

URBAN LEAGUE
of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.

URBAN CONNECTION

newsletter | 2015

UL NATIONAL
CONVENTION
COMING TO
ST. LOUIS

URBAN LEAGUE AWARDS
\$50,000 in
SCHOLARSHIPS

URBAN LEAGUE
**BREAKS
GROUND
IN** >>>>>>>>>>
FERGUSON

SOS LEAGUE
SAVE OUR SONS
URBAN
\$1.6 MILLION
PROGRAM

Empowering Communities.
CHANGING LIVES.



S  **S**
SAVE  UR SONS

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. is to empower African Americans and others throughout the region in securing economic self-reliance, social equality and civil rights.

www.ULSTL.com

URBAN CONNECTION

features

2015

1 Urban League Breaks Ground

Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis hosted a historic Groundbreaking in Ferguson on the site of the Former QuikTrip on Thursday, July 9.

7 \$1.6M Save Our Sons

The Urban League announced major contributions from AT&T and Anheuser-Busch to support the Save Our Sons workforce training program for African Americans and other men residing in Ferguson and the surrounding communities.

9 \$50,000 in Scholarships

Urban League awarded scholarships to 22 students who are graduates of local high schools.

16 Exhibitions Open at Vaughn

The Vaughn Cultural Center announces two concurrent exhibits. "Ten Years after Katrina: Remembering Like it was Yesterday" and "The Art of Howard Barry".

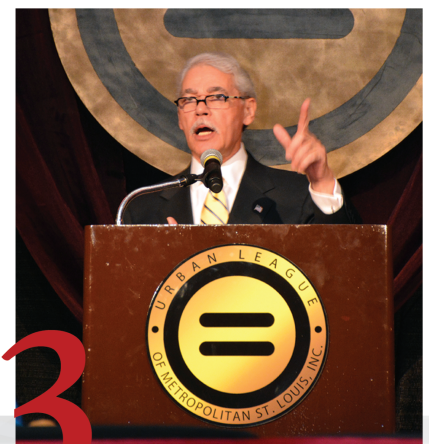
19 Grant Recipient of Youth Opportunity

The new \$3 million Fund, led by the Citi Foundation and America's Promise Alliance, supports innovative city programs that prepare low-income youth for future success.



URBAN LEAGUE BREAKS GROUND

- 1 Urban League Breaks Ground
- 3 St. Louis selected for 2017 National Convention
- 3 2015 National Covention Awards
- 4 Testimonials
- 5 Save Our Sons Preparing Generations
- 7 \$1.6M Save Our Sons
- 8 Call for Justice in the Midst of a Crisis
- 9 \$50,000 in Scholarships
- 9 3,000 School Supplies Giveaway
- 10 Phenomenal Women of 2015 Salute to Women
- 12 SouthWest Airlines Partners with Urban League
- 13 Extraordinary Keynotes
- 15 Testimonials
- 16 Exhibitions Open at Vaughn Cultural Center
- 17 Legends of the Crown / Anheuser-Busch
- 19 Grant Recipient of Youth Opportunity
- 21 Development News
- 21 Urban League Partners with Great Rivers Greenway
- 21 Urban League Offers Youth Job Opportunities



13

EXTRAORDINARY KEYNOTES

17



LEGENDS OF THE CROWN / ANHEUSER-BUSCH



URBAN LEAGUE Breaks Ground on New Community Empowerment Center of Ferguson

ST. LOUIS – Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis hosted a historic Groundbreaking in Ferguson on the site of the Former QuikTrip on Thursday, July 9. The new Urban League Community Empowerment Center of Ferguson will feature programs from the Urban League and various social service partners to better serve the surrounding neighborhoods in North St. Louis County.

“We are grateful to the community for enabling us to build the Community Empowerment Center of Ferguson. It is our hope that the center will assist thousands of young men and their families throughout the North County area,” said Michael P. McMillan, President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.

The new facility will house the Urban League’s “Save Our Sons” workforce program, which will provide job training and placement services for up to 500 African-Americans and other young men in Ferguson and North St. Louis County over the next two years. It also initially will have offices for Provident, Better Family Life, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Home State Health.

Construction management firm Kwame Building Group, Inc. will provide owner’s representative services for the new Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Community Empowerment Center of Ferguson, a job training center on the site of the burned-down QuikTrip convenience store in Ferguson.

“The Urban League believes their mission of helping African American men find jobs includes giving them the opportunity to build the center itself,” said Joshua Randall, president of Kwame Building Group. “So an important part of our role as construction manager is to achieve the maximum MBE and minority workforce participation possible.”

The QuikTrip Corporation donated the property, which had been destroyed during the unrest in Ferguson.

The new building will be an expansion of the Urban League’s existing job training and education efforts. The center will offer four-week job-training programs to help young black men learn how to get jobs, keep them and work towards promotions. The center also will offer counseling for housing, rent and utility assistance, and mental health services provided by Provident, Inc.



In March 2015, the Urban League announced plans to build the Community Empowerment Center of Ferguson thanks, in great part to a land and community donation from QuikTrip Corporation.

The Ferguson Center will be built utilizing **100% MINORITY PARTICIPATION** in construction.

National Urban League Selects the St. Louis Urban League to Host 2017 Convention

During the 2015 Gala in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. on Aug. 1, the National Urban League announced it has selected St. Louis as the host city for the 2017 Annual Conference. Assembled for the announcement were dignitaries from St. Louis and the National Urban League. “The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis is honored to host the 2017 National Urban League Convention in St. Louis. We look forward to highlighting the best that St. Louis has to offer while fostering vital connections to help engage our community with leaders from around the nation,” said Michael P. McMillan, president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

It takes a team effort to secure a national event like this conference. Key to our successful bid was the steadfast support and hard work of several community leaders, including Michael Neidorff, Chairman, President and CEO of Centene Corporation and the Chairman of the National Urban League; Michael McMillan, President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis; Mayor Francis Slay and Washington University for their support of the NULITES Youth Leadership Summit. “As chairman of the National Urban League, I am delighted to host our convention in St. Louis in 2017. The National Urban League remains strategically positioned to play a major role in building bridges for stronger, more economically viable and healthier communities across this nation. No organization is better positioned to bridge the gap from where we are today to where we want to be or should be,” said Michael Neidorff, chairman, president and CEO of Centene Corporation.



