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# AAASM *Diary*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SINGLE MOTHERS

## When will we stand up!?

We have the lowest test scores of all school age children across America, the highest rates of incarceration, death and murder among males for any one race of people across America and the highest out of wedlock births across America. Blacks are the proud owners of the highest percentages of HIV and AIDS while Brothers on the Down-Low and we keep that quite but yet we tell Gay people they cannot marry. There is a sickness in our Blackness! When will we demand change from within?

As a single mother of three children, I worked diligently to reinforce the importance of family, education, identifying with and respecting your Blackness as a part of your strength. I have only seen those concepts counted as meaningless today. These were the concepts my mother and father raised me and my ten brothers and sisters under in the 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's (there were 11 of us) and we all have Bachelors degrees or higher with the exception of our seriously disabled sister. I think those principles worked! But better than that, my Father taught us the beauty in our Blackness. He taught us how being of African descent was a bonus for us and not something negative like the world would like to make us think. Our Blackness gave us strength; our Blackness gave us style and will forever be a symbol of overcoming life's adversity.

I now find myself in 2009 having to teach myself and my two sons to cope with a public school system that treats them like future criminals instead of future scholars. My experience with my daughter is less than encouraging. I failed in trying to convince her to put herself first in relationships and to respect and honor herself first. This has only ended with the creation of my grandson Elijah last summer at the hand of some character she met over the internet. She bought into the perception that an electronic relationship is a real relationship. And my children, one out of wedlock, two while married are all the proud recipients of deadbeat dads out making other children they cannot pay for.

This is a fight that is too overwhelming for any one Black organization to correct and one that will take a deeper understanding of who we are in order to win. We must gain a deeper understanding of our true history and the many that came before us who died in an effort to win equality for our generation. I hate to think we have reduced the lives of MLK Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and many others to the ability to freely disrespect ourselves as long as we make money. As long as we have the ability to park a Chrysler 300 in the stall of our apartment complex while dressing our illegitimate infant child in a pair of Jordan's or call ourselves Minister Pastor or Reverend while leading groups of people to nowhere, we are living the American Dream. Equally as much, Dr. King did not die so we could get our degree, buy that big house and Beemer or maybe two and then turn our nose up to our own family member or other Black person who may be less well off than we, without extending a hand. Oh and the incredible amount of "hatin'" that goes on between us really needs to stop! That kind of divisiveness just feeds into the plans of those who wish to destroy us!

This fight should have been over years ago, we are the oldest minority in America and the worse off! When I was just a child, Black people were given over to the devices of Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow Coalition of Pimps and we were asked to call them our leaders. We were also asked to celebrate some meaningless made up holiday called Kwanza (did I spell it right?) that has no significance to anyone or any of the struggles Blacks face as Black Americans. And what Negro's do the NAACP advance? Those who would advance anyway? What is the name of the organization that helps the helpless, hopeless Negro's advance? I guess as long as Oprah keeps the weight off and prominent Black males keep getting caught being stupid (not to mention the millions of just regular Black men and boys getting caught daily being stupid), all is good and as expected in the Black community. Blacks in America are viewed, portrayed and treated like America's garbage, especially our men and boys.

Black people have to stand up for other Black people. Wealthy Black people have to stand up for poor Black people, educated Black people have to stand up for and educate uneducated Black people, young Black people have to stand up for and help old Black people. Black people who live their lives with integrity and character must find and teach those who do not. Black fathers who are active in the lives of their children must explain the importance of that to a Black man who is not. Hard Brothers out there need to protect the weak Brothers and teach them to be strong. It is not enough that there is now a Black President but it surely is a wonderful tool to use as motivation for Blacks all over the country to put a plan in place to change the perceptions of Blacks in America. Be that person in your home, your neighborhood and at your job who agrees to live life in a manner that demands respect. Do it for yourself but most importantly for Black children.

Reach out to Black people with the most need. Go to low income neighborhoods and talk to the people and treat them with respect, go to the prisons and meet those men who are soon to be released and see what you can do to help them stay out and be productive when they come out. Help an incarcerated mother deal with her children on the outside if she has that need. Help a single mom in your neighborhood or go visit that old Black lady that lives across from you and take her some food. That would mean the world to each life you touch and even more in your own, take it from me. If you feel you cannot do these things on your own, please come join me!

The lives of our great leaders were not meaningless. I was born in 1964. I was that child Dr. King dreamed about and so were you. His struggle was for the benefit of Black people first and people everywhere second and that must be remembered. Our leaders gave their lives trying to take us forward and we have slipped so far backward without really knowing or seemingly caring about it. We should be more successful as a group than we are. Remember that your Blackness is your strength! Please do all that you can do to change the perception of Blacks in America. We all must care.

Stacey F. Johnson, Executive Director  
The Association of African American Single Mothers



This program is available to anyone living in Sacramento who has a need. We will deliver a food box to you weekly. We delivery to various locations throughout Sacramento and all we ask is a \$5.00 donation to cover the cost of gas for our volunteers. Each box contains food and personal items and has a value of over \$50.00 worth of product.

### COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PROGRAMS

As a 44 year old African American I am constantly confused as to why as the oldest minority in America, we are the worst off of all the races. It simply makes no sense to me. I have tried for many years now as the leader of this organization to bring that to the attention of many African Americans, from those around the corner from me to those across the country and I sense a disinterest in stepping up and doing anything that will invoke real change. As long as we look like we are doing something on paper so we can push through the next grant, the Government questions nothing and we continue to rob our children and our community.

I see our biggest problems as a race of people as the following:

Lack of interest in education

Lack of interest in addressing the disparities experienced by Black men and boys in this country

Lack of interest in developing an entrepreneur spirit among African American's as individuals and especially in children

Education and money are the true cures for racism. With education, money follows. CNN and the Southern Poverty Law Center report that since the election of President Barack Obama there has been an increase of over 100 new hate groups. Has there been an equal increase in the number of groups established to fight ignorance. For no other race of people do I feel this is most important than my own.

Please help me in establishing small economic ventures within low income communities where people within those communities join together to start and maintain a business under the direction of the Association. Members will gain valuable business skills and have an opportunity to manage a business within their own community.

To find out more about the Association of African American Single Mothers or to join go to [www.aaasm.org](http://www.aaasm.org) or call 916-613-7225.

AAASM.org

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## AAASM Programs

[The Woman's Self Awareness Program](#)  
[The Physical](#)  
[The Spiritual](#)  
[The Emotional](#)  
[The Financial](#)

[The Future Leaders Program](#)  
[The Boys to Men Project](#)  
[Math Tutor Program](#)  
[The Black History Project](#)

[AAASM Community Outreach Programs](#)  
[AAASM Community Food Locker](#)  
[The Good Mother Grocery Delivery & Companion Service](#)