

UNITED PLANNING



ORGANIZATION

# UPO REPORTER

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## *The "Dream" Lives as 1,200 Attend 18<sup>th</sup> Annual UPO Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast*

After 18 years, you'd think it would be a breeze to put on a Breakfast that annually attracts numerous individuals. Well, while the event's overall planning was tough going at times, the United Planning Organization once again successfully played host to nearly 1,200 agency friends, staff, government officials, the business community, and many veterans of the community action movement, when it sponsored its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on January 21. They all came together to once again rededicate themselves to the ideals long ago fostered by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the height of the Civil Rights movement.

The overall "Breakfast" concept was a collective idea back in 1984, coming on the heels of a battery of staff discussions trying to find ways to best understand and realize Dr. King's ideals. Ms. Lester Monica Wynn, now director of UPO's Special Operations Unit, was likewise one of the concept's originators during the era of former Executive Director Ernest Pete Ward.

This year's event occurred in one of the city's largest hotel complexes, the Marriott Wardman Park, located in the Woodley Park section of the District of Columbia. "We just fully understand how to make our annual event a success" exclaimed Robert Durham, staff co-chairperson to the UPO Committee that annually produces the event.



Enjoying the Breakfast are from left, John A. Emens, President, Greater Washington Region Allfirst Bank; Dorothy M. Brown, UPO Board Member; Janet T. Ferrell, Senior Vice President-Manager, Not-For-Profit Banking Division, Allfirst Bank; Gladys W. Mack, UPO Deputy Executive Director; Honorable Linda Cropp, Chairperson, DC City Council; and Benjamin Jennings, UPO Executive Director.



Rev. Lewis M. Anthony keynoted the event with a rousing and thought provoking speech.

Mr. Durham and UPO Board of Trustees member Carol Caldwell have collectively helmed the Breakfasts' planning committees since the early days. Ms. Caldwell took over the task following the death of longtime Board member Joseph A. Beavers, for whom the scholarship fund is named.



Mayor Anthony Williams, at left, accepts award on behalf of DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services from UPO Executive Director Benjamin Jennings.

This year UPO presented six awards to deserving individuals and groups who have cooperatively shown a dedication and commitment to District of Columbia residents and neighborhoods. All proceeds from the Breakfast are applied toward the

Please see "UPO's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual ..." on page 2

# UPO's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast

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UPO/Joseph A. Beavers Scholarship Fund.

Formal welcoming was performed by UPO Board President Russell D. Simmons who acknowledged that the 2002 celebration "takes on an even greater importance," noted Mr. Simmons, referring to UPO's upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. He added "each [UPO] success has resulted in even greater access to services for those in need and for this, we are extremely proud." Mr. Simmons, in his role as President of the UPO Board of Trustees, formally announced to the assemblage that UPO would soon move into its own headquarters facility after many years of leasing office space.

DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton addressed the audience reminding everyone that "The city has got to be grateful to UPO for starting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast." Ms. Norton, long an advocate of full voting representation for the District of Co-

## Awards Presented to Deserving Individuals and Groups during UPO's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award Presented to:  
**MS. SUSIE KAY, FOUNDER OF HOOP DREAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Corporate Community Service Award Presented to:  
**WASHINGTON AREA GLEANING NETWORK**

Mildred Claypoole Community Service Award Presented to:  
**MR. NORRIS DODSON III**

George H.R. Barney Ross Memorial Award Presented to:  
**DC CENTRAL KITCHEN**

Special Recognition Award Presented to:  
**FREDDIE MAC FOUNDATION**

Special Recognition Award Presented to:  
**DC FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

lumbia, advised the public of the importance a full voting voice has in the U.S. Congress.

DC Mayor Anthony Williams repeated his role (as well as that of previous DC mayors) by making the UPO event their first participatory event of the day. Mayor Williams, noting the accomplishments of UPO and the agency's new headquarters building, said "I am proud of the fact that UPO is making a major economic investment on Rhode Island Avenue NW."

Keynote speaker for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual breakfast was the Rev. Lewis Anthony, noted minister and nationally renowned orator. This was a repeat performance for Rev. Anthony who keynoted UPO's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Memorial Breakfast back in 1986. According to all in attendance, his return was long overdue.

