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IMPACT Advocate

The Legendary Dick Gregory to Deliver Keynote Address

"Anytime nobody questions justice, but everyone is hooked up with law and order, chaos prevails." Mr. Dick Gregory spoke these words to reporters shortly before he delivered an inspirational address at the CMACAO (Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization) New Careers Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 17, 1973*.

Mr. Gregory "pronounced doom whenever one group creates negative forces against another group ..." Although his words referenced the Watergate scandal at the time, Mr. Gregory's message resonates today as detractors of the War on Poverty inflict collateral damage on the poor through legislation, apathy and silence.

Mr. Gregory returns to Columbus on Thursday, May 29, 2014 with a message of hope and inspiration for these turbulent times and for the days to come.

IMPACT
Community Action

The 3rd Annual
Ripple of Hope
Awards Luncheon

Dick
Gregory
Keynote Speaker

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, May 29, 2014 12:00 p.m.

The Boat House at Confluence Park
679 W Spring St., Columbus, OH 43215

CHASE FIFTH THIRD BANK LOWE'S

To purchase tickets, visit www.impactca.org or call 614.453.1708

*Source: IMPACT Community Action archives,
The Call and Post (Columbus), May 19, 1973

Nominations Are Open for Ripple of Hope Awards

The **Ripple of Hope Award** acknowledges the exemplary achievements and contributions of individuals and/or organizations representing the public, private and community sectors.

Nominations will close on **Tuesday, March 4th at 5:00 p.m.** The award winners will be announced on Friday, March 14, 2014. The awards will be presented at the **3rd Annual Ripple of Hope Awards Luncheon** on Thursday, May 29th.

Public (elected official, public employee or entity) - Encourages the awareness of poverty needs within the community and directs action by local governments to foster close coordination and partnerships between public agencies and eligible parties.

Private - Demonstrates leadership through fiscal prudence, innovative programs, charitable giving, partnerships or creative opportunities for low-income families and individuals.

Community - Identifies a critical need and provides services or resources to support the resiliency and self-sufficiency of low-income families and individuals.



**IMPACT
Community
Action
is hosting a**

Poverty Simulation

**WHEN:
Thursday,
June 5, 2014
2:00 p.m. to
5:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:
Columbus Public
Health Depart.
Auditorium
240 Parsons Ave.**



**For more
information or
to register for
the *Poverty
Simulation*
Visit
[www.impactca.org/
welcome/
special_events](http://www.impactca.org/welcome/special_events)**

The War on Poverty: 50 Years and the Battles Wage On

Who is winning the War on Poverty? Have we done enough to combat this problem? What is the face of poverty and how will the policies that we create today affect the impoverished of tomorrow?

IMPACT Community Action is hosting a **Poverty Summit** on Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Columbus Public Health Department auditorium, 240 Parsons Avenue.

This two-hour candid community conversation will focus on providing a fresh perspective on poverty in Columbus and Franklin County; and will offer insights on the various efforts to end homelessness, provide workforce development, create livable wages, stimulate education, and to create opportunities for low-income households in Central Ohio. It will conclude with an interactive question and answer session with the audience.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Economic Opportunity Act, which launched the War on Poverty and the creation of a national network of Community Action agencies aiming to move people to-

ward self-sufficiency, this dialogue like many others nationwide will bring poverty and issues surrounding the impoverished to the forefront of our continuous anti-poverty agenda.

This Poverty Summit will feature a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Robert "Bo" Chilton, CEO, IMPACT Community Action.

The Poverty Summit panelists are:



Ms. Roberta F. Garber, assistant vice president for planning and development, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority



Ms. Michelle Heritage, executive director, Community Shelter Board



Dr. Keith Kilty, professor emeritus of social work, The Ohio State University



Mr. Anthony Trotman, director, Franklin County Job and Family Services.

This Poverty Summit is free and open to the public. Registration closes on Friday, March 14th at 5:00 p.m.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.impactca.org/
welcome/
special_events.html](http://www.impactca.org/welcome/special_events.html) or contact Jessica J. Burchard at jburchard@impactca.org or 614.453.1625.

IMPACT Welcomes Five New Board Members

IMPACT welcomes five new members to its Board of Directors who will represent the following areas in Columbus and Franklin County: *North Central (NC)*, *Northeast (NE)*, *Southwest (SW)* and *West (W)* communities.

Gloria Ahmed (NC) is a professional marketer with more than 12 years of experience in the field. Her background includes strategic marketing, trade advertising, sales and customer services. Ms. Ahmed is an alumna of Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, where she earned a Masters in Marketing and Communi-

cations and a B.A. in Marketing.

Ismenie Haile Mariam (NE) has more than 15 years of accomplishments in Economic and Community Development in international and domestic arenas. Ms. Haile Mariam is currently leading an effort to create sustainable, self-supporting, "green" communities as CEO of *Success Organics*, a local organization that helps women, girls and families become self-sufficient.

Pamela D. Palmer (SW) is an advocate for connecting families and individuals to community resources and services that promote empowerment. Her passion for invest-

ing in community programs is reflected in her various roles in the community.

Eric L. Brandon (SW) is the executive assistant to the Director at the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and serves as the liaison to the Mayor's office, City Council and other elected official offices.

