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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

#### Rev. Jesse Jackson Discusses Unemployment, Student Loans, and Incarceration with the Media

On June 5th, 2009, Rev. Jesse Jackson met with the media outlets of Chicago and beyond to discuss the state of the nation and the issues he and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition will be addressing at its 38th Annual Conference. Rev. Jackson addressed those hurt most by unemployment, innocents held in prison, the current default crisis in student loans.

"While it is midday in our politics, it is midnight in our economy," said Rev. Jackson, indicating that despite the social victory marked by the election of the nation's first African American president, America is covered by a dark shadow of financial disarray.

'We are losing 600,000 jobs a month, 2.2 million homes are facing foreclosure this year and 20 million are on the water," he said.

recent bankruptcy of General Motors serves as an example of how the government has given preferential treatment to major companies burdened with heavy

"When the government takes over GM, and takes over Chrysler, then comes the obligation to contract compliance. There is attempt by some to suspend civil rights and chose inheritance over enforcing the law," he said. "By allowing them to discharge their debt and obligations, dealers and suppliers cannot eat. They are losing jobs."

Rev. Jackson spoke on how he wanted to "Bring the stimulus to the roots." He likened bailouts like the GM takeover to only watering the leaves of a tree. The roots – the

individual citizens hurt most by the recession - were being left behind in the stimulus package.

Rev. Jackson also addressed how the nation's college students are finding themselves trapped financially. Across the country, students have accumulated \$19 billion worth of student loan debt.

"Students cannot declare bankruptcy out of student loan debt, "said Rev. Jackson. "You have graduating Northwestern, DePaul University and University of Chicago whose debt is \$100,000 to \$150,000. Credit scores are going down and default rates are escalating. Three hundred or more are leaving Morehouse a year because they cannot borrow

Having started a campaign See Jackson page 6



Jesse Jackson speaks on bringing the stimulus to the people

## ROBERT CROWN CENTER FOR HEALTH

#### Body Trek Science Camp at Homan Square



A Robert Crown Center for Health Education student in the Body Trek program attempts to place a pulse test on a fellow student during their visit at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

The Robert Crown Center for Health and Latino students. Education at Homan Square took its summer Body Trek science students to John H. Stroger exposed to the potential for medical careers Hospital of Cook County's Emergency Department on June 18 to experience the rigorous routines of emergency room physicians and nurses.

Body Trek at Homan Square is a unique and engaging program that allows students to partner with medical staff, other health care professionals, and health educators to learn about and explore the workings of the human body. Body Trek serves as a "summer science camp" for a diverse group of thirteen to fifteen year olds, including many African-American

"It is a great opportunity for kids to be at an early age and gives the students a sense of what the next steps might be for each of them," said Dr. David Bedney, Homan Square **Body Trek Program Director.** 

This year's Robert Crown Center for Health Education Body Trek at Homan Square began on June 15 and goes through June 25. A working schedule of the program's daily activities is available upon request. For more information on the Robert Crown Center for Health Education, please visit www.robertcrown.org.

#### **Lawndale Christian Development EDUCATION ENGAGES WEST SIDE YOUTH Corporation Addresses Foreclosure Crisis' Impact on Tenants**

Christian Development Corporation (LCDC) will provide free seminars and individual assistance for North Lawndale's rental residents affected by the growing foreclosure crisis. The program will take place at the Chicago Christian Industrial League at 2750 W. Roosevelt Road.

Tenants are the main focus of this session since they comprise close to 80% of North Lawndale's population. Representatives from the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, and LCDC, as well as several other agencies, will be in attendance to answer questions, address concerns and offer advice. Each seminar will be approximately thirty minutes with time for individual assistance in between each one.

North Lawndale is one of the most vulnerable neighborhoods in Chicago. Its vulnerabilities have been exacerbated by the current mortgage and foreclosure environment especially acute in North Lawndale. Alderman change in North Lawndale. Sharon Dixon's office has been receiving weekly information on the number, kind and location of housing foreclosures in the 24th Ward since February 2008. As of April 2009, there have been 848 foreclosures worth \$221,583,655. These foreclosures include 554 apartment complexes, 197 private homes, eighty-five condominiums, nineteen commercial properties and three townhouses.

These numbers are devastating for North Lawndale residents. As North Lawndale's housing stock is predominantly multi-unit buildings and our residents are overwhelmingly renters (80%), when a home faces foreclosure in North Lawndale, several families may be faced with possible displacement.

Corporation was established in 1987 to bring (773) 762-8889 ext. 20 or fpratt@lcdc.net.

