

THOUSANDS ATTEND 100 BLACK MEN OF AMERICA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO

22nd Annual Conference Focused on African-American Health, Wellness
"100" To Host 2009 Conference in New York, NY

[ATLANTA, GA] Thousands of corporate leaders, celebrities, youth and members of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. participated in the 22nd Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. This year's theme, "Solutions for Healthy Living", provided attendees educational information, seminars and dialogue about critical issues facing the African-American community. On Saturday, June 14, the 100 provided free health screenings to more than 500 individuals in Orlando as a part of their signature Community Empowerment Project (CEP).

Youth from across the nation took part in the African-American History Challenge, a private showing of "Believe" at the Sea World Ports of Call and experienced the excitement and thrills of Orlando's numerous theme and amusement parks. Gian Avery Crunk was awarded the Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. Mentee of the Year award. The 2008 Teen Summit included Reach Media's Oscar Joyner, The Tom Joyner Foundation's Thomas Joyner, Jr., and authors Fonzworth Bentley and Omar Tyree. "Each year, the 100 pays tribute to the achievements of our youth from across the nation," said Albert E. Dotson, Jr. Esq. who serves as chairman of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. "Leadership takes many forms in life. Whether you are in business, a professional athlete or a political figure, we want our youth to know that commitment, integrity, purpose and hard work are essential elements to success."

Workshops focused on family, food, fitness and fathers. Each day of the conference featured a special family mixer activity aimed at strengthening the bonds between youth and adults. During the *Discovering Healthy Foods* workshops, participants learned the benefits of good nutrition and the consequences of poor eating habits. From brisk walks to a morning jog, 100 members, spouses, youth and registered guests participated in the daily *100 Fitness Program*. *Saving the Children: Solutions for Combating Childhood Obesity*, informed parents and adults about the long term health risks of childhood obesity.

National television and radio personality Ed Gordon launched his national "Daddy's Promise" campaign by serving as a moderator for the *Daddy's Promise* panel discussion featuring CNN political correspondent Roland Martin and Judge Glenda Hatchett from the nationally syndicated *Judge Hatchett Show*. "We are very excited to support Mr. Gordon in this all-important initiative, which is very much in line with our organization's overall mission in strengthening African-American families," said Dotson.

The *2008 Issues Summit* sparked spirited debate and dialogue about critical issues facing the African-American community. Panelists included columnist George Curry, Atlanta Daily

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World's Alexis Scott and the New York Post's Robert George. The forum, moderated by NPR and Fox News Commentator Juan Williams addressed existing and emerging issues facing the African Americans over the next 2-3 years.

The opening session of this international mentoring organization used mentees to pay homage to the past, the current and the future during a candlelight ceremony. Dr. Nelson Adams served as Keynote Speaker and received the Dr. James T. Black Award for Health and Wellness.

Each year, the 100 hosts a CEP event in the heart of the conference city. This year's community outreach initiative at Jones High School focused on education, health and wellness and provided free health screenings worth nearly \$1,000 each. More than 500 attendees participated in a community health forum led by *the Three Doctors*. Chairman Dotson defeated the various celebrity chefs to win the celebrity cook-off challenge.

Partnering corporations continue their financial and in-kind support of the 100. During the Delegates Assembly Meeting, held June 13, 2008, special check presentations were conducted by the following companies: AT&T - \$100,000; General Motors Corporation/GMAC - \$100,000; and OSI Restaurant Partners, LLC - \$200,000. "These financial sponsorships allow the 100 to continue our capacity building training and enhances or mentoring programmatic initiatives," stated Albert E. Dotson, Jr., Esq., Chairman, 100 Black Men of American, Inc.

New chapter activations, which span from the eastern United States, to the Midwest and The Deep South, included: 100 Black Men of Costal North Carolina, Inc., 100 Black Men of Flint, Inc., 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc., 100 Black Men of Greater Monroe, Inc., 100 Black Men of Northwest Florida Panhandle, Inc., 100 Black Men of Rockford, Inc., and 100 Black Men of Philadelphia, Inc. These new inductions brings the total number of chapters mentoring, educating and empowering youth to 110 globally.