Pictured left to right: Michael McMillan, president of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis; Ambassador Andrew Young; Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League; Mayor Francis Slay, City of St. Louis; Kathleen “Kitty” Ratcliffe, president of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission and Michael Neidorff, chairman, Board of Directors of the National Urban League and CEO of Centene Corporation.

“We want to thank the leadership of the National Urban League for selecting St. Louis as the host city for their Annual Conference in July of 2017. This event will bring more than 3,800 attendees to St. Louis, as well as their Youth Leadership Summit that will take place concurrently at Washington University for approximately 350 young people. Overall, it is projected they will use more than 6,000 hotel room nights, generating an economic impact of \$3.2 million in direct spending for our region,” said Kitty Ratcliffe, president of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission.

2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION AWARDS

UL CEO Michael P. McMillan was awarded the Whitney M. Young Race Relations Award from the National Urban League at the 2015 National Urban League Convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Urban League Guild of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. was awarded 1st place in Community Service and 2nd place in Fundraising from the National Urban League Council of Guilds at the 2015 National Urban League Convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



Urban League Guild of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.

TESTIMONIALS

THANK YOU URBAN LEAGUE

Being young in today's world to find a decent job you have to either know people or lie on your resume; sad to say, but it's true. You need Associates degrees and various amounts of years of experience in certain fields; things of which I didn't have. But I did have the favor of God on my side (and still do). My Godfather connected me with the Urban League and things began to change. Mrs. Hollis Whiting met me the first day and immediately connected me with Kim Love with the Vaughn Center, because she found out I was a spoken word artist. She helped me with job leads and workshops. Well one day she told me to apply to a specific website and told me she had a contact waiting to pull my application, and since then things have been peachy. And I would love to thank everyone in the Urban League that went through the job finding process with me, and who believed in me. I've just been blessed so much: with new friends, I've met new poets, and important connections, my blessings just keep coming.

- Sojourner "Truely" Clark Truely

THE HEALING PROCESS TAKES TIME



Life often throws unexpected curve balls, disrupting the day to day norm with various effects. Yet, the conclusion is ultimately determined by the steps taken to mend the situation. The healing process takes time and often feels difficult, but the road never has to be traveled alone. Single mother Candice Gamble recently experienced a life changing circumstance and received support when she needed it the most.

A morning turned tragic for Ms. Gamble after a fire destroyed her home and left her two daughters in critical condition. Firefighters rescued both girls from a bedroom

on the second floor. Her seven-year-old died at the hospital, but her six-year-old remained in a coma for over a week and later recovered. Having lost nearly everything, Ms. Gamble had to relocate and begin piecing her life back together, but she didn't have to do it alone. An agency dedicated to community empowerment and changing lives stood up to the plate and compassionately reached out to her. After hearing Ms. Gamble's story, Urban League's LIHEAP staff members felt compelled to come together and assist her as much as possible. LIHEAP pledged \$755 to Laclede and \$600 to Ameren, covering most of Ms. Gamble's utility bills. "LIHEAP is a great program. It makes sure you have gas and electricity on," said Gam. Staff also donated items such as clothing, toys, dishes, bedding, a television etc. "I wasn't expecting it; I just needed help with my bills." Urban League staff members even took time out of their schedule to bring items to her house. "I was basically starting over, so it was a blessing" that the Urban League lent a hand. Staff members served her "from the heart," not out of obligation, and for that she remains forever grateful.

- Ms. Gamble

SUMMER JOBS SUCCESS

Ms. Onaedo Onejeme is a participant in the 2015 Summer Jobs League Program, and a student at Washington University. She is completing her summer work experience in the Outreach division at The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. Ms. Onejeme was eager to utilize her current skill set, as well as to gain new proficiencies. She volunteered to create a budget for the Agency's recent National Night Out celebration, and her supervisor allowed her to do so. After Onaedo submitted her proposed budget, her supervisor was so impressed that she forwarded it to the appropriate parties without making any changes to it. Onaedo was very pleased that her hard work did not go unnoticed, and is now seeking permanent opportunities with the Urban League.

- Onaedo Onejeme

SUMMER JOBS SUCCESS II

Mr. Jamal Hinton is a participant in the 2015 Summer Job League program, and a student/athlete at Harris Stowe State University. He is completing his summer work experience at Four Seasons Hotel, a 5-diamond hotel in downtown St. Louis. When we initially suggested this worksite location for him, he was unsure as to how a hotel could offer any work experience that would relate to his future career goals (he is an engineering major.) Jamal has been assigned to the hotel's IT department, where he is working as an inventory specialist. He assists with managing all incoming inventory items for the hotel, by utilizing a complex electronic database. Jamal has since mentioned that he has learned a lot about the hotel industry thus far, including how important engineers are to its daily operations. His worksite supervisor has applauded Jamal for the work that he has done so far, and has even encouraged him to submit an application directly to the hotel in order to be considered for a permanent position in the future.

- Jamal Hinton

HOUSING COUNSELING WORKS

Due to my recent loss of employment, I had fallen behind several months on my mortgage payments. I applied for a loan modification through my lender on my own and I was denied. I had become frustrated and in fear of losing my home but in the summer of 2014 that would all change. At the town hall meeting there was a Housing Counselor for the Urban League by the name of Paula Carey. She assists homeowners that are behind in their mortgage payments and that are trying to keep their homes and that she could help. Paula worked diligently on my application and paperwork for my loan modification. After about a month of Paula working nonstop on my file, my loan modification was approved. I thank God for allowing me to meet Paula Carey and to be able to work with the Urban League. I am also thankful for the many programs that the Urban League offers that help the community.

