

# "If One Fails the Community Fails"

THE PUBLICATION OF THE

**African American Communication and Collaboration Council**

**(AACCC)**

[AfricanAmericanCommunication.com](http://AfricanAmericanCommunication.com)

November 2015

## **Christine C. Hodge**

**2015 Recipient**

**Rotary Club of Madison Humanitarian Service**

**Award**



Once each year, the Rotary Club of Madison, the fifth largest Rotary Club in the World, honors one of its most respected members, Manfred E. Swarsensky by bestowing a Humanitarian Service Award in his name to an outstanding member of our community.

The 2015 Manfred E. Swarsensky award recipient is Christine Hodge.

Christine Hodge moved to Madison from Arkansas to teach at Lowell Elementary School in 1971. After 26 years in elementary education, Christine served as an assistant principal at La Follette High School before becoming principal of Allis Elementary School. After retiring in 2006, Chris founded the free after-school academic program at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Former Principal Hodge currently leads the Mt. Zion Baptist Church's Academic Learning Center (ALC) which was a vision she developed. Via experience as a career educator, Chris witnessed far too many children from low-income and minority families lacking basic skills. Often those children started school

### **MISSION**

To provide support to positive efforts that are conducted with and on behalf of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin;

To establish mutually beneficial relationships between African American organizations of Greater Madison, Wisconsin; and

To establish ongoing dialogue concerning common issues of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

African American  
Communication and  
Collaboration Council  
(AACCC)

two years behind their peers.

At the ALC, three days a week, children from the surrounding community find their way to Mt. Zion for tutoring, homework assistance, a healthy snack and a safe place to be until their parents return home from work. The academic track record of regular ALC attendees has been outstanding. Volunteer tutors and mentors, mostly from Mt. Zion and UW-Madison are on hand to assist the children. Students leave the center with their homework completed and reviewed. As a direct result of the actuation of Former Principal Hodge's vision, youth associated with the Center have improved at least one grade level where many of their peers have stumbled.

Rotarian Dawn Crim, who nominated Chris for this award, said, "Part of her approach includes teaching parents how to advocate for their children. Christine Hodge has been an architect quietly working behind the scenes, helping to build much needed bridges between homes and schools."

"The transformation from a dank, dingy basement to a brightly lit, cheerful learning space has been amazing." said Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Distinguished Chair in Urban Education at UW-Madison.

"...Retirement from the school district just gave her more time...and she wasted no time in sharing her vision for an academic learning center for Mt. Zion. With little to no financial support, she embarked on her vision with great determination and fortitude. Chris has inspired many to pursue a career in education," said Rev. Jacqueline Colbert, Associate Minister at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Along with this award, a \$2,500 grant is presented by the Madison Rotary Foundation to an agency of the recipient's choice. Christine has chosen The Links Foundation, Inc. (Madison Chapter) to receive this grant.

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**19-20 November**  
**The Cultural Context of Corporal**  
**Punishment Conference: Keeping Kids**  
**Safe**

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Victor Vieth, JD

Expert faculty will discuss the significant negative impact that corporal punishment has on a child's physical and emotional development. Learners will have the opportunity to examine their personal biases, gain understanding of how these biases influence their daily work, and develop strategies to reduce the impact of bias in their work.

Speakers will include Lisa Aronson Fontes, Ph.D.; Barbara Knox, M.D.; Everett Mitchell, J.D.; Ismael Ozanne, J.D.; Stacy Patton, Ph.D.; and Victor Vieth, J.D.

For more information, please [click here](#).

## 21 November

### The Mystery of Black History (Part 2)



To help educate, encourage and empower our collective community, the public video presentation of Hidden Colors #2, The Untold Story of the Aboriginal-,

African-, and Moor-descent people of the world will be told.

The event will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Urban League of Greater Madison, 2222 S. Park Street, Madison, Wisconsin, and is sponsored by Kojo Productions, Inc. This video presentation is free to the public and is for community members who are interested in learning about our total history.

For more information, please contact Richard Scott at (608) 240-9962.

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**19 December**

**6th Annual Gospel Carols**

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A concert of Christmas Carols performed in a Gospel style by singers from Madison and the surrounding communities will be held 6:00

PM, Saturday, 19 December at the City Church, 4909 E. Buckeye Road, Madison, WI 53716. The choir will be accompanied by an orchestra made up of members from area churches, the Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Madison area!

Come hear the traditional carols with a twist, arranged by Leotha and Tamera Stanley

For more information, please visit <http://www.gospelcarols.com/>.

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**31 December**

**African Association of Madison, Inc.  
New Year's Eve Gala**

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The African Association of Madison, Inc. cordially invites you to the AAM New Year's Eve Gala, Thursday, 31 December, from 7:00 p.m. til Midnight and beyond.

The event will be staged at the Sheraton Madison Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI 53713. Come with your family and friends to herald in the New Year. Come enjoy a formal dinner, cash bar, door prizes and music provided by the one-and-only DJ Mos Dolly.

All are invited.

To register, please access <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/african-association-of-madison-inc-new-years-eve-gala-tickets-18807747479>.

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**16 January 2016**

**30th Annual "I Have a Dream"  
Scholarship Ball**

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The "I Have a Dream" Scholarship Banquet and Ball is a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and dedicated to encouraging students of color to succeed in

education.

Proceeds from this event support the Women in Focus, Inc. Scholarship and Endowment Funds. Since 1984, over 260 college scholarships have been awarded.

The Ball will be held 16 January 2016 at the Monona Terrace in Madison, Wisconsin, from 6:00-11:00 p.m. Reservations are required by 6 January.

For more information and to make reservations, please visit <http://www.womeninfoocus.net>.

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## **17 January 2016**

### **32nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Outstanding Young Person Breakfast**



For 32 years, the Urban League has hosted one of the largest family observances of the King Holiday in Wisconsin. The Outstanding Young Person Breakfast, held on Sunday during the King Holiday weekend, attracts more than 900 youth, families, volunteers and community leaders. Middle and high school students are presented with the Outstanding Young Person Award. Students are nominated by schools from all across Dane County based on their academic performance, community service, and extra-curricular participation.

The breakfast will be held from 8:00-10:00 a.m. at Edgewood High School, 2219 Monroe Street, Madison, WI, and is open to the public.

For more information and registration, please visit <http://www.ulgm.org/mlkevents>

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## **18 January 2016**

### **36th Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration**



From the Capitol Rotunda in Madison, Wisconsin, the 36th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will be held. The event will illumine the role of women in the Civil Rights Movement, then and now.

Planning is currently underway for this celebration. Please visit the [website](#) for future announcements.

## "Helping to Improve the Health of Dane County"

### Request for Proposal



Damond Boatwright  
Regional President/ CEO  
of Hospital Operations

Dean & St. Mary's Hospital are pleased to share the release of the *"Helping to Improve the Health of Dane County"* Request for Proposal (RFP). Improving the health of our community takes more than seeing the doctor. It requires the commitment and action of multiple organizations working together. By improving the health of others, we improve our own health.

The RFP will provide a total of \$450,000 over the three year grant period, 2016-2018. Up to \$50,000 a year for each of the three years will be awarded to three Dane County not-for-profit organizations focused on improving health outcomes in one or more of the following health priority areas:

- Mental Health, particularly focusing on reducing the incidence of suicide in Dane County.
- Chronic Disease, particularly hypertension, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes
- Maternal Child Health, which improves the lives and health of mothers and children in many ways from maternal preconception health through adolescence.

Proposals must be submitted no later than noon on Monday, December 7, 2015. More information is available on the [St. Mary's Hospital website](#).

If you have questions or need additional assistance please contact the Dean & St. Mary's Community Relations Team:

- Lisa Bell, MPH, [Lisa\\_bell@ssmhc.com](mailto:Lisa_bell@ssmhc.com), 608-294-3857
- Jenn Ellestad [Jennifer.ellestad@deancare.com](mailto:Jennifer.ellestad@deancare.com), 608-250-1087.



## Please Share the Dates of Your Upcoming Meetings and Events

Currently, the African American Communication and Collaboration Council (AACCC) is in the process of establishing a comprehensive Community Calendar for 2016.

Often, attendance at important activities has been reduced due to scheduling conflicts. Although some conflicts cannot be avoided, an expression of what has been scheduled provides an opportunity to mitigate such conflict.

Community-based organizations, fraternal, civic, religious, etc. are requested and encouraged to forward meetings and events that have been scheduled for 2016 in which notice or promotion or involvement is sought.

Please forward information and questions to [president@africanamericancommunication.com](mailto:president@africanamericancommunication.com) before the close of business, 17 December.

The compilation of the Community Calendar will be published the week of 20 December, 2015.

## Now Accepting Articles & Photos

We are currently accepting stories and photographs for future issues of "If One Fails the Community Fails." Please submit your stories and event photos for consideration. Submission does not guarantee placement in this publication.

Stories should be 200 words or less and electronic photos should be 300 DPI or better in JPG format (NO SCANNED PHOTOS). Include captions for each photo (who, what, when, and where). Photos without captions WILL NOT be considered.

Submit your stories and photos (with captions) to [president@africanamericancommunication.com](mailto:president@africanamericancommunication.com).