The *Chapter of the Year Award*, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a chapter, was presented during the Salute to Our Youth Luncheon. This year's recipients are 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. (*Large Chapter of the Year*), 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, Inc. (*Medium Chapter of the Year*), 100 Black Men of Stamford, Inc. (*Small Chapter of the Year*). In addition to chapter recognitions, the *Wimberley Award for Service* was given to Dr. Thomas Parham, PhD, University of California, Irvine during the State of the 100 Breakfast.

During the Chairman's Award Luncheon, men and women who are leaders in fields that impact youth received some of the 100's highest honors. 2008 honorees included: Dr. Yvonne Sanders-Butler, Principal, Mills Elementary School, Atlanta (*Chairman's Award for Education*); Victoria Rowell, Actress, Author and Advocate (*Chairman's Award for Children and Youth Advocacy*); Dr. Joshua Murfree, Jr., Vice Chairman of Programs, 100 Black Men of America, Inc. (*Chairman's Award for Mentoring*); Dr. John Agwunobi, Sr. V.P. and President, Professional

Services, Division, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., (*Chairman's Award for Health*); Keith R. Tribble, Director of Athletics & Executive Vice President, University of Central Florida (*Chairman's Award for Sport Leadership*).

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Doug Banks, host of the *Doug Banks Morning Show*, served as MC for the 100's Friday night event after receiving *2008 Trailblazer Award*. Mr. Banks also broadcasted his nationally syndicated radio show from the conference on both Thursday and Friday.

“Our corporate partners play such an integral role in the success of our programs nationally and internationally through their in-kind and financial support,” said Chief Executive Officer of the 100 Black Men of America Inc., John Hammond. “Each year, the 100 is proud to recognize the dedication and support of our many sponsors at our Stakeholders’ Luncheon, Delegates Assembly Meeting and Black Tie Gala. Because of their generous contributions, thousands of youth are mentored and educated and people of all ages are empowered through our ongoing community outreach initiatives.”

Each year, the 100 honors a corporate sponsor for their unwavering and constant support of the organization at the culminating Black Tie Gala event. This year, UPS was named *Corporation of the Year* for their support in helping the 100 achieve its goals in reaching youth nationally and internationally. Additional awardees for the evening included: Dr. Ian Smith (*Man of the Year Award*), Dr. Celeste Clark (*Woman of the Year Award*), Melvin Van Peebles (*Lifetime Achievement Award*), Dr. Louis Sullivan (*Lifetime Achievement Award*), The Three Doctors: Dr. Sampson Davis, Dr. Rameck Hunt, Dr. George Jenkins (*My Bother’s Keeper Award*) and Barrington Irving (*Trailblazer Award*). Dr. Ian Smith, The Three Doctors and Melvin Van Peebles were all inducted as honorary members of the 100 during the Black Tie Gala.

Sunday’s Ecumenical service was equally entertaining and uplifting as Rev Dr. Robert Spooney delivered the inspirational message and gospel recording artists Daryl Coley performed for conference attendees.

Sponsors for this year’s conference included: AARP, Aetna, Inc., American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Anheuser-Busch, Army, AT&T, Barbados, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Bounty, Burger King, Coca-Cola Company, Caesars (Harrah’s), Community Education Partners, Dunkin Doughnuts, Delta Airlines, Edison School, Edward Jones, EMC, ExxonMobil, Ford Motor Fund, The Walt Disney Company, General Motors/GMAC, Georgia Pacific, Healthcare GA Foundation, HBO, Hyatt, ING, Macy’s, Miller Brewing, Nielson Media Research, Medicaid/Medicare, Morris Manning, New York Life, Office Depot, Orlando CVB, Prudential Financial, Quiznos, Scholastic, Shell, State Farm Insurance, Susan G. Komen, Toshiba, UPS Foundation, Wal-Mart, Warm Spirits, Wells Fargo Bank and 100 Black Men of Orlando.

In 2009, the 100 plans to take the 23rd Annual 100 Black Men of America Conference to New York City. During the Black Tie Gala, Gov. David A. Paterson of New York, who is also a member of the 100, invited members, dignitaries, celebrities, corporate leaders and guests to the “Big Apple” for next year’s conference via video message.

For more information on the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. visit www.100BMOA.org.

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