Rev. Anthony thrilled the audience not only with his great skill at oratory, but with his command of the spoken word as well as his clear reflection on topical issues. "Even the youngsters will like him" mused a longtime Breakfast participant.

Please see "...Breakfast" on page 8

## UPO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS


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Board Member

### BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS

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Shirley Fisher	Vincent Rucker
William Hughey	John "Butch" Savoy
Mark Muldrow	Iris Elaine Smith
Rhonda Muse	Rydell Smith
Valerie Patterson	Antoinette Turner
Cassandra Phelps	Lettie Williams
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**UPO**  
REPORTER



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Executive Director  
**BENJAMIN JENNINGS**

Editor/Writer  
**HARVEY N. JOHNSON III**

For more information on programs described in this issue of the

**UPO REPORTER**

or on any other UPO activity, call (202) 289-9100, extension 296, or FAX to (202) 289-2640, or Email to: [upoinfo@erols.com](mailto:upoinfo@erols.com)  
UPO's web site: [www.upo.org](http://www.upo.org)

# *It's Official* *UPO Secures Headquarters Site*



In what many will describe as a fitting tribute to its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the United Planning Organization has inked plans to move into its own headquarters facility, culminating a six-year site search that saw the agency twice move into rented central headquarters office space.

To some, the fact that UPO is moving into its own headquarters building after 40 years, is incredulous. But come May 2002, central staff of the United Planning Organization will march into a handsome, distinctively designed, state-of-the-art structure located at 301 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Washington, DC.

The new building, a long closed former supermarket, is situated in the historic LeDroit Park section of the District of Columbia near the world renowned Howard University.

The stunning two story structure, which was a total renovation, includes nearly 34,000 usable square feet and brings to the community a presence long dreamed of by neighborhood activists. Gone are the days of the large, poorly lighted and forbidden territory where residents were



Jackets off and rolled-up sleeves was the order of the day during the "Closing" which took place at the DC law firm of Squire & Sanders.

often afraid to tread. Instead, a new urban vibrancy now exists in the area situated between two long-standing pillars in the community, Fraizer's Funeral Home and the Elk's Columbia Lodge #85.

Initially, UPO planned to open a Satellite Center for several agency programs. However, a plan was hammered out whereby all current headquarters staff will, for the time being, call 301 Rhode Island Avenue home. Some additional design was required in order to construct the necessary added office space.

Meanwhile, three structures were contained in the Tax Exempt Bond transaction for construction and/or



UPO's Wayne Thompson, wearing hat at right, discusses building progress during one of many, many staff visits to headquarters construction site.

renovation. Two of UPO's neighborhood development facilities will soon get what many individuals in their respective communities have long sought - a comprehensive state-  
Please see "UPO to Own ..." on page 4.



# UPO To Own Headquarters Building; Constructs/Renovates Two Neighborhood Development Centers

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**UPO RALPH WALDO "PETEY" GREENE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER**



*BEFORE*



**AFTER**

**UPO ANACOSTIA  
COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER**



*BEFORE*



**AFTER**

of-the-art neighborhood facility. The UPO Anacostia Community Service Center, now occupying a recently acquired townhouse on Washington, DC's Good Hope Road in the city's southeast quadrant, will soon get a major addition to its current site. A new building, containing 7,400 square feet, is now under construction in a vacant lot next to the current center. With its completion date set for late fall 2002, the UPO Anacostia Community Service Center, which operates numerous community service activities and houses UPO's Senior Services program, will formally occupy a beautiful new structure, bringing increased vibrance to the neighborhood.

A total renovation of and major enhancement to the existing UPO

Ralph Waldo "Petey" Greene Community Service Center will bring its usable space up to an unprecedented 18,400 square feet. Now located at 2907 Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, SE in the heart of the Congress Heights community, the facility's space will also include a townhouse once used as a fast food restaurant. This improvement to a building located along one of the city's most traveled roadways will bring even more beauty to a neighborhood that is already showing signs of growth and opportunities for residents.

UPO accomplished this feat by using Tax Free Enterprise Zone bond financing for the acquisition and renovation of all three buildings. According to Executive Director Benjamin Jennings, the agency could

save more than \$18 million over the 25-year life of the bond -- savings that UPO can ultimately invest in DC neighborhoods.