- Anonymous homeowner

Preparing Generations for the **WORKFORCE!**

Despite our advances as a country, young men of color continue to face significant challenges. Currently 54% of African American men graduate from high school, compared to more than 75% of their peers. Lacking a high school education often leads to elevated poverty and unemployment rates in the African American community.

The Save Our Sons (SOS) program seeks to help economically disadvantaged African American men living in Ferguson and surrounding North St. Louis County communities find jobs and have the opportunity to earn livable wages.

This program completes these objectives by assisting the participants in obtaining post-secondary education and job training and teaching the imperative career skills and work ethic necessary to become successful employees in today's workforce. The Save Our Sons program will serve 500 men by 2017.

Created as a result of the Ferguson Crisis, SOS is supported by: AT&T, Wells Fargo, Monsanto, Emerson, Anheuser-Busch, Regions Bank, Regional Business Council, Ameren, St. Louis County NAACP, Macy's, Grainger, Reliance Bank and many other organizations.



- Job Placement
- Soft Skills / Financial Literacy
- Leadership Development
- Career Training

A smiling man wearing a red cap and a red polo shirt, holding a cardboard box. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

CALL TODAY AT
314.679.3500

URBANCONNECTION 6

Urban League Launches **\$1.6M** Save Our Sons Program in Ferguson, North St. Louis County



"We are grateful to our community partners for their generous support to help us serve men who are seeking careers,"
- Michael P. McMillan, President and CEO of the Urban League

The Urban League announced major contributions from AT&T and Anheuser-Busch to support the Save Our Sons workforce training program for African Americans and other men residing in Ferguson and the surrounding North St. Louis County communities. Urban League's Save Our Sons initiative will serve up to 500 men in St. Louis County over the next two years.

"As a company, AT&T is deeply committed to the communities in which we live, work and serve," said John Sondag, President of AT&T Missouri. "AT&T is proud to support the efforts of the Urban League and the 'Save Our Sons' program because we recognize how important it is to help ensure that all individuals have access to the tools that will help them succeed in the workforce and in life."

In addition, the League received over \$700,000 in support from St. Louis' corporate community, including Monsanto, Wells Fargo, Emerson, Regions Bank, Reliance Bank, Ameren, Regional Business Council, Macy's, Grainger, Simon Foundation, Steve Sullivan, Chanelle P. Hardy, St. Louis County NAACP, Richard H. Miles and Patricia Whitaker to launch this program.

"As an active member of the St. Louis community, we want to support programs that help to deliver solutions to important needs in our community," said Julio Suárez, Senior Director of Community Affairs, Anheuser-Busch. "We were drawn to the Save Our Sons program, because it offers immediate tools and resources to individuals in need and ready to invest in their future. We applaud the Urban League for developing this program and value our longstanding history of working in partnership with the organization."



Since January 2015, the SOS program has graduated nearly 100 men with a 90% employment success rate.

For more information on Save Our Sons, please call

Mr. Mack Caldwell (314) 388-9840 or Mr. Jaime Dennis at (314) 679-3500.

A Call for Justice in the Midst of a Crisis

JUSTICE FOR MICHAEL BROWN

by Michael McMillan, President and CEO Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Rioting is the language of the unheard." His words still ring true as I look at the violence and devastation that has engulfed the city of Ferguson and surrounding areas of St. Louis County. Today, we have all heard the language of the unheard coming from our televisions, radios, computers and even from outside our front doors. The shooting death of Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer has ignited a firestorm which has engulfed a city, region, nation and world.

For many years, racial profiling has been an issue that has been prevalent in American society. Racial profiling in St. Louis County has been legendary in the black community with traffic courts being filled with African Americans each week. For the past 13 years, African Americans have been more likely to be pulled over in traffic stops than any other race in Ferguson, MO. Last year in the State of Missouri, blacks were more than one and one-half times more likely to be pulled over than any other race. The killing of Michael Brown was the last straw for a black community that has long been harassed by police officers. That the Ferguson Police Department allowed Michael Brown's body to remain outside for up to four hours was just more salt in an already festering wound.

The resulting rage that occurred after the fact has been magnified on the world stage because of its intensity and staying power. Although the methods that the rioters have used to express their anger are inexcusable, it is up to all of us to find a peaceful solution to this matter. By releasing the police officer's name alongside a video of the deceased allegedly committing a "strong" arm robbery, the Ferguson Police Department continues to incite rage in the community while revealing its unrelenting unfairness and partiality. By revealing the convenience store tape, the Ferguson Police Chief gives the community the impression that he is more concerned with protecting his own (officer) than seeking true justice in the case.

The people of St. Louis County, the nation and the world are looking for justice in the killing of Michael Brown. For far too long, young black men such as Trayvon Martin of Florida, Eric Garner of New York City and Ezell Ford of Los Angeles have been killed with no justice given in return. Today in the Show Me State, we are demanding justice for Leslie McSpadden and Michael Brown Sr. Michael Brown's parents, and the citizens of Ferguson. It is important that police officers respect the citizens they are sworn to protect and serve. I encourage the St. Louis County and Ferguson Police to openly cooperate with the federal investigation and not try to protect their own (officer). We are grateful to President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder and the Justice Department for conducting a federal inquiry to ensure that a fair and impartial investigation takes place and that the constitutional rights of the demonstrators and the media are protected. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



Urban League Awards \$50,000 in Scholarships

Recently, the Urban League awarded scholarships to 22 students who are graduates of local high schools. Many of the scholars hail from such diverse area high schools such as Normandy, Hazelwood Central, Pattonville, & Cardinal Ritter College Prep. A majority of the students are first-generation college graduates who plan to major in diverse fields such as accounting, education, pre-med and marketing. *“As a past recipient of the Urban League’s Leslie Scholarship, we are proud to provide this opportunity to new generations of students,”* said Michael P. McMillan, president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Each year, the Urban League provides nearly \$50,000 in educational funds to area students. The League currently offers three scholarships: the Leslie Scholarship, the UMB William Robinson Memorial Scholarship, and the Presidential Scholarship and Internship. Urban League scholarships offer financial assistance to students who are seeking an undergraduate degree. The scholarships are given to students whose financial needs may go unmet without the assistance this fund provides. For more information about the Urban League Scholarship Program, please contact Genesis Steele at (314) 615-3607.

