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New Orleans

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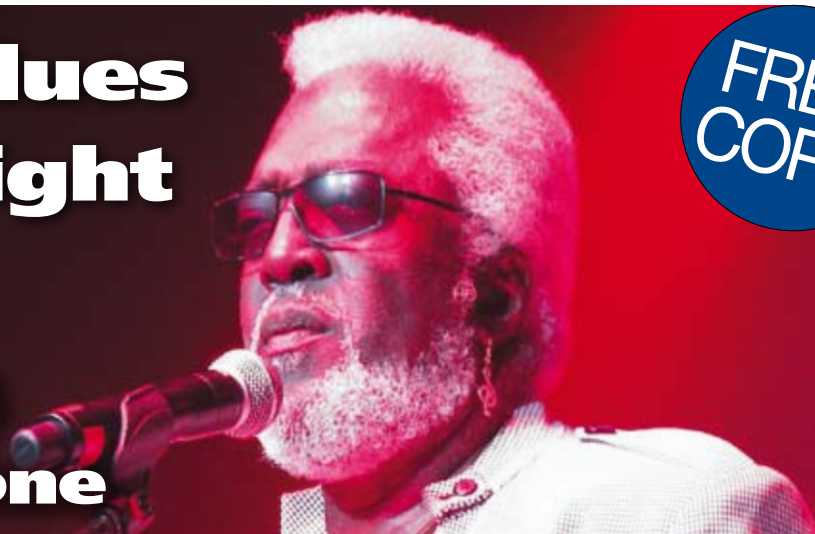
**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*

**The Blues  
is Alright**

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September 11 - September 17, 2010 45th Year Volume 15 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

# Black Labor's Laborious Road Ahead

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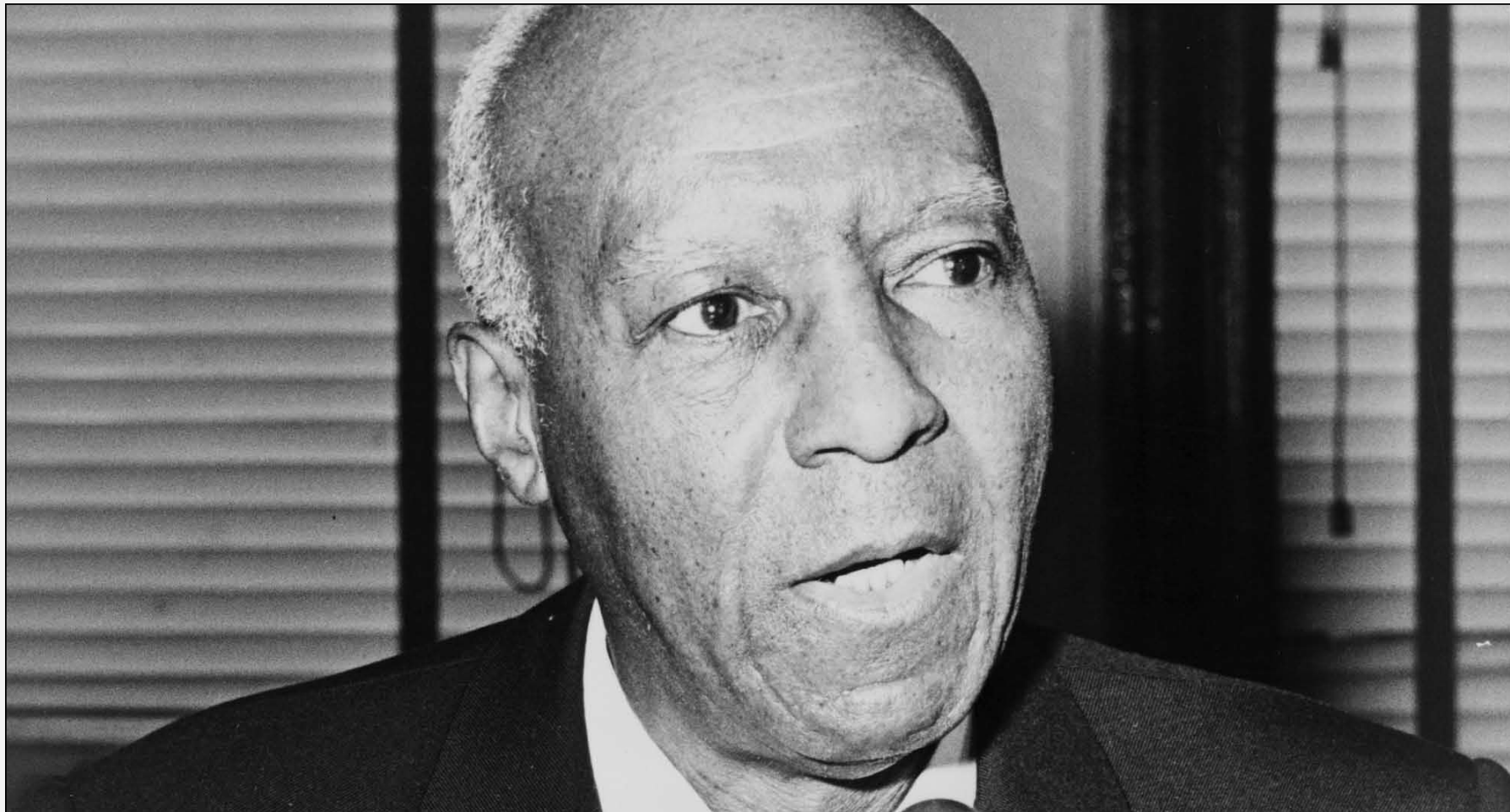
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Who Dat  
Live!



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# Black Labor's Laborious Road Ahead



Civil Rights leader, Asa Philip Randolph, was the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a landmark for labor and particularly for African-American labor organizing.

**By: Jon Jeter**  
Special from The Root.com

The economy hasn't been kind to organized labor – especially black organized labor. Why it's poised for a comeback.

