

Community Women Against Hardship

3963 West Belle Pl. St. Louis, MO 63108 (314) 289-7523 www.cwah.org

OUT OF THE ORDINARY . . .

Aside from the number of kids – *they have 5*-- the **Youngs** fit neatly into the New York Times' description of the "typical" (or nuclear) American family: "a father, mother and two kids living under the same roof". Mid-thirties, working class, married homeowners, **Philip** and **Kandis Young** are the stereotypical, average parents that we once accepted as ordinary in our society.

When I interviewed Kandis, it was with a preconceived expectation of some family hardship or crisis that sent them in search of the services provided by CWAH. In an economically depressed environment, homelessness, drug abuse, domestic abuse, racial disparity, genocide and life on the government dole seem to be the norm. Surely the Youngs were no exception.

Imagine my surprise when Kandis stated that the greatest challenge they face is "finding and planning affordable family activities." *W-h-a-a-t???* This can't be so! How could I fashion an article for CWAH without the angst and drama of "hardship"? After some minor anxiety and self-reflection, I realized that the very "ordinary-ness" of the Young family makes them . . . well . . . *unordinary* – refreshingly so.

Their introduction to CWAH came through the Learning Tree Day Care, which nominated their family for the People Against Poverty Campaign which The St. Louis American partnerships with CWAH in 2012. The aspect of CWAH that drew the family in wasn't hardship . . . it was *community*, an easily overlooked but equally important service of the organization. Said Kandis, "We liked the classes they offered -- Healthy Eating, Soup for the Soul, Tai Chi, Jazz and music for the kids, and educational seminars and trips that allowed us to participate as a *family*, things we would normally not be able to afford."

Over the years, the *community* of CWAH has become a central part of the Young family. At home, they apply the things they've learned in the various classes to their everyday lives – recipes, exercising, managing stress levels, problem solving and resolutions, giving back. With the resources CWAH provides, participation as a family is a given. The occasional visit to the clothing boutique and calls from Clarice to inquire about furniture needs the family might have punctuate the relationship. "CWAH is our extended family and a family unto itself," says Kandis. "I'm thankful that they came into our lives."

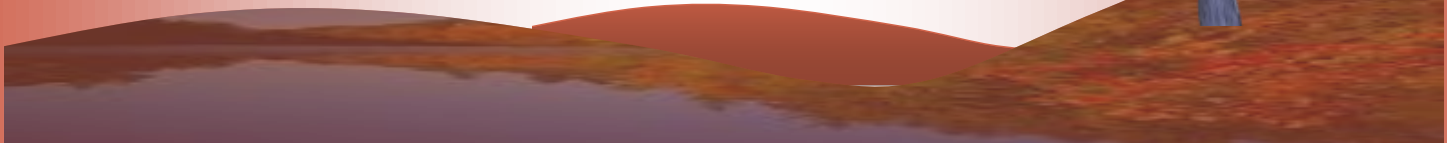
She and her husband participated with their son in 2015 and 2016 on the trips to Birmingham and Tuskegee, Alabama, CWAH's annual, educational trips to cities of significance for its young participants.

I asked Kandis for suggestions she might have for the "typical" family – in crisis or not. Her advice "Know that you are not alone. Interact more with your family, if only to inquire about their day. Individualize your kids – they're not a group. Find affordable activities that support them as individual members of the family." Messages Gloria Taylor continuously tries to encourage all families to do.

We're force-fed – *daily* -- the concept of drama and misery as an unchangeable, ordinary way-of-life. Maybe it's time to try a different perspective, a bit out of the ordinary – community and family. **COMMUNITY** Women Against Hardship.



The Young Family





Special thanks to The Brenda Williams Trust Foundation, Trustee Mikki Brewster, Dr. Anne Price, Calvin Cooksey, James Boone, C. Christopher Lee, Darlene Peterson—Young, Laura Feltes, Annie Davis, Christine Reams, Diane Dugas, Evette Taylor, Gwyn Thorpe, Myron Lofton, Dr. Christy Richardson, Dr. Donald Nabors, Robin Heidger, The Celebrity Seniors, Darlene Davis, Kelly O’Brien, Theresa Hebron, Cynthia Clay and Stephanie Muldrow for making our 14th Annual Show Me Series Trip possible to Tuskegee, Alabama.

