Celebrating (and Creating) A Proud History

By the time the next issue is published, we will have honored Dr. Martin Luther King and celebrated Black History Month. On Dec. 27th I had the pleasure of getting a head start by listening to a broadcast on BDPA iRadio. The program featured three dynamic individuals, including Raven Stevenson, a student studying Biomedical Engineering at Duke University. Raven is also a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve and a former member of a BDPA High School Computer Competition Team.

After listening to the broadcast, and communicating with Raven, it was clear that she represents the Black History that we dream of, pray for, and work for. Intelligent, involved, personable, grateful, and the list goes on and on. Because of the powerful and diverse content of the program, there will be more written and shared on our inspirational blog at www.successisyou.blogspot.com.

We can best support and replicate the efforts of people like Raven by becoming committed to positive change. As Raven shared with the listening audience "dreaming is achieving the impossible".

Raven, the Goolsby’s (page 2), and others featured throughout this issue are representative of Dreamers and Doers, and we feel blessed to know and feature them.

Continue to dream, and pray, and build and support, and grow into your possibilities. Whatever you do or fail to do in the coming days, weeks, months, and years will become a part of your life story, and the history that will be celebrated in the future.

IN THIS ISSUE
Pg. 1 - Celebrating (and Creating) A Proud History
Pg. 2 - Youth Corner - Del-Marcus & Kevin Goolsby
Pg. 3 - Celebrating with CAAO Cleveland, National Black MBA’s, Cindy Weston, Breyanna Mikel, Ondrea Moore, Mekole Wells
Pg. 4 - Christmas Eve with the Hudson’s
Pg. 4 - Nela Park Sparkles
Pg. 5 - Christmas Dinner with The Moore’s
Pg. 5 - Christmas Dinner & More with The Taylor’s
Pg. 6 - BDPA Cleveland Spreads Holiday Cheer
Pg. 6 - T. Love’s Casual Dining
Pg. 7 - Willie Johnson: Taking Charge in 2012
Pg. 8 - Products & Services
ABOVE: Dynamic Keynote Speaker George Sample with my cousin Delmar Goolsby and his award winning sons Del-Marcus and Kevin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Del-Marcus and Kevin Goolsby who recently received awards for their participation in the CAAO (Consortium of African American Organizations) Youth Innovation Forum. Information about the forum and other of CAAO’s many educational and community services can be obtained by contacting CAAO at (216) 432-9481 or visiting the web site at www.caaon.net.

Additional photos of the event are available on-line by Clicking Here!

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin Goolsby (center) as he and other members of the Mega Kidz Choir perform during a recent Christmas Program.

There is a fountain of youth: It is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring in your life and the lives of people you love.

- Sophia Loren -

PLAN AHEAD!

Graduating Next Year or Planning to be in the Audience?
You Want a Short, Powerful, To-The-Point Commencement Message
Recommend Us to Your School Officials TODAY!

I brought children into this dark world because it needed the light that only a child can bring.

~Liz Armbruster

VISIONS Newsletter is published Bi-Monthly
Subscription $10.00 per year payable to FORD & Associates
P.O. Box 393 - Twinsburg, OH 44087-0393
Phone 216-348-4612 - E-mail: successisyou@yahoo.com

Want to Make a Difference? - We Need YOUR Story!
Someone’s Future Depends Upon Sharing Who YOU Are!
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE - 2-10-2012
Photo Courtesy of CAAO Cleveland

Members of the National Black MBA Cleveland/Northeast Ohio Chapter. The young lady 3rd from left did an excellent job presenting the NBMBAA Leaders of Tomorrow Program and how it has helped her. If you are interested in participating in this program contact the National Black MBA Association Cleveland/Northeast Ohio chapter around spring 2012. For on-line inquiries, click above, or contact at Ms. Tanisha Rush, (216) 916-4874 - P.O. Box 22839, Beachwood, OH 44122.