Notwithstanding Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's late-summer paean to a phantom eco-

nomie recovery (does he have imaginary playmates as well?), this Labor Day will be the bleakest for America's workers since the nadir of the Great Depression in 1932.

Back then, the unemployment rate was closing in on 25 percent. Foreclosures were up, morale down, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt wouldn't be

sworn in for almost another six months. Not that it seemed to matter all that much at the time. It was hardly a foregone conclusion that Roosevelt would lay the foundation for a modern industrial state, and what's more, workers didn't appear to have enough muscle to exert any real political pressure on the incoming administration. After more than a

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call (504) 309-9913 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance.  
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decade of aggressive union busting by big business, the number of workers belonging to unions had been shorn almost in half in the post World War I period, from 5 million in 1920 to 2.85 million in 1933.

As it turned out, organized labor had 'em right where they wanted.

Over the next 15 years, the nation's trade unionists in general – and the integrated Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in particular – created the American middle class, transforming awful jobs in the packinghouses, auto factories, mines and mills into good jobs. With African Americans in the vanguard, trade unions pressured Roosevelt and Congress to pass the 1935 Wagner Act, giving employees the green light to organize. It enabled them to coax better pay, benefits and working conditions from employers and prodded the stodgy, conservative and mostly white union leadership to expand its sphere of influence beyond the shop floor.

Between 1935 and 1985, the number of blacks in labor unions skyrocketed from 50,000 to 3 million. In 1940s Chicago, an African-American stockyard worker named Charles Hayes led a faction of white, black and Asian workers who challenged and ultimately replaced the all-white leadership of the meatpackers' union, and in the years that followed, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union supported Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott; helped bankroll the Southern Christian Leadership

Conference's voter registration drives in the Deep South; and raised funds, staffed phone banks and helped get out the vote for Chicago's first black mayor, Harold Washington. Washington responded by recognizing, for the first time, city workers' collective bargaining rights. (When he took office, nearly one in three union members was African American.)

So if history is any guide, America's labor force is poised for a comeback. If nothing else, it certainly has the element of sur-

prise.

Like their grandparents were in the early '30s, workers in 2010 are on the losing end of a long and demoralizing rout at the hands of a financial elite and the bipartisan political class that largely does their bidding. By shipping well-paying factory jobs overseas, big business has hollowed out the country's manufacturing sector and the ranks of the country's labor unions, replacing well-paying, unionized, industrial jobs with low-paying, non-union jobs in a

service sector that is, anthropologically speaking, not very different from the Colonial-era African porters who waited on European settlers hand and foot.

For blacks and Latinos, especially, wages are losing ground, jobless rates are flirting with Great Depression-era unemployment levels and union cards are becoming relics. The overall ratio of American workers who belong to trade unions has fallen precipitously since the '50s from one in three to about one in 10 today.

But perhaps more troubling for the American working class is that African Americans accounted for only 16 percent of all union members in 2006 – a couple of years before the latest economic downturn.

The steep decline imposes costs not just on workers' paychecks but on American democracy as well. Just as strong labor unions have been integral to the struggle for nationalized health care systems in Canada and Europe, egalitarian tax and trade policies, and human

Rodney Peete

Holly Robinson Peete


Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Lt. General Russel Honoré (U.S. Army, Ret.)

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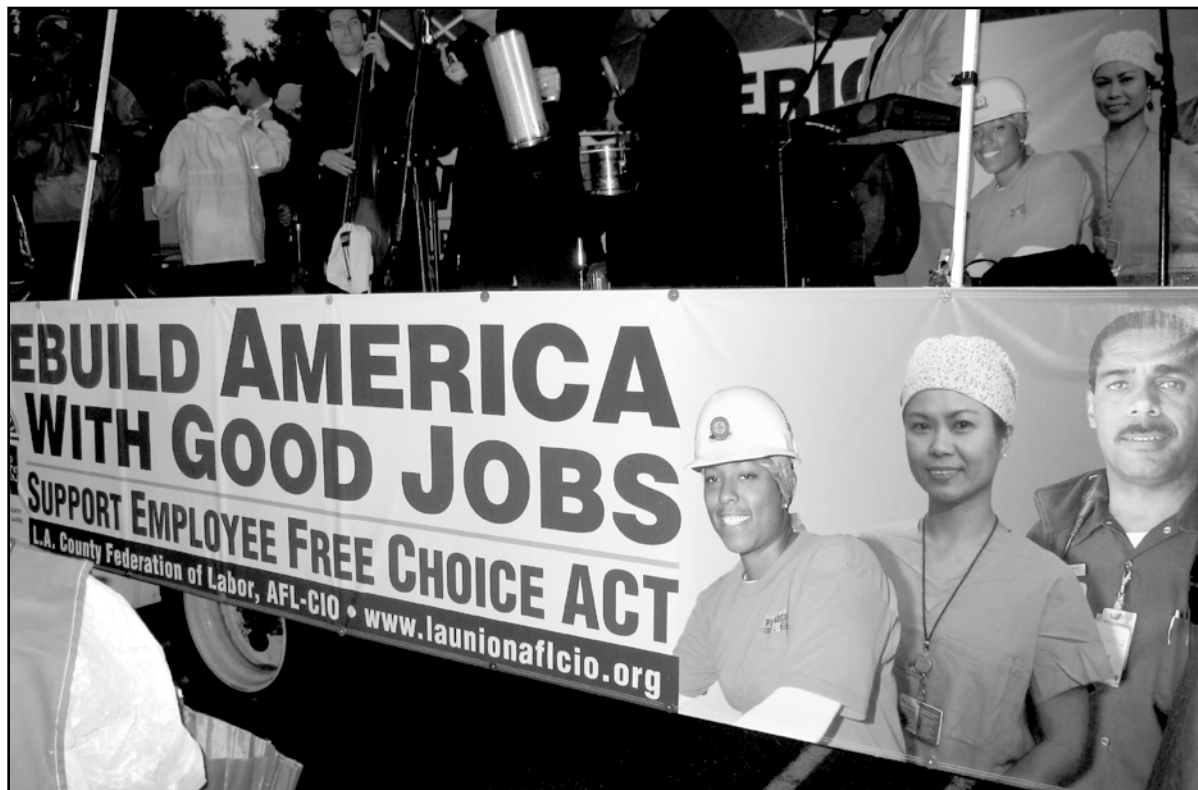
rights, America's organized labor movement has proved an effective advocate for the expansion of liberal democracy. For instance, dockworkers in the '80s refused to unload South African ships as a protest against apartheid. Often, such changes have happened only when African Americans have played a leading role.

