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March/Rally Brings Men Together to Focus on Solutions to the Problems





State & Local
Holiday Food
Give Away

Trailblazer Karen Hence



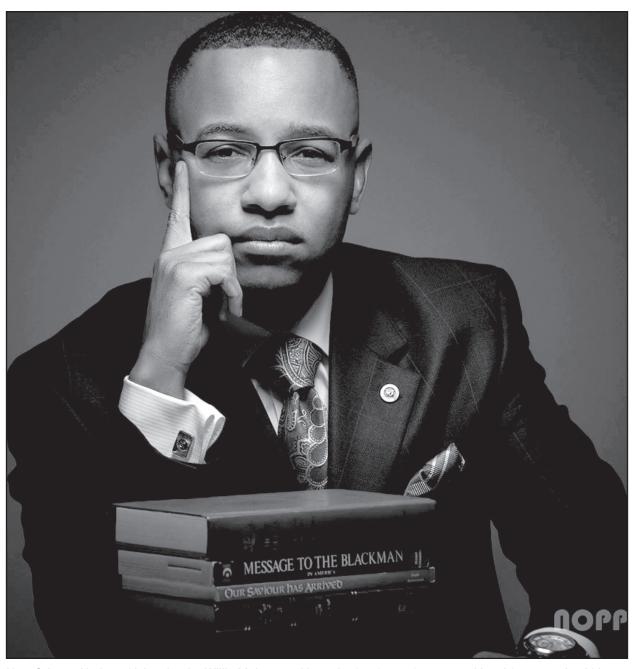
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Cover Story

Man Up!

March/Rally Brings Men Together to Focus on Solutions to the Problems of African American Males



New Orleans Nation of Islam leader Willie Muhammad is at the forefront of a renewed local focus on the African-American Male. He will lead the "Man Up March and Rally that will take place October 25, 2014 at Hunter's Field located at St. Bernard and N. Claiborne Ave.

By Edwin Buggage

On October 16, 1995 Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan organized and led the historic Million Man March; where over 1 million men came together in Washington D.C. in the spirit of brotherhood to pledge to be better men and leaders of their families and community. Nearly two decades later some have stepped to the plate and are doing the right thing, but still all too often we see many men in the African-American community fall through societies cracks and fall victims to crime, drugs and not valuing education or family. Today there is a renewed focus on the African-American male from many including the White House under President Barack Obama with his My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Locally, there is a renewed focus on the African-American Male, one that New Orleans Nation of Islam leader Willie Muhammad wants to address during the "Man Up March and Rally that will take place October 25, 2014 at Hunter's Field located on St. Bernard and N. Claiborne Ave beginning at 9 A.M. Speaking on the march in 1995 he says "The purpose of this monumental event was for Black men to: 1. Recommit themselves to being better fathers, husbands, brothers, sons and men in general; 2. Confront contemporary social realities of life; 3. Shoulder responsibility; and 4. Reconcile differences between themselves. Some of the major factors to be appreciated about this grand, unparalleled occasion is that it: 1. Created meaningful change by present-

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Cover Story

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Eight Areas of FOCUS: A. Health B. Violence Reduction

- C. Political Involvement
- D. Education Reform
 - E. Arts & Culture
- F. Prison Reform
- G. Youth Development
- H. Economic Development

Pictured above are scenes from the Man Up March/Rally kick off meeting on Aug. 9 at the Ashe' Culture Center. As Minister Willie Muhammad addressed the many men who came to hear the message, and signed up to be a part of the Man Up movement.

ing positive imagery to replace negative stereotypes of Black men; 2. Produced results through social action and diligence in civic duties, resulting in men joining civic and community organizations; 3. Encouraged active participation in community development and building; 4. Increased conscientious in voting, as well as a large increase in the registered voting ranks; and 5. And an increase in the adoption of Black children residing in foster care homes. To date, this march was the largest recorded gathering of Black people ever. The three general themes were: 1. Atonement (reparation for a wrong or injury); 2. Reconciliation (the restoration of friendly relations); and 3. Responsibility (being accountable and delivering on something a person has to do).

