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Volume 2, Issue 4

August 2009

AALDP XVI "PAY IT FORWARD"

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PHOTO PROVIDED

The Urban League of Greater Cincinnati (GCUL), the region's oldest and largest community-based organization devoted to empowering African American individuals and families to enter the economic and social mainstream, offers numerous services including youth and adult education, job training, business development, leadership development, and the shaping of public policy.

One of GCUL's dynamic leadership programs - the **African American Leadership Development Program (AALDP)** - focuses on developing a pool of African American men and women from various backgrounds with an interest in, and leadership capacity for, effectively addressing ongoing and emerging community issues.

Since AALDP's inception in 1993, African American leaders, representing various areas including corporate, associations, nonprofit, education, and entrepreneurs, have graduated from the program and are individually and collectively making an impact in the community. "We are proud of all of our past graduates who contribute their personal time, talent and treasures to making the world around us a better place." said Jenny C. Laster, Director of Leadership Development Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

Fast forward to 2009, and the legacy of AALDP continues to grow. Most recently, AALDP Class XVI (16), graduated thirty-nine (39) program participants to join the ranks of



Members of the Urban League and AALDP XVI with the recipients of "Pay It Forward":

(back row, left to right) Jenny C. Laster (Urban League), Robin Martin, Tony McDaniel, Deana Ingram, Dovetta Dangerfield, Tamela Dodds, Angela Thomas, Stephen Tucker;

(seated left to right) Pat Clifford (Drop Inn Center), Rasheda Malcolm (Boys & Girls Club), and Donna Jones-Baker (Urban League).

over five hundred (500) AALDP Alumni. Throughout AALDP Class XVI's 10-month journey which focused on self-discovery, networking, exploration of community life and issues, being challenged to explore leadership concepts and styles, engaged in discussions on the economy and education to criminal justice and intercultural diversity, and developing working relationships with civic, social, political and community leaders, AALDP XVI decided to put what they learned in motion and "Pay It Forward".

Said Deana Simone Ingram, an AALDP Class XVI Alumni, "All throughout our year together we were taught about servant leadership and how we have to give back to the community...it's our duty." On August 5, 2009, AALDP XVI made a charitable donation to The Boys & Girls Club, The Drop Inn Center, and the Urban

League of Greater Cincinnati, to help these organizations continue to make a difference in the community and impact those who need the agency's services. From charitable giving, board leadership, championing for a cause, and more, this is just one of many examples of how AALDP Alumni "Pay It Forward" - collectively and individually.

The AALDP program has a lasting impact on the community and AALDP participants. Said Dovetta Dangerfield, an AALDP Class XVI Alumni, "The experience can be life changing."

Applications are now being accepted (deadline August 14, 2009) for AALDP XVII. For more information about the program or to get an application, contact Jenny C. Laster at **513-487-6530** or email jlaster@gcul.org.

For more information about the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, visit www.gcul.org.