"The labor movement has always been at its strongest and its best when it identified with the unemployed, with the fight against racism, the fight against sexism and the wider fight for civil rights," said Roger Toussaint, a Caribbean-born black who, as head of New York's Transit Workers Union Local 100, was briefly jailed in 2005 for leading the largely black and Latino workforce on a three-day walkout that shut down the city's subways and buses.

"Blacks and leaders of color

tend to occupy the more forward-looking and progressive wing of the movement with progressive whites," Toussaint said. "When it abandons that flank is when the labor movement is identified less as a force of change and more as a special interest. That's when it gets into trouble."

To recapture that lost moral standing, the TWU is one of nearly 150 trade unions and civil rights groups sponsoring an October 2 rally in Washington, D.C., for "jobs, justice and education for all." Organizers – led by Service Employees International Union Local 1199 President George Gresham and NAACP President and Chief Executive Officer Ben Jealous, both African American – hope the event will reclaim the nation's political narrative from right-wing factions like Fox News and pundit Glenn Beck as well as



reinvigorate the progressive political movement that shaped the New Deal.

Both are necessary to re-route an Obama administration that has steered off course, according to labor activists who are disappointed in the president's inability – or unwillingness – to deliver a national, single-payer health-care system, a large-scale jobs program or homeowner relief. They are also leery of his administration's antagonism toward teachers' unions and a lack of assertiveness in pressing Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, which, by allowing employees to join a union merely by checking a card on a box, would likely have been the most transformative piece of progressive legislation since the New Deal.

Removing the barrier to unionization imposed by the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act – which greatly weakened the Wagner Act – would have gone a long way toward rebuilding the postwar middle class in America because, as one labor

activist said, "you can't offshore jobs at Walmart and Home Depot."

The Obama administration, Toussaint said, "is trying to find its conscience. The results so far have not been encouraging. But we can't lay all the blame at Obama's feet." He pointed to striking civil service workers in South Africa who took to the streets last month in a nationwide strike for higher wages and eventually forced government officials back to the negotiating table. "The popular movement did not retreat to their living rooms. They have not forgotten that the agent of change is struggle and resistance. We forgot that."

Jon Jeter is the author of *Flat Broke in the Free Market: How Globalization Fleeced Working People* (W.W. Norton) and, with Robert E. Pierre, the author of *A Day Late and a Dollar Short: High Hopes and Deferred Dreams in Obama's Post-Racial America* (John Wiley and Sons).

Data News Weekly

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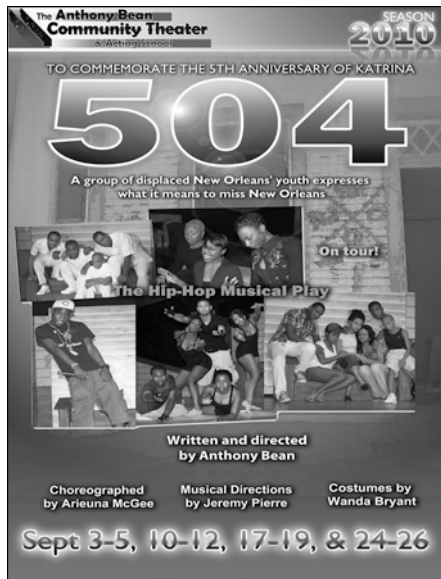
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# "504" the Musical Returns to ABCT



*The Anthony Bean Community Theater will commemorate the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina by bringing back the hugely successful hip-hop musical, "504".*

"504" premiered at the Anthony Bean Theater September, 2007. Since then has toured nationally to enthusiastic reviews. Set just after the storm, "504" tells the story of New Orleans youngsters' involvement in our city's recovery. "504" is written and directed by Anthony Bean, choreographed by Arieuna McGee and musical directions by Jeremy Pierre.

It is four weeks after Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans is under military siege and a dusk to dawn curfew has been enacted. The international press is here to cover the story of the Katrina devastation. Fearing they will not be included in the rebuilding of a New Orleans, a group of displaced New Orleans youth stage an "under the radar" dance concert on the corner of Orleans &

North Claiborne Avenue to bring attention to the violence, crime, homelessness, and inhumane living conditions. Seven young actors, a singing trio, and a group of dancers portray the trials that make up their daily lives as they exist in the shadows of New Orleans rich and powerful. "504" blends rap, gospel, jazz, bounce and rock and roll to help the youngsters express their emotions as they tell their stories of pre- and post-Katrina.

The ABCT revival runs September 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, and 24-26. Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm. Sundays at 3:00 pm. Special note: Sunday, September 5 show will be at 8:00 pm. Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at (504) 862-7529.

## Obama Administration Awards Additional \$5,000,000 To Stabilize Louisiana Neighborhoods Hard-Hit By Foreclosure

*Third round of NSP grants to build on efforts to confront abandonment and blight*

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan today awarded an additional \$5 million in funding to Louisiana communities struggling to reverse the effects of the foreclosure crisis. The grants announced today represent a third round of funding through HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and

will provide targeted emergency assistance to help local communities in Louisiana acquire, redevelop or demolish foreclosed properties.

"These grants will support local efforts to reverse the effects these foreclosed properties have on their surrounding neighborhoods," said Donovan. "We want

to make certain that we target these funds to those places with especially high foreclosure activity so we can help turn the tide in our battle against abandonment and blight. As a direct result of the leadership provided by Senator Chris Dodd and Congressman Barney Frank, who played key roles in winning approval for these

funds, we will be able to make investments that will reduce blight, bolster neighboring home values, create jobs and produce affordable housing."

"The NSP3 grants announced today are an important tool to assist in the continued effort to revitalize neighborhoods, stabilize communities, and strengthen the

economy," said Regional Administrator C. Donald Babers. "Not only will these NSP funds help create much needed jobs, but through the acquisition, rehabilitation, and sale of foreclosed properties, NSP will provide access for families to affordable housing."

## AMEX OPEN Hosts New Orleans Event to Help Small Businesses Succeed in Government Contracting

Billions of dollars in revenue opportunities are being left on the table by American small businesses because they have not thrown their hats in the ring to do business with the government. The federal government is the world's largest customer—spending \$500 billion annually—and 23% of these dollars should go to small business.

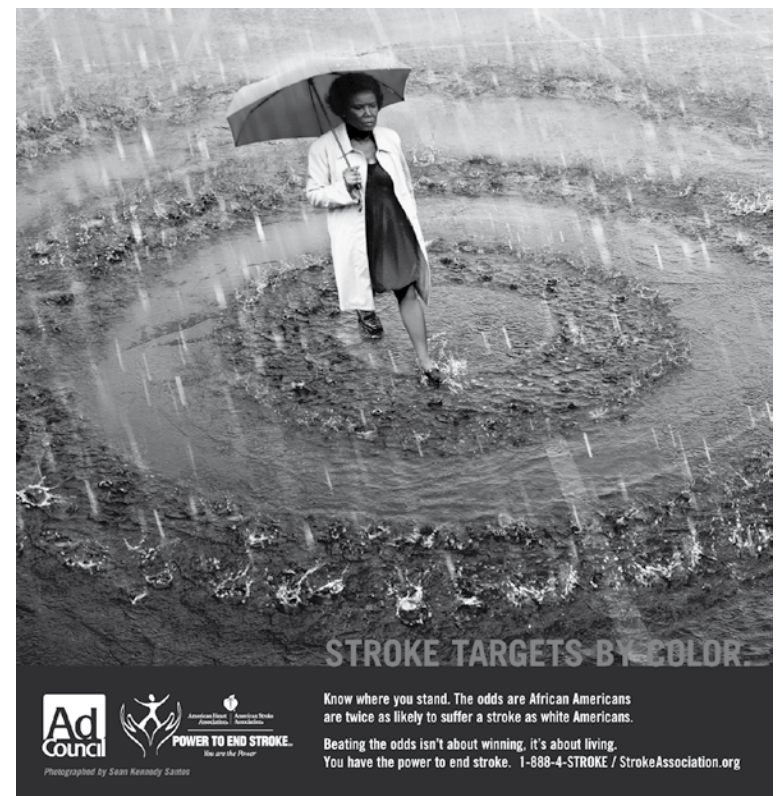
American Express OPEN is hosting a free event in New Orleans on Wednesday, October 20 to help small business owners get a leg up in government contracting. The free Government Contracting Procurement & Net

working Event will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel starting at 8:30am.

The event is designed for business owners new to government contracting, as well as those currently doing business with the government; and it will feature discussions and workshops to equip business owners with the tools and strategies they need to succeed in doing business with the government. They will also have the opportunity to meet government procurement officials and network and learn from fellow business owners.

Topics to be addressed include:  
 Explanation of the GSA Schedule and Using it as a Strategic Advantage  
 Business Development and Certification  
 Mentor/Protege Programs  
 Leveraging Business Teaming to Access Contract Opportunities  
 Government Buyers' Discussion on Current and Future Procurement Opportunities

Wednesday, October 20, 2010  
 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern  
 Hilton Riverside  
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 New Orleans, LA 70140  
 TO REGISTER:  
[www.vipgovtcontracting.com](http://www.vipgovtcontracting.com)





# The Blues Is Alright

By Edwin Buggage

Photos by Larry Panna Jr.

Little Milton sung and ode to the blues many years ago entitled "The Blues Is Alright." And recently Rufus Johnson a longtime promoter of concerts brought together some of the legends of the blues to the Crescent City. It was an amazing show where a captive crowd of grown folks danced the night away and sang along with some of the greats of blues and soul music.

The show featured Latimore who performed his hit "Let's Straighten It Out", Sir Charles Jones performed to a receptive crowd that went crazy when he sung his hole in the wall anthem "Slow Rolling." The crowd was also treated to a high energy set from Willie AClayton then the pace slowed down when, a true legend in Bobby Blue Bland, did an amazing set receiving a standing ovation.

As the night was coming to a close Mel Waiters gave an emotional show that mixed the fun lov-

ing blues he has come to be known for, blending it with emotional and heart felt words about the people and the City of New Orleans. The show closed with Mr. Candy Licker himself Marvin Sease who did a short but tight set. Through the early part of the night the crowd was also treated to music from the number on DJ for the grown and Sexy New Orleans' Own Captain Charles.

It was refreshing to see a real show in age where auto-tune artist with over choreographed shows have become the de rigueur. I must say it was a treat to see a show where performers did not just sing but "sang" as they all gave rousing performances. The show was a marathon of great songs and amazing vocals and tight bands that kept the crowd on their feet and dancing in the aisles. This show was an example of the timeless excellence and power of great songs and even better performances. This night served as a testimony that yes the "Blues is Alright".



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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Members of the Who Dat Nation gathered on Thursday night at the Prime Example to cheer on the New Orleans Saints in their season opener against the Minnesota Vikings. The victory was cause for a great celebration! Who Dat?

photos by June Hazeur





# Katrina's Teaching Moment

By Nicole C. Lee  
NNPA Columnist

It was five years ago that the images of those desperate to survive in hurricane ravaged New Orleans splashed across our television screens. For so many Americans, especially African-Americans, the treatment of the victims of Katrina confirmed our worst fears. Our government would abandon us in the time of our greatest need. Despite the efforts of many, those whose lives touched Hurricane Katrina's aftermath will never be made whole.

