

Community Women Against Hardship



2015 Summer Edition
Clarice R. Evans, Publisher



A FAMILY AFFAIR . . . PER CHANCE?

Once upon a time, a young girl was walking home from school, meandering along her normal path, when she happened upon an old, dilapidated building. She had walked past the lonely-looking, gray building many times before, but today something was different. It had come to life! People were scuttling around, the front door was open, and the sounds of drills and hammers sang a song that invited her to come inside. She did . . . and met a fairy princess who told her of wondrous things to come and of the new family that awaited her -- if only she would return. She did . . . (and she has . . . many times) and the rest is history.

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Okay, so I'm occasionally prone to flights of fancy, but it *really did* happen like that! The young girl is now 26 year-old Ashley Peterson, the old building is Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH), the fairy princess is CEO Gloria Taylor, and the members of Ashley's "new" family-of-13-years are the staff and clients of Community Women Against Hardship.

Since that "chance" meeting in 2002, Ashley Peterson has graduated from high school, established a great work history at US Bank, where she is currently in line for a promotion, and given birth to a son and daughter. Along with her sister, Geneece Gandy, Ashley and her little family have been regular fixtures in the CWAH family for 13 years, attending classes, participating in various events and volunteer activities, and doing things that families do.

Often times we think of family in terms of blood relationships, when it's really *so* much more than that. Whether you're old-school or new-, you're probably familiar with the above-titled song "Family Affair" by Sly Stone, a 1971 number-one single that also won a Grammy for John Legend's version in 2007. Said Sly about "family" in a Rolling Stone interview, family can be the "result of genetic processes or a situation in the environment. "

The family environment created by CWAH

has enveloped, nurtured and encouraged thousands. While Ashley's involvement wasn't created from hardship, it has, nonetheless, been a journey of growth and development. Ashley reflected on the many classes that she's participated in over the years: Nutrition, Job Placement, *Soup for the Soul*, Boxing Conditioning, Resume Development, Zumba, Jewelry-Making and -- her most recent registration -- Tai Chi. Said Ashley, "(CWAH) is something for *me!* My favorite class has been *Soup for the Soul*. It allows me to speak in confidence and share with other women." And as women in this chaotic world, we can **all** relate to that need.

But in the end, it always comes back to family. Ashley's children have participated in the several classes, and learned a lot from those programs, particularly about "being held accountable for their actions." Ashley feels that she's "come a long way," as well, in her personal development, thanks to CWAH.

Her message to others; "Speak up. Don't *give* up. Be willing to accept help. I'm always telling my co-workers about the great things CWAH is doing."

"I love Ms. Taylor and Ms. Clarice," says Ashley. And love is truly a Family Affair.

By: Gwen Swan

*"I sustain myself with the love of family."
— Maya Angelou*



Community Women Against Hardship, Inc. (CWAH) this year features **Marquis Hill**, Winner of the 2014 Thelonius Monk International Trumpet competition at their annual Summer Jazz Concert – a “Tribute to Freddie Hubbard.” Hill has been called “one of the preeminent voices on the instrument of his generation.” He has played with Bobby Broom, Tito Carillo, Willie Pickens and many others. He studied at the prestigious Northern Illinois University under famed saxophonist/educator Ron Carter, graduating in 2009; and has been lauded as both a performer and composer.

On **Sunday**, July 19, 2015, at 6:00p.m., at the newly renovated *Jazz at the Bistro*, he will be joined onstage by veterans, **Jerome “Scrooge” Harris** on drums, **Jeffrey Anderson** on bass, **Chad Evans** on alto sax, and **Matt Villinger** on piano. (Doors open at 5:00p.m.)

*All tickets available via the Jazz St. Louis Box Office
3536 Washington, St. Louis, MO 63103 –
(314) 571-6001*

*Mon. – Fri., 10am – 5pm and Saturdays, 2pm – 10pm
Or online by visiting: www.jazzstl.org
\$1.50 fee added to purchases by phone or online*

Marquis Hill

Winner of the 2014
Thelonius Monk
International Trumpet Competition

Jazz At the Bistro

Sunday,
July 19, 2015
6:00pm
Doors open at 5:00pm
Tickets \$45

“Tribute To Freddie Hubbard”

1938 – 2008



Frederick Dwayne Hubbard, born April 7th, 1938, in Indianapolis, Indiana, was widely regarded as the most gifted jazz trumpeter of the post-bebop '60s and '70s.

