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# Black Women in Sport Foundation

## July 2009 Newsletter

### BWSF Funding:

The Black Women in Sport Foundation won big this quarter with a newly awarded grant from The Out of School Time project of the Public Health Management Corporation. PHMC granted BWSF nearly \$250,000 to fund 90 slots for the summer and after school programs held at the Martha Washington site.

The funds will translate into enhanced programming for more youth and additional staff to mentor the youth. BWSF staff and administrators are excited about the grant and its implications for future programming.

### BWSF Summer Programming:

Summer programming for the 2009 term continues in the tradition of physical and mental enrichment. Philadelphia Summer sites for this term include William Dick, Pierce Beacon, Please Touch Museum, Salvation Army, and the Presbyterian Children's Village at Harity, Catherine and Mitchell Elementary Schools. Youth at the core site (Martha Washington) and at the associated sites are not only engaging in various sport activities like lacrosse, soccer and tennis but also are experiencing the chance to view the sport as it is played by professionals.

This month, 75 youth from BWSF summer programming attended the 2009 World Team Tennis competition at the King of Prussia Mall, where they cheered on 2009 Wimbledon finalist and top tennis star Venus Williams during her competition as part of the Philadelphia Freedoms team. Williams treated the participants to a meet and greet, photos and autographs. Each youth was given a free tennis racquet by the World Team Tennis for their participation in the event.

Youth were also able to take advantage of some of the city's top tennis training at the National Junior Tennis League's Regional Rally, held at the Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education Center. Thirty youth attended the event, which offered tennis training, games and mentorship.

As for other exposure events, Cathy Diagnazio, along with Tina Sloan Green, helped organize the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Bridge Play Day, which was funded by U.S.A. Lacrosse, and held at the United Sports Training Center on May 30th. Urban female youth from Philadelphia, Trenton and Newark participated in Lacrosse training and game play and were able to connect with coaches who shared inspirational messages and words of encouragement.



Youth participate in Bridge Play Day



Youth pose with Venus Williams

In efforts to diversify the offering of programs, BWSF has teamed with Nu Sigma Youth Services to offer line dancing for parents on Thursday evenings. Classes are directed by Kenney J.

Furthermore, the summer programming has not limited its scope to physical activity. As a way to engage the youth in social studies and science skills, youth will take trips to the African-American Museum of Philadelphia and the Franklin Institute. These supplemental activities are in addition to the book readings and group projects the youth participate in everyday at their summer sites.

### BWSF Outreach Efforts:

BWSF staff and board members played a major role this quarter in advising and discussing significant issues involving the minority community.

(Outreach Efforts Continued):

As a member of the governance committee and co-chair of the communications committee of the Philadelphia Urban Food and Fitness Alliance (PUFFA), Tina Sloan Green, in conjunction with other community leaders, provided much needed input on ways to make healthier foods and activities more accessible in urban communities and ideas on influencing youth to eat and live healthier. PUFFA is a Kellogg funded project. Green is also representing BWSF on "The Women's Law Project Advisory Group on Gender Equity in Athletics" of Philadelphia.

In other efforts, BWSF and the NCAA co-hosted the Women of Color in Sport Symposium held May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Board members Linda Sheryl Greene, Michael Horsey, Cassandra Jones, Lynnore Thames, Sheila Ward, Nikki Franke and Tina Sloan Green devised ways to increase the participation of women of color in coaching and administration on the collegiate level. Their recommendations will be included in a final report submitted to the Minority Opportunities Intercollegiate Athletics Committee.

Board Member Acknowledgements:

Board member Linda Greene contributed to a nationally broadcast discussion on NPR Radio, July 13<sup>th</sup> to provide her law expertise on the Congressional Confirmation Hearing of Supreme Court Justice nominee, Sonia Sotomayor. Greene was joined by Harvard Law professors Charles Ogletree and Lani Guinier.

Board Member Michael Horsey began a new role in the community when he was appointed to Mayor Michael Nutter's Task Force on March 24th. In this role, he will advise on Philadelphia's economic growth.

Advisory Board Member Phoebe Haddon was appointed Dean of the University of Maryland Law School, effective July 1, 2009. A strong advocate of legal education, Haddon is a former professor of Temple's Beasley School of Law.

Advisory Board Member Traci Green became the first African-American female coach to win an Ivy League Championship on April 22 when her team defeated Dartmouth for the coveted Ivy League title. The win marked the peak of a 13-8 winning season and the team's first Ivy title since 2006.

Furthermore, Disney awarded BWSF a grant in honor of Board Member Lynnore Thames for her tireless work in the community. Advisory board member Wendy Hilliard was inducted in the 2009 John Hunt Memorial Camp Fund Hall of Fame.

BWSF Congratulates:

Emma Benn, former BWSF mentor and a Dugger Kelly Scholarship Recipient, was featured on the MDLinx.com medical website for her article, "Underlying Cause of Death in incident unprovoked seizures in the urban community of Northern Manhattan," which was also published in the international medical journal, *Epilepsia*.

BWSF also recognizes Kiara Smith, a former Project Challenge student, on her acceptance to LaSalle University, where she will receive a tennis and academic scholarship.

The foundation also congratulates Karlyn Lothery, a BWSF supporter, who was recognized in the *Network Journal* as one of "40 Dynamic Professionals under Forty." Lothery was the first chief diversity officer for the United States Tennis Association and is currently president of Lothery and Associates of Washington, D.C.

Coordinator Carolyn Johnson was a guest on the Atlanta radio program "ProSports Wives," where she discussed BWSF programming. Advisory Board Member Marirose Roach won the North East division championships with the semi-pro women's football league, The Philadelphia Belles.

Past Quarter Summary:

As a part of the Spring programming, youth at the Martha Washington site completed an 8-week journalism program in which they produced articles and video media on national sports legends. Legends Ann Garrott, Dr. Ione Vargus and Frank Green, Jr. spoke to the youth about their historical moments in sports and healthy living. The article was released at the BWSF Awards Ceremony on May 16th.

On March 21st, Martha Washington middle school youth visited West Chester University as a mentoring effort on the part of Board Member, Dr. Margaret Ottley. Ottley, an Associate Professor of Sports Psychology, allowed the youth to participate in one of her sports psychology classes.

Donation Request:

In order to continue enhancing the lives of our youth, the foundation must maintain a sound financial footing. Without our members and supporters, this would not be possible. We ask that you continue to support the foundation. Donations and memberships can be processed through [www.blackwomeninsport.org](http://www.blackwomeninsport.org).

**ALERT! In August, BWSF will begin a partnership with cafegive.com, offering an additional source for online donations to BWSF.**