It has been heartbreaking to see the devastation that continues years after. Joblessness, poverty and displacement remain. Heartwarming stories of overcoming adversity are sadly few and far between. We have learned many lessons from Katrina. The lessons learned must inform and impact how we deal with disasters nationally and internationally.

Hurricane Katrina reminded those of us in the U.S., and illustrated to the world, the severe consequences of government inaction. This led to the slow response for assistance and unnecessary suffering by those affected by the hurricane. Large

charitable organizations came under scrutiny for moving not fast enough and attempted to counteract the allegations as soon as possible. Such a restrained response was blamed largely on the centralization of power and decision-making in Washington, far away from the events unfolding in the Gulf Coast. I am sorry to say that such centralized aid relief is being replicated throughout Haiti, and the world, despite what we have learned.

Less than 1500 miles away in Port au Prince, the international community is ignoring many of the important lessons from Katrina. Relief and recovery from Haiti's January earthquake has many similarities to Katrina. Unnecessary loss of life, massive destruction of communities along with a short-term commitment defined these situations. Despite the best efforts of many, the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections will mark another weak point in Haiti's recovery and reconstruction.

Following the forced displacement of tens of thousands of people due to Hurricane Katrina, vast attempts at voter registration for those displaced to other parishes, cities and states was made a priority.

Early ballots were made available for displaced residents via satellite voting centers set up throughout Louisiana. And while those elected have not always focused on the priorities of those made refugees by Katrina, efforts were made to include them in the process.

This has not been the case in Haiti to date. Attempts to ensure enfranchisement (via National Identification Cards (CINs), electoral lists and polling locations) have been sluggish. Between March and April 2010 the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) conducted a study to assess the feasibility of the upcoming elections in Haiti. They concluded that holding the presidential and legislative elections together before the end of the year was most "reasonable, feasible and logical." Their recommendations, however, were also highly dependent upon Haiti's electoral council (the CEP) addressing many issues.

These issues continue to be outstanding and include the need for production and distribution of National Identification cards, particularly for those who have been displaced. Another issue is polling sta-

tions, unlike after Katrina, there is no current plan to have polling stations set up in areas where the displaced have moved. One UN official stated that allowing such access would encourage the displaced to stay in camps. It is as if Haitians would not want to go home if they could!

There has been a lot of talk in the US about the upcoming elections in Haiti. Most has centered on the candidacy of Wyclef Jean, a Haitian born rapper whose has spent most of his life in the US. His would-be candidacy however is not the issue at stake in these elections. Like during Katrina, there must be a real plan to make sure the displaced in Haiti can vote.

Haiti was found by ex-slaves and indentured people who believed that at least one republic in the New World should be a refuge for African people. Like the people of New Orleans, the Haitian people are proud of their history and their culture. The Haitian people know that a real participatory democracy is the only way to ensure a real dignified future for their children.

Nicole C. Lee is the president of TransAfrica Forum.

## Is America Marching in Two Different Directions



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

By Marc Morial  
NNPA Columnist

### To Be Equal

On Aug. 28 in Washington, DC, two groups of Americans gathered on the National Mall to express their vision of freedom 47 years after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech. Unfortunately, the two groups seemed to be marching in different directions. One rally, co-convened by Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, the National Urban League and a coalition of civil rights organizations, marched from Washington's Dunbar High School to the site of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial under construction

on the National Mall. That group marched to "Reclaim the Dream" that Dr. King so courageously and eloquently articulated at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963: "And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back . . . We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

In the 21st century that means a national commitment to quality education for all. It means jobs and a living wage for all. It means affordable housing on fair terms for all. And it means quality and affordable health care that is accessible to all. Speaker after speaker, including myself, Rev. Sharpton, NAACP President, Ben Jealous; DC Delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton and Martin Luther King, III, echoed these themes, which are also the major empowerment goals of the National Urban League during this, our 100th year anniversary.

It was fitting that the Reclaim the Dream rally began at a public high school. Education has always been the gateway to opportunity for African Americans and Education Secretary, Arne Duncan was on hand to once again call education the "civil rights issue of this generation." Underscoring that commitment was the presentation by Larry Handfield, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bethune-Cookman College, of a \$100,000 four-year scholarship to high

school student, Leah Carr, of Northwest Washington.

Fox News talk show host, Glenn Beck, led the other rally, which took place at the Lincoln Memorial, the very spot where Dr. King rallied the nation to overcome its divisive past. Beck has made a living denouncing the concept of social justice, belittling the legitimate grievances of Af-

rican Americans, using faith as a wedge issue, and claiming that President Obama is racist and his policies are reminiscent of Nazism. In short, Beck is a world-class divider, and his march was designed to take America in another direction - back to its

roots of states' rights separatism. Unfortunately, Beck has amassed a large following. Many of them joined him and former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin at their so-called "Restoring Honor" rally.

Their rally was not only about an outdated "us vs. them" vision of America, it was a cynical attempt to hijack the message and meaning of Dr. King and the civil rights movement. As I told the crowd at the Reclaim the Dream rally, "We will not stand silent as some seek to bamboozle Dr. King's dream. We reclaim the dream because we are here to say we must be one nation." At a time when Dr. King's message of unity is more important

than ever, the question must be asked: Is America marching in two different directions?

Marc Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

“ Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963.