On Saturday, June 27, 2009, Lawndale holistic revitalization to the lives and environments of Lawndale through economic empowerment, housing improvements, educational enrichment and community advocacy. In the last 12 years, LCDC has brought more than \$47 million in redevelopment to the North Lawndale community including an award-winning \$3.1 million childcare facility (Jubilee Family Resource Center) which serves 220 children and employs fifty people. LCDC's thirty-one computer, state of the art technology center provides critical technology access and training to youth and adults in North Lawndale.

LCDC was selected in 2003 to serve as the lead agency in Lawndale for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation's (LISC) New Communities Program (NCP). LCDC has organized more than 200 local residents and 30 local organizations around the development and implementation of a fiveyear "Quality of Life Plan." The goal of the in the United States, a problem that is plan is to create comprehensive, sustainable

Because preserving affordable quality housing, promoting resident empowerment and community collaboration and partnerships are at the core of its mission, LCDC has become involved in the looming foreclosure crisis in North Lawndale by providing outreach and education assistance. In its role as lead agency for the New Communities Program, LCDC has recently received additional support from the MacArthur Foundation to launch an aggressive outreach campaign to the estimated 1,000 to 1,200 families who could potentially be impacted by foreclosures in North Lawndale.

For more information, contact Frances Pratt, Foreclosure Outreach Advocate/ Lawndale Christian Development Lawndale Christian Development Corporation

Visit us on our website at www.nlcn.org for more articles, photos, information and more.

North Lawndale Community News Winner of the 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award

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### NLCN 2009 FOCUS

#### HEALTH & THE ECONOMY

One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of self-care practices.

Self care is personal health maintenance. It is the care taken by individuals towards their own health and well being. Self care includes the actions individuals take in their role as care givers for their children, their families, and others to stay fit and to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Extreme self care means making choices and decisions that honor our soul in everyday living. It means feeding ourselves whole foods, moving our bodies every day, balancing silence with activity, and surrounding ourselves with supportive, likeminded people who are committed to improving or restoring health and uplifting the quality of their lives as well.

More than 75% of people surveyed in the United Kingdom said if they had guidance or support from a professional or peer they would feel far more confident about taking care of their own health. Research shows that supporting self care can improve health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. Our intention is to support individuals, families, institutions, and communities in their efforts to practice extreme self care. During 2009, the North Lawndale Community News focuses on cost-effective ways you can improve your health by practicing self care.

The Economy has made itself the number one issue with gas prices reaching almost \$5.00 per gallon and having a domino effect on everything else sold, except housing stock which experienced a terrible decline with the high rate of foreclosures. The Chicago metropolitan area reported 5,821 new foreclosure filings in December, a foreclosure rate of one new foreclosure filing for every 499 households — more than twice the national average. That brought the area's fourth quarter foreclosure total to 16,949 and its 2006 foreclosure total to 57,706, according to Realty Trac.

Even transportation on the CTA went on the rise with one day passes increasing by seventy-five cents and monthly passess increased by \$10.00 from \$75.00 to \$85.00. Those are just a few of the increases.

The North Lawndale Community News this year is expanding on last years financial focus to give attention to its broader parent the economy. Saving and making smarter shopping decisions will help stop us losing through wasteful choices. Finding new ways to increase our income is a necessity for many in an area where gentrifrication is not going to stop.

One of the hardest things to change is behavior. Modifying behavior seems to be easy when it comes to pain. Social pain lack of money has to be extreme for many to change. 2009 should be different for many and of course many will continue toward economic mistakes and financial ruin.

But in today's information society there is no excuse for not making smart choices. Financial literacy alone is not enough. Look what happened to Lehman Brothers and what's happening to many other financial institutions let alone individuals, families. and small businesses.

Solutions come to the internet, books, economic experts, financial counselors and experts, the media and your economical neighbors.

The North Lawndale Community News will tap into resources and share them with you, our reader. So to help you improve your health and your economy keep reading The North Lawndale News. We say yours because some may not modiy their behavior, except when the pain comes and still some won't change.. Your imput is also welcome If you have some information that is beneficial please submit it. Let's make smarter health and economic moves for life in 2009.

## THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/ or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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#### **North Lawndale Community News**

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OF NORTH LAWNDALE

#### LAWNDALE SALUTES ITS YOUNG AUTHORS

Renita Walker

Congratulations are in order for the following students at Chalmers Elementary School, located on 2745 W Roosevelt Rd, along with their principle Ms. Dossia. Destiny Chapman, Juquan Montgomery, Niajah Russell, Jammiria Rucker, Dyasha Taylor, Donnell Reed and Deshawn Perry are all fourth graders that participated in the "Barrel of Monkeys" program. Chalmers partnered with the actor-educator organization to provide enhanced programming for its students.

After six weeks of the workshop, the students get to keep their journals.

