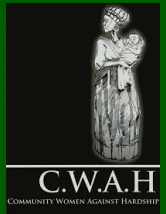


“THE QUIET LEADERS”

Community Women Against Hardship
3963 West Belle Pl. St. Louis, MO 63108

(314) 289-7523

2017 Fall Edition
www.cwah.org



In his book *The Radical King*, Cornel West describes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as having “. . . fire in his bones, love in his heart, light in his mind, and courage in his soul.” Absent the international platform and singular oratorical genius, those same qualities became evident in Pamela Dugger during our conversation. Pamela wasn’t coming off much information -- she described herself as trusting very few people - but the qualities were manifest in her actions, rather than her words. How else do you describe a woman who fought an entire state (and won) to gain legal guardianship of her disabled grandchildren?

The 56-year-old grandmother moved to St. Louis from Cleveland 7 years ago and, aside from missing her church and family, says she loves St. Louis. “I’m a homebody”, she says, “I stay to myself and I’m self-sufficient.” So much so that, when she was interviewed by Gloria Taylor as a potential Christmas family, she tried to turn them down, suggesting that there were other families who probably needed the help more.

But with a 19-year-old daughter with Down’s Syndrome, a set of 7-year-old autistic twin boys, and a total of 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild, the family need was clear to the staff at CWAH. “I needed them more than I thought,” Pamela concedes.

Due to their mother's battle with mental health issues, Pamela's grandchildren had been in foster care in Cleveland for 2 years. Their living conditions were deplorable, Pamela stated. They were permanently locked in a room, couldn't talk, weren't potty trained, and were unable to walk without braces. By the time Pamela was made aware of the situation, she had already moved to St. Louis, but the seemingly insurmountable battle to get her grandchildren was on.

The fight dragged on for two years, with a social worker of questionable intent and a materially-motivated foster family manipulating the system to prevent Pamela's access. "After 2 years, I finally had to go to the top of DFS to get my grandchildren," she said. She won!

When I asked her about the old adage "You can't fight city hall", Pamela's response was, "Nothing and no one is bigger than my God." She says her activities are all based around her family. CWAH's outreach for children is, in Pamela's words, "a family affair. They know them by name. My grandkids have attended CPR, music, health and fitness, and reading classes." CWAH has also helped repair the furnace several times in the home that Pamela found online.

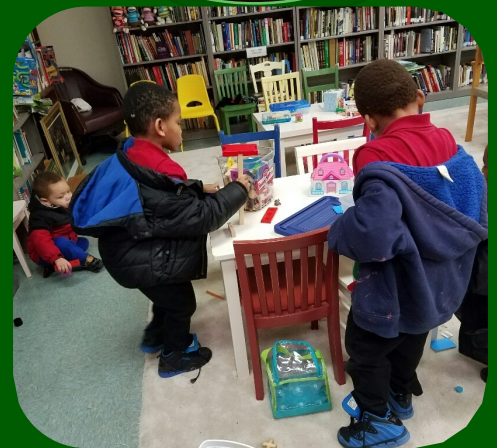
"God has been good to me," she says. A cancer survivor, Pamela is now retired from her job as an anesthesia coordinator and considers her greatest challenge to be . . . laundry. "You

can't imagine how much laundry I have with a Down Syndrome daughter, two autistic boys and a house full of kids," she jokes. "God has a sense of humor."

The courage, faith, tenacity and love that were required for Pamela to win the battle for her family speaks of a quiet leader and role model. She, like many others in our community, successfully fight daily battles far more difficult than those of our "assigned leaders."

Pamela's suggestions? Never give up! Get through it; get over it; and get on. My hat is off to the many oft unrecognized and unacknowledged, quiet leaders in our community. For them, there is no need to enforce; they inspire . . . quietly.

Story by: Gwen Swan



If you know of an individual or family that could benefit from services at CWAH, nominate them today for our People Against Poverty Campaign 2017. Please submit nominations by October 13, 2017 to:

The St. Louis American

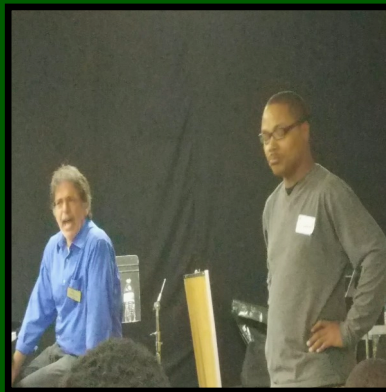
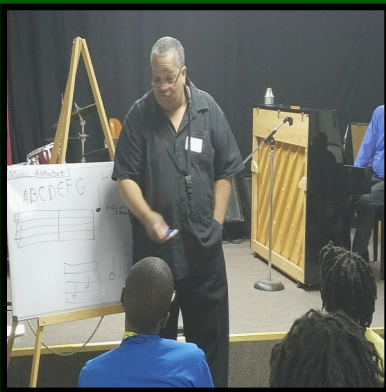
People Against Poverty Campaign 2017

2315 Pine Street

St. Louis, MO 63103

Fax to (314) 533-2332

Or email: Mwinbus2@stlamerican.com



Pictured above: left Jeff Anderson, right, Mike Carosello and Danny Campbell and bottom left Hope Walker, Jerome Harris, and to the right Daniel Butler were on hand to jumpstart our fall music classes with an informative music clinic.

