



VOLUME ELEVEN

## 2009 Annual Giving Campaign: Support The Delta Foundation

**T**hank you to the contributors to this fiscal year's Annual Giving Campaign. For those persons who have not yet sent in their contribution, it's not too late to do so. Be a part of the 2008-09 giving campaign by sending in your contribution before June 30, 2009.

Donations to the Delta Research and Educational Foundation support the Center for Research on African American Women, endowment funds, scholarship funds, disaster relief, public service grants, research initiatives and the programmatic thrust of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

"Your investment creates possibilities and improves lives of African American women, their families, and our global communities...your generosity ensures that The Delta Foundation continues to affirm its founding mission," said Dr. Alison J. Harmon, president of the Foundation.

The Delta Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Contribution checks can be mailed to the Foundation or make your donation online: [www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net).

## Workshops at Regional Conference

**T**he Delta Foundation has several workshops planned for the various regional conferences being presented this summer by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Foundation, in collaboration with the Sorority's National Arts and Letters Commission, will launch its National Reading Circle at the Southern Regional Conference in Huntsville, AL June 25-28, 2009.

The National Reading Circle, a program under the auspices

of the Foundation's Center for Research on African American Women, will debut with Paula J. Giddings, award-winning author and professor at Smith College, as the featured author. Paula will give a talk about her latest work, *IDA: A Sword Among Lions* (Harper Collins, 2008), a biography on Ida B. Wells and the anti-lynching movement. The reading circle will also be presented at the Central,

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*Conversation with Congresswomen (L-R): Madeliene H. Dobbins, Esq., director of The Delta Foundation; Barbara Walker, chapter president of Greater Cleveland Alumnae and sister of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones; The Honorable Donna Edwards, Yvette Clark, Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Congresswomen; April D. Ryan, White House News Correspondent; and Dr. Alison J. Harmon, president of The Delta Foundation. (Photo by Marvin T. Jones)*

## Foundation Presents Conversation with Congresswomen

**T**he Delta Research and Educational Foundation (The Delta Foundation) presented a special political awareness program entitled "Coffee and Conversation with Our Congresswomen" on March 2, 2009 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. The program was held in collaboration with the Social Action Commission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and its 20th Annual "Delta Days in the Nation's Capital" legislative conference. More than 1,000 guests were afforded the opportunity to hear conversational dialogue, addressing political issues and legislative affairs,

from three U.S. Congresswomen: Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY), Donna Edwards (D-MD), and Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH). Keeping the dialogue flowing was program moderator, April D. Ryan, White House News correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks.

Delta Foundation President Alison J. Harmon, Ed.D., stated that the program was presented to provide a platform where African American women could hear directly from female congressional representatives—without a mass media filter—about weathering the current eco-

(Continued on page 2)

# Greetings from the President

Dear Supporters of The Delta Foundation:

As we wrap up this fiscal year, I look forward to the incoming year with excitement and much anticipation. The next fiscal year, 2009-10, will be the culminating year of our 40th anniversary fund raising campaign. With your steadfast support and generosity, we have made great strides. In this past year (2008-09), we have received several major gifts and garnered a substantial number of brand new donors.

The anniversary campaign, as well as our Annual Fund campaign, keeps right on growing, enabling us to augment our support of charitable programming.

To keep the Foundation progressing toward its fund raising goals, we invite



Dr. Alison J. Harmon

you to continue on the journey with us. If you desire to make an even greater financial contribution to the Foundation, please consider establishing a Giving Circle in your community, in your Delta chapter, or among your circle of friends. It's a very easy way to make a substantial contribution to the 40th Anniversary Campaign. Let's make this last fund raising year of the campaign,

one for the record books. Or, if you are considering a first time donation to the Foundation, we enthusiastically welcome your donation. It will make a significant contribution to assisting us with advancing our mission.

This year we were able to increase our grantmaking by presenting awards to more Delta chapters (alumnae and collegiate) and to local community based organizations for programs benefiting African American women and their families. It is with great pride that The Delta Foundation awarded a grant to the Greater Cleveland Delta Foundation Life Development Center for its Stephanie Tubbs Jones Government Leadership Institute. The Institute will encourage and prepare young women for careers in public service. We are very pleased to uphold the legacy of Congresswoman Tubbs Jones and be a part of empowering young women.

