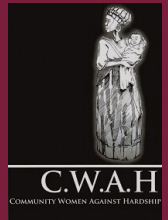


# “We Got YOU”

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

( 314) 289-7523

2017 Summer Edition  
www.cwah.org



The TV cameras are gone, the GoFundMe accounts depleted, the rest of the world has moved on. Less than two years have passed, and the deep pain and sadness are still clearly heard in Sarah William’s voice. “My heart is heavy, and at the end of every day I tell myself that I did my best for the past 24 hours,” she said, “. . . that’s all that I can do.”

The house fire that destroyed her home and took the lives of three children – Sarah’s niece, grand-niece, and her 10 month old son-- occurred in November, 2015. For Sarah, time and her world have collapsed. Hers is the kind of tragedy that’s hard to hear about, harder to imagine, and impossible to make sense of. Yet every day, people around us experience this kind of deep, soul-pain.

We’re isolated from the onslaught of their suffering by technology. We witness it through the virtual reality of our iPhones, post our condolences on Facebook, make a monetary contribution online, and quickly move on to the next story. Because we can, we put a comfortable distance between the grief of their lives and the relative safety of our own. But should we?

For the staff members of CWAH, the answer is clearly “NO!” Sarah and her children were welcomed into the CWAH family through their Christmas Program in 2016 after receiving a nomination from Sarah’s sister.

“They dressed me during a bereavement, provided an outlet for me and my boys through their educational classes – Art, Health, Finance -- and allowed me to shop for clothing and furniture in their community store. Ms. Taylor hugged me, made us feel welcome, and let me know that we were no strangers. She accepted all of us, gave me hope, and said ‘we got you!’”

Life today for Sarah continues to be a challenge. From a large family of 8 brothers and 2 sisters, Sarah says she and her six boys live in the home of one of her brothers. It is that same family that has rallied around Sarah and kept her moving forward. It’s a continuous struggle to stay afloat. She works 12-hour days as a banquet server and laundry room attendant, encourages her honor-roll sons, and chauffeurs them to their numerous activities.

I asked Sarah what dreams she has for herself. Her response? “I don’t know. No one has ever asked me that question. I guess I’m just too busy to think about things like that.” The health challenges that she faces (and a broken foot) would slow most of us down. Not so for Sarah . . . she keeps charging ahead. A strong spiritual base instilled by her father and a relationship with God are key to that movement.

For those of you who are suffering this kind of deep Sarah-Sadness, she makes the following suggestions: Make a short To-Do list; set small goals and look forward to achieving just one a day; keep knocking them out and pat yourself on the back when you do; then tell yourself “I did my best for the past 24 hours”.

There are many of us who are on the perimeter of the pain. We watch daily the efforts of those at the highest level who systematically kill our children, destroy our livelihoods, and attempt to shatter the strength in unity that would keep us bonded together. For us, I say “let CWAH be an example”. It is time for each of us to open our eyes, our hearts and our hands to one another and say “We got you!”

What will you do?

*Story by: Gwen Swan*



“I did my best for the past 24 hours”



# Community Women Against Hardship Summer Jazz Benefit Concert

**Ticket  
\$40**



"ARMED WITH MY HORN, I WILL CONTINUE TO KNOCK DOWN BARRIERS; AWAKEN THE SPIRIT AND SERENADE THE HEART."  
- YANCY

Special Guest Detroit Native

**Yancy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rm8uZzR-4bY>



Tony Suggs, Piano



Jeffrey Anderson, Bass



Anita Jackson, Vocalist



Montez Coleman Drums

**Sunday July 23, 2017**

The Harold & Dorothy Steward Center for Jazz  
3536 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO. 63103

All tickets available via the Jazz St. Louis Box Office  
3536 Washington, St. Louis, MO 63103 - (314) 571-6000  
Mon. - Fri., 10am - 5pm and Saturdays, 2pm - 10pm  
Or online by visiting: [www.jazzstl.org](http://www.jazzstl.org)  
\$1.50 fee added to purchases by phone or online  
Checks can also be written to Jazz St. Louis

6:00pm - Doors open at 5:00pm (Performance by CWAH Music Students)  
\*All Proceeds Benefit Modern American Music Program for Beginners and Immediate students



Major Brand volunteers, Bill Schwein, and Michelle Clark along with Bill's daughter Mollie Schwein, help bring robots to life during our eight week Robotic Summer Camp.



**FREE**

## WE CARE HEALTHY FIT FAMILY AFFAIR COMMUNITY EVENT

Workshops, Testing & Screenings  
Because we care about your  
Physical, Mental &  
Financial fitness



Community Health Fair  
Saturday,  
July 29, 2017  
9:30am - 1:00pm

Community Women Against  
Hardship  
3963 West Belle Pl  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
314-289-7523  
[communitywomenst@yahoo.com](mailto:communitywomenst@yahoo.com)  
Registration Required for  
CPR Class Space Limited



Jeffrey Taylor, Instructor



[www.cwah.org](http://www.cwah.org)

PROVIDING HOPE FOR THOSE IN NEED



Face Painting

Light Refreshments

# Show Me Series Trip Heads to Atlanta GA



Each year, CWAH offers a six week youth development program. This year the curriculum includes: Media Communications students create a video and newscast on ways to improve the community, Computer classes students develop a motivational movie, and in Fine Arts they will pull it all together as the students create a mural from the newscasts.

At the culmination of these sessions, we take an historical trip. When I look at how our history is being written today it makes me more determined to put before our children as much information as I can. Statements made President Trump about John Lewis and the 5th District of Atlanta alone, encourages me to want to travel and show them the truth.

Why Atlanta? The lack of knowledge about our rich history and the contributions our ancestors have made is why these trips to historic cities are so important. Exposure is key to awakening imaginations that lie dormant due to a lack of awareness of the possibilities that exist. By visiting colleges such as Spelman, Morehouse, we hope eyes will be opened and curiosity sparked of what not only exist but is also attainable.

We want our children to know as Tyler Perry reminds us, "You have the torch: it's already been bought and paid for. Now it's in your hands. Use it for good: inspire somebody".

You can help us make history come alive for our youth.

Will you sponsor a child today? Your tax deductible donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever you desire 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](http://www.cwah.org) and go to online donations.



## Board of Directors

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday August, 19, 2017**



**9:00 AM**

**St. Alphonsus Rock Church**

**Rev. Dr. Roz Nichols**

**Guest Speaker**

**\$25 Donation**