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis is a social service and advocacy organization that works to fulfill its mission of Empowering Communities and Changing Lives. Programs are offered in the areas of Economic Opportunity, Community Empowerment, Educational Excellence and Civil Rights and Advocacy.

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!!

Urban League Gives School Supplies to 3,000 SLPS Students on the First Day of School

August 17, 2015 - The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis helped kick off the first day of school for students at 12 schools in the Saint Louis Public School District. Urban League President/CEO Michael McMillan visited Carver Elementary School to share words of encouragement and personally deliver school supplies to all of the students scholars. A total of 3,000 SLPS students benefited from the generosity of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. Students received markers, pencils, glue sticks, notebooks, binders, filler paper, pocket folders and crayons.

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis is a social service and advocacy organization that works to fulfill its mission of Empowering Communities and Changing Lives. Each year, the Urban League serves 91,000 residents with programs offering educational excellence, community empowerment, economic opportunity, civil rights and advocacy. Schools in addition to Carver receiving supplies are:

- Ashland Elementary School
- Columbia Elementary School
- Dunbar Elementary School
- Hamilton Elementary School
- Patrick Henry Downtown Academy
- Laclede Elementary School
- Meramec Elementary School
- Nance Elementary School
- Oak Hill Elementary School
- Peabody Elementary School
- Walbridge Elementary School





Urban League Honors Phenomenal Women, 12th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Gala

On June 19, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis honored 14 distinguished women in leadership on the local and national level with a sold-out black-tie reception and dinner at the Renaissance Grand-St. Louis Hotel.

This year, the Urban League honored Renowned Athlete and Sports caster Cheryl Miller and National Recording Artist `Angela Winbush among other stellar awardees at this year's Salute to Women in Leadership. Renowned Actor Richard Roundtree and Xernona Clayton, Founder of the Trumpet Awards, were also in attendance with entertainment provided by Ray, Goodman and Brown.

“We are proud to recognize these phenomenal women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve their communities. The Urban League is proud to give recognition to outstanding women who embody the mission of our organization to help create opportunities for disadvantaged and overlooked individuals and communities,” McMillan said.

Cheryl Miller, Hall of Fame basketball player and head coach of women's basketball at Langston University, displayed her talent on the court throughout high school and college. She became the first athlete to be named Parade All-American for four consecutive years. Miller also led USA Women's Basketball to gold in five major competitions in four years. In 1987, her career took a slight shift when she accepted a reporter position with ESPN and a part-time coaching assistant position at the University of Southern California (USC). In 1995, she decided to focus more on reporting, so she left USC and began covering the NBA with Turner Sports-she was the first women to call an NBA game. A few years later, WNBA's upstart Phoenix franchise asked Miller to coach and manage the team, which she gladly accepted, making her the first female head coach and general manager in professional basketball. After leaving USC, she continued her broadcast career, but later returned to the game she loved. Currently, Miller coaches Langston women's basketball.

Singer/songwriter/keyboardist/producer Angela Winbush's credentials include her own solo hits such as her number one R&B hit, "Angel"; hits as one-half of the singing duo Rene & Angela and their hits "Save Your Love (For #1)" and "Your Smile"; and her hits by Stephanie Mills and the Isley Brothers. One Rene & Angela hit, the 1983 ballad "My First Love," was covered by Avant on his spring 2000 debut CD, My Thoughts. Winbush's own albums are Sharp, Angela Winbush, and It's the Real Thing. To date, she has sold over 10 million albums and singles worldwide.

Other stellar women that were honored at this year's festivities include: Brenda Walker McCain, Urban League CEO of the Year and president of the Madison County Urban League; Deborah Catchings-Smith, Civic Leadership and International First Grand Anti-Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; Denise Turner, Urban League Guild Member of the Year; Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Educational Leadership and Superintendent of the Jennings School District; Hazel Mallory, Employee of the Year and Director of the Urban League Head Start program; Mary Ann Wagner, Media Leadership and Publisher of the St. Louis Suburban Journals; Mary Harper Thomas, Civic Leadership and President of the St. Louis Missouri Chapter of Links, Inc.; Marylen Mann, Civic Leadership and founder of Oasis, Inc.; Rebeccah Bennett, Civic Leadership and Founder of Emerging Wisdom LLC; Dr. Gloria B. Hernden, International Business Leadership and President of GB Group Global, Inc. ; and Rev. Traci Blackmon, Civic Leadership and Pastor of Christ the King United Church of Christ.



Southwest Airlines Partners with Urban League for the Trip of a Lifetime



At Southwest Airlines, our love of People and Community is our most powerful fuel, which is why we have a rich history of helping Customers and Communities through nonprofit support. We are committed to giving back in the communities where our Customers and Employees live and work. In 2014, Southwest proudly donated \$20 million in travel and cash to national and local qualified nonprofit organizations, while Southwest Employees volunteered 144,596 hours.

Southwest Airlines is committed to giving back to the communities where our Customers and Employees live and work. Community Giving Boards are made up of local Employees from various work groups who evaluate donation requests Southwest receives from nonprofit charitable organizations in their community. The Boards

donate

complimentary, roundtrip travel to approved organizations for fundraising or transportation purposes. Last year, Southwest received over 15,000 donation requests from local organizations.

