

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

"The People's Paper"

FREE  
COPY

**Glen David Andrews  
Headlines Soul Fest  
at Audubon Zoo**

**Data  
Zone  
Page 6**

March 5 - March 11, 2016 50th Year Volume 45 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Dillard University Theatre Department Presents "The Rosa Parks Story"



Page 2



**State & Local**  
**Does Women's  
Liberation Stop  
at the Church?**

Page 4

**Commentary**  
**Blackonomics**  
Hillary and Bernie Discover  
and Re-Discover Black People



Page 8

# Dillard University Theatre Department Presents “The Rosa Parks Story”



The Dillard University’s Theatre Department in honor of Black History Month, performed “The Rosa Parks Story.” which chronicled her life as a child to her crusade against segregation and racial intolerance.

By Audie Jones  
Data News Weekly Contributor

As part of its Black History Month Celebration, Dillard University’s Theatre Department performed “The

Rosa Parks Story.” The production ran from Feb. 26th through Feb. 28th and chronicled her life as a child to her crusade against segregation and racial intolerance. “With only three weeks and 19 rehearsals it came together very quickly,” said Jerry L. John-

son, the Play’s Director who teaches theatre at Dillard. Johnson said he was moved seeing his work come to life. It was the first time the play was performed he said, and it provided a fresh and unique spin on a well-told history.

Cover Story, Continued  
on next page.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story . . . . .	2
State & Local. . . . .	4
Data Zone . . . . .	6
Commentary. . . . .	8
Health News . . . . .	9
National News . . . . .	10

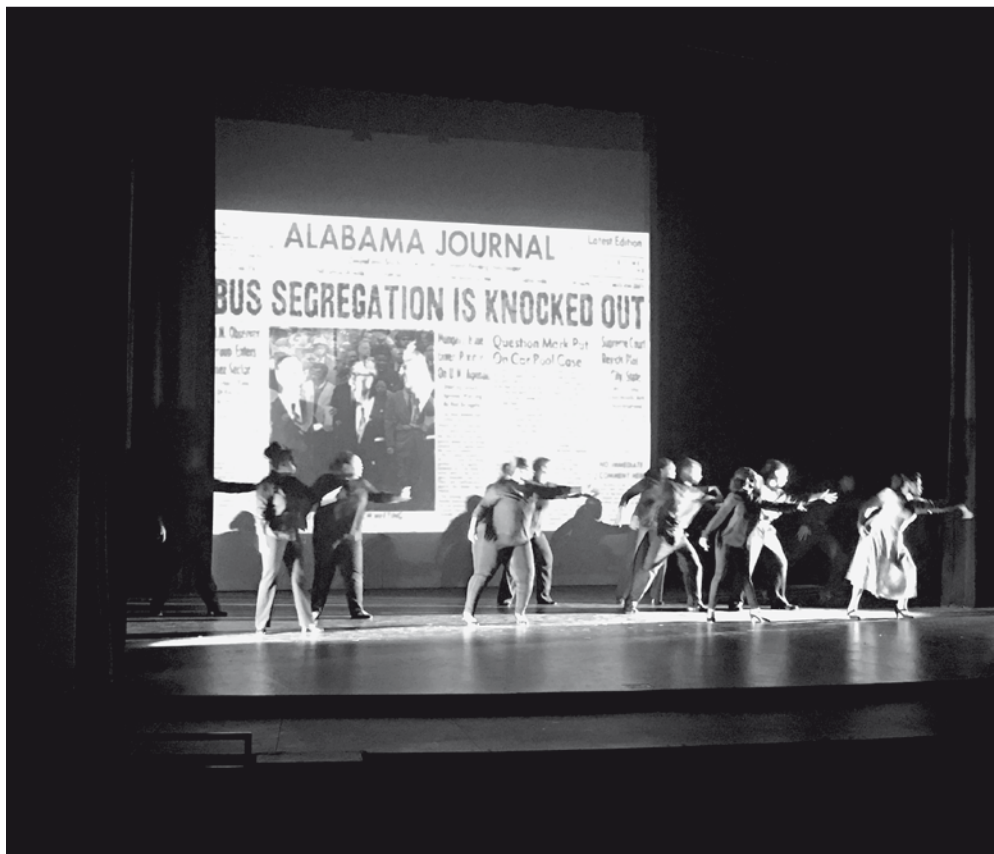
### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

