Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention:** AKArara Foundation Inc. collaborates with Cancer Research and Natural Family Planning Awareness (NFP) to reinforce the importance of breast health through free webinars featuring doctors and medical researchers highlighting the latest information on breast cancer and prevention. AKArara Foundation Inc. partners with Mile Square Health Center, a not-for-profit organization to provide

free mammograms to the underinsured and underserved.

**Heart Health and Nutrition:** AKArara Foundation Inc. encourages women to lead a healthier lifestyle to decrease the number of women diagnosed with diabetes, stroke and other forms of heart disease. Through our partnership with the American Heart Association, we host our annual *Pink Goes Red* event. This free community event includes healthy cooking demonstrations from renowned chefs, kick-boxing, cardio dance, yoga, and line dancing activities to promote a healthy lifestyle.



**Care for the Caregivers:** Through our work with the Alzheimer's Association, AKArara Foundation Inc. provides information and resources on Alzheimer's disease and dementia which affect African Americans at a rate of two times that of other populations. The Foundation also provides resources for caregivers and encourages preventive healthcare to eliminate the risks associated with the stress of caregiving.

#### Target III: Building Your Economic Legacy

African Americans lag in asset accumulation, managing debt effectively, and saving. Akarara Foundation is committed to emphasizing the importance of financial planning, asset accumulation, and wealth-building, as well as improving credit and encouraging entrepreneurship. Free financial workshops are held at the AKArara Foundation Community Service Center for community residents. As part of the *Entrepreneurship and the Black Dollar 365* Initiative, AKArara Foundation, Inc. members support and promote African American businesses.