Melinda M. Barnes Collins (W) is a community leader and advocate with 15 years of experience in leadership roles that have allowed her to contribute to the management, growth, and development of non-profit organizations in Franklin County, Ohio.



Board of Directors

Welcome to IMPACT's Board!



Ms. Gloria Ahmed



Ms. Ismenie Haile Mariam



Ms. Pamela D. Palmer



Mr. Eric L. Brandon



Ms. Melinda M. Barnes Collins

Motivation Breeds Success: Spotlight on Ms. Delbrina L.

I was caught in the revolving door of incarceration. I didn't exist. "Cocoa," my alter ego, kept me trapped in a cycle of drug addiction



and abuse. I'm 37 years old and more than half of my life has been spent in and out of jail. "Cocoa" kept me hidden underneath a life of guilt and shame, and doing things with no thought for tomorrow.

After my release, I went to church and promised myself again that this time would be different. And this time, it was different. I met a lady from IMPACT at church, who after hearing my story, told me about the *Re-Entry Program* and the *Employment Plus Program* at IMPACT.

To my surprise, these were the "realist" programs that I have ever experienced. No sugar coating and dancing around the issues. There was plenty of surrendering; but there was no retreating from the

person you must become.

With the help of the *Re-Entry Program* I changed my "self talk." One day I had an epiphany. I realized that I was grieving, not only for my mother who was killed when I was 16,

but I was grieving the dope, tricks, homelessness, drama and chaos that had been parts of my life for so long. I realized that I could live, really live, a good life; and to do so, I needed to wash away the residue of my former life. So I had a funeral for "Cocoa" and "Ms. Delbrina" reawakened.

Employment Plus is what I call the "hope shot." It is that extra burst of energy that you need to make the winning basket. It is not hype; it is hope that if you apply yourself you can get a job! *Employment Plus* pushed my self-confidence over the top. I woke up every day motivated and with purpose. I learned so much during this program. I learned I could

make money; but I needed to invest in my own future. I learned that life doesn't always give you what you want and you have to handle it ... and not quit.

Graduation was bittersweet for me. I cry when I think about walking into IMPACT alone and walking out together with my classmates. IMPACT became my family and the people that I met there will be life-long friends. We thought it was silly at first to say "we are a part of the Ripple Effect," but it's true. **We are a part of the ripple effect.** If our lives change, then others' lives will change too.

I am a new person. I am Ms. Delbrina L. I am a 37-year-old single woman who is sober, safe and employed. I work for Lasting Impressions in the linen department and I make \$8.00 an hour. This is my first job since 2004.

I'm sharing my story so that someone else may have hope that if IMPACT helped me, IMPACT can help them, too. It starts with hope and ends in victory!

Creating the Ripple Effect



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Columbus, OH 43215

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E-mail: communications@impactca.org



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Dick Gregory
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“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

~Senator Robert F. Kennedy, 1966

Community Action was founded in 1964 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Vision for A Great Society that ushered in Civil Rights reform, Economic Opportunities for all citizens and began the War on Poverty.

IMPACT Community Action is one of 50 Community Action Agencies in Ohio that is on the front line in the War on Poverty. Our mission is “to reduce poverty by providing hope-inspiring help and real opportunities for self-sufficiency.”

Despite tough economic times and increasing demands for our programs and services, Community Action will never back down or shy away from its commitment to the community.

Mark Your Calendar

Re-Entry Class #33 Starts (enrollment opens 2/18/14)	3/3/14
Employment Plus Class #63 Starts (enrollment opens 2/18/14)	3/3/14
Mobile Medical Unit—Health Screenings at IMPACT	3/4/14
Poverty Summit at Columbus Public Health Department	4/3/14
3rd Annual Ripple of Hope Awards Luncheon	5/29/14
Poverty Summit at Columbus Public Health Department	6/5/14
Rally in the Alley—Celebrating 50 Years of Community Action	8/20/14

Message from the Chief Executive



A debate is brewing over who is winning the War on Poverty. This debate is nationwide and it encompasses the past 50 years of anti-poverty initiatives and their effectiveness in combating poverty. Central to this debate is the realization that without government-assisted programs, poverty will continue to grow and affect more families and individuals. We, as a Community Action Agency, cannot allow the renewed sense of consciousness to the plight of the poor and down-trodden to be lulled to sleep by a Congress that speaks of equal opportunities for all, while it cuts programs and services that have stabilized the nation’s poor for the last 50 years. The face of poverty has changed greatly since 1964; and it is clear that the strategies to combat a problem that has 50 million people living in poverty, must transition today and prepare for tomorrow. The pathway out of poverty leads beyond self-sufficiency to a place where each person has the opportunity to fulfill his or her fullest potential.

With new factors like income inequality and wage stagnation, financial empowerment will be the foundation for our transition. As we move our customers from crisis to stability and from stability to empowerment and from empowerment to self-sufficiency, our working poor will adopt behaviors that enable them to pursue financial freedom. Join us as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Community Action and engage in the dialogue that will change the future. This is the dawn of a new day for Community Action ... a new era of responsibility.

Robert E. Chilton

Robert “Bo” Chilton, CEO
IMPACT Community Action