<b>Terry B. Jones</b> CEO/Publisher	<b>Contributors</b> Freddie Allen Tatyana Aubert Dwight Brown James Clingman Focus Features Raynard Jackson Audie Jones Tiauni Julien Patricia Maryland Nigel Palmer Prinsey Walker	<b>Art Direction &amp; Production</b> MainorMedia.com <b>Editorial Submissions</b> datanewseditor@bellsouth.net <b>Advertising Inquiries</b> datanewsad@bellsouth.net <b>Distribution</b> On The Run Courier Services
<b>Edwin Buggage</b> Editor		
<b>Calla Victoria</b> Executive Assistant		
<b>June Hazeur</b> Accounting		

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.  
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



“Well considering that we are celebrating her Sixtieth Anniversary this past December, that’s reason enough,” said Johnson on why he dedicated an entire play to Parks. She’s still relevant and current to what is going on today. She took a stand and we see the young people today taking a stand for Black Lives Matter,” Johnson said.

Parks was responsible for changing the course of the Civil Rights Movement up to that point, Johnson said. “The pinnacle moment in her life was when she was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat for a White passenger,” he said. “Rosa inspired the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement, this is why she is known as the ‘Mother of the Civil Rights movement,’” he said.

With an image filled backdrop to accompany the monologue, this take on the story of Rosa Parks was filled with a mix of protest spoken word and dance.

Dillard student Darleny Del-Rosario, a Theater-Performance Major from Houston, Texas, who worked as both costume designer

and actress for the play said that remembering pioneers like Rosa Parks is important for a new generation of African-Americans.

“They only give us one month to celebrate our history when it shouldn’t be that way,” Del-Rosario said. “They give us the leap year month that only has 28 days and we should be celebrating our history throughout the year,” she added.

Janae’ Bridges, a Dallas, Texas native and an Accounting Major at Dillard said she was elated to see her peers tell such a powerful story. “This shows me that what our ancestors dealt with is still continuous and still affects us today,” Bridges said. “It also shows our progression as a whole and how much more work we still have left to do.”

The crowd inside the Samuel Dubois Cook Theatre, cheered as the story concluded with an element of surprise, which was an intricate dance routine to the Oscar-Winning Song “Glory” from the motion picture “Selma.” The performance placed the historical into the present as the song tied the racial injustice of the past to the issues of

discrimination and police abuses in the headlines today.

“It tied it all together. I saw the

song as a way to draw the youth in because it has John Legend, Common, and a hip-hop element,” John-

son said. “We are basically telling the same story that we just told and then bringing it current,” he added.

## The Regency Reception Hall

“A Venue for All Occasions”



For Weddings, Private Parties, Showers, Corporate Parties, Repasses and More...

504-245-2323

7300 Downman Road  
New Orleans 70126  
www.theregencyneworleans.com



Find us on:  
**facebook®**  
**more photos**  
**more stories**  
**more data**

# Wholesomeness and the Hollywood Christian Female Celebrity, Does Women's Liberation Stop at the Church?

By Prinsey Walker  
Data News Weekly Columnist

The entertainment industry thrives off of mantra that "sex sells." And female entertainers this award season showed more than a little skin in their fashion statements, and gyrated in national performances from Beyoncé at the Superbowl to Rihanna's rendition of new single "Work" at the 2016 BRIT Awards. At the same time, Hollywood has seen a new crop of female celebrities espousing Christian virtues, and fans have been calling for these bearers of the faith to set themselves apart and cover-up or tone it down.

Women's History Month in March is a time when women celebrate the achievements of the Feminist Movement. Christian celebrities who may decide to burn their proverbial bras and dress as they choose are facing a backlash. African-American Actress Meagan Good, known for being sexy on and off the red carpet, was called out at a book conference at One Church Los Angeles on Feb. 16th for her risqué style on a magazine cover. Good is the wife of Devon Franklin, Pastor of Rubidoux Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Riverside, Calif. Franklin and Good were holding a conference for their book called "The Wait: Kingdom Love 2" at the church. The couple wanted to spread the message about the importance of love, courtship, and celibacy in a relationship, before marriage. At the event, Franklin was forced to defend his wife during an exchange with an audience member on Good's modesty.

Good is not alone. Singer Ciara Harris who is dating NFL Quarterback Russell Wilson has been open

about the couple's celibacy, given Wilson's open Christian beliefs. This couple decided to remain abstinent, until married. Wilson recently said during a church interview that, "God spoke to me and said, 'I need you to lead her.'"

Both Good to Ciara have had to feel questions about what is too sexy for a Christian woman in Hollywood. One audience member at Good's book launch told the actress:

"You are beautiful. I'm going to say something to you. This is not offensive, but I was at the grocery store and I looked at a newsstand and I saw you and you had your breasts showing. So I wasn't going to come here... And the Lord let me come and push past the judgment. And this is real, you have to make sure that what you say and what you do match up, you understand? So, we gon' cover up right?"

