

Community Women Against Hardship

E-Newsletter

January - June 2012/Volume 1,



Gloria Taylor, CWAH Executive Director on left, CWAH Board Member, Dr. Patrice Johnson on right.



Students from the Institute for the Advancement of Jazz Study and Performance performed with the legendary Willie Pickens, February 19, 2012, Jazz at the Bistro.



CWAH Walk for Life and Health Fair 2012 was well attended. Top left, Tina Wiley leads the way, top right Dr. Alex Harris and student from University Missouri – St Louis College of Optometry were on site, Kalimba Kindell and team provided massages and the children hula hooped their way to fitness.

THERE'S A NEW "DOC" ON BOARD!

DOCTOR Patrice Johnson Flips the Script on Domestic Abuse

Say hello – and *congratulations* – to CWAH's newest Board Member and recipient of a newly minted Doctorate of Philosophy, Leadership in Educational Administration – *DOCTOR* Patrice Johnson. Though she can now breathe the rarified air of the 1% of Americans who have research-based doctoral degrees, this Doctor is no stranger to hardship. Her dazzling smile and positive energy make it difficult to believe that the deep, dark sea of domestic abuse was once her home.

Despite the constant violence she experienced, including a separation from her St. Louis family, marriage and spousal abuse counseling, two hospitalizations and a miscarriage courtesy of her military husband, she stayed in the marriage. For Patrice, the possibility of her family finding out about the abuse and the embarrassment that she would feel were worse than the pain she suffered through. But they *did* find out . . . and pleaded with Patrice to leave her abuser. She didn't.

The beatings continued, and she continued working 10-hour days at McDonalds for \$3.15 an hour, until her husband, literally, delivered the final blow to the back of her head that "knocked some sense" into her. "I fought back so hard," she said, flashing her brilliant smile, "that if I hadn't left, I would have killed him. *He* was calling the police on *me!*"

The seed of her child and the seed of courage were growing simultaneously within her, and she moved back to St. Louis, filed for divorce and began attending college. Destitute but determined, she was referred by a mentor at her college to Gloria Taylor at CWAH, who provided housing, educational courses, food, clothing, furniture, and – most importantly – a mentorship and friendship that proved to be the final piece of a winning formula.

Today, *DOCTOR* Johnson is remarried, the mother of five wonderful children and CWAH's newest Board member. Her long-term goal is to open her own educational facility, focusing on building leadership skills in young children. Congratulations, *DOCTOR* Patrice Johnson! You have certainly turned hardship on its head.

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CWAH SELECTED FOR MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

CWAH is making history . . . the *Missouri History Museum*, that is!

“Gloria Taylor carries the long tradition of black women in service to the community,” says Gwen Moore, Curator of Urban Landscape and Community Identity for the Museum.

Ms. Taylor and her affiliations with the late Dr. Marguerite Ross Barnett, former chancellor of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and the late Betty J. Lee, CWAH’s co-founder, constituted a veritable triumvirate of incredible black women. Ms. Taylor is the only remaining survivor of the three women. Their connection intrigued Ms. Moore.

“I didn’t want that connection to be forgotten,” she said. “We need three-dimensional things as documentation of their contributions. Historians are now realizing the error of not documenting ‘things’ that place an emphasis on “visual, tangible artifacts and papers.”

Ms. Moore is currently collecting CWAH photos, newsletters and magazines—one of which is the national magazine *Traditional Homes*; in which Gloria Taylor was honored with the *Classic Woman Award*—for inclusion in the Museum’s library and research archives and, possibly, a future exhibit.

Following a somewhat lengthy process that could take up to a year, information on CWAH’s contributions and place in history will be available to researchers, students, writers, history buffs and the generally-curious around the world.

Ms. Moore also plans on doing a series of videotape interviews on CWAH. Herself an impressive figure, she has worked off and on for the Missouri History Museum since 1998 and is passionately committed to documenting the history of African-Americans in Missouri.

For more information on the Missouri History Museum, go to www.mohistory.org or contact Gwen Moore at 314/746-4539.,

Saturday Matinee at CWAH



Tuskegee Airmen Captain Christopher Newman, shares the real story with CWAH clients during a viewing of RED TAILS. (Pictured with Karen Thomas –Hall and family)

Tribute to John Coltrane

July 22, 2012

Jazz at the Bistro

Featuring Freddie Washington on sax, Jeff Anderson, bass, Jerome (Scrooge) Harris drums, Matt Villinger on piano and Anita Jackson, vocalist



Save the Date

October 21, 2012

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!!



Jazz In Pink

At The Sheldon

For ticket info visit www.cwah.org or call 314-289-7523

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CWAH is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

Our mission is to provide evidence-based programs and services to enable low to moderate income families struggling with poverty to become more self-sufficient.

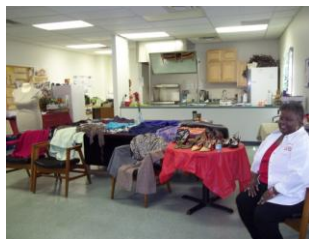


Fitness and Nutrition Instructor Gwen Swan educates families on healthy living.

Thanks to board member Sue Landis the Manchester United Methodist Church – Faith In Action Ministry lends a helping hand for CWAH’s transitional home.



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority St Louis Alumnae Chapter give Mom’s Time Out



People on the Move



Albert Marshall, bassist enjoys one last performance with students from the Institute of Jazz. He has been with CWAH from the beginning and is now college bound

Best Wishes Albert



CWAH Board celebrates Dr. Patrice Johnson on receiving her Doctorate Degree and congratulates Meredith Anderson, former board Vice President, on her new position with Federal Reserve Bank.

Dear Enviro-Friend

Community Women Against Hardship has just signed up to fundraise by recycling inkjet cartridges, cell phones and other small electronics with Planet Green. Most of us have these recyclable items sitting around our homes collecting dust and now you can recycle them and help us raise money at the same time.

Did you know? Over 2.5 million tons of e-waste ends up in landfills every year!

*Help us Raise Funds
by Recycling*



Only by working together can we make a difference.

This is our organization's website. To start raising funds, visit our website today!. www.planetgreenrecycle.com/communitywomenstl

Only by working together can we make a difference!

With Appreciation,

Gloria Taylor

Thank you Dr. Monica Stewart and team



PRAYER BREAKFAST

AUGUST 11, 2012



Dr. Rosalyn R. Nichols

**Co Founder/Executive Director
A More Excellent Way, Inc (AWAY)**

Saint Alphonsus Rock

1118 North Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63106

Visit www.cwah.org for more details or call (314) 289-7523



**Help keep our database current
CWAH will not share your information.**

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Remember the seeds we plant today, are the flowers we see tomorrow.