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2015, The Year of Huge Strides

Introducing the new Flood Group Strategic Planning Committee

- TIMING** is everything. That is the phrase that coined the hard work and effort of The Flood Group in the year of 2015. The Steering Committee initiated the Strategic Planning Committee. This new committee, led by Member Leonardo Williams as Chair, Dr. Phillip Mutysia, Mrs. Tamielle Ramsey, Ms. Karen Togba, Dr. Daniel Lawson, Mr. Craston Artis, and Mr. John Milner, has been charged with the task of converting

The Flood Group into a 501 c-3 Nonprofit organization. Understanding that each program of The Flood Group will support all of Wake County. The programs are designed to provide information, training and support for four primary areas: youth, parents, community, and literature. Each of those areas is implemented via various initiatives. We plan to rely heavily on churches, school leaders, community organizations, teen centers,

etc. to inform, engage, and enact our programs. All programs and initiatives will be managed by the governing body and specified committee groups. Once The Flood Group becomes a full operating nonprofit, growth and financial support will increase tremendously. Keep a close eye on what's to come from your family, The Flood Group.



Member Profile

Our New Quarterly Member
Highlight Section.

Work Hard, Play Hard!
Experience life through the lens of
CEO of PureKaret, Karen Togba.

Sponsor: Dr. Dudley Flood

In this issue, the Flood Group recognizes one of its members whose service has been exceptional. That member is Ms Karen Togba. Karen was born and reared in Monrovia, Liberia. She is the daughter of the late Anthony P. Togba, Sr. and Mrs. Claudia Bates Togba. She is the fourth of seven Togba children.

Karen's father who was the Deputy Defense Minister of Liberia was killed by rebels in 1990 during the civil war that was occurring in Liberia. Following her father's death, her mother decided to relocate the family to the United States of America. They initially settled in Richmond, Virginia where she attended and graduated from John Marshall High School. In 1993, she, along with her older sister, moved to Raleigh where she attended and graduated from Shaw University.

Karen holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a Masters Degree in Hospitality and Tourism. She is currently employed with Hewlett Packard Enterprises. She is the founder of PureKaret, a multifaceted business within the hospitality industry. She is an artist and a professional cake decorator. Her work is seen annually at the North Carolina State Fair.

Karen has rendered service to and through the Flood Group since early in its formation. Among her many contributions, she has served as corresponding secretary in which role she has been the lifeline of the group. She quietly assumes the lead role of securing a meeting place for the regular steering committee meetings and for the various events that the Flood Group sponsors. She also keeps the general membership informed of the various dates and

events that are planned for the group. Karen has had near perfect attendance to each meeting and activity of the Flood Group. She often attends functions generated by other groups in the community and works to build bridges with groups that have similar goals and objectives as those of the Flood Group. Karen's generous spirit led her to host the steering committee at a surprise dinner complete with decorations of the season at its December meeting. Since all members of the group serve without compensation, Karen's gift of a full course dinner was all the more impressive.

We, the members of the Flood Group salute Karen Togba and express our appreciation for her dedicated and unselfish service to human kind and to the group to which she is so devoted.



STARS OF EDUCATION GALA The Flood Group Representatives

Wake Education Partnership's 2nd annual "*Stars of Education*" Gala held at the Raleigh Marriott City Center in October. This event recognizes and celebrates individuals for their significant contributions to the Wake County Public School System. The Flood Group was a sponsor for this event and some members of the group were present.



[Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. Sponsored Roast Event](#)

In October, a program "roasting" Dr. Alice Garrett was sponsored by the Triangle Area Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. This event was in honor of breast cancer awareness. The event took place at Saint Matthew AME Church.



Visit to Shaw:

Some of the members of the steering committee met with Dr. Lloyd Williams, Chair of the CIS Dept. at Shaw University in November. During that visit, we were able to finalize talks about the maintenance of the website, at which point, a new student (Keisha Howard) was introduced as the new webmaster. The visit was climaxed with a tour of the new computer lab.

Benefit Concert

In December, Dr. Alice Garrett hosted the 7th annual concert benefiting the head and neck cancer research at the Lineberger Comprehensive Center at UNC Chapel Hill. This event is held in honor of her late husband, Mr. Bobby F Garrett who lost his battle to esophageal cancer eight years ago.



Wake Up Wake County

Members of The Flood Group attended two of "*WCPSS Growth and Assignment Visioning*" sessions. The purpose of these meetings was to identify the challenges that the Wake County Public School System is faced with, due to the fast growth in annual student enrollment, as well as to propose strategies to address those challenges. The meetings were held at Fairmont United Methodist Church in Raleigh.



Dr. Ruth setting Roots at AMI Kids...

At this event, families from SE Raleigh (and poverty pocket areas in NC) and Long-term suspended kids from WCPSS engaged in dinner with the local community. We customarily received 100 percent participation from parents/guardians. Each family will received Thanksgiving groceries as well. Great Job to Dr. Terrance Ruth and AMI Kids. The Flood Group salutes your "effective" work!





Grant Award Ceremony

Members of The Flood Group were on hand to support our Co-Chairperson Derrick W. Byrd and the Family Resource Center of Raleigh, as they received a check for over Five Million Dollars from Congressman David Price, 4th Congressional District, to implement a five year, federally funded Responsible Fatherhood Initiative in Edgecombe, Durham and Wake Counties. “Day2Day Dads” was the only program funded through the Office of Family Assistance in North Carolina. This program will work with 200 fathers annually to strengthen positive father-child engagement and improve social and economic outcomes for fathers to support their families. 100 current or recently incarcerated fathers will receive services as well. Derrick W. Byrd will assume the role of Program

Fall Membership Breakfast



The Fall Membership Breakfast meeting was a very successful event. More so, it was proven to be quite effective, accomplishing a milestone of progress from our last Spring Breakfast Meeting. We were able to build on the work initiated by the Strategic Planning Committee and officially build working committees. We also gained new members.



"IF YOU EVER NEEDED THE DEFINITION OF INTELLIGENT, KIND, CARING, PASSIONATE, FORGIVING, OR HARDWORKER, YOU CAN REST ASSURE, DR. DUDLEY FLOOD IS THE LIVING FLESH OF THOSE VERY MEANINGS" ...Gov. Jim Hunt – 2012 (NC Foundation for Public School Children Champion for Children Gala)

Dr. Flood Honored

On October 3, 2015, Dudley Flood was honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The School gave its highest honor, the Peabody Award, to Dudley Flood and posthumously to Gene Causby who worked together for the NC Department of Public Instruction, providing assistance and guidance to school districts as they implemented desegregation orders during the 1970s. In presenting the award, Dean Bill McDiarmann stated, *"we are delighted to showcase these individuals and celebrate their contributions to the important work of education and equal opportunity. Each of these honorees has done meaningful work, and we take pride in having an opportunity celebrate their accomplishments."*

It was noted that the two of them had worked with each of the 100 counties in North Carolina and with 49 of the fifty States, Washington, DC, Canada, Germany and Bermuda.

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Steering Committee Meeting

Saint Matthew AME Church – January 12 6:30pm

Spring Read-A-Thon (more details to come)