# Preventing a Heart Attack

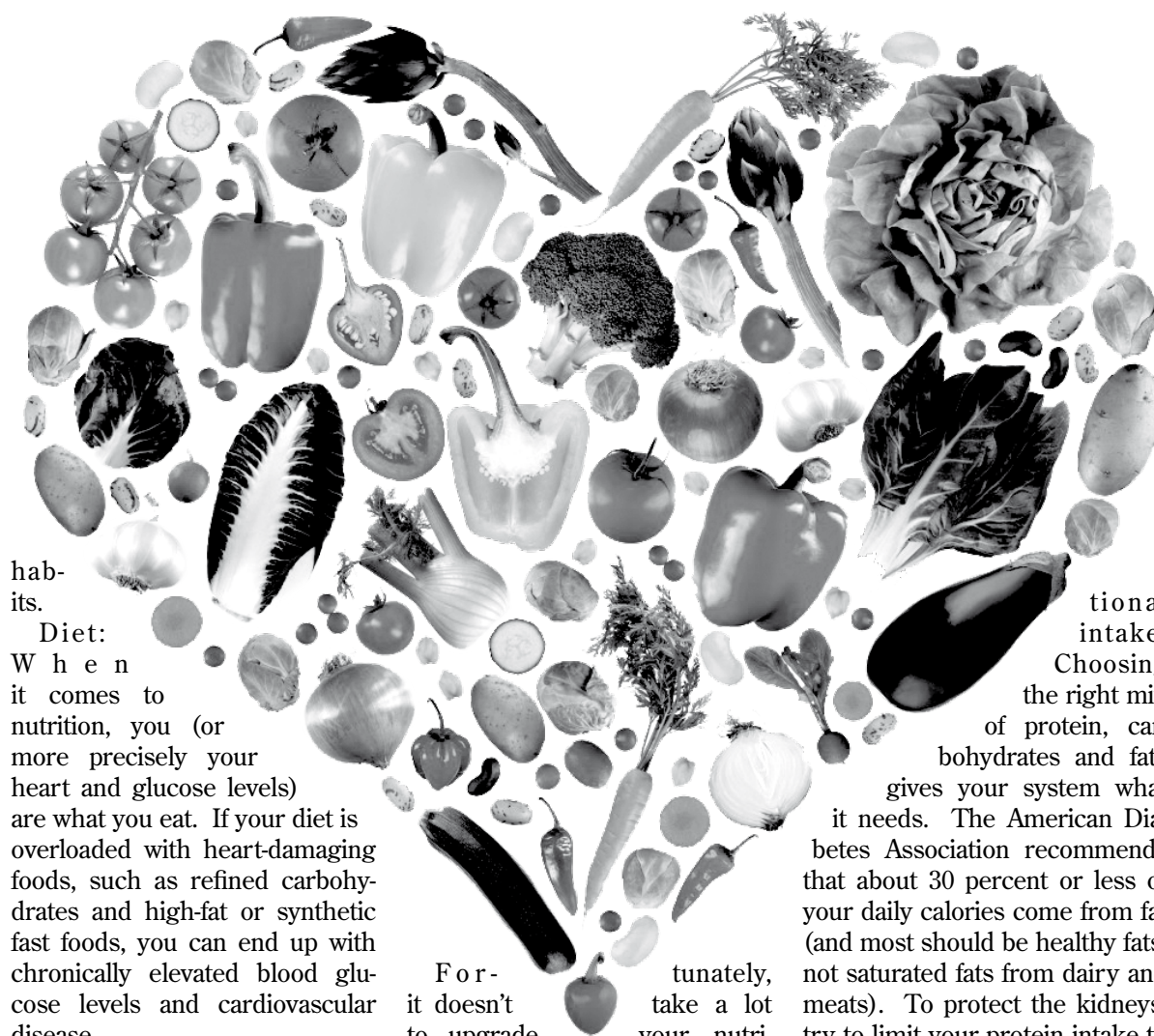
By Cheryl Mainor

Think of your heart as a fist sized engine that helps keep the body's organs and cells nourished with fuel and oxygen. Unfortunately, for many people with diabetes, it simply cannot do its job. In fact, people with diabetes are at an increased risk for a roster of heart-related health problems: high blood pressure, high LDL (bad) cholesterol, low HDL (good) cholesterol, obesity, poorly controlled blood sugars and insulin resistance. The result? A two to four times increase in the risk of cardiovascular disease. And this all contributes to making cardiovascular disease the leading cause of diabetes-related death.

Fortunately, you can work with your diabetes educator, physician and your family and friends to create a healthier lifestyle that helps protect your heart.

## Lifestyle Upgrades

The first line of defense is to embrace a heart-healthy set of



habits.

**Diet:** When it comes to nutrition, you (or more precisely your heart and glucose levels) are what you eat. If your diet is overloaded with heart-damaging foods, such as refined carbohydrates and high-fat or synthetic fast foods, you can end up with chronically elevated blood glucose levels and cardiovascular disease.

Fortunately, it doesn't take a lot to upgrade

your nutri-

tional intake. Choosing the right mix of protein, carbohydrates and fats gives your system what it needs. The American Diabetes Association recommends that about 30 percent or less of your daily calories come from fat (and most should be healthy fats, not saturated fats from dairy and meats). To protect the kidneys, try to limit your protein intake to

10 percent of your calories. And around 60 percent of total calories should come from carbohydrates – although you can discuss this with your doctor to see if fewer carbs may help you lose weight.

"The really important thing," says Bethany Thayer, R.D., spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association, "is to eat fruits and vegetables and choose whole rather than refined grains."

**Exercise:** Stress and a sedentary lifestyle are linked to poor heart health and poor glucose control. But before you get going, get your doctor's okay. Then, aim for the Surgeon General's recommendation of a minimum of 30 minutes of activity at moderate intensity five to seven days a week. A well-balanced routine includes aerobic exercise, resistance training and stress reduction.

**Alert:** To help control blood pressure, you should take in no more than 1,500 mg of sodium a day.

"FOR TOO LONG OUR CULTURE HAS SAID, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT.' NOW, WE WANT TO BE A NATION THAT SERVES GOALS LARGER THAN SELF. WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND WE MUST NOT LET THIS MOMENT PASS. MY CALL IS FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO COMMIT TO THE SERVICE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AND YOUR NATION. BY DOING THIS, WE SUSTAIN AND EXTEND THE BEST THAT HAS EMERGED IN AMERICA."