Willie Muhammad when speaking of the goals of the march in New Orleans says, "The march/rally has several goals we are seeking to obtain. One, is we want to commemorate the Historic Million Man March that took place in Washington, D.C. 19 years ago. I do not believe we have fully come to under-

stand the impact and significance of that historic gathering. Second, we want to combat the negative images of Black men that our community is bombarded with on a regular basis via news, video and how we are seen treating each other. Lastly, we want to encourage more men to get involved in and support organizations that have been working to help address various issues our community faces."

While there are many new initiatives by New Orleans Mayor Landrieu and other Ad Hoc formations of organizations trying to tackle the problem some Black men face. Muhammad feels that sometimes the proposed solutions are sometimes oversimplified and a multifaceted approach is needed to address the problem facing at risk Black males. "This Man Up March/Rally is not an effort to create another organization to address problems that are already being confronted by the numerous grassroots and other organizations. We do not need more organizations! We need unity and support of those who have a track record of working in our community. At the march/ rally we are targeting eight areas

which are health, economic development, prison reform, youth development, political engagement, arts & culture, education and violence reduction. We have had an independent panel of judges who read over applications of groups who work in each of these areas. The panel read the applications and examined the work of those whose names were submitted and voted for the best group to represent each area. At the rally we are going to ask men to support one of these groups in their work to better our community," says Muhammad.

As was the historic Million Man March it was a collaborative effort of many organizations and individuals who came together to get around the cause of saving and celebrating Black men. Groups and individuals who have pledged their support and participation according to Muhammad are: the Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., New Orleans Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries, National Action Now, Prince Hall Masons/Shriners, Crescent City Kings Football, Men of Small Business NOLA, Muhammad Mosque #46, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity of Dillard University, Lower Light Baptist Church, Christian Unity Baptist Church, Pentecost Baptist Church, New Home Family Worship Center, Greater Grace Fellowship, True Love Movement, Fathers Advocacy, Ashe Cultural Center, Fatherhood Round Table, Fatherhood Consortium, and the Silverback Society. We have had several Mardi Gras Indian Chiefs, Social Aid & Pleasure Clubs as well as some motorbike clubs. New Orleans Hip-Hop artists such as Mannie King, J-Lyric, Truth Universal, Kunta Fly Snooka, Young Pro, Cfreedom and also members of the poet community such as Peter Muhammad and Shed White. The list goes on and on and we are excited that we have gotten such a cross section of people supporting the march/rally."

Muhammad feels that this march can be the beginning of framing African-American men in a more positive and realistic light. He feels that most men are doing the right things in spite of some of the challenges they face, but it is about helping those who are vulnerable to fall through society traps

that lead them to making bad decisions that affect themselves, their families and community. "We are referring to it as a march, but it really is a rally. Rally is defined as to come together again to renew and the mustering of scattered forces to renew an effort. This gathering is an attempt to keep hope alive in our community. The condition that exists in our community is weighing heavily on the hearts of our people. Our community needs to see a large gathering of Black men! I respect those who have their views regarding marches, but this is what God has put on my heart to do and I must do it. I mean, what else have they or any others planned on the 25th of October to combat the negativity that surrounds Black men. Why can't we come together on this day and stand! If one thousand elephants showed up at Congo Square tomorrow, what would be the headline news? I am not saying we are elephants, but I know if a thousand plus Black men showed up willing to allow themselves to serve as positive examples and willing to commit to helping those who are working in our community. I know it will have an impact."

Shoot Va Best Shot

2014 Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival Highlights

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

The 2014 Crescent City Blues and BBQ Festival took place on October 17 - 19 in New Orleans' Lafayette Square Park. The event, produced and presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, featured top Blues performers which included: Los Lobos, Bobby Rush, Denise LaSalle, Joe Louis Walker, Mel Waiters, Selwyn Birchwood, Papa Mali, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, Little Freddie King, Vasti Jackson, Mia Borders, Luke Winslow King, Marc Stone, Brother Tyrone & the Mind Benders, Leo "Bud" Welch and King James & the Special Men.



