

# 100

## BLACK MEN OF GREATER DETROIT, INC.

### **2010 President's Message**

#### **Be Proud But Not Satisfied!**

While 2009 was a very difficult and challenging year for many of us, both personally and professionally, I'm confident that we all have several things we can point to with pride and be proud of how, 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit, in such vexing times, were able to accomplish important tasks or just survive 2009 in order to do battle in 2010!

As I look back on 2009, in order to look forward in 2010, there are many positive things we accomplished for the greater good that I believe we should feel proud about, yet not satisfied with, because we have so much more to accomplish in 2010 and beyond.

We should feel proud about the fact that we mentored and made a difference in the lives of over 20 young men at Southeastern High School through our Project Success Program, where for over 16 weeks we regularly exposed these young men to examples of excellence, hard work, integrity and the basic tenets of manhood. Additionally, we exposed them to possibilities of achieving their dreams through our trip with them to our national convention in NYC and their visit to places and events like the Apollo Theatre and other Harlem landmarks, experiencing the Lion King show on Broadway and many other cultural events. Yes we should be proud but not satisfied because we should be able to reach more and do more for more Southeastern students.

We should feel proud about the fact that through our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Oratorical Contest with high school seniors from Detroit Public Schools, we made available to more than sixty students over \$140,000 in scholarships, cash awards and book allowances. Yes we should be proud but not satisfied because we should be able to reach more and do more for students throughout our community.

We should feel proud about the fact that with our First College Symposium, we had over 600 parents and students register and attend this forum that explained to both students and parents what colleges are looking for in students, how and when to apply for college, how to pay for college and what type of financial resources are available to assist students and their families. Yes we should be proud but not satisfied because we should be able to reach more and do more for students and families throughout our community.

We should feel proud about the fact that we partnered with the American Cancer Society, Michigan Department of Health and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to reach out into the community to raise awareness and encourage African American men to get tested for prostate cancer via our "Man Up, Let's Talk Health" campaign. We should feel proud that we had over 250 people participate in our event hosted by the Detroit Lions at Ford Field to educate and provide testing to members of our community.

Yes we should be proud but not satisfied because we should be able to reach more and do more for students and families throughout our community.

We should feel proud about the fact that through our Adopt a Family program we provided 14 families from Southeastern High School with \$150 in grocery purchases from Detroit's only full service African American grocery store, Metro Foodland, and an additional \$300 Visa gift card to celebrate the holiday season. Yes we should be proud but not satisfied because we should be able to reach more and do more for families throughout our community.

We should feel proud about the fact that we conducted (8) financial literacy classes via our GMAC SmartEdge program with (280) participants in order to increase their financial skills, knowledge and confidence in these very challenging times. Yes we should be proud but not satisfied because we should be able to reach more and do more for families throughout our community.

So while we should feel very proud of our many accomplishments for 2009 we should not be satisfied because so much more remains to be done in 2010 and beyond. The 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit stands ready, stands committed and proud yet not satisfied and will continue our efforts to make 2010 a better year for the students and families we support.

We thank you for your confidence and we welcome your continued support in these efforts.

William K. Middlebrooks

President 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit