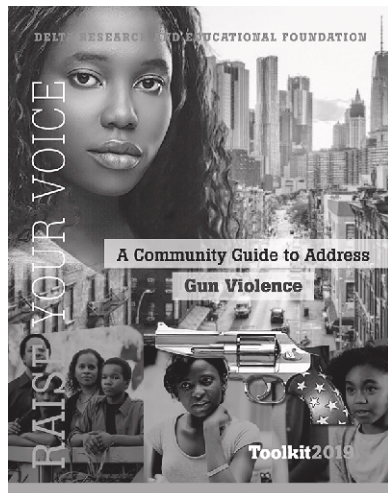


VOLUME TWENTY

Raise Your Voice against Gun Violence

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) urges community leaders throughout the nation to “Raise Your Voice against Gun Violence” by increasing advocacy work to create common sense prevention strategies. Creating a national conversation on how community-based organizations can take action to augment gun violence prevention in their local communities was the topic addressed at the 9th Annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones Social Justice Institute Forum presented by DREF at this year’s Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital (DD-NC) social action event. The 2019 STJ Forum panelists included Congresswoman



DREF published a toolkit on Gun Violence Prevention in March, 2019; toolkit available at www.deltafoundation.net

Robin Kelly (D-IL), who is a leading the effort for common sense reform on many levels; Rev. Dr. Leonard Hamlin, Sr., Canon Missioner at the Washington National Cathedral; Dr. Regina Davis Moss, Associate Executive Director at the American Public Health Association; and Teresa Younger, President of the Ms. Foundation. Delta Member Tracee Wilkins of NBC4 served as the panel moderator.

In addition to assembling a panel of experts committed to developing advocacy plans on gun violence prevention, DREF announced its publication of a toolkit entitled: “Raise Your
(Continued on page 2)

Connect with DREF at the 54th National Convention

The 54th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presents multiple opportunities to connect with the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF). Hear an update on DREF during a plenary session. Grasp an opportunity to learn more at the offered: 1) “Doing the Most: Fundraising for Chapter Programs” on Friday, July 12th 2) Education Equity Warriors: A Civil Rights Fight (DTEC-TAG); and 3) DREF Research Matters: Creating Possibilities to Achieve Health and Wellness for All of Us, both on Saturday, July 13th.

Visit the DREF informational display in the Exhibit Trade Show, where you will be able to make a charitable donation and receive the latest giving incentive items. The ever-popular DREF hand sanitizer will also be offered for a donation of any amount. The DREF Research Matters for All of Us Program will also have an informational display in the Exhibit Trade Show.

DTEC-TAG to Present Professional Development at CBCF Annual Legislative Weekend

The Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) and Teachers Advocating to lead Great change (TAG) will present at the 5th Annual Professional Development Series (PDS) as the kick-off program for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference on September 11, 2019 in Washington, D.C. This is the fourth year that DTEC, in collaboration with the American Federation of Teachers, has been invited to



DTEC trained educators participated in the final training session of the TAG Policy Institute on April 5-7, 2019 in Washington, DC. (PHOTO BY TAYLOR DENT)

facilitate the PDS for educators and key stakeholders. Educators throughout the nation are urged to attend PDS workshops, where they will learn how to effectively advocate for the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) in their local school districts.

For the past two years, DTEC-TAG has engaged more than 12,500 individuals through training, presentations, town

(Continued on page 4)

Greetings from the DREF President

Dear DREF Supporter:

Extending greetings to you in this summer edition of the FRONT Page Newsletter is particularly special because I have the opportunity of thanking you for being a DREF supporter as well as welcoming you to my hometown of New Orleans. As the city's reputation proclaims its notoriety of exceptional cultural institutions, world-class cuisine, and a night-life like no other, I wholeheartedly concur that the Big Easy is a fun and exciting place to reside and visit! In addition to your participation in the 54th National Convention of our grand and glorious Sisterhood, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., I hope that you will explore my hometown and enjoy a few local pleasures like having a Po-Boy sandwich or charbroiled oysters, have Beignets with your coffee, take a stroll through the French Quarter, or check out the art work of our many talented artists (visual or performing). You will be inspired!

As we take care of business at convention, I encourage you to connect with DREF to find out how you or your chapter can collaborate with the Foundation to *Create Possibilities to Improve the Lives of African American Women and their families.*



Carolyn E. Lewis
PHOTO BY IMAGINE
PHOTOGRAPHY

Thanks to our faithful supporters, donors, volunteers, staff, and leadership, DREF made notable progress in the past biennium (2017-19) as we forged ahead to impact health and education for African Americans. It has been rewarding to promote the DREF Research Matters for *All of Us* program, emphasizing to African Americans the importance of biomedical research in shaping the future of health care. The DTEC-TAG initiative has made great inroads in preparing educators to be advocates for the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) to gain equity in education in six states. DREF continues to *Raise its Voice* as it urges communities throughout America to engage in a national dialogue about gun violence prevention. We are moving forward into the new biennium (2019-21) with these important matters: health, education, and gun violence prevention at the top of the DREF agenda.