Bobby Rush



Leo "Bud" Welch



Walter "Wolfman" Washington



Carlton Armstrong

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events



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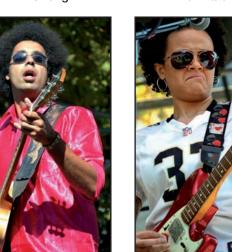
Los Lobos



Ana Popovic and Carlton Armstrong



Ana Popovic and Carlton Armstrong







Mia Borders



Vasti Jackson

Denise LaSalle



Joe Lewis Walker and Lenny LB Brandford









Mel Waters

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State & Local News

New Holiday Campaign Aims to Keep Families Fed this Thanksgiving



Hunger doesn't take a holiday, and this season Second Harvest Food Bank is introducing a new holiday campaign, our Turkey and a \$20 Food and Fund Drive' to its donors and supporters just in time for the Holiday season. Our goal is to collect 5,000 turkeys and raise \$50,000 from our community in an effort to provide holiday meals to families in need throughout South Louisiana.

Along with the donation of a turkey, your gift of \$20 will allow Second Harvest to distribute 60 additional meals to households struggling with hunger. Throughout the holidays, these turkeys and additional grocery items will help families across South Louisiana prepare a meal and celebrate with loved ones.

"Our community has always been very supportive around the holiday season and we hope that we can count on their support again this year to help provide holiday meals to families in need," said Natalie Jayroe, President/CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank.

Last year, Second Harvest collected 80,930 pounds, the equivalent of 150,775 meals through individual and corporate food drives during November and December. With our community's help, we can hit our campaign goal and surpass last year's record by more than 50,000 meals.

There are several ways to get involved. Beginning November 3, Winn-Dixie will accept donations at the register at locations in Jefferson, Orleans, St. Tammany, St. Charles, Lafayette, and Iberia parishes. Or you can go to www.turkey. no-hunger.org to make an online donation. You can also join our campaign by setting up a personal or team fundraising page and multiply the power of your giving.

There will be an opportunity for groups and individuals to drop off turkeys on Thursday, November 20th, turkey drop off day held at the Winn-Dixie location at 211 Veterans Blvd., in Metairie from 7am – 9pm. Just look for the Second Harvest Food Bank staff, volunteers and truck in front of the store.

Capital One Bank Announces Bayou Classic Business Plan Competition

Cash prizes totaling \$60,000 will be awarded at small business growth plan competition held in conjunction with the 41st 2014 Bayou Classic

Capital One Bank, in partnership with the 41st Annual Bayou Classic, today announced the 2014 Capital One Bank Bayou Classic Business Plan Competition, a small business growth plan competition that is being held in conjunction with the 2014 Bayou Classic series of events.

The purpose of the Capital One Bank Bayou Classic Business Plan Competition, which will award a total of \$60,000 in cash prizes, is to help small businesses in Louisiana grow and create jobs. The competition will feature two categories: Category No. 1 will be for businesses with annual revenues of less than \$250,000, and Category No. 2 will be for businesses with annual revenues of between \$250,000 and \$1 million.

Finalists in the statewide competition for both categories will make an oral presentation at the Capital One Bank Bayou Classic Business Growth Plan Competition on Nov. 28, before the winners are announced on the field during the nationally televised Bayou Classic football game Nov. 29. Each category winner will receive a cash prize of \$25,000. The businesses finishing in second place will each receive a cash prize of \$5,000.

"At Capital One Bank, we are committed to Investing for Good in Louisiana communities, connecting our company's people and financial resources to education, financial literacy and small business and workforce development," said Rob Stuart, Capital One Bank Louisiana State President. "The Bayou Classic is a Louisiana tradition, and the Capital One Bank Bayou Classic Business Plan Competition is a great example of how Capital One brings Investing for Good to life 9 a.m.-1 p.m., October 24 for small businesses in Louisiana. CoHabitat Foundation

We're pleased to partner with Louisiana SBDC, ACCION Louisiana and Money Management International to offer this competition and support the Bayou Classic."

"We are excited to have Capital One Bank as part of the 41st Annual Bayou Classic this year," said Dottie Belletto, President of New Orleans Convention Company, Inc., the management firm of the 41st Annual Bayou Classic. "The Capital One Bank Bayou Classic Business Plan Competition continues to build the business opportunities available to entrepreneurs at Bayou Classic. The Bayou Classic events are more than just a football game, but an opportunity to support and grow the business community through multiple opportunities - with this new Capital One Bank program being the pinnacle at this year's series of events."