These UPO development activities echo DC Mayor Anthony Williams' vision of increased nonprofit presence into communities, several of which, according to residents, are neglected. UPO, along with its partner organizations, businesses, and government, will continue to focus on community concerns and dreams.

## Office of Community Programs Focuses on DC Neighborhoods



Office of Community Programs Director Vanessa Rawls, at left, and Gloria B. Gaskins, head, Continuing Grants Division, discuss neighborhood issues.

A key element in the United Planning Organization's programmatic thrust is its emphasis on helping to build better neighborhoods via the use of creative ideas that ultimately serve to enhance citizen's lives.

UPO has several components that deliver on the agency's long held promise "to provide the highest quality service to DC residents." One component, the Office of Community Programs, under the direction of veteran agency employee Vanessa Rawls, either directly or through neighborhood-based groups, operates or funds initiatives that carryout the agency's goals at the micro level.

In fiscal year 2001, UPO disbursed nearly \$22 million\* in direct funding to DC neighborhoods to operate a wide range of activities including healthcare for low-income residents, neighborhood development, senior citizens activities, crisis intervention, and child care services, among others.

These community activities are carried-out by an interlocking network of more than 35 neighborhood organizations made-up of traditional delegate agencies, special emphasis groups, youth programs, neighborhood development centers, and others that traverse the entire District of Columbia serving residents throughout the city's eight political wards (see sidebar). \* All UPO citywide program activities included in total.

### LISTING of DIVERSE UPO NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, SPECIAL PROJECTS, and their DIRECTORS

#### AYUDA

Yvonne Martinez-Vega, Exec. Dir.

#### BUREAU OF REHABILITATION

Sandra Robinson, Executive Dir.

#### CAPITOL HILL GROUP MINISTRY

Angelia Baker-Matthews, Exec.Dir.

#### CARLOS ROSARIO

INTERNATIONAL CENTER  
Sonia Gutierrez, Executive Director

#### CASA del PUEBLO

Rosa Zamora, Executive Dir.

#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Rudy Hutchison, Executive Director

#### CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION & FAMILY SUPPORT

Joyce Thomas, President

#### CENTER CITY COMMUNITY CORPORATION (4 C's)

Edward Nesbitt, Executive Director

#### CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE

Saul Solorzano, Executive Director

#### CHANGE, INC.

Gracie Rolling, Executive Director

#### CITIWIDE COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER

Anthony Chuukwu, Project Director

#### COMMUNITY FAMILY LIFE SERVICES

Mary Lou Tietz, Deputy Director

#### COUNCIL OF LATINO AGENCIES CONSEJO DE AGENCIAS LATINAS

Eugenio Arene, Executive Director

#### DANCE INSTITUTE OF WASHINGTON

Fabian Barnes, Artistic Director

#### EDUCATION ORGANIZATION FOR UNITED LATIN AMERICANS (EOFULA)

Ana Maria Neris, Executive Director

#### ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CTR.

Hermela Kebede, Executive Director

#### FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Donald Hense, Executive Director

#### GREEN DOOR

Judith Johnson, Executive Director

#### HOUSE OF RUTH

Christel Nichols, Executive Director

#### LA CLINICA DEL PUEBLO, INC.

Dr. Juan Romagoza, Executive Dir.

