



## Fund for Southern Communities E-News

February 2010

Circle of Joy Spotlight

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### What is a Giving Circle?

Giving Circles are a resurgence of an old tradition of philanthropy that has been making an impact nationwide. They provide an opportunity for individuals to join others through collective charitable giving. In addition to general grantmaking, the Fund for Southern Communities (the Fund/FSC) supports community organizations and donors through our Giving Circle program. By becoming a fiscally-sponsored Giving Circle of the Fund, donors are able to bring together their funds and give to the organizations they choose while still benefiting from FSC's support and grantmaking expertise.

For more information about starting a Giving Circle, call (404) 371 - 8404 or write to [program@fundforsouth.org](mailto:program@fundforsouth.org).

### Circle Of Joy

The *Atlanta Circle of Joy Giving Circle* (COJ) became FSC's newest Giving Circle in the Summer of 2009. COJ serves as a philanthropic vehicle that promotes collective giving. As a group, members of COJ pool their contributions and strategically invest in improving the quality of life for the youth of the Atlanta Metro area. COJ provides financial resources to organizations and programs based on specific criteria established by the Circle members.

The mission of the Circle of Joy is to pool their time, talent, and treasure to partner with agencies who are impacting youth in the Metro Atlanta Area.

On January 17, 2010, COJ held their first grant giving and generosity gathering. Their inaugural grantee organizations included:



#### **I Have a Dream Foundation: A.D. Williams Chapter:**

"I Have A Dream"® of Atlanta, Inc. –A.D. Williams Chapter is a partnership of two historic, downtown Atlanta churches: St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Ebenezer Baptist Church. The "I Have A Dream" Foundation empowers children in low-income communities to achieve higher education by providing them with guaranteed tuition support and equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and habits they need to gain entry to higher education and succeed in college and beyond.

<http://www.ihad-adw.org>

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### **CASA Dekalb CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates):**

DeKalb County CASA Program recruits, trains and supervises court appointed volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children who are under the protection of the DeKalb Juvenile Court.

In 2007, approximately 101 children were assigned to 79 CASA volunteers. DeKalb CASA provides year-round training and close supervision of volunteers so that more abused and neglected children will have an individual CASA to speak for them in and out of the court. The DeKalb County CASA program partners with such collaboratives as the Communities That Care Consortium, The Multi-Disciplinary Team for Sexually Abused Children, the DeKalb County Child Fatality Review Committee and various universities and colleges in the Metro Atlanta area. <http://www.dekalbcasa.org>



### **STUDENTS Without MOTHERS Students Without Mothers:**

Students Without Mothers is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping high school students without mothers help themselves by empowering them to continue their education. The organization's main purpose is to provide scholarships for college bound high school seniors who are without their mothers due to death or other unfortunate circumstances.

Since its inception in 2004, Students Without Mothers has provided more than 40 students with four year scholarships in the amount of \$4,000 each. There are currently more than 30 active students in the program who continue to receive annual scholarship disbursements and other resources and assistance. <http://www.studentswithoutmothers.org>



- Through Lab Connect, 1% of every purchase made with the card will be donated to FSC. This is a great way to support valuable social justice work through your everyday purchase. And remember, it's not too late to sign up! You can learn more about the card at <http://www.cardlabconnect.com/fundforsoutherncommunities>.
- The Fund for Southern Communities will not host our annual **Sweet Honey In The Rock She Rocks!** ® concert this year. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future.

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