Immediately, Good's husband Franklin stopped the audience member and said, "That is not what we're here for. She's not going to cover up. She gon' wear what she wants to wear in the name of Jesus. Amen?" Franklin continued to speak as Good was moved to tears by her husband's support.

Despite the support of their significant others, Christian women say they sympathize with Good and Harris, adding that it's difficult to be a celebrity Christian woman and express one's sense of style, even if it doesn't fit the church definition of modest.

Gwendolyn Bates, a Deaconess at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. said she felt that people are being too judgmental about Good's style. "She's a young woman. She should not have to cov-



Prinsey Walker

er up in the name of Jesus. She can show her boobs," Bates said. "I'm an older woman, and I do not like to cover up. She should wear what she wants, as long as she does it in a nice way and not in a flirty way."

Feminist also took sides with Good. Tia Smith, the head of the Department for Mass Communication at Xavier University who studies gender and the media said that

Good has the right to express her individuality through her fashion.

"Wear what you want to wear in appropriate context and that means to define what appropriate means to you," Smith said. "Meagan Good is an Artist, so her boundaries and experience is different from someone in corporate. As a pastor's wife she also has the right to wear what she feels comfortable in," Smith added.

Good and Harris should not be judged as being bad Christians solely on their wardrobe, said Casey Garnet, a recent University of New Orleans graduate and New Orleans native. The red carpet has a unique fashion statement context that is different from Sunday morning service. Either way, both celebrities should be not be disrespected because of provocative fashion choices.

"Society says that if you're a pastor's wife, then you should dress a certain way," said Loreal Ivory, a Xavier University student. "But aside from social norms, she should dress how she wants and still get respect."

Some young Christians say they understand the uproar. As role models, they hope that Good and Harris could be a bit more modest. "I think that the lady was right. If [Good] is supposed to be a certain [Christian] figure, she should follow it by all means," said Angelique Rhome, a 27-year-old New Orleans Native agreed.

Christian men like Southeastern University Sophomore, Jarvis Reynolds, a New Orleans native said he too disapproved of Good's styles. "She should not live two different lives, she should dress the same way all the time," Reynold said. "I would not want my wife to dress like that looking good for the members. You save that for when you get home."

Good defended herself, asking her fellow believers not to cast judgment. "But I just want to say to that young lady, however you feel, if that's how you feel pray for me and I love you and God bless you. And thank you." Good said at the book launch.

## On The Run Courier Service, Inc.

Same Day Service-Rush Service

Sedrick L. Jones  
Proprietor



Phone (504) 874-2802

5741 Cameron Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA

Phone (504) 288-1925

Fax (504) 288-1910



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

**more photos**  
**more stories**  
**more data**

# New Youth Services Committee Examines How to Tackle Effects of Poverty on Children

By Tiauni Julien  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

A recent report on child poverty showed that 39 percent of New Orleans youth were in poverty, an increase of about 17 percent in the last decade. The findings of the 2015 data collected by Dr. Vicki Mack, a Senior Research Fellow with the Southeast Louisiana Data Center prompted the City to establish a special Committee for Youth Services and Empowerment, which held its first meeting on Feb. 24th. The goal of the committee is to determine what other areas outside of criminal justice issues are impacting youth in the City, and what services would be needed to correct it.

"[The committee] felt that it was necessary and appropriate to form a committee that just focused on youth," said Aylin Maklansky, the Legislative Director for New Orleans City Councilmember Nadine Ramsey.

"There needed to be a committee that focused specifically on the youth in ways that will further their growth," Maklansky said of Ramsey's interest in the data.



Dr. Vicki Mayer (pictured) is a Senior Research Fellow with the Southeast Louisiana Data Center.

Ramsey serves as chair for this new City committee, which also comprises of Councilmembers James A. Gray and Jared Brossett, and Jason Williams, a Council Member-at-Large.

Ramsey hopes the committee will introduce the public to various organizations that can assist in youth services. "Every opportunity we get, we try to expand these programs," Maklansky said. The first few meetings will be to gather and assess what resources are currently available for youth and how effective these services are, Maklansky added.

The Data Center's 2015 Child Poverty Brief and the New Orleans Youth Index found that one in three New Orleans children live in poverty. Mack presented the data to the committee at its first meeting and offered some potential solutions that would require leaders create more opportunities for the poor, beginning with employment assistance. The report, which came out at the end of 2015 lead to the formation of the committee in January, 2016.