CONGRATULATIONS to Breyanna Mikel who was recently named to a Leadership Mentor Position at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ondrea Moore, who graduated in December with an MBA in international Business from Wayne state university in Michigan.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mekole Wells of Charlotte, North Carolina on her graduation from Walden University with a Master of Science degree in nonprofit management. Mekole is now enrolled in the PhD Program with Walden Public Policy and Administration, with specialization in Nonprofit Management and Fundraising.
**Christmas Eve with The Hudson’s**

Of course the food and the company was great when we visited my sister-in-law Rhea and her family on Christmas Eve, but as you might expect, there was one “show-stopper” that the camera kept gravitating toward; Rhe-Dance Jenkins. Being such a sport, she did agree to share one pose with her sister Jasmine Hudson.

---

**Nela Park Sparkles**

Once again the lights brought visitors to Nela Park in East Cleveland. Cars crowded Noble Road and navigated the circle slowly to allow the young and the not-so-young to view the light display that has so long brought the joy of the season to residents of Northeast Ohio. Dianne and I were not content with viewing the displays in “drive by” mode, so we parked (much safer), got out of the car, and grabbed a few photos, some of which can be viewed at [http://www.successisyou.blogspot.com/](http://www.successisyou.blogspot.com/).
The photos above are just a hint of the elegance, hospitality and charm that we experienced on Christmas Day having dinner with family. The table setting, the Gingerbread House, the warm hospitality of my cousin Larissa, her family, and the adorable baby were just a part of an unbelievable afternoon and meal. I'm not even going to torment you with a list of the foods you missed. There was E-v-e-r-y Thing, and some more! Additional photos can be viewed on-line by CLICKING HERE! Sorry but there are no photos of the food because we never saw it all at once. Unbelievable as it might seem, the family actually served us at the table in “shifts.” And before you ask, “NO” you cannot adopt my cousins! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made our Christmas so special!

Christmas Dinner and Joe’s Birthday with The Taylor’s

It can not be easy squeezing in a birthday celebration on Christmas Day, but Joe’s smile is an indication that it’s possible. His wife June, the lady who made the dual celebration possible, seems to be enjoying herself so much, that you would believe that pulling off such a challenge is simple. We were doubly blessed on Christmas Day by being invited to and being able to participate in celebrations in more than one location. As usual, The Taylor’s had wall to wall food, and people ready to celebrate. Family and friends came from as far away as Cincinnati to help devour the food and share the good times.

THANK GOD for the invitations, the good traveling weather (we did not take that for granted!) and the safe travel.
BDPA Cleveland Helps Spread Holiday Cheer

Keeping in mind the spirit of the Holidays and the reality of tough times for many in Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Chapter of BDPA in cooperation with John Carroll University conducted a Food Drive on Sat., Nov. 12th to benefit the Transitional Housing Food Bank. Organizer Sylvia Calhoun reported that “The Transitional Housing staff was delighted to receive the six boxes of food and $34 cash collected that I delivered to them just before the Thanksgiving holiday.” A BIG THANK YOU to Sylvia for spearheading this fine effort.

On Sat., Dec. 10, the chapter followed up with a drive to obtain new toys for kids, and new or like new coats for women and children. As usual, Sylvia rose to the occasion to led this effort.

A special thank you also to David Ford and other members, contributors, along with staff and students from John Carroll for their participation in both these events.

Publisher's Note:
As the saying goes “Been There, Done That” as in eating at T. Love’s Casual Dining, and we loved it. Check it out for yourself!
We all know you can’t drive a car by simply starting it and jumping into the back seat, expecting it to take you where you would like to go. Yet, many of us do that with our lives. We have the car, we have the fuel, and we have the open road; however, we often fail to take hold of the wheel of life and drive forward to a destination with focus and purpose. I believe we have all been blessed with everything we need to have success in life; however, we still have to take action to get to where we need or want to be. That being said - As you look toward the future, I challenge you to hone in on your true vision, establish and create a plan (personal mission statement) and “Take Charge” of moving your life forward; in 2012. Consider the following:

Having a Vision for Your Life

Most successful people will say that their road to success began with a vision. They applied their talents and resources to achieve their vision, with the end in mind. Many of us find it somewhat difficult to be visionary. However, learning how to do so and then actually implementing that vision are vital and necessary skills that can and should be developed.