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# Congresswoman Maxine Waters Helps Black Businesses, Homeowners

By Joseph Wright  
Special to the NNPA from  
Our Weekly News

Congresswoman Maxine Waters was the keynote speaker at a recent forum designed to help Black and other non-White businesses, as well as those run by women, gain greater access to major banks and brokers to help sustain and establish their corporations.

"Since the recession really took hold in December 2007," the congresswoman explained, "about 2.3 million homes have been repossessed by banks. Currently, about one in 10 American households, with a mortgage, is at risk of foreclosure."

According to Waters, the non-White communities across the United States suffered the most in this economic downturn because African-American and Latino families represent more than half of all California foreclosures. This data came from the Center for Responsible Lending which also notes that African-American and



Congresswoman Maxine Waters

Latino foreclosure rates, respectively, are more than double those of White borrowers in California and other states.

On the business side, the Black community has been impacted by the disproportionate distribution of foreclosed properties given

to brokers from outside of Black areas for resale. Many Black-owned real estate offices have been forced to close down their businesses because of the disparities. "These are a couple of (the) reasons why I have worked so hard to help to offer more solutions to the problems facing our community," Waters told those in attendance.

"We all reached out to [Rep. Waters]," Inglewood Century 21 owner Denise Woods said. "Some of us reached out individually to her as real estate professionals; African American real estate professionals. Then we decided we would come together as a group for the whole organization..."

"We told her what we were dealing with as far as the financial institutions were concerned in the distribution of their resale (and) their foreclosure properties, because we [African-American real estate brokers] were being excluded. . . the banks were using agents from outside of [the Black community]."

Within President Barack Obama's Wall Street Reform bill were provisions authored by Waters that establishes a \$1 billion program with The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide low-interest loans to unemployed homeowners in danger of losing their homes.

CEO Mark Alston of Alston and Associates Mortgage Company applauded the efforts of the congresswoman. "I am proud to say that I am the friend of someone who will stand up for those in our community," Alston said. "I started looking at the numbers and the data (regarding Black businesses and Black foreclosure

rates). After I saw the data, I got (angry). The economy and the recession has got me in a corner, I thought. I'm tired of working hard and not being able to go to the dentist. That is why this meeting is important."

Alston emphasized that the Black community and its businesses need to understand what steps are necessary to remedy the problem of foreclosures. In addition, he pointed out the need to understand what policies and laws are in place to help those businesses and homeowners who face troubling situations due to lack of finances.

Alston said, "You need to understand that you as a homeowner or business owner are not in the fight alone. You have people in government like [Waters] fighting for you."

The corporations and businesses attending the summit included Citibank, Chase Bank, members of the Consolidated Board of Realtors, and representatives from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

# Fear, Exclusion Prevent Haitian-Americans from Voting

By Cyril Josh Barker

Special to the NNPA from the Amsterdam News

As Wyclef Jean continues to criticize the Haitian government for not allowing him to run for president, questions are being raised about the Haitian government's attitude toward Haitians not living in the country.

Unlike in the United States, Haitians who aren't living in their country at the time of an election are not able to vote. There's no system set up to submit a vote from another country. This is due to the stigma that spending time away from the country leads the Haitian government to give the label of those not in the country as uninvited.

"Haiti has gone through a lot of changes since the overthrow of the old government," said Haitian-American and political candidate Rodneyse Bichotte. "The consti-



Despite the terrible housing conditions and massive numbers living in tent cities, scheduled elections will go forward

tution was revamped, and it takes time for a country such as Haiti, which has been under dictatorship so many years, to grab the meaning of democracy."

Involving herself in American politics, Bichotte is running for state committee leader of the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, which has the largest number

of Haitian immigrants in the state. None of those living in the district can vote in Haiti's presidential election.

"If you look or sound Ameri-

can with Haitian roots, then you are not invited," she said. "Sometimes, people get backlash for being away so long. I'm not sure why they make it so difficult."

But along with the stigma that Haiti has against those not living in the country, many also fear being involved in Haitian politics at all because of the history of corruption.

Bichotte said, "Some people are afraid and they feel that anything having to do with Haitian politics is bad karma. Having that sense of independence seems unreachable, but everyone wants the best for the country."

Haiti was supposed to hold an election this February, but it was postponed due to the January earthquake. Elections in Haiti will be held in November with 38 candidates running for president of the country.



# You can plant vegetables in September in Louisiana

By LSU AgCenter Horticulturists Dan Gill, Kyle Huffstickler and Allen Owings

Seed companies around the country report an uptick in the sales of vegetable seeds this year. An increased interest in home vegetable gardening generally occurs whenever we experience economic downturns. If you planted a spring/summer vegetable garden, don't forget to keep your garden productive with fall/winter plants. Some of the most popular and delicious vegetables are grown in Louisiana during the cool season from October to May.

Novice gardeners have a steep learning curve as they first get started. Common mistakes include inadequate bed preparation, planting at the wrong time, crowding plants too close together and improper harvesting. It's important to understand that a vegetable garden needs frequent, regular care to be successful. Even when the gardener does everything right, pest problems can damage or destroy a crop after all the effort. Fortunately, successes generally outweigh disappointments, and learning how to grow vegetables successfully is within everyone's ability.

As we move into the cool season, root crops such as carrot, radish and turnip are an important part of the garden. Root crops are always directly seeded into the soil – never transplanted. The tiny root first produced by the seed eventually develops into the edible root. It is easily damaged when the seedling is young, and this damage will cause a deformed, poor quality final product. When thinning root crops, don't be tempted to transplant extra seedlings to other spots – you'll be disappointed with the results.

Plant bush snap beans and lima beans now so they'll have time to produce a good crop before cold weather. Bush varieties produce faster and concentrate their harvest in a shorter period of time than pole beans, making them preferred for fall planting.