Southwest Airlines is proud to support qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organizations within the communities we serve and that meet our guidelines, especially those that fall within our areas of strategic focus.

In Photo; Barbara B. Bowman, Vice President of Development for the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, congratulates Monica Patton on winning Southwest Airlines flight gift certificates for two at the 2015 Salute to Women in Leadership Gala. Southwest is the Official Airline of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and celebrates phenomenal women leaders, through its support of the annual Salute Gala.



Extraordinary Keynotes

Former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Author George Fraser, National MLK Memorial Founder & C.E.O Harry Johnson to Keynote Urban League Dinner

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis hosted its 97th Annual Dinner on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Renaissance Grand Hotel. Special guests included Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor Alexis M. Herman; Chairman and CEO of FraserNet, Inc. George C. Fraser; and President of MLK National Memorial Project Foundation Harry E. Johnson, Sr. Nearly 1,100 were in attendance at the sold-out event.

As the youngest appointed director of the Women's Bureau and the first African American to lead the U.S. Department of Labor, Alexis M. Herman focused on creating a simplified and more efficient labor system with a prepared, secured, qualified workforce. Ms. Herman helped institute a global child labor standard; helped move people out of welfare into the workforce; and launched the most aggressive unemployed youth initiative. During her term, Ms. Herman helped the country's unemployment rate reach a thirty-year low. George C. Fraser, Chairman and CEO of FraserNet, Inc., founded the company approximately 25 years ago, creating a global networking movement that gathers diverse human resources to increase opportunities for those of African descent. Dr. Fraser is known as a new voice for African Americans and one of the foremost authorities on economic development, networking and building effective relationships. Despite being a 3-year-old orphan, spending 14 years in Foster homes, and being discouraged by a guidance counselor, Dr. Fraser strived for excellence.

Harry E. Johnson, Sr. is the President and CEO of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation. Under his leadership, the Foundation raised \$120 million to complete the MLK Memorial. Johnson served as City Attorney in Kendelton, Texas, from 1996 to 1999 and taught at Texas Southern University in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and School of Public Affairs. From 2001-2004 Johnson served as the National President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, overseeing more than 700 chapters nationally and internationally. He has received public recognition for his services and was named in Ebony Magazine's "100 Most Influential Black Americans."

“It is exciting to have three successful guests that continue to serve the community, join us at our Annual Dinner,” said Urban League C.E.O. Michael P. McMillan.



In addition to the presenting speakers, the Urban League recognized USBank with the Chairman's Award as well as Awards of Merit Honorees Richard Mark and Emerson.

The Urban League thanks the sponsors of the 97th Annual Dinner: Ameren, World Wide Technology, Inc., Centene Charitable Foundation, Home State Health, Anheuser-Busch, Citi, Emerson, Edward Jones, USBank, Wells Fargo Advisors, Webster University, AT&T, William and Marsha Rusnack, Missouri State University, SSM Health, First Bank, Macy's, Monsanto, Armstrong Teasdale, Bank of America, BJC Healthcare, Enterprise Bank & Trust, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Fifth Third Bank, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, Washington University in St. Louis, Thompson Coburn LLP and Missouri Foundation for Health.



TESTIMONIALS

NECESSARY TOOLS



Christian Swain was a 15 year old youth that was recommended for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program by the Jennings High School counselor, Mrs. Bennett. The program provides services that help youth participants to recognize and understand the connection between education and careers. Christian was seen as a youth that could benefit from the program as a result of low test scores and a lack of academic interest. His case manager felt that Christian could improve his grades if he was given a chance to utilize the services offered by the WIA year round program. A main point of emphasis was his grades and the assistance provided through academic enrichment and tutorial services.

Christian became a participant of the WIA program during the 8th grade in 2011. He started by attending monthly leadership development seminars that are held at the school. He met his fellow participants and soon engaged in discussions about financial literacy and consumer skills. Topics varied each month and the aim was to help Christian to begin to understand the importance of good credit score rating, good grades, and good work ethic. Over the years, Christian participated in other activities such as, the Summer Youth Employment Program and the School-to-Business partnership program with AT&T, the Boeing Company and the Four Seasons Hotel-St. Louis and Saint Louis University (SLU). During his senior year in the School-to-Business partnership program with SLU, Christian won the competition on "Elevator pitch". It became evident that, as Christian grew through the program, he had gained confidence and comprehended the importance of

good grades and good work ethic. Despite always being quiet and shy, Christian became an effective leader among his peers. He was a self-starter and could always be counted upon to do what he was supposed to do. Christian applied to several colleges and took his ACT. Also, Christian's grades improved drastically. His case manager attributed the improvement in his grades to his ability to understand why grades were important, and what good grades could do for him.

Christian graduated from Jennings High School in May 2014 and was the Valedictorian. In the Fall of 2014, Christian will be attending Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla where he plans to major in Engineering. As a result of his good grades and good work ethic, Christian was awarded with financial assistance by the institution to help off-set the costs of attending the school. He was awarded with the Missouri Diversity Award, Alumni Scholarship Missouri Science and Technology Award, Missouri Minor Scholarship, and Saville Family Scholarship.

Through the program, Christian has been equipped with the necessary tools that he needs in order to be a constructive and productive member of society. He also has the support of the Urban League whenever he needs it and, will be successful for as long as he continues on this path.

- Christian Swain

EXTREMELY INSTRUMENTAL

I came to the Urban League after losing my job at SLU. I would come weekly sometimes twice a week to seek jobs. I initially landed a job at a real estate company due to a referral from the Urban League. The job started as a part-time possibly full-time job as an Administrative Assistant. I was hired full-time after about five weeks there. I was also referred for a job at General Motors and was called for an interview and went through the process. In that time of waiting, I was contacted by a General Surgeon who I had worked with at SLU for a position as an Administrative Assistant in private practice and am currently employed at his practice.

