

by Marie Moore

"Continue believing with all our hearts in the worth of African-Americans. We believe in the struggle towards victory, and we are living examples of persevering with faith in our hearts."

When the Reverend Al Sharpton snatched the steak knife plunged in his chest two inches from his heart five years ago in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, he no doubt was struck with a sense of faith and continued belief that his time was not over. He had much more work to do in the struggle to be victorious over all his adversaries and staunch

IMANI Faith

opponents of freedom for all.

Cornell West once said he was always impressed by Sharpton's perseverance and courage. Sharpton told a group of students at John Marshall High School in Rochester several years ago, "Everything I always tried to do, they laughed at. That laughter made me harder. You have to believe in yourself and stand by yourself and trust yourself. Ignorance is easy. It's easy to talk bad. The hard thing is to try to lift yourself up."

When one prominent former elected official dismissed Sharpton's political prospects during the

senatorial race, by saying that the next generation of Black leaders will come through more traditional political backgrounds, those words soon came back to haunt him.

The support that Sharpton received from that election has been the impetus making him run for mayor.

This struggle of Sharpton began in the crib when he was a newborn in the hospital: "I yelled when I was wet I yelled when all those little Black bourgeois babies stayed dignified and quiet. I learned before I got out of the maternity ward that you've got to holler like hell sometimes to get what you want." ▲

YOUTH LISTINGS

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." - Malcolm X

The following is a list of national organizations that are supportive to our youth nationwide. You can help! - JOIN - DONATE - or - VOLUNTEER -



Photo by Images On Demand

Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001 - (202) 628-8787

Nat'l Assoc. of Police Athletic Leagues
200 Castlewood Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408 - (407) 884-1823

Nat'l Youth Employment Coalition
1001 Connecticut Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20009 - (202) 659-1064

Nat'l Black Youth Leadership
250 West 54th Street
New York, NY 10019 - (212) 541-7600

Advocates For Youth
1025 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005 - (202) 347-5700

Big Brother Big Sister of America
230 North 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107 - (215) 567-7000

Boys and Girls Club of America
1230 West Peach Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30309 - (404) 815-5700

The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development
65 Cadillac Square
Detroit, MI 48226 - (313) 965-0606

City Kids Foundation
57 Leonard Street
New York, NY 10013 - (212) 925-3320

Girls, Inc.
30 East 33rd Street
New York, NY 10016 - (212) 689-3700

Jackie Robinson Foundation
3 West 35th Street
New York, NY 10001 - (212) 290-8600

I Have a Dream Foundation
300 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10001 - (212) 736-1730

Black Family and Children's Services
2323 North Third Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004 - (602) 256-2948

Harambee Services to Black Families
1468 East 55th Street
Cleveland, OH 44103 - (216) 391-7044

Harlem Downing Children's Services
2090 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.
New York, NY 10027 - (212) 749-3656

Homes for Black Children
3131 East 38th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46218 - (317) 545-5281

Institute for Black Parenting
9920 La Cienega Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90301
(310) 348-1400/(800) 367-8858

North Carolina Friends of Black Children
610 West Main Street
Sanford, NC 27330 - (919) 733-9296

Black Adoption Consortium
5090 Central Highway#6
Pennsauken, NJ 08109 - (609) 486-0100

Black Adoption Placement
506 15th Street
Oakland, CA 94612 - (510) 839-3678

The Children's Aid Society
105 East 22nd Street
New York, NY 10016 - (212) 949-4800 ▲

MATEL "Matt" DAWSON

The Living Spirit of Kwanzaa



Matel Dawson being honored at the National Urban League Awards dinner for his compassion and generosity.

Recently, the Urban League honored Matel Dawson, Jr., a man who is the quintessence of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa. His unselfish acts of generosity and compassion are more than deserving of the awards and accolades currently being bestowed upon him. His story is remarkable.

Matel "Matt" Dawson, Jr.'s favorite pastime is giving away money. Mr. Dawson, 75, a salaried worker for the Ford Motor Company for the past 56

years, has given away more than \$800,000 to colleges, universities, churches and individuals. The United Negro College Fund; his church in Detroit, the People's Community Church; his family's church in his native Shreveport, LA; the Damon J. Keith Collection of African-American Legal History at Wayne State University; the NAACP and various community colleges have benefitted from his generosity.

Last Spring, Mr. Dawson, who quit school in the ninth grade to help support his family, donated \$200,000 to Wayne State University to fund four-year scholarships for three students a year. The Matel "Matt" Dawson Jr. Endowed Scholarship will be awarded without regard to race, gender or religion. "I'm just delighted to be in a position to contribute to higher education," Mr. Dawson said when the university announced the gift, and awarded him with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. "I did all this by the grace of God and the Ford Motor Co." Mr. Dawson said he chose Wayne State because it's in his transplanted home of Detroit and is a growing university with a diverse student population.

Mr. Dawson has credited his parents, the late Matel Dawson, Sr. and Bessie Hall Dawson, with instilling in him the need to be industrious. To honor them, he has established a \$100,000 scholarship in their names at Louisiana State University to benefit three black students and three white students every year.

Mr. Dawson claims there's no magic to his having amassed a small fortune; this accomplishment is a direct result of working an abundance of overtime as a rigger with the power operations division of Ford and a good investment sense.

The communities and organizations that matter most to him will continue to receive his support as long as he remains healthy. "I'll take my money and do what I do - invest it in people."

We at Amalgamated Publishers Inc., hope that the actions of a hero of Mr. Dawson's magnitude will inspire the "Matel Dawson" that lives within us all. We wish each and everyone of you a Happy Kwanzaa. ▲