They gain valuable skills in creative writing and language arts. Barrel of Monkeys

is an ensemble of actor-educators that creates an alternative learning environment in which children share their personal voices and celebrate the power of their imaginations.

Barrel of Monkeys has been around for about twelve years with Elizebeth Levy as its program director. When I spoke with Ms. Levy I heard joy and enthusiasm in her voice while talking about the program and the children she's met. She told me Barrel of Monkeys partnered with many grammar schools to teach them the value of creative writing.

Elizabeth also stated, "This is a six week workshop where the students get to create their very own stories and Barrel of Monkeys act the story out at their school." I was invited to the Athenaeum Theatre, located on the North Side of Chicago, to view the performances.

Ms. Linda Killingworth, one of Chalmers fourth grade teachers, pushes her students to read, read, read. Ms. Dossia, the principal of Chalmers, stated that she attended last year's performance. "Just like last year, they were superb." She was glad that some of her students were selected.

I asked two parents who were also in attendance what they got out of the performances and how they felt this would benefit their child. Mrs. Stella Preuitt, greatgrandmother to Destiny Chapman, said she feels this is a great program and it has helped Destiny want to read. Mrs. Preuitt said "It was fun watching the actors act the stories out and it gives the students an opportunity to bring out of them what's hiding on the inside - their courage." One of Mrs. Preuitt's quotes after seeing the performance was "Don't knock something if you've never tried it."

Lonnette Patton, Destiny's mom, says she can see a difference in Destiny since she's become more involved in many of Chalmer's afterschool programs. Destiny has read over sixty-six books this school year. Lonnette said there were some funny parts of the stories and some had her jumping out of her seat. The place was packed; it was really amazing to see so many small children with such creative

Pictured with Linda Cooper and Ms. Dossia is Gennie Jackson, a recent graduate of Manley Career Academy. Gennie stated that she's never seen anything like the performances and she wished there was a program like that when she was in elementary school. Gennie is supposed to attend Southern Illinois University in late august, she said seeing these fourth graders made her take a different approach toward reading and she's going to start reading more.

If you'd like more information on "Barrel of Monkeys" or if you'd like to know if

they can work with your school please contact Karin McKie at Karin@treefalls.com visit the website www.barrelofmonkeys.org.

#### **MICHAEL JACKSON** DEAD AT 50

On Thursday, June 25, 2009, Michael Jackson died at the age of fifty. Mr. Jackson was found unconscious in his home. As medical professionals performed CPR, the legendary pop star was rushed to the UCLA



Michael Jackson

Medical Center. It is suspected that Mr. Jackson was suffering from cardiac arrest. Mr. Jackson was slated to begin a

beginning in London on July 13<sup>th</sup>. All of the concert dates were sold out. He had a long history of health problems and has run a full tour in over twelve years.

comeback tour

Mr. Jackson is survived by his

three children Michael Joseph Jackson, Jr., Paris Michael Katherine Jackson, and Prince Michael Jackson II.



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## **WORD UP:** When the Day of Pentecost was Fully Come Man On Fire

**Calvin Crayton** 

I celebrated my first Pentecost with the House of Jacob, located at 5316 W Harrison St., and I must admit, I was overwhelmed as I learned what this Feast of The Lord meant. I began to understand why holidays of man can never replace the holy days of the Lord. Pentecost is also known as the Feast of Weeks and as the Feast of First Fruits. This is of the utmost importance because Christ became the first of many fruits to come.

It amazes me how many people like myself tend to treat God's word as though it is something that we can just casually throw out. Sometimes they think there will be no consequences for their actions because their parents did it and pastor did it. People tell me I write angry. Guess what? I am! I am angry at myself for compromising God's word in order to get along with people. Jack-leg preachers mislead people by calling themselves reverend and no one ever asks them who named them "Reverend."

I am angry at myself for not acknowledging

my Lord in all my ways. I am angry when I look at the condition of my people and realize so much of it is due to disobedience to God's word.

War and eternity is at stake. How silly to trade eternity on silly fables. How silly to trade eternity on something that someone cannot show you in the Bible. How silly to claim you have a personal relationship with Christ and not read his book. How silly to claim that we are Christians, do nothing Christ did, and then turn around and teach the same silliness to our children.

Danger people; the stakes are too high. We are in the latter days. The Bible is fulfilling itself right before our eyes. If you don't believe me, believe the evidence Jesus told us in Mark. As I look back over my life I realize there are very few things that I have suffered for Christ. So, my say to the world is that I am at war and I am putting on my armor. My sword is the word of God and the life I save may be my own. Remember, if you don't read the book, you lose the lesson. Word up!