In all, the Urban League was extremely instrumental in keeping me active in my job pursuit offering workshops for resume creation, interviewing process and other positive workshops that allow one to stay active in the job finding process. I would advise people to take advantage of what the Urban League has to offer and remain confident that you will return to the workforce. While waiting to find employment, take advantage of what they have to offer including workshops, the food pantry as well as preparation for a job interview. Thank you for all your assistance!!

-Angel Hamilton

MOST-EXCELLENT WORK

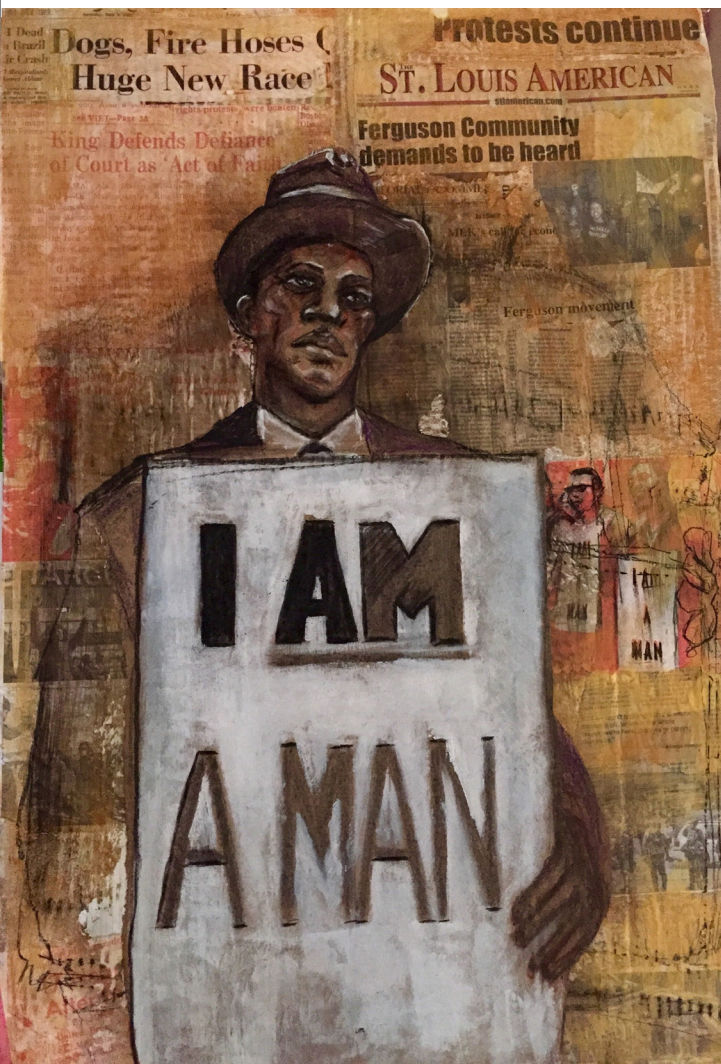


I wanted to take the necessary time to share a great testimonial/praise report regarding my long, on-going and fruitful relationship with the St. Louis Urban League (Jennings Station Road location).

One of the many awesome job leads that I've received from Hollis, around June of this year, was the "Admissions Counselor" position (South County Job Corps location) and I had a great, informative interview with them. About 3 weeks ago, they called and made me an offer and I accepted it about a week later after they made the initial offer. I felt comfortable and at peace, after praying/thinking about it and consulting with various family/friends.

I could go on and on about my relationship and experiences with the Urban League/Hollis Whiting/Volunteering/etc, but I'll just close-out by saying that I'm glad and blessed to have made this connection and for it to continue blossoming to this present day. Much obliged to this entire organization and especially to Hollis Whiting and the Jennings location. Thanks a lot, God Bless and keep up the most-excellent work!

- Lekan Sobomehin



Two Exhibitions Open at Vaughn Cultural Center

The Vaughn Cultural Center announces two concurrent exhibits. “Ten Years after Katrina: Remembering Like it was Yesterday” is on view through September 30, 2015 and “The Art of Howard Barry” is on view through October 29, 2015. A New Orleans-styled reception will be held Friday, September 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Vaughn Cultural Center.

Freida L Wheaton, curator of both exhibits, will read two Katrina-inspired poems both written in 2005 during the height of the hurricane devastation after the levees broke. The poems are “Refugee” and “Bittersweet.” Artist Marilyn L. Robinson will present a slide show “Five Months Post Katrina New Orleans: DEVASTATION + RESILIENCE = CELEBRATION” including images of the first Mardi Gras after the hurricane. Her photo art documentary book “Post Katrina – New Orleans, Louisiana 2006” will be available for review and order.

Live music will be provided by Saint Boogie Brass Band and reception food is Creole and Cajun inspired.

Details of the two exhibits follow.

Title: Ten Years After Katrina: Remembering Like it was Yesterday

On View: August 1 – Sept 30, 2015

Artists: Joy L. Wade

Robert A. Ketchens

Marilyn L. Robinson

Poetry of Freida L Wheaton,

“Refugee” (2005) illustrated by Joy L. Wade “Bittersweet” (2005)

Title: The Art of Howard Barry

On View: August 28 - October 29, 2015

Artist: Howard Barry

Art from five series of Howard Barry’s work are on view: (1) Sing to Me; (2) Black History 365; (3) Outspoken; (4) Revolutionaries Vol. 1 Outspoken; and (5) From Selma to Ferguson

The exhibitions are presented with the support of the Regional Arts Commission.

Vaughn Cultural Center, founded in 1978, is the arts and culture program of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

The Vaughn is located in Grand Center at 3701 Grandel Square, St. Louis, MO 63108 in the Urban League Building.

Open hours are from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Exhibits and opening events are free and open to the public.