Plant seeds of bulbing onions, bunching onions and leeks this month. Sets – or small bulbs – of bunching onions and shallots may also be planted this month, but don't plant sets of bulbing onions until early December. Select

short-day varieties when choosing seeds or sets for bulbing onions. Onion seeds are slow to germinate and need a constant supply of water during the process. The seedlings grow slowly at first, so be patient. Onions, shallots, leeks and garlic, which should be planted in October, are long-term residents in the cool-season vegetable garden. Bulbing onions, shallot bulbs, leeks and garlic will not be ready to harvest until late May or early June next year.

Work also needs to be done in the herb garden. Regularly remove the flower spikes of basil to encourage plants to continue to produce leaves. Ultimately, the plants will begin to wind down. Basil transplants could still be planted into the garden now for a late crop.

If herbs such as sage, lavender, thyme and catnip managed to make it through the summer, they should begin to revive as the weather gets cooler. Remove any dead parts and fertilize them lightly to encourage new growth. Many herbs will have grown vigorously during the summer, particularly if not regularly harvested. Cut them back about half way to get them in to shape. Dry or freeze the extra harvest or share it with friends.

This month can be hot and dry, and with new plantings going in you should pay careful attention to the water needs of the garden. Newly planted transplants and seed beds are especially vulnerable to drought conditions and may need frequent – even daily – irrigation. As seeds come up and transplants become established, water deeply and less frequently to encourage a deep root system.

High populations of insects are around now, so be vigilant and treat problems promptly. If a crop is about to finish up, such as okra is now, you generally should not be as concerned about controlling pests on it as on a vegetable crop that has been planted more recently.

Caterpillars can be particularly troublesome in the fall garden. Regular applications of Bt, Spinosad or Sevin insecticides will keep their damage to a minimum. Spinosad will also control leaf miners. Control white flies and aphids with a light horticultural oil.



The LSU AgCenter has excellent free and for-sale publications on home vegetable gardening available at our website – [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

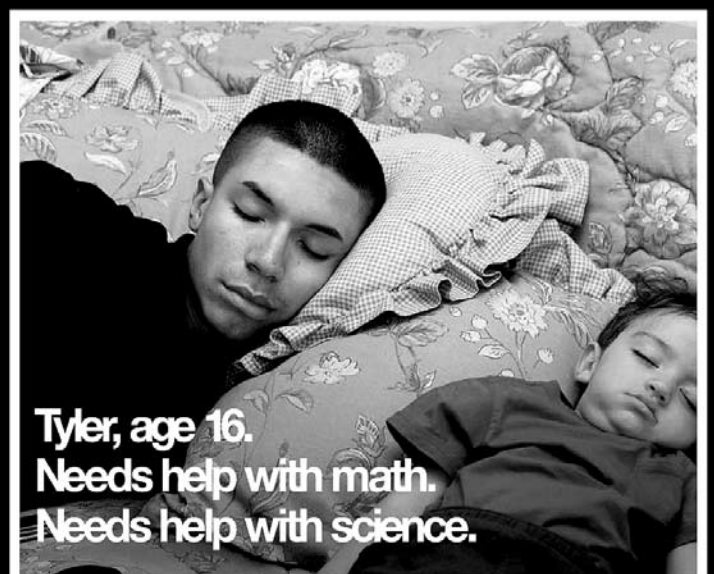
## Vegetables to plant in September

Transplants or seeds of beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, English and snow peas, Irish potatoes (plant small, whole potatoes saved from the spring crop), kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onion, radish, rutabagas, shallots (plant sets), snap beans, Swiss chard and turnips.

## Herbs to plant in September

Transplants of basil, sage, rosemary, thyme, oregano, chives, lavender, Mexican tarragon and mints. Seeds or transplants of dill, parsley, fennel, cilantro, arugula, borage, chamomile and chervil.

Visit LaHouse in Baton Rouge to see sustainable landscape practices in action. The home and landscape resource center is near the intersection of Burbank Drive and Nicholson Drive (Louisiana Highway 30) in Baton Rouge, across the street from the LSU baseball stadium. For more information, go to [www.louisianahouse.org](http://www.louisianahouse.org) and [www.lsuagcenter.com/lyn](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/lyn).



**Tyler, age 16.**  
Needs help with math.  
Needs help with science.

**Needs help with Jordan, age 2.**



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*I was born in New Orleans. My family still lives here. We have to restore the Gulf communities for the shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners who live and work here.*

*- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach*

## Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

**Economic Investment**  
**Environmental**  
**Restoration**

Health and Safety

Wildlife

No oil has flowed into the Gulf for weeks. But we know this is just the beginning of our work. BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf and that includes keeping you informed.

### **Restoring Gulf Communities**

We can't undo this tragedy. But we can help people get back on their feet. We have been working with impacted communities since day one.

Partnering with local governments and community organizations, my job is to listen to people's needs and frustrations and find ways to help. We have 19 community centers and teams in four states, listening and helping.

### **Restoring The Economy**

BP is here in Gulf communities with shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, helping to make them whole.

More than 120,000 claim payments totaling over \$375 million have already gone to people affected by the spill. We have committed a \$20 billion independent fund to pay all legitimate claims, including lost incomes until people impacted can go back to work. And none of this will be paid by taxpayers.

BP has also given grants of \$87 million to the states to help tourism recover and bring people back to the Gulf beaches.

### **Restoring The Environment**

We're going to keep looking for oil and cleaning it up if we find it. Teams will remain in place for as long as it takes to restore the Gulf Coast.

And we've dedicated \$500 million to work with local and national scientific experts on the impact of the spill and to restore environmental damage.

Thousands of BP employees have their roots in the Gulf. We support over 10,000 jobs in the region and people here are our neighbors. We know we haven't always been perfect, but we will be here until the oil is gone and the people and businesses are back to normal. We will do everything we can to make this right.

For general information visit: [bp.com](http://bp.com)

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

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