Have a good summer.

Sincere regards,  
Alison J. Harmon, Ed.D.  
President

## Conversation with Our Congresswomen

(Continued from page 1)

conomic decline, ensuring quality education for youth, and how to impact the legislation presented during the 111th Congress that benefit America's communities.

The congresswomen gave updates on legislation from their respective committee assignments and answered question from the audience. Congresswoman Clarke is a member of three House committees and two subcommittees within each committee: Education and Labor, Homeland Security, and Small Business. A woman of Caribbean heritage who represents New York's 11 Congressional District, she passionately expressed that she aims to bring great sensibility and sensitivity to persons immigrating to America. Congresswoman Donna Edwards of Fort Washington, MD, represents Maryland's 4th Congressional District. She currently serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Science and Technology Committee and three sub-

committees within those committees. Congresswoman Edwards encouraged Deltas to learn about the numerous job opportunities that may be created by the "greening of America" (conservation). Congresswoman Fudge, representing Ohio's 11th Congressional District, is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the Science and Technology Committee. A past national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a former National Co-Chair of the Social Action Commission, Congresswoman Fudge urged the Delta Days participants to seek funds from the Recovery Act to help improve their local communities.

The announcement establishing the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Institute for Social Change was also made by Dr. Harmon at the "Conversation" program. The Foundation presented a video tribute to Congresswoman Tubbs Jones who died in 2008.

The **FRONT PAGE** is published by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation several times a year to report news and information about its programs, activities, and fund raising efforts. The publication is distributed nationally to donors, partners, and supporters of the Foundation; circulation typically totals 2,500 per issue. The office is located at 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-347-1337.

[www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net)

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**Delta Research and  
Educational Foundation:  
Creating Possibilities...  
Improving Lives**

**The Delta Foundation CFC Number is 11213**



## Midland (MI) Alumnae Chapter Marks Milestone by Helping Local Non-Profits

Celebrating its milestone 25th anniversary in the Midland, Michigan community, the Midland (MI) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. honored its theme “25 Years of Sharing and Caring” by donating \$2,500 each to thirteen selected non-profit organizations.



Midland Alumnae Chapter members: seated (L-R): Delois Leapheart, Kimberly Houston-Philpot, Anita H. Jenkins, Mauri Schoby, Wesley Spells; standing (L-R): Jacqueline Leapheart, Linda Holoman, Nikita Murry, Ayana Haynes, Wanda Stringfield, Gezelle Myers, and Barbara Taylor; not pictured Erica Burley. (Photo by Jacqueline Leapheart)

These organizations included:

- Adoption Option, Inc.
- American Heart Association of Midland County
- Camp Fire USA – Midland County Council
- Family and Children Services
- Family Life Radio
- Midland Area Community Foundation \* MLK Scholarship
- Midland Center for the Arts – Midland Historical Society
- Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network \* Backpack Buddies Program
- Midland County ESA \*Imagination Library
- Pregnancy Resource Center of Mid-Michigan
- Salvation Army of Midland County
- Shelter House Women’s Shelter
- The Open Door Rescue Mission

The Chapter made the check presentations during a reception on Sunday, May 31. Leading the silver anniversary celebration was Anita H. Jenkins, chapter president, and committee co-chairs, Mauri Schoby and Wesley Spells.

The Midland Alumnae Chapter was chartered on March 17, 1984 and has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships and book awards to local high school students over the past 25 years. Since 1997, Midland Alumnae has used the Charitable Giving Service of The Delta Foundation to manage its charitable dollars, particularly the scholarship fund and grant awards. “Because of our long term relationship, your charitable donations have resulted in a greater return for investing in your community. We salute you for giving back to the community, in dollars and sense. This is an awesome gesture to commemorate 25 years of service,” stated Dr. Alison J. Harmon, president of The Delta Foundation.

## Foundation Establishes Sister Scholars’ Advisory Council for Research Center

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation recently established the Sister Scholars’ Advisory Council to provide counsel for the Center for Research on African American Women (The Center). The first meeting of the Council was held on April 24th at The Center, located at the Foundation office in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. National Headquarters complex. The meeting was chaired by Julie Richie, Foundation board of directors member who chairs the program planning and research committee.