An exceptional talented virtuoso performer, Hubbard's rich full tone was never lost, even when he played dazzlingly fast passages. One of the greatest hard bop trumpeters of our time, he was perhaps one of the greatest technical trumpet players ever to play in the jazz idiom and arguably the most influential.

Lake Ozark Christian Church



Who travels across the state to cut grass, wash windows, wash walls, cut down and clean up debris?

This youth group from Lake Ozark Christian Church under the leadership of Pastor Gary Mitchell, that's who. Thank you for making a difference in such a big way during your Dare 2 Share Annual Conference.

“Awesome Job”

Central Bank of St. Louis



Sharon Johnson, Vice President Community Development Lending Officer took the time to offer a valuable workshop for First Time Homebuyers, Saturday June 20, 2015 here at CWAH.

Subjects included strategies for finding the right Lender, working with a Lender; How a Lender approves your loan and your rights as a consumer.

“Realizing the American Dream”

Wells Fargo Advisors

Community Women Against Hardship was presented with a \$10,000 check from Wells Fargo Advisors during our 11th Annual Walk Athon and Health Fair.

Presentation was made by Ms. Elaine Curry, joined by other volunteers from Wells Fargo Advisors along with CWAH Board of Directors. Special shout out to Mr. Edmond Johnson for his commitment to CWAH.

What was a rainy day was brightened by this generous donation and gave us hope to continue the work we do.

“Providing Hope For those In Need”





Each year CWAH provides a lesson in history to youth enrolled in the Summer Youth Enrichment Program. This six week program emphasizes the value of understanding history, and creates a leeway for them to see how it relates to their lives. This year we are endeavoring to go to Detroit.

Who is Charles Wright, and why is he important? We will explore the Charles Wright Museum; the world's largest institution dedicated to the African American experience.

This program is committed to exposing our children to as much history as we possibly can. In the words of Marcus Garvey, "We have a beautiful history, and we shall create another in the future that will astonish the world." What a wonderful opportunity to be able to visit these important historical sites, and learn to appreciate what has been, and endeavor to fashion what can be.

Will you help sponsor a child today? Your tax deductible donation of \$25, \$50 or \$100 would greatly assist in this effort. To donate make checks payable to CWAH and mail to 3963 West Belle Pl, St. Louis, MO 63108 or visit www.cwah.org and go to online donations. **For more info call (314) 289-7523.**

Youth Enrichment Summer Program/ Non Violent Youth Summit



Pictured above left, Washington University student Haley Nichols explains the basics of Civil Engineering through a tower building exercise with students, while center Phillip Young Jr. prepares for his Power Point class, and to the right, Ms. Lois Ingram and students begin their Newscast format video program.

Pictured below Minister Dennis Haymon leads discussions with youth during our Non Violent Youth Summit giving insight from his past and his understanding of issues faced by today's youth. Jeffrey Taylor conducts a simulation exercise in the art of effective communication with parent and, also on hand was Andre Smith, PhD., former president of the Black Ethical Society of Police who spoke with youth and adults about issues facing the public and what we can do to protect and help our communities.



Prayer Breakfast Saturday August 8, 2015



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Against Hardship**
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9:00 A.M.
ST. ALPHONSUS "ROCK" CHURCH
1118 NORTH GRAND BLVD, STL, MO.
63106
(in the gym)



Guest Speaker, Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols

**PROVIDING HOPE FOR
THOSE IN NEED**



Save The Date - November 15, 2015



KIMMIE HORNE
(Grand Niece of Lena Horne)
&
ALTHEA RENE
**27TH ANNUAL CIRCLE
OF SUPPORT GALA**

CWAH
3963 West Belle Pl
St. Louis, MO 63108