I would like to offer my profound gratitude to my fellow DREF Board of Directors for their commitment, generosity, and their leadership in being a major resource to the Foundation. We are starting the new biennium with two new DREF Board members; please join me in welcoming Doris Gray Brown, a member of Baton Rouge Delta

Americans comprise 14 percent of the U.S. population, yet they are victims of more than half of all gun homicides.

The "Raise Your Voice" toolkit outlines advocacy tactics, prevention information, and strategies to educate and engage youth and other age groups in developing common sense, practical activities to address gun violence and related issues.



DREF Sister Scholars welcome Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-IL) to 2019 STJ Forum: (L-R) Dr. Tchicaya Robertson, Congresswoman Kelly, DREF President Lewis, and Nikisha Horn. (PHOTO BY RODNEY CHOICE)

Alumnae Chapter and a Senior Executive with the Louisiana Health Department, and Steven V. Hunter, Esq. with the Quarles & Brady Law Firm in Chicago.

Enjoy your visit to New Orleans and *laissez les bon temps rouler!* (let the good times roll!)

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn E. Lewis
DREF President

The **FRONT PAGE** is published periodically by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) to report news and information about its programs, activities, and fundraising efforts. The newsletter is distributed nationally to donors, partners, and supporters of the Foundation. DREF is located at 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-347-1337; www.deltafoundation.net

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Bethune-Cookman Student Selected as 2019 STJ Intern

The 2019 Stephanie Tubbs Jones (STJ) Summer Intern is Mara Brody, a rising senior at Bethune-Cookman University, located in Daytona Beach, FL. A resident of St. Petersburg, FL, Mara is an international studies major and has a minor concentration in homeland security and political science. She has been assigned to complete the eight-week, congressional summer internship in the Office of Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett (D-VI).



Mara Brody

As a collegiate at Bethune-Cookman University, Mara is involved in numerous co-curricular activities and is noted for being a student-athlete. She serves on the campus Judicial Court, in the National Society for Leadership and Success, the Student Government Association, and the Political Science Club. She is also a member of the University's Women's Softball Team.

The STJ Internship is presented by DREF in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF).

DREF Research Matters for All of US

DREF recently completed its second year of outreach activities of a three-year period as a national community engagement partner of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *All of Us* Research Program. Through the initiative, *DREF Research Matters: Creating Possibilities to Achieve Health and Wellness for All of Us*, the Foundation, has created awareness and educated African Americans about the importance of biomedical research in closing the health disparity gap and shaping a better future for health care.



DREF Research Matters at Columbia, SC Expo event, May 2019.

DREF, and its collaborative partners: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women, has conducted 109 outreach activities, resulting in 358,478 persons being reached, approximately 45,715 persons engaged, and 38,822 persons referred to NIH for enrollment in the *One in a Million Campaign*.

The NIH *One in a Million* effort aims to enroll one million individuals of diverse backgrounds in its national database. The outreach activities have occurred primarily in the 12 designated cities: Albuquerque, NM; Birmingham, AL; Columbia, SC; Durham, NC; Greensboro, NC; Greenville, SC; Houston, TX; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; New Orleans, LA; Portland, OR; and Sacramento.

Moving into the third-year of bringing awareness and information to African American communities about the *All of Us* Research Program, DREF seeks volunteer ambassadors to promote the program in the communities in the 12 designated cities listed above. To get involved, visit the DREF Research Matters informational display in the 54th National Convention Exhibit Trade Show or send an email to researchmatters@deltafoundation.net. For more information, visit: www.joinallofus.org/DREF.

NIH awarded DREF \$308,504 for two consecutive fiscal years of a three-year period.

Support DREF with a tax-deductible gift. Donate at www.deltafoundation.net

D E V E L O P M E N T N E W S

DREF Fund Raiser at Lord & Taylor

DREF held a shopping fundraiser event at Lord & Taylor Department Store on Sunday, March 10th to coincide with the 30th Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital. Held at the Chevy Chase store location, the fundraiser began with a fashion show commentated by Delta member



DREF Board Members with fashion show participants (L-R): Yanique O. Moore, Micheline Bowman, featured model, DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis, DST National Second VP Jaria Martin, and featured model/additional commentator. (PHOTO BY RODNEY CHOICE)

Micheline Bowman, media professional, and featured DST National Second Vice President Jaria Martin, who is also a DREF Board member, as one of the models. Following the fashion show, Delta members had the opportunity to experience private shopping hours as the store was closed to the general public. The Lord & Taylor fundraiser was coordinated by Yanique O. Moore, DREF Board member. The store will donate upwards of \$2,500 to DREF as proceeds from the shopping event.