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#### Jackson from front page

called "Reduce the Rate," aimed at getting student loan rates reduced to one percent, Rev. Jackson plans to call attention to the fact that those who have taken out student loans are trapped in insurmountable amounts of debt and are unable to take advantage of benefits extended to businesses through the economic stimulus package.

"Students should pay the same rate that banks are paying in the bailout," he said. "The key is to reduce the rate. Why should the government hustle its own children?"

The campaign will be a major point of emphasis at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's 38<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the McCormick Place on June 27-July 1. Rev. Al Sharpton and Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan are among the those scheduled to headline the five day event.

At the end of the luncheon, Jonathan Jackson, national correspondent for the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, discussed the unfair incarceration of innocent civilians, many of whom have been sentenced to the death penalty or convicted to lengthy sentences. Introducing Johnnie Lee Savory, who was recently released after 38 years of imprisonment for a murder he did not commit, Jackson explained the tough road for those who are fortunate enough to get a second chance at life.

"There are innocent people who are incarcerated," he said. "Once they are found innocent, they are at the bottom of our society in the back of the line."

Mr. Savory gave a moving recount of his life story and urged guests to realize the number of young people who are unfairly incarcerated. "You all need to know that there are innocent children in prison," he said, "You need to know that and feel it in your soul."

Overall, Rev. Jackson expressed that the poor economy is only going to make these issues worse if proper measures are not taken to address the negative trends. Therefore, he thinks the government needs to restructure and reinvest in the way they are addressing the nation's problems.

"[Right now], the stimulus will never catch up with the hemorrhaging, he said. "We must get the stimulus bottom up and not just top down, and the convention will be dealing with that."

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A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County under file no. D09118137 on June 10, 2009 under the Assumed Name of Hollywood Tours of Chicago with the business located 3619 N. Drake Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. The true name and residence address of the owner is Sandy Toth, 3919 N. Drake Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.

#### Public Hearing

INFORMATIONAL SESSION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENT INPUT ON PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH LAWNDALE. Capital Improvement Program Public Hearing Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. 10th District Police Station in the Community Room at 3315 W. Ogden

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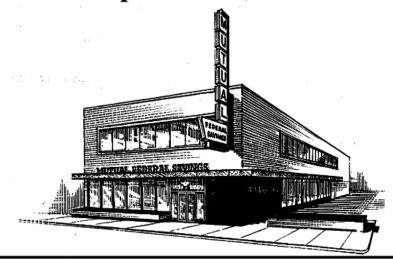
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#### From Sista to Sister: The LINK BETWEEN LOVE AND LUST

Walking down the adventure-filled streets of Chicago, it's not unusual that a sister may catch the eye of someone of the opposite sex. Some of these men are physically fine, and others are not so fine. A Sister (one who is related to others through mind, body, and soul) might just like to reach out and give a hug out of sympathy to some of these guys. No matter how you put it, he's still your brother, and you gotta love em'.

However, have you ever asked yourself the question, "Why must a brother's approach be so aggressive, far off, disrespectful, and lacking in love for the sisters?" This certainly doesn't qualify to all of my brothers, but there's a whole heck of a lot of them out there. The "What's up baby?" or "Damn, you gotta fat 'a\*\*'." What about the, "What up ma, can I talk to you?" (No, I'm not your baby. Yes, I was born beautiful, and I sure enough am not your mama.) Those are only some of the usual the responses that we hold in our minds as we speedily try to remove ourselves from the situation.

All of the approaches above are clearly idioms of not knowing how to express what many will identify as love. Although they may think it's love, it is perceived purely as lust for the person being addressed. Each disrespectful expression connects to the mis-education of what love truly is. If one truly loves, he or she will communicate their love in a way that becomes a harmonious rhythm that anyone's drum can beat to.

Some men who have lashed out such words feel that they are complementing the sister and feel that what is being said is not out of disrespect but out of pure love for the sisters. How sad.

So, how does one link love and lust? You can't link the two because love corresponds to the law of the universe and lust comes purely from the lack of discipline of ones sexual manner. In doing research by way of survey, I found that many sisters have even taken the time out to address such ill mannerisms. How does one respond to such harsh words if she has love not only for herself, but love for her brother? What can she do in order to correct him?

Wouldn't you rather hear, "Hello, you look beautiful today. May I help you with your bags?" Or perhaps, "You look very lovely today!" or "My sister, can I give you a hand? It looks like you need some help." In most causes, even when you don't respond you are called a "bit\*\*" or some other type of animalistic name that doesn't identify the beautiful queen that God has made you to be. As it was said clearly by Maya Angelou, "Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning." So, before we began to speak to one another out of lust, look deep in your heart and try to replace those words with love. Remember that "Love is the captivation of all things; it opens the door to all of life's treasures." It even opens the heart of a woman.



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