ANHEUSER-BUSCH AND THE UNCF BRING 30 REMARKABLE STUDENT LEADERS TO SAINT LOUIS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE

Legends of the Crown Symposium Scholarship Recipients Will Come Together to Collaborate and Engage with Community Leaders As Part of Three-Day Career-Building and Service Experience

ST. LOUIS – With summer already coming to a close, students are preparing for another school year. Before returning to their studies, 30 college students from across the country will participate in the fourth annual Anheuser-Busch Legends of the Crown leadership symposium in St. Louis July 23-25 to accept \$150,000 in scholarships while participating in workshops on career planning and leadership development. Legends of the Crown, a program Anheuser-Busch created in partnership with the UNCF, is an investment in the development of the next generation of leaders at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This year marks the 40th anniversary of Anheuser-Busch’s connection to the “Great Kings and Queens of Africa” art collection that inspired the scholarship program and symposium. Created by 23 unique artists, each piece depicts an African leader and celebrates the richness of African history and the timeless lessons of leadership each king and queen exemplified on which the Legends of the Crown educational program was built.

“Anheuser-Busch is excited to continue its partnership with UNCF to invest in the futures and development of these exceptional student leaders,” said Julio Suárez, Senior Director, Community Affairs, Anheuser-Busch. “Through the Legends of the Crown program, we recognize outstanding students by supporting their continued academic and professional growth and bringing them together to volunteer to make a positive contribution to our community.” During the event, the 30 Legends of the Crown scholars will visit area landmarks, participate in community service and engage with Anheuser-Busch and UNCF executives as well as St. Louis community leaders. Some of the notable sessions include:

- Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour, America’s First African American Female Combat Pilot will kicked off Friday, July 24 with a keynote address called “Zero to Breakthrough: How a Breakthrough Mentality Creates Breakthrough Results!” FlyGirl will address her personal story of setbacks, challenges, adventure, success and triumph.

•Following FlyGirl's keynote address, students attended professional development workshops and mock interviews with Anheuser-Busch executives to help them prepare to enter the job market. Additional community leaders will also be on-hand to facilitate high-energy panel discussions on leadership development.

•Saturday, July 25 will start with a presentation called "What Will Your Leadership Legend Be" lead by UNCF Vice President, Development, Paulette Jackson, and Founder and Principal of Emerging Wisdom LLC, Rebecca Bennett. Following the presentation, students will participate in a community service and civic leadership panel discussion with other established community leaders.

•The Legends of the Crown symposium concluded on Saturday afternoon with students gathering for a community service project at the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Jennings Center to assemble book bags and school supplies for students in Ferguson/Florissant for their upcoming school year, as well as kits that will support the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Save Our Sons employment program, and packets with resources to aid homeless families in our community.

"For the past four years, the Legends of the Crown scholarship program and leadership symposium has brought young African-American students together to celebrate their motivation to succeed," said Jackson. "Our partnership with Anheuser-Busch has positively impacted students' lives year after year by helping make the educational dreams of African-American students a reality."

Anheuser-Busch and the UNCF awarded \$5,000 Legends of the Crown scholarships to 30 eligible student leaders entering their junior or senior year of study at four-year, accredited HBCUs in the 2015-2016 academic year. Recipients were required to have a 3.2 GPA or higher, strong leadership skills, and must be pursuing a major in business, biology, chemistry, computer science or engineering. For more information about the scholarship program, visit uncf.org.



About the Anheuser-Busch "Great Kings and Queens of Africa"

Collection First commissioned by Anheuser-Busch in 1975, "The Great Kings and Queens of Africa" is a series of 30 works by 23 African-American artists, many of whom went on to have successful careers in fine art. It features the great leaders and rulers throughout

African history, researched by leading African history scholar, Prof. John Henrik Clarke. The paintings became a valued part of teaching African history throughout the country. The collection has been viewed more than 43 million times, including exhibits at the 1982 World's Fair, 1996 Summer Olympics and on Capitol Hill. Through Anheuser-Busch 's innovative UNCF partnership, in 2013 the collection was donated to a variety of colleges and universities across the country to continue inspiring students and future generations including Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Xavier University, Fisk University and Benedict College. The collection's award-winning artists included Jonathan Knight, Alexander Bostic, Barbara Higgins-Bond, Paul Collins, John Biggers, Lydia Thompson, Jerry Pinkney, Leo Dillon and Carl Owens. Reprints of the artwork were featured in Anheuser-Busch advertising, calendars and posters. View the collection, at anheuser-busch.com/index.php/our-responsibility/community-our-neighborhoods/education/legends-of-the-crown/.



URBAN LEAGUE OF METROPOLITAN SAINT LOUIS, INC. SELECTED AS GRANT RECIPIENT OF YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND TO CONNECT LOW-INCOME YOUTH IN ST. LOUIS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The new \$3 million Fund, led by the Citi Foundation and America's Promise Alliance, supports innovative city programs that prepare low-income youth for future success

ST. LOUIS (August 26, 2015) – The Citi Foundation and America's Promise Alliance today announced that the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis has been selected as a recipient of the Youth Opportunity Fund, a \$3 million initiative to support city-level, innovative and scalable programs connecting youth to opportunities that increase their employability and prepare them for lifelong success.

The Youth Opportunity Fund is part of the Citi Foundation's Pathways to Progress initiative, designed to support direct-service programs that empower urban youth, ages 16 to 24. A total of 12 grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations in 10 of the largest U.S. cities: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Newark, St. Louis, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. will receive a one-year grant totaling \$250,000 to work in collaboration with the City/County Workforce Board and Claim Academy Tech boot-camp along with higher educational partners to provide 250 youth with 21st century IT skills training and credentialing that can lead to long-term employment.

"The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis runs innovative, proven programs that connect young adults to jobs in urban centers," said Michael McMillan, President and CEO of the Urban League. "Working in partnership with America's Promise Alliance and the Citi Foundation, we will provide IT skills training that will better prepare more low-income youth in St. Louis creating pathways to academic and career success."