The Center was established in 1997 by the Foundation and the Sorority to serve as a resource center and repository to



Sister Scholars’ Advisory Council: in front on left Dr. Darlene Clark Hine and on right Dr. Ramla Bandele; back row L-R: Dr. Elizabeth Clark Lewis, Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes, and Dr. Cynthia Neverdon-Morton. (Photo by Sharon C. Farmer)



Cultures of Giving: Raising Funds for Delta’s Programs—The fund raising trainers met this spring in Washington, D.C. to prepare for upcoming workshops at regional conferences and in local communities, where Delta chapters are located. Want to learn how to raise funds to create social change in your community? Schedule a Cultures of Giving Fund Raising training session in your city. Contact your regional trainer or The Delta Foundation office. Pictured L-R: Gloria R. Williams (FW), Madeliene H. Dobbins, Esq. (EA), Minnjuan Flournoy (SA), Cheryl Turner (SO), Carol A. Weir (CE), Theresa Loveless (CE), and Deborah Peaks Coleman (EA). Not pictured: Sheila Ogilvie (EA), Danyale Ellis (MW), Carolyn Grant (SW), Cristina Rogers (MW), and Racquel Robinson (FW). (Photo by Sharon Farmer)

examine the complex factors influencing African American women’s lives. Research findings have been released through the Center’s Annual Forum or published in The Center’s scholarly journal.

Delta Foundation President Alison J. Harmon identified African American women scholars who would lend their expertise to moving The Center’s agenda forward. Attending the first meeting of the Council and having agreed to serve as a Sister Scholar are Dr. Ramla Bandele, a political economist at Indiana University-Purdue University; honorary Delta member, Dr. Darlene Clark Hine, professor of African American Studies and history at Northwestern University; and Delta members: Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, professor of history at Howard University; Dr. Cynthia Neverdon-Morton, professor of history at Coppin State University; and Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes, assistant professor of sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University. Two additional Delta members agreeing to serve on the Council, but were unable to attend the meeting were Paula J. Giddings of Smith College and Dr. Mary Frances Berry of the University of Pennsylvania.

# Director's Memorandum

**TO:** Supporters of The Delta Foundation

**FROM:** Madeliene H. Dobbins, Esq.  
*Director*

Local chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and community organizations that share similar goals and missions as those of the Sorority, and The Delta Foundation are invited to apply for the annual

program grant awards. The local community organizations (non-Delta Chapters) that apply must have the 501 (c)(3) status, granted by the Internal Revenue Service. Program grants up to \$1,000 will be awarded.

While we understand the critical need for direct services, The Delta Foundation



*Madeliene H. Dobbins, Esq.*

supports community service-based programs. During fiscal year 2008-09, 18 program grants were awarded: 12 Delta chapters and 6 community organizations. Delta chapters and collaborative partners (community organizations) are encouraged to submit grant applications.

The grant application and guidelines will be posted on the Foundation's website ([www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net)) beginning July 1, 2009. The deadline for submitting the application is October 1, 2009.

Applicants must address one or more elements of the Sorority's Five-Program Thrusts in their grant request, clearly stating how the proposed project will impact issues affecting African American women and their families. The programmatic thrusts include: Economic Development; Educational Development; International Awareness and Involvement; Physical and Mental Health; and Political Awareness and Involvement.

## Workshops at Regional Conference

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Midwest, South Atlantic, and Southwest Regional Conferences. Start reading *IDA* now, it's a voluminous, landmark work.

Want to learn how to raise funds to create social change in your community? Attend the workshop, *Raising Funds for Delta's Programs and Projects* at the Eastern, Farwest, and South Atlantic Regional Conferences. The fund raising training curriculum was made possible by a generous grant to The Delta Foundation from the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Regional Conference participants in the Farwest, South Atlantic, and Southwest Regions will have an opportunity to attend a workshop dedicated to planned giving, where they will learn about charitable giving as it relates to wills, trusts, and estates.



### **Delta Research and Educational Foundation**

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