CFC and Workplace Giving

Contribute to DREF with ease and consistency...consider Workplace Giving! Federal employees are able to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which enables them to donate to the 501 (c)(3) charity of their choice via automatic

payroll deduction. Make DREF your choice when the CFC registration season opens in early fall of 2019. All you need is the desire to give and the DREF **CFC Number which is 11213**. Many CFC contributors express that giving to DREF via automatic payroll deduction is effortless and the funds are not missed because it is automatically done each pay period. Several state employment systems also offer automatic payroll deduction for charitable donations.

In the private sector, employees can also utilize Workplace Giving by simply making a call, visit, or sending an email to their Human Resources Department requesting to enroll in automatic charitable giving. If DREF is not on the company's list, you can request that it be added. Contact DREF office if you need more information about Workplace Giving.

Congratulations to the 2019-20 Community Empowerment Grant Awardees

DREF is pleased to announce that the following chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have been selected to receive a Community Empowerment Grant for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The grant award letters and agreement will be mailed to chapters in August 2019. Once the correspondence is received, the chapter president must sign the grant agreement form and return to DREF; this will generate grant award check disbursement.

The application process for the Annual Community Empowerment Grantmaking Program opens the second week in November and closes with a deadline date during the third week of March in the following year.

Congratulations to the 31 winning chapters!

Baton Rouge Sigma (AL) Alumnae
Bayou Lafourche (LA) Alumnae
Boston (MA) Alumnae
Bronx (NY) Alumnae
Central Arkansas (AR) Alumnae
Compton (CA) Alumnae

Delta Eta (University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff)
Epsilon Tau (Bronx and Manhattan, NY Citywide)
Fairfax County (VA) Alumnae
Foothill (CA) Alumnae
Gadsden County (AL) Alumnae
Hall County (GA) Alumnae
Hawaii Alumnae
Jacksonville (FL) Alumnae
Marietta-Roswell (GA) Alumnae
Memphis (TN) Alumnae
New Haven (CT) Alumnae
New Orleans (LA) Alumnae
Quaker City (PA) Alumnae
San Fernando Valley (CA) Alumnae
North Tangipahoa Area (LA) Alumnae
San Francisco Peninsula (CA) Alumnae
Slidell (LA) Alumnae
South Middlesex (MA) Alumnae
St. Petersburg (FL) Alumnae
Tampa (FL) Alumnae
Tri-County (MD) Alumnae
Valley Forge (PA) Alumnae
Walterboro (SC) Alumnae
Warner Robbins (GA) Alumnae
Xi Tau (Boston, MA Citywide)

DTEC-TAG

(Continued from page 1)

halls and other events. The TAG program was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2017 with a two-year award for education policy advocacy work to increase awareness and educate stakeholders about ESSA in six pilot areas: DC-MD-VA, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. TAG assembled a team of 35 trained DTEC change agents from the pilot areas and trained them through three TAG Policy Institutes, hosted at Delta Sigma Theta Sorority National Headquarters in April 2018, October 2018 and April 2019. Virtual training was also provided on three webinars between August 2017 and January 2019.

TAG Teams have recently completed a variety of activations through demonstration projects in collaboration with local DST chapters and other community organizations. There are current activations occurring with additional events scheduled through September 2019 in all pilot areas. To sign up for the monthly DTEC-TAG newsletter, please complete the following link bit.ly/TAGUrIT.

DREF Grantee Presents HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop

The Quaker City Alumnae (PA) was awarded a \$1,000 DREF Community Empowerment Grant during the previous fiscal year (2018-19) to conduct an HIV/AIDS prevention program. The Chapter presented the program entitled, "Empowering Our Youth: HIV/AIDS Education+Prevention," at the Valley Youth Center, where awareness and prevention



Quaker City (PA) Alumnae members and program facilitators (L-R): Tracey Carter, Leslie Cousin Mond, Beverly Grice, Blake Rowley of Gilead Sciences (featured speaker), Annie Lecluse (youth counselor), Deborah McAllister, Brittney Johnson, and Arlette George.

information was presented 14-24 year olds. The youth residing at Valley Youth House are in or aging out of foster care. In addition to hearing presentations about HIV/AIDS prevention, sexual health, treatment options and living with AIDS, the youth received backpacks filled with toiletries, gift cards and other treats. Shawn Anthony is chapter president.

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