



The Quarterly Circle

January, 2018

Volume 1, Number 3

In This Issue

2017 Holiday Season

Race & Education

New in 2018 &

Ways to Get Involved

Purpose

Economic development through a racial equity lens.

Vision

To restore "North County" to a safe, vibrant, sustainable, and economically sound community that remains diverse, and in doing so, help heal the racial strife and division that threatens to ruin North County altogether.

2017 Holiday Season

At A Red Circle, we know how to celebrate the holidays! Thanks to the community, we raised over \$400 and served a full Thanksgiving meal to the children and staff at **St. Vincent Home for Children**. Twenty-two volunteers attended this event that involved cooking, eating, listening to music, playing games, and lively conversation. We brought holiday cheer and encouraged the children and staff.

Throughout December, we hosted events for children in the community. We enjoyed healthy holiday food, read Christmas books, and made gingerbread houses and other crafts. A Red Circle also gifted several 2nd graders with books, school supplies, and resources for their parents. Finally, we partnered with **Empower North County** at its "Affordable Christmas Store". It was a great time and place for parents to shop for brand new presents with dignity and financial responsibility.

On December 29, A Red Circle hosted an awesome **Kwanzaa Celebration**. Several north St. Louis County nonprofit leaders presented their interpretation of the *Nguzo Saba* through words of wisdom, history, prayer, and songs. We learned that the 7 principles should be lived throughout the year, and not just between December 26 and January 1.



Mission

The holistic betterment of our community; reversing the effects of racism one person and cause at a time.

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Podcast coming soon!

Race & Education



Did you know that children who have constant problems with the criminal justice system have had problems at school, and many of these concerns emerge as early as pre-school? This, and other reasons, are why A Red Circle's Education Advocacy Coalition supports children in elementary school.

The following are excerpts from an evidence-based, peer-reviewed article titled, **"Is Educational Achievement a Turning Point for Incarcerated Delinquents Across Race and Sex?"** written by Thomas G. Blomberg, William D. Bales, and Alex R. Piquero:

Data indicate clear differences in educational attainment across race/ethnicity, with Whites having the most (graduation) success at all grade levels. These differences tend to start early, especially given the wide variation in school context, tracking resources and programs, and the perceived barriers among certain groups (non-Whites) about their ability to succeed in education.

...

[S]mall (dis)advantages at early stages of the life course can grow larger (reverberate) over time. Thus, many poor (especially minority male) children arrive at school well behind their more fortunate peers academically, and chronic school-based inequities such as low teacher expectations and unexamined ability-grouping practices exacerbate these differences, which may, in turn, lead to the perception of barriers in the formulation and pursuit of educational (and career) goals. (References omitted.)

At A Red Circle, we are not okay with maintaining the status quo for our black and brown children in north St. Louis County. We are working hard to support parents, students, and teachers in the home, the classroom, and in the school districts. We are new and small, but growing and our children are capable! With your support, we can do more. Read further to learn how you can help close achievement gaps between black and white students in north St. Louis County.

Upcoming Projects and Events

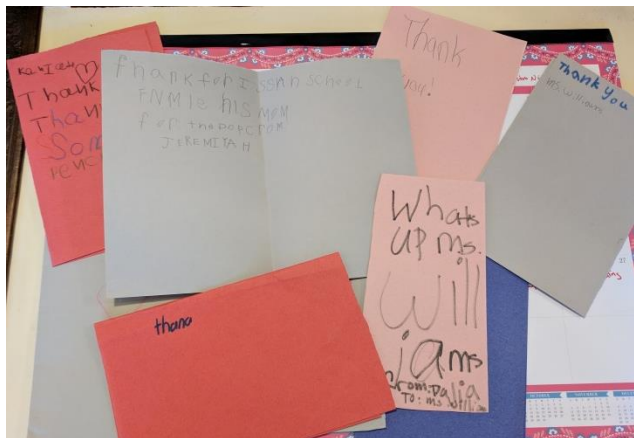
- Participation in the **Wellston & Pine Lawn M.L. King Jr. Parade and Program**
- **Vote ~ Run ~ Rule – Opportunity for Action**
A Black History reflection on civic engagement to honor civil rights icons such as John Lewis and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be speakers, lawmakers, and the opportunity to register to vote!
- **Teach Us All** – an education equity movie screening and fundraiser for A Red Circle's Education Advocacy Coalition
- Workforce Development Kickoff!

Donate

New in 2018 & Ways to Get Involved

Have you ever wanted to be a teacher but decided on a different career and now think you have missed your opportunity? Well, you have not! Spending just one quality hour of time with a child can make a world of difference. In 2018, we will welcome more elementary schools into our Education Advocacy Coalition. We have room for tutors, mentors, counselors, and anyone else committed to advocating for children's educational, behavioral, health, and practical needs. (The group hugs and thank-you cards make the time so worthwhile!)

We are also recruiting speakers for our Parent Cafes, which are safe spaces for parents to connect and learn from one another. These events help parents obtain resources to help minimize at-home barriers to education. Finally, our Equitable School Funding Collaborative is gearing up with opportunities for research, school visits, light lobbying, and more. Sign up [here!](#)



Are you ambitious, bold, and not afraid to fundraise for a cause? If so, can you help A Red Circle **raise money** by creating a personal fundraiser from our crowdfunding page? It's fast, easy, and free!

After you click the link, click on 'Start Fundraising Now' and send it out to your contacts. You can set the amount as small or as large as you would like. That's it! **Network for Good**® does the rest!

Racial equity cannot exist without health equity and nutrition plays a large part in being healthy. We know that over the years north St. Louis County has evolved into what is called a food desert, which we clarify as a *man-made* food desert. The communities of north St. Louis County host an abundance of fast food restaurants, liquor stores, dollar stores, and convenience stores that sell the unhealthiest food. However, these stores are closer in proximity to households and are easier to frequent than traditional grocery stores.

A Red Circle, as part of the **St. Louis Food Policy Coalition**, is doing its part in solving this problem by hosting "Fresh Food Fridays" at **Healthy Flavor Bistro & Garden**, educating the community on the dangers of continual unhealthy eating, and working with lawmakers (new in 2018) to change the food landscape within the community. **Do you garden or are you knowledgeable about a health topic to share with the community? Are you interested in doing research and talking to lawmakers and area convenience store owners?** We need you! **Contact Us**, and let us know about your health passions and expertise!



A Red Circle has updated its **Calendar** to better display meetings and weekly and monthly events. Feel free to visit it from time to time to stay informed! A Red Circle's first planning meeting is **February 4, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.** at 9950 Glen Owen Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63136. See the Event on our Facebook Page to RSVP.

All of A Red Circle's programs, meetings, and events are designed to improve the overall economic health of north St. Louis County. Our success will equate to more job opportunities, improved schools, healthier communities, more civically engaged residents, and increased exposure to the fine arts. We have a new brochure for 2018, which outlines how each program aligns with our focus areas of **employment, education, holistic living, policy, and the arts**. Click [here](#) to view, download it, and to share it with friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and cohorts. Community betterment in north St. Louis County depends on all of us!

*...because all blood is
red*