Many times a vision starts with a feeling, an idea, or a desired outcome for the future. Just think - many great athletes saw themselves winning a major sporting event when they were still children. Many entrepreneurs have turned simple inspirations into lucrative realities.

Evaluating your talents, assessing the state of your life and constantly updating your skills are all important things that help you narrow down what your vision and purpose in life might be, and place you on the road to realizing it. As always, be patient - your vision may take time and is likely to change as you change. (Note: Change is constant – Growth is optional) Just remember, your vision is a powerful beacon that can help guide and inspire you to get to where you want to go.

Having a Plan

Your vision is the very beginning - the seed. Before it can grow into something real, it needs to be established into a step-by-step format. This is where a plan comes in. Plans help you achieve your goals and make your vision a reality. Remember, any goal to which you commit yourself, needs a plan to get you there.

Reasons to Plan

A plan is a valuable asset and will tell you what to do with the choices and opportunities you are presented with each day. It costs you very little up-front investment and offers a tremendous lifetime return. Also, a sound and viable plan possesses these outstanding attributes:

- **It's a stress reducer:** With a plan, you have direction. A plan is similar to having a GPS on a road trip to a place you have never been. Without it, you are likely to get lost; but with it, you will know you are on the right course.
- **It’s an ordering principle:** When you are faced with many options, goals, and opportunities, a plan helps you sort and prioritize them.
- **It's a measuring tool:** You are unique, so comparing yourself with others to assess your progress is not effective. However, when you measure what you have done against your plan, you get a truer picture of where you are.
- **It's flexible:** Circumstances change, goals change, and emphases shift. A good plan can accommodate these changes. Re-evaluate your plan regularly in light of the changes, and don’t hesitate to rework your plan as necessary.
- **It makes you more effective:** With a plan to guide you, you can focus on what is important and eliminate the unimportant things that get in the way of you realizing your goals and dreams.

It’s time for a “break-out” not a “break-through”
Motivate yourself and commit to being all you can be in 2012
Top Quality and Excellent Service Are Calling YOU!

NEED A SPEAKER FOR MLK, BLACK HISTORY OR OTHER EVENT?
Contact us to inform and inspire your audience. Bio supplied upon request or check out our credentials online by PRESSING HERE. Call us at 216-348-4612 or email us at successisyou@yahoo.com.

WEDDING INVITATIONS & ACCESSORIES
Our thirty-year history of quality products and services, our continued commitment to excellence, and our partnerships with industry leaders such as Carlson Craft means that you get peace of mind, major savings and ultimate satisfaction. Wedding planning can be stressful and costly, but using our services reduces both the stress and the cost. If you live in Northeast Ohio, you can choose to see our vast selection in person and save up to 25% on top quality Carlson Craft Wedding Products. Live outside the area or just prefer to shop from the comfort and convenience of your home? No problem, just visit and browse our web site at http://www.invitations.successisyou.org/ at your leisure. For your added convenience, on-line orders are handled by the professional staff at Carlson Craft and can be paid for with the convenience of PayPal or major credit cards.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS
Attention Graduates and Parents: You’ve worked hard for the moment that to some seemed as though it would never come. You owe it to yourself to have an announcement that is as unique and as special as The Graduate. Don’t be limited by the “generic” announcement offered through your High School, College or University. Visit our web site at http://www.invitations.successisyou.org/ and treat yourself well.

WEB DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE and MUCH, MUCH MORE!
In addition to the loyalty of our customers, one thing that has positively impacted our business success is our willingness and ability to be flexible and responsive. During the past year much of our work has included web design, designing souvenir program books, and photographing or videoing your special events. We mention this to encourage you to contact us regarding your needs, whatever they might be. Because we only want to be associated with excellent results, we will access your needs, and if we cannot give you the results we can be proud of, we will certainly let you know.

REPUTATION is our most important product!