I can hardly believe it has been 14 years since we began this program, and I am overwhelmed and grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to the development of our future leaders. A huge thanks to Mr. Nicky Jefferson, District State Program Development Specialist of the Extension Office at Tuskegee, along with a student from the University who guided us in a personal tour of the University and shared compelling information about all they have to offer in their education programs I encourage you to support our HBCU’s; they not only need our support, but we owe them our support for the richness they have contributed to our individual lives and this nation.



The Tuskegee Airmen Legacy

Benjamin O. Davis Jr.
 The Tuskegee Army Airfield was established at Tuskegee Army Airfield, Georgia, in 1942. It was the only military installation in the United States to be named after an African American. The airfield was the home of the Tuskegee Army Airfield, which was the only military installation in the United States to be named after an African American. The airfield was the home of the Tuskegee Army Airfield, which was the only military installation in the United States to be named after an African American.

Scott E. Herndon
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Charles A. "Chief" Anderson
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"Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work."
Booker T. Washington

COMMUNITY WOMEN AGAINST HARDSHIP
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"JAZZ IN PINK"



Mariea Antoinette



Karen Briggs

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Gail Jhonson

November 6, 2016
 5:00 pm
 Sheldon Concert Hall
 3648 Washington
 St. Louis, MO 63108



Althea Rene



Robin Bramlett



Danielle Thompson




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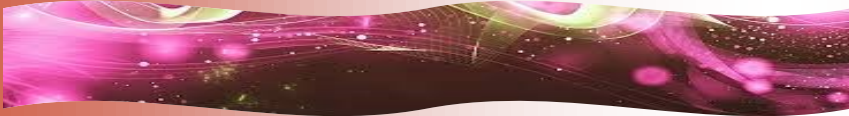
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CWAH
 3983 West Belle Pl
 St. Louis, MO 63108
 (314) 289-7523



Community Women Against Hardship's (CWAH'S) 28th Annual *Circle of Support Gala & Silent Auction* is rapidly approaching. The event, on Sunday, November 6, 2016, 5:00p.m., features the return of the scintillating all-female musical firebrands, "Jazz in PInk," at The Sheldon Concert Hall, 3648 Washington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108.

This year the already awesome group adds harpist and Top 5 *Billboard* Magazine artist Mariea Antoinette. She joins keyboardist Gail Jhonson, violinist Karen Briggs, drummer Danielle Thompson, bassist Robin Bramlett, and flautist Althea Rene. Since all of these individuals are world class performers, singling out their attributes is not necessary. Each one has their own unique stage presence, musical expertise, energy, and personality. In other words, they are all fully capable of 'firing up the stage!' In past years, the audiences could hardly contain their appreciation for Jazz in PInk after each number.

Their hallmark is always versatility - of themes selected and playing styles - and excellence!

The highlights of the Post-Reception are the Silent Auction and a performance of the students of *The Institute for the Advancement of Jazz Study and Performance*. Every year we revel at the progress of these youngsters.

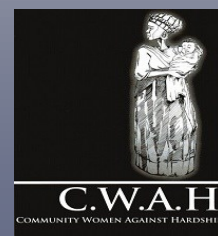
Remember that this event raises much needed funds to support this valuable, inspirational youth program. Please come out to enjoy and elevate. Contact the Metro Tix at (314) 534-1111 for ticket info.

Nominate A Family Today

If you know of an individual or family that could benefit from services at CWAH, nominate them today for our People Against Poverty Campaign 2016. Please submit nominations by October 31 to:

The St. Louis American
 People Against Poverty Campaign 2016
 2315 Pine Street
 St. Louis, MO 63103

Fax to (314) 533-2332
 Or email
Mwinbus2@stlamerican.com



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CWAH welcomes Elson Williams to the Board of Directors. He has been a long time supporter and we are excited to have him on board.

**COMMUNITY WOMEN AGAINST HARDSHIIP
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