#### MARSHALL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Loretta Tate, CEO

#### MARY'S CENTER FOR MATERNAL & CHILD CARE

Maria Gomez, Executive Director

#### MULTI-CULTURAL CAREER INTERN PROGRAM

Maria Tukeva, Executive Director

#### NEAR NORTHEAST COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

Idus Holmes, Executive Director

#### (PCA) PREVENT CHILD ABUSE OF METRO WASH., D.C. (formerly D.C. Hotline)

Leila Smith, Executive Director

#### PEOPLES INVOLVEMENT CORPORATION

Andréé Gandy, Executive Director

#### SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY HOUSE

David Brewer, Executive Director

#### UPO/ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

Shirley Price, Branch Chief

#### UPO EMERGENCY ACTION SWITCHBOARD FOR THE ELDERLY (Project EASE)

#### UPO/NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER #1

Priscilla G. Francis, Branch Chief

#### UPO/RALPH WALDO "PETEY" GREENE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

Thelma Brown, Branch Chief

#### UPO SHELTER HOTLINE

Ruth Walker, Program Director

#### UPO COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Kim Williams, Project Coordinator

#### UPO COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

Shirley Fisher, Acting Head

#### UPO SHELTER-PLUS CARE

JoAnn G. Feathersen, MSW, Coordinator

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

UPO also directly operates various programmatic activities and funds additional services including: Comprehensive Treatment Center; Office of Operations; Office of Preschool and Day Care; Office of Special Operations; Office of Aging Programs; and TANF/Futures-In-Work. While not listed in the above chart, these programs and services are included in UPO's overall Citywide Service Network which is found online at [www.upo.org](http://www.upo.org).

# *In-Kind Contributions a Boon for UPO Child Care*

One question often asked of community action professionals is “just how does a community action agency manage to help so many people?” Clearly, one answer has to be the many partnerships with governments, business, and other nonprofit organizations fostered over the years.

UPO’s widely popular Head Start/early childhood development program is no exception.

The agency has managed to assure that its matching In-kind contributions are over and above what is considered the national norm. Current government regulations require agencies such as UPO to match all federal Head Start funds with an appropriate amount in locally raised amounts. The traditional breakdown is 80-percent federal funds to 20-percent in-kind or (locally raised) contributions.

Longtime employee Bonnie Wise heads the unit that oversees in-kind contributions to the agency’s Head Start program. Ms. Wise, a true veteran of the community action movement especially in the child care arena, was herself once a Head Start parent from 1972 to 1977 even at one time serving as chairperson of the UPO Parent Policy Council. She subsequently joined the agency’s employment roster in 1977, and today is chief, Family Support Services with the Office of Preschool and Day Care.

“Many people contribute to Head Start ” exclaims Ms. Wise, rapidly thumbing through the maze of childcare related materials on her desk. “We’re fortunate to have the full support of Ward-8 DC City councilwoman Sandy Allen as well as Ward-7 councilman Kevin Chavous as their offices have contributed to our children on many occasions,” she adds.

The primary contributor groups to UPO Head Start In-Kind program are parent volunteers, community



Employees Shirley Abraham at left, and Annette Carter, marveled at some of the many contributed items which ultimately found their way into the hands of children.

volunteers, service providers, and various UPO partnerships. In 2001, parent volunteers donated many hours especially serving as classroom aides, accompanying children on field trips, and providing other technical support. Community volunteers also donated their time likewise helping in areas of classroom aides and chaperones. Service providers offered reduced prices on such services as dental, visual, and hearing screenings for Head Start children.

According to Ms. Wise, more than 300 individuals volunteered nearly 5000 hours of service to Head Start. Meanwhile, UPO has received more than \$140,000 in in-kind contributions from community partnerships.

These partnerships run the gamut from local-based organizations to national groups. One interesting partnership is with the National Association for the Exchange of Industry Resources (NAEIR), based in Galesburg, Illinois. A membership based organization, NAEIR allows UPO and its other membership groups to receive items at no additional cost. Thus far, UPO has received more than \$10,000 in quality supplies, incentives, clothing items and others. Not a bad investment considering the annual membership is only \$575.



Bonnie Wise is chief of the Family Support Services and Intake Branch of the UPO Office of Preschool and Day Care.

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# *UPO's JOLI Program Means Job Opportunities*

Question: What new UPO initiative can serve as a catalysis to entrepreneurship for some UPO customers? Answer: The JOLI Program, one of the agency's newest activities that promises to further break cycles of poverty by helping customers realize long held dreams.

JOLI (Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals), a program funded by a three-year grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services-Office of Community Service, was won by UPO following an extremely competitive process that saw only 10 jurisdictions nationwide receive grant awards. The three-year \$500,000 contract is operated by the agency's Office of Preschool and Day Care and is coordinated by Ms. Donna Mason Teachey, a 20-year veteran of early childhood education having served as a teacher, state conference planner, and national accreditation advisor/verifier.

