



Presents



**The 2011 Healthy Wealthy & Wise
National Empowerment Tour
Final Report – Metropolitan Atlanta**

January 25, 2012

Helping Black Women, Veterans and Girls Live their Best Lives!

2011 Healthy, Wealthy, & Wise National Empowerment Tour Final Report – Metropolitan Atlanta

The Atlanta 2011 Healthy, Wealthy, & Wise tour was an intergenerational three day event filled with information, networking, and empowerment sessions for both women and girls. All activities focused on the theme “Healthy, Wealthy & Wise”. The events were held October 21 – 23, 2011 in three distinct cities of Metropolitan Atlanta.

Kick-off Event in East Point, Georgia

The kick-off event was an intergenerational “Sister to Sister” Listening Session hosted by the first African American Fire Chief in the United States, Chief Rosemary Cloud. The group was welcomed by the first African American Mayor for the City of East Point, the Honorable Patsy Jo Hilliard. The event was held in the city of East Point, Georgia. One of the local sponsors for the event, Aaron Rents, provided a sofa set decoration for the former operating fire station that gave the over **eighty –five (85) participants** the feel of an intimate “family” style conversation. Nina Hickson, Esquire; Anita Thomas, Esquire; Captain A. Hall; Firefighter W. William-Smith; Sgt. Donna Bridges served as facilitators. Each of the girls participating in the listening session were open to share and several times became emotional as they spoke of their concerns and needs. As we listened to their thoughts, the most prevailing need was a way to bridge the “communication” gap with their mothers, families, and community that impacted their daily lives. They were trying to learn to cope with their personal situations while trying to succeed in their educational endeavors. Another issue discussed was developing successful relationships with the opposite sex and how to manage those relationships.

One of our follow-up strategies is to review the comments from the session and bring appropriate resources to assist the girls and women with successfully navigating the issues discussed.

Empowerment Expo – Riverdale, Georgia

The second day of activities was held on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the Riverdale Community Centre, Riverdale, Georgia. It was attended by **one hundred twenty-five (125)** women and girls. The 100 Black Men of South Metro Atlanta provided approximately twenty of their mentees to serve as hosts for the events. This was to demonstrate to all participants how “gentlemen” really treat ladies. The day’s activities began with a healthy workout session video of First Lady Michele Obama with Beyonce and an actual “Let’s Move” session with dancer, Eshe of Arrested Development. This truly was the “hit” of the event for those who completed the entire workout. Local and national partners from the Centers for Disease Control presented a workshop on health with specific emphasis on the myths of influenza vaccinations. Walgreen’s made available four hundred free flu shot vouchers and provided two pharmacists that gave free flu shots to participants that wanted them. However, only twenty-five of the participants got the shots.

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Empowerment Expo – Riverdale, Georgia

A workshop on “Domestic Violence – Let’s Have a Frank Discussion” was presented by the National Center for Victims of Crime. The participants were thoroughly engaged in this interactive workshop. The workshop on “What’s Your Economic Health – Financial Literacy 101” presented by a local partner, Fifth Third Bank, gave participants tips on building wealth and managing their current finances. Those who participated in this concurrent workshop were so engaged and requested we present this session again.

Between the concurrent sessions, we held a salute to Pioneers and Achievers during a luncheon session. We saluted Mayor Evelyn Winn Dixon, first African American Mayor of Riverdale because of her achievement of building a multi-million dollar facility in which we held the events, as well as, her political achievement of moving from poverty to a powerful and influential Mayor of a major city in Georgia. Her riveting story was well received by all of the participants. One of the earliest pioneers in the State of Georgia for women was Rita Samuels whom we saluted also. She served as the first African American on a Governor’s and Presidential staff (President Jimmy Carter), first African American and women on the State Board of Elections, worked for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. along with other accomplishments. They gave very inspiring encouragement to the participants. Our Keynote Speakers for the luncheon were Vivica A. Fox and Demetria McKinney (plays Janine on the Tyler Perry Show). Their intergenerational personal triumph stories gave the participants hope for them to achieve their goals.

Other concurrent sessions included “Know Your Political Health” as presented by Representative Roberta Abdul Salaam, Clayton County; “Girls in Reel Life – Media Literacy” presented by Leslie Daniels (Urban Minds in Motion). Chef Gwen Narcisse (Gwen’s Gourmet) gave a live demonstration of how to make healthy snacks. Author and Minister Tavis Taylor conducted a workshop entitled “Behind the Walls – Making It Through Tough Times”.

“Sistas Worship” – A Special Tribute - Fayetteville, Georgia

The culmination of activities were held at Olivet Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Georgia. The church services was attended by approximately **three hundred (300)** people. Helen Butler, local NCBCP affiliate’s Executive Director, addressed those in attendance giving a special tribute to Ruby Pulliam and Adrienne Dennis, as well as, the purpose of the Black Women’s Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise Empowerment tour.

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Partners & Sponsors

Local partners such as 100 Black Women of Metropolitan Atlanta, Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, SCLC W.O.M.E.N., Inc., Urban League of Greater Atlanta and Youth in Action provided girls and women who participated in the event. The East Point Fire Department provided the facility for the kick-off event and Olivet Baptist Church provided the venue for the culmination event. Aaron Rents provided the "sofa set" decoration for the kick-off event in East Point. 100 Black Men of South Metro Atlanta provided their mentees to assist with the Empowerment Expo. Walgreen's and the Center for Disease Control provided free flu shots. A complete list of local and national partners and sponsors are attached in the program booklet provided to all participants.

Next Steps:

The feedback from the events' was there wasn't enough time to thoroughly discuss most issues. We held a debriefing session on November 3, 2011 and have scheduled our next meeting of Black Women's Roundtable Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise Tour activities for February 2, 2011. This will be a working session to identify resources that are suitable for addressing the issues identified during our listening session and subsequent activities for the remainder to 2012 to empower the women and girls in the state. A schedule for the remainder of the year will be developed during the February 2nd meeting.

Photo Gallery



Some of Participants at Fire Station – East Point, GA



Signs of Some Issues Discussed



A Young Participant Speaks Out

Photo Gallery



Let's Move Workout Session with Eshé of Arrested Development



Vivica Fox & Demetria McKinney With Mayor Evelyn Dixon & Rita Samuels

Photo Gallery



Photos by Clyde @ clyde_bradley@msn.com

100 Black Men South Metro Mentees



Photos by Clyde @ clyde_bradley@msn.com

Helen Butler & Vivica A. Fox



Salute to Pioneers & Achievers



Checking Out What's Next

Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery

