



**Houston Area
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities
Changing Lives*

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A United Way Agency
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ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
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Where do we go from here? The question is timely and valid. As we stand at the half way mark of an historic year in our nation's history, the Houston Area Urban League celebrates its 41st year of service to the Greater Houston Community. As the Houston Area Urban League celebrates its founding, it marks 144 years to the day U.S. Major General Gordon Granger reached the shores of Galveston Texas to issue General Order No. 3, advising Texas slaves of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and their freedom – a historic and yet recent event.

As we consider the tremendous challenges we still face as a race of people we cannot help but pause to say we have come this far by faith, and that faith has not been an illusion. However, there is still much work to be done. We are still faced with the fact that one in every three black boys will encounter prison, parole, or probation. We know the many challenges of keeping the African-American family intact, the most significant being the trend toward fatherless households. Black males have increasingly confused being a man with being a person capable of making a baby. Raising the child has become optional in the minds of many. The problem is serious. Approximately 71% of high school dropouts, and 94% of the prison population come from fatherless homes. The impact on our economy and our future is immeasurable. We already know African Americans are twice as likely to be unemployed as their white counterparts, so when one considers the local economy lost 56,000 jobs between May of 2008 and May of 2009, you know which demographic is suffering the most.

Now more than ever, the work of the Urban League must be supported and recognized. We are in the business of helping encourage national policy that will improve the outcomes of African Americans and disadvantaged families. We educate people based upon the collective knowledge pools available to us. Through our 41 year history of addressing issues, we've developed proven processes in engaging people on a face to face basis to ensure they can matriculate the system of getting a job, a home, a business, or just the advice necessary to keep themselves and their families together. President Obama continuously encourages us to get personally involved. The work cannot be done in a vacuum. It will take the time, talent and treasure of everyone to help us help others. The Houston Area Urban League stands ever prepared to do its part to make a difference. Join us as we work to create a better quality of living for those we have committed to serve.

Judson W. Robinson, III
President and CEO