Ms. Teachey says JOLI's long-term goals are to create, over a three-year period, opportunities for at least 100 candidates to work as early childhood professionals as either (a) center-based employees; or (b) family childcare providers. While the program serves DC residents who are low-income, recruitment takes the form of self-select, are referrals from UPO delegate agencies, TANF customers, and unemployment offices. Most customers fall into the 30 to 50 age range and often desire to work with specialized publics. Because of this dedication, children will certainly benefit, Ms. Teacher says.

"My vision is that people will begin to see the field (early childhood development) as a viable and essential career option," observes Ms. Teachey, who notes that bi-products of the program are better parenting, life management, and relationships skills.



Donna M. Teachey, at right, discusses JOLI activities with Akosoa L. Norris.

A unique feature of JOLI is its customer training. Family-based customers receive training from the Washington Child Development Council. Those in the center-base receive special training leading to the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA).

A key element of JOLI will allow parents to obtain nontraditional employment. One way the goal is achieved is by providing childcare

during hours other than the usual 7 am to 6 PM schedule. In that respect, UPO is working to enhance its Early Childhood Development Center # 5, located on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia to possibly operate for 23-hours. Such a schedule would be unprecedented in the childcare community.

Coordinator Donna Mason Teachey holds a BA in Anthropology from Rutgers University and an MA in Counseling from George Washington University. Assisting her are Case Manager Alima Palmer who holds an MS in Clinical Psychology from the University of the District of Columbia, and Evaluator Akosoa Norris who holds an MS in Research Psychology from the University of Tennessee as well as an MSW from Howard University.

This initial phase of the JOLI program is slated to run until 2004.

## *UPO Readies New Early Childhood Development Center # 9*

A few short weeks after you read this, happy sounds of wide-eyed preschool children, learning and playing, may once again hark in the area around the Union Square office complex at 825 North Capitol Street Washington, DC, a neighborhood that's not only close to the renowned Union Station and the U.S. Capitol Building, but full of District of Columbia Government workers, many badly in need of high quality comprehensive child care.

UPO will soon open the doors to Early Childhood Development Center # 9, a facility that will serve upward to 40-children. The new center is headed by Ms. Mary Sinclair who is very much eager to quickly get her center up and running. ECDC # 9 will operate

between the hours of 7 AM and 6 PM daily with the possibility of operating during nontraditional hours following a needs assessment.

Children age six-weeks to 3-years will be served in the comprehensive center which is surrounded by numerous DC government employees, including those working for DC Public Schools, DC Regulatory Affairs, DC Office of Tax and Revenue, Rehabilitation Services, and DC Department of Health. Others are Department of Housing and Community Development, Office of Planning, Office of the Controller, and the DC Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation.

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## *18<sup>th</sup> Annual UPO Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast*

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UPO Board Member and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee Chairperson Carol Caldwell, seated at right, enjoys event with her great grandson Phillip to her immediate right, and granddaughter Urbina to his immediate right, along with other family members and friends.

Rev. Anthony urged attendees to not turn the holiday for Dr. King into what some other holidays have become saying "If you know anything about Christmas, you know that it has become a great celebration where the guest of honor is neither remembered, nor invited." He reminded the audience that all people have flaws. "Every life that walks this earth has valleys and mountains - has days of sunshine and days of rain. We are all flawed in some way"

he exclaimed adding "even with our flaws, God can still get greatness out of us."

The tone of Rev. Anthony's address emphasized the often forgotten fact that all people have something to add to society. "In too many instances, we consign people to what we see rather than believe that what's inside of them can lead to great things," he added, observing the strange and bewildering fact that the nation would rather spend up to

\$40,000 per year to "lockup a child" rather than spend \$7,000 to educate him or her noting the fact that it can cost nearly \$200,000 to incarcerate one person for five years.

Rev. Anthony went on to say that "truth will speak if she can find a spokesman. Somebody has got to speak for the homeless and somebody must speak for the children," adding that "truth will speak if she can find a spokesman.

Following Rev. Anthony's moving speech, UPO Executive Director delivered remarks including introducing some recipients of the UPO/ Joseph A. Beavers Scholarship fund.

Plans are currently underway for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast which will occur Monday, January 20, 2003.

**Join Us for  
UPO's  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Memorial Breakfast  
Monday  
January 20, 2003**