To be eligible for the competition, businesses and their owners must meet the following criteria:

- Have annual revenues of less than \$250,000, to compete in category No. 1, or between \$250,000 and \$1 million, to compete in category No. 2.
- Be based in Louisiana.
- Have owned the business since before Oct. 31, 2013.
- Applicants must attend one of two business development workshops offered on Oct. 24 or Oct. 25 in any of the following Louisiana cities: Baton Rouge, New Orleans or Shreveport. The training dates and locations for the three cities are:

Greater New Orleans

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 24 and Oct. 25 Louisiana Small Business Development Center **UNO Jefferson Center** 3330 N. Causeway Blvd., Rm. 317 Metairie, LA 70002 (parking is free)

Shreveport

500 Clyde Fant Parkway Shreveport, LA 71101 OR 9 a.m.-1 p.m., October 25 Convention Center 400 Caddo Street Shreveport, LA 71101

Baton Rouge

9 a.m.-1 p.m., October 24 American Red Cross 4655 Sherwood Common Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70816

9 a.m.-1 p.m., October 25 – Louisiana Small Business Development Center 616 Harding Boulevard Baton Rouge, LA 70807

Email: BayouClassicBusinessChallenge@capitalone. com for more information on training times and locations. **Submit:** A letter of intent by Oct. 31, 2014. **Submit:** A business growth plan by November 7, 2014.

Capital One bank officials and area university business faculty will judge business growth plans at the regional level and select 12 businesses to go on to the competition in both categories at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel on Nov. 28, the day before the annual Bayou Classic football game. During that competition, each contender will make an oral presentation in front of a panel of community and business leaders. The cash awards will go to the owners of the businesses whose plans and presentations are judged by the panel to be the most creative, innovative and likely to succeed in growing their business and creating jobs in Louisiana.

To learn more about the competition, eligible business owners should contact Capital One Bank by email at BayouClassicBusiness-Challenge@capitalone.com. purchase is necessary to enter or win. A purchase does not improve your chances of winning.

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Trailblazer

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Promoting Positive Change in New Orleans

by: Edwin Buggage

This month's Data News Weekly Trailblazer Karen Hence is known by many as someone who is an expert in the field of public relations. Where her job is to "toot" the horn creating visibility and promoting the work of others; but what many do not know is that she is a woman filled with a heart of gold who is dedicated to giving back to many causes in her community. "I donate time and services to non-profits as well as speaking to the youth at schools and churches. I feel that it is imperative that all businesses, whether large or small, leave something positive behind for future generations, whether it's donating time, money or sharing knowledge. It's the least we can do! I would be remiss if I didn't practice what I preach," says Hence."

New Orleans is a City rich with traditions and it is important that we work to preserve them. But as we see during



post-Katrina some things have changed and Hence feels some of them have had a negative outcome in the African-American community. She feels that some of the events she worked on years ago while working in the radio industry need to be revived because of their positive impact. "I am excited that the City has been getting major events like the Super Bowl, and others large scale events that bring in tourists but it is events inside the African- American community I would like to see come back. I worked on Family Day at the Park, which was a great event that promoted family and community unity and also Teen Summit that brought young people together to help empower them. I feel with all the violence going on in the City these were two things that promoted family and community was great for our City."

Over the years she's worked hard to become

a major force in the world of PR and her success is an inspiration to many, but especially young African-American women. Hence is someone who is dedicated to teaching and reaching the next generation. "I am someone who had a dream and through hard work made it come true and I feel others can do it too," remarks Hence. Continuing she says, "I take time out to speak with and mentor young girls every chance I get because it is important that we give them the foundation they need to have a bright future."

She is the recipient of numerous awards including one from the YMCA. "I don't really do things with receiving recognition in mind, it is about doing and being your best and serving others," says Hence. "Seeing someone else succeed is what I feel great about, it is part of what I do in PR and that extends to what I try to do in life and that is to make others better."





"HE JUST NEEDS TO GET OVER IT"

1 in 6 men had an unwanted or abusive sexual experience before age 18.

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