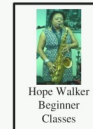
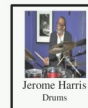


Music Lessons

ENROLL NOW FOR Fall/ Winter 2017 - 2018
 SATURDAY CLASSES
 Parent must complete an application for each child
 For more details call (314) 289-7523 or visit www.cwah.org

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC

- Students (5th – 12th grade and 1st year college students) will work with the following professional artists & skilled instructors



Class Schedule: WINTER/SPRING 2017: SATURDAY CLASSES

10:00 am - 11:30am

REGISTER TODAY!!!

Questions or Concerns, please call 314-289-7523
 Parents must complete an application for students

COST

\$5.00

per class



The institute provides youth and young adults an opportunity to play one-on-one musical instruments with some of St. Louis most gifted professional musicians and instructors, and learn more about the history of MUSIC.

- September 16, 2017
- September 30, 17, 2017
- October 14, 2017
- October 28, 2017
- November 11, 2017
- November 18, 2017
- December 2, 2017
- December 9, 2017 *** (Recital)*****

“Life is like a garden. If you maintain it, prune and wean it will bring forth sustenance and an abundance of blessings”

Erica Strong



Mrs. Devon M. Moody-Graham, MBA, Community Builder, Entrepreneur, Youth Developer, engaged students on ways to develop and start a small business.

NOW ENROLLING

- T.O.P.P—Tapping Our Parental Power
- Teen Rap Sessions
- Fun Ways To Learn
- Healthy Lifestyles
- S.E.L.F—Standing Empowered Liberated and Free
- Financial Literacy
- Fine Arts
- Music
- Robotics
- Yoga

Call today: 314-289-7523

Year End Giving Campaign

HELP US #RAISE30

AT CWAH, we are committed to helping families transform their lives through programs and services that speak to their needs and hopes. Our founder, Gloria Taylor began with the belief that the *community* is the key to supporting, strengthening and helping families set and reach their goals to live independent lives in which each member realizes his or her FULL potential.

And the community has been there for our families. Since 1988, we have served over 7,000 families with a variety of proven programs that positively IMPACT their lives and the futures of their children. That's **30 years of giving hope** through the helping hands of the community.

With YOU, we can continue to provide hope to those in need for another 30 years....

That's why we want YOU to partner with us to #RAISE30!

Because ***It Takes A Community*** to do the work of strengthening families, we *invite you to celebrate our past accomplishments and be a part of our future success* through our **30 by 30 Campaign!**

HELP US #RAISE30! EVERYONE can participate. We will accept contributions in any denomination of **30 until our 30th Anniversary on October 30, 2018.**

We **invite you to** join us! Everyone can participate and help us #raise30! You can begin with a YEAR-END donation in **ANY DENOMINATION OF 30!** There are many ways to give:

- ◆ Individuals or families can contribute a **one-time gift of \$30.00**, which will *support a youth in our Modern American Music program for six weeks*
- ◆ Your contribution of **\$30.00 per month for one year** can help us *supply a family with groceries every week from our pantry.*
- ◆ A **one-time gift of \$300.00** will help provide a scholarship to cover transportation and lodging for one family member to go on our annual Education and History Tour.
- ◆ **\$3,000.00** will fund our Parent Opportunity Program, *Project Success*, which provides parenting, financial literacy and employment readiness.
- ◆ **\$300.00 per month** will provide vital transportation for families in need to attend our programs at the Family Resource Center.
- ◆ **\$30,000.00 will help us secure additional staff to expand programs to meet growing need.**

You can give ANYTIME and in ANY FORM! Every DOLLAR you DONATE goes directly to programs and services and IS NOT USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. 100% of your donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

CWAH welcomes Mrs. Bonita Penny to its' Board of Directors



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Community Women Against Hardship Year End Giving - Donation Card

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
HOME NUMBER:	
ALT. NUMBER	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
PLEASE USE MY DONATION FOR THE FOLLOWING:	
GENERAL DONATIONS (All Programs & Services)	\$ _____
MEMORIAL GIFT:	\$ _____
YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS: (Music, Fine Arts, Youth Entrepreneurship Classes Stem Classes)	\$ _____
PARENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS:	\$ _____
PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST ()	

CWAH does not sell or disclose any of the information it gathers to any other organization, businesses or agencies. Your donations are tax deductible

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