

"Preparing the village leaders to lead the village into the future"

MISSION

To involve participants in diverse opportunities using proactive strategies to address issues impacting the African American community.

VISION

To prepare African Americans to contribute to the growth and development of the Charlotte Metropolitan area.

GOALS

Our goal is to successfully develop a first class leadership program primarily for African Americans, providing them with the necessary tools to become active leaders in the Charlotte Metropolitan community through community involvement.

HISTORY

Concerned about the lack of diversity among leaders representing the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community, Ron Leeper, Angela Jeter, City Councilman James Mitchell, and IBM executive Kevin Patterson met to develop a plan that would meet the need for diverse leadership. The group issued a call to action and a dedicated group of professionals answered the call; thereby forming the first Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

The mission of the Board of Directors was to introduce a modernized leadership program with the purpose of enhancing and developing leadership skills primarily among African-Americans.

The Board of Directors developed a program that offers valuable informational and technical resources and prepares each participant to become more successful and productive in the community. This stimulating program allows participants to evaluate their individual leadership styles and how others perceive their effectiveness as they receive guidance in developing a realistic view of how the community works as a whole.



"Developing the next generation of leadership is important to the success of our community"

Ron Leeper, Co-Founder

PROGRAM & COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ◇ History of Charlotte Tour - vital to understanding Charlotte's history
- ◇ Leadership in the African-American Community - highlights importance of commitment & integrity
- ◇ Organization Development - emphasis on the basics
- ◇ Economic Development/Area Growth - Area economic development strategies and introduction to effective land use and planning
- ◇ Communication Skills - improvement of oral & written communication skills
- ◇ Leadership Development - identifying your personal leadership style and effectiveness
- ◇ Government/Political Awareness - understanding of the operation of local government
- ◇ Leadership In Education - overview of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg public school system
- ◇ Entrepreneurship - what it takes to step out into the world of a business owner
- ◇ Grant Writing - comprehensive overview of event planning & grant writing
- ◇ Volunteerism - ways to get involved in local organizations
- ◇ Financial Management - understanding personal and business finances
- ◇ Diversity Training/Valuing Differences - increase awareness and acceptance of differences

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ The eleven (11) members of *Class One* graduated in June 2003. Class I adopted a project initiative to increase community awareness and volunteerism within the Arbor Glen community and sponsored a family day/health fair.
- ◇ Mr. Ed Tapscott, Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer for the Charlotte Bobcats/ Charlotte Sting was the keynote speaker for the 2003 Leadership Dinner. Partial proceeds from the event allowed underprivileged children complimentary admission to the Charlotte Sting games.
- ◇ The fourteen (14) members of *Class Two* graduated on June 25, 2004. Class II adopted a project initiative to increase awareness of current programs and strengthen membership for the McCrorey YMCA. Because of the success of this event, McCrorey YMCA requested this be an annual organizational outreach initiative.
- ◇ Mr. Patrick Cannon, City of Charlotte Mayor Pro-tem, was the keynote speaker for the 2004 Leadership Dinner.
- ◇ The twelve (12) members of *Class Three* graduated on June 30, 2005. Class III adopted a project initiative to establish a scholarship fund for students enrolled in the Criminal Justice Curriculum at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). A golf tournament was held In Memory Of Sargeant Rudy Torrence, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, in partnership with The North State Law Enforcement Officers Association.
- ◇ Dr. Dennis Kimbro, Author, professor, and motivational speaker was our keynote speaker for the 2005 Village Leader Award Banquet.
- ◇ Graduation for the ten (10) members of *Class Four* was held on June 10, 2006 during our 2006 Village Leader Award Banquet. The members of Class IV sponsored a Community Clean Up Day in the Wilson Heights Neighborhood.
- ◇ Mr. Anthony Foxx, Charlotte City Council Member At-Large, was our keynote speaker for the 2006 Village Leader Award Banquet.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS (CONT)

- ◇ The twelve (12) members of *Class V* graduated on Friday, June 29, 2007. Class Two adopted a project initiative to increase financial awareness and facilitated a "Financial Empowerment Seminar" on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The seminar included presentations on Budgeting & Saving, How to Buy Your 1st Home, Investing 101, and Investing in Real Estate.
- ◇ The first youth leadership program was initiated in 2007. The ten (10) members of our *2007 Youth Leadership Academy* graduated on Friday, June 29, 2007 along with Class V. The Youth Academy members adopted a project initiative to plant flowers and shrubs at the entrance sign for the Washington Heights Neighborhood.
- ◇ Monsignor Mauricio Wardell-Aaron West, Chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte was the keynote speaker for our 2007 Village Leader Award Banquet.
- ◇ Partnered with the Mecklenburg Voter Coalition on voter registration and education. FOFL sponsored voter registrations at the "For Sisters Only" Expo and Reeder Memorial Church. Additionally, FOFL performed canvassing and voter registration in the Little Rock Apartments, Southside Homes, Boulevard Homes and Arbor Glen communities.
- ◇ Partnered with Thomosboro Youth Council to facilitate training sessions for the teen participants on leadership responsibilities and opportunities for teens, and entrepreneurialship preparation.
- ◇ Partnered with Mecklenburg County Fighting Back to assist with various activities geared toward area youth during their Alcohol Awareness Month activities. Also served as judges for their 2006 and 2007 "Do The Right Thing" Youth Essay Contest.



Focus on Future Leaders, Inc.
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"VILLAGE LEADER OF THE YEAR" AWARD RECIPIENTS

2003

Ms. Madine Fails
Executive Director
Urban League of Central Carolinas

2004

Mr. Lawrence Toliver
Group VP / Community Development
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
(and)
Mrs. Tawana Wilson-Allen
Congressional Liaison
Congressman Melvin L. Watt

2005

Congressman Melvin L. Watt
12th Congressional District

2006

Mr. James Mitchell, Jr.
Charlotte City Council, District 2

2007

Ms. Judy H. Williams
Co-Founder
Mothers of Murdered Offspring (M.O.M.O.)

SPONSORS



SIRIUS NETWORKS



Focus On Future Leaders, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

For further information or to request a class application please contact:

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