"The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis has long been a provider of outstanding programs that create opportunity within our community," said Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director of the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE). "I look forward to working with them, America's Promise Alliance and the Citi Foundation to connect young adults to good jobs and promising careers. To help accomplish this, SLATE and the local Workforce Development Board will commit On-the-Job Training and work experience funds specifically to help participants gain access to high-growth IT fields."

"We are pleased to partner with Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, America's Promise Alliance and the Citi Foundation to help many low-income young people in our community train for and find good jobs and careers," said Daryl Cothran, Director of Workforce Development of St. Louis County. "We're eager to work together to help more young adults build a stronger foundation for academic and career success."

"Increasing the number of people trained to work in the tech industry will boost the St. Louis economy, now and in the future," said Ola Ayeni, President & Founder of Claim Academy. "We are eager to work with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis – with support from America's Promise Alliance and the Citi Foundation to develop homegrown talent, improve the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens, and help strengthen our communities and our city."

The Fund supports programs that address youth unemployment through partnerships with municipal governments and collaborations across industries that are core to the economies of the Pathways to Progress cities, including IT, tech, healthcare, the service industry and environmental sustainability. Grantees will collaborate and share best practices on the most effective ways to expand and connect youth to economic opportunity in their communities.

“The future competitiveness of America’s cities hinges on the positive economic outcomes of our young people,” said Brandee McHale, President of the Citi Foundation. “We launched the Youth Opportunity Fund to support the innovative work of community partners who are helping low-income youth create the on-ramps that will lead towards career success.”

“We are dealing with the mixed reality of our nation’s high school graduation numbers increasing at unprecedented rates, while an estimated 5.6 million young people are not in school or employed,” said John Gomperts, president & CEO of America’s Promise. “The dozen Youth Opportunity Fund grantees are vital to connecting thousands of young people to opportunities that boost their ability to compete in today’s economy.”

In its first year, nearly 25,000 young people have been impacted by the Citi Foundation’s Pathways to Progress initiative, a three-year, \$50 million commitment to give 100,000 low-income youth in the U.S. the opportunity to develop the workplace skills and leadership experience necessary to compete in a 21st century economy. The initiative includes national organizations such as the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Points of Light, AmeriCorps, Management Leadership for Tomorrow, iMentor and the Cities for Financial Empowerment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL DR. TEFERI AT 314.615.3650

To learn more about the Youth Opportunity Fund and see a full list of grantees visit: www.americaspromise.org/youthopportunityfund.

ABOUT THE URBAN LEAGUE OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS, INC.

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. is a social service and advocacy organization that works to fulfill its mission of Empowering Communities and Changing Lives. Programs are offered in the areas of Economic Opportunity, Community Empowerment, Educational Excellence, Civic Rights and Advocacy.

For more information, visit www.ulstl.com

ABOUT AMERICA’S PROMISE ALLIANCE

America’s Promise Alliance leads an alliance of organizations, communities and individuals dedicated to making the promise of America real for every child. As its signature effort, the GradNation campaign mobilizes Americans to increase the on-time high school graduation rate to 90 percent by 2020 and prepare young people for postsecondary enrollment and the 21st century workforce.

For more information, visit www.americaspromise.org

ABOUT THE CITI FOUNDATION

The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant cities. The Citi Foundation’s “More than Philanthropy” approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation.

For more information, visit www.citifoundation.com



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Urban League was awarded a \$1 million contribution in support of the Community Empowerment Center of Ferguson and our IT infrastructure. Thanks to the Taylor Family, Kathy Reeves and UL Board Member Tom Caccamo for their support and assistance with this contribution.

URBAN LEAGUE PARTNERS WITH GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY FOR SAVE OUR SONS

Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. is pleased to partner with Great Rivers Greenway to implement a greenway ranger program on the North Riverfront Trail. The Great Rivers Greenway partnership features a \$116,000 grant which funds Trail Rangers, who will serve as ambassadors to those using the Mary Meachum Trail and Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing and Rest Area.

This pilot project will take place on the portion of the Mississippi River Greenway that stretches from the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge to the north to the Biddle Street trailhead on the south. Later this fall, we'll extend the greenway south to Chouteau, when our project on Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard in front of the Gateway Arch grounds is completed. Rangers will work together with our other support teams and our partners at the City of St. Louis to monitor and maintain this greenway, including trail maintenance and conservation projects to enhance the area. Rangers will operate the Mary Meachum Visitor's Center, offering support like bicycle repair, way finding directions and first aid.

URBAN LEAGUE OFFERS YOUTH JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Summer jobs for youth aren't just a way to earn spending money –they help build soft skills, confidence, responsibility, references, networks and financial literacy. Without these experiences, young men and women can find it even harder to obtain full-time employment later. This year, the Missouri Division of Workforce Development established the Summer Job League, a new job placement program for young persons ages 16-24 in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area and St. Louis City and County.

Eligibility for the program is largely based on income; priority will be given to candidates that need these opportunities most. The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis has been selected to operate the job program in the City via SLATE and in the County via, America's Job Center of St. Louis County. There are job openings still available through, October 30. For more information, call (314) 615-3672 in St. Louis City or (314) 679-3500 in St. Louis County.

URBAN LEAGUE
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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL 62208
(618) 274-1150

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8960 JENNINGS STATION RD.
JENNINGS, MO 63136
(314) 388-9840

VAUGHN CULTURAL CENTER

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ST. LOUIS, MO 63108
(314) 615-3600

JAMES H. BUFORD OUTREACH CENTER

935 N. VANDEVENTER
ST. LOUIS, MO 63108
(314) 615-3690

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT YOUTH PROGRAM

JOBS FOR MISSOURI GRADUATES
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26 NORTH OAKS PLAZA
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(314) 679-3500

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FERGUSON, MO 63136

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