"The committee seemed to be particularly interested in the potential negative effects of poverty

on brain development," Mack said. Mack added that the solution to child poverty is a multi-generational approach and that leaders will need to create more quality jobs. With many households being headed by single mothers in the area, Mack said these women don't make enough money to meet the needs of the household.

"Innovation is needed to break the cycle of poverty that grips poor families," Mack told the committee.

Services like EMPLOY, the Employment and Mobility Pathways Linked for Opportunity Youth, were job training options for youth that Mack presented to the committee to change the outcomes for young people. EMPLOY Senior Program Manager Nicole Jolly shared with the committee how the Efforts to Outcome (ETO) System could help young people recognize their potential in employment and education.

The committee will set its next meeting for March or April, Maklansky said. The Special Committee plans to implement changes after gathering and assessing information over the course of several meetings, and after hearing from experts.

Check out Data's  
"Calendar of Events"  
at [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com)



Stay up on all of the happenings  
in the Big Easy

ladatanews.com



**DR. FIDELE**  
DC

**504-324-6416**

Plaza Medical Center, LTD

4301 Elysian Fields, Suite 103  
New Orleans, LA 70122

— Your —  
**WORK  
INJURY  
and  
ACCIDENT**  
— doctor —

# Glen David Andrews Headlines Soul Fest at Audubon Zoo

*African-American Cultural Celebration Returns for 13th year*

Celebrated New Orleans trombonist, band leader and vocalist Glen David Andrews heads a lineup of talented local performers who will keep the music flowing throughout the annual two-day Soul Fest at Audubon Zoo.

On Sunday, March 6, Andrews will close out the festive weekend at the Capital One Pavilion with one of his trademark performances of gospel, jazz, blues and brass band music.

Andrews, who introduced himself to national and international audiences with the release of the acclaimed album "Redemption" in 2014, is part of a musical family rooted in the culturally-rich Treme neighborhood. His cousins include trumpeter James Andrews and Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews.

The 13th annual Soul Fest opens on Saturday, March 5 with performances by HiLyfe, the Gospel Soul Children, Anjelika Joseph, Mike "Soulman" Baptiste, LACEE and other jazz, rhythm & blues and gospel artists who are expected to attract thousands to Audubon Zoo for one of New Orleans' biggest celebrations of African-American culture.

Guests of all ages will get to purchase soul food prepared by local restaurants and caterers and enjoy the Zoo's collection of exotic animals, including the new orangutan exhibit.

Kids can visit the Children's Global Playground and create a special Soul Fest souvenir. Festival-goers also can stop in at the Soul Fest Community Partner Tent and receive valuable wellness and lifestyle information.

On Sunday at 2 p.m., Soul Fest will host its annual African American Firsts tribute, recognizing locals who have made their mark on the community. Honorees are: Former Tulane University head football coach Curtis Johnson; the Rev. Isaiah Franklin, maintenance foreman for Monsanto Chemicals; Pvt. Journae King, trainee for Artillery Tactical Data Systems in the Louisiana National Guard; Toni Mobley, Audubon Nature Institute senior vice president; and McDonogh 35 High School.

Soul Fest is included with Audubon Zoo admission or membership. No outside food or beverages are permitted. Soul Fest is presented by AARP and sponsored in part by The Bardell Company. For more information, visit [audubonnatureinstitute.org](http://audubonnatureinstitute.org)



Glen David Andrews



Gospel Soul Children



Michael "Soulman" Baptiste

## 2016 Soul Fest Performance Schedule:

### Saturday, March 5

11:00 a.m. - Roots of Music  
 11:45 a.m. - HiLyfe  
 12:45 p.m. - The Gospel Soul Children  
 1:45 p.m. - Anjelika Joseph/The Speakerbox Experiment  
 2:45 p.m. - Mike "Soulman" Baptiste  
 3:45 p.m. - LACEE

### Sunday, March 6

11:00 a.m. - Kevin Stylez  
 11:45 a.m. - 4x4 Connection  
 12:45 p.m. - Tara Alexander  
 2:00 p.m. - African American Firsts Program  
 2:45 p.m. - Gina Brown  
 3:45 p.m. - Glen David Andrews

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

# Honoring History, the Movie "Race" Lifts Spirits

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA News Wire

Jesse Owens' story still inspires

"On the track, there is no Black and White, just fast and slow. For those 10 seconds you are free," says Jesse Owens (Stephan James) in this very moving and inspiring bio/sports movie that captures the essence of this legendary athlete's life, challenges and achievements. Race is a history lesson, personal profile and a crowd pleaser.

Before you see this movie, you might wonder why they didn't just call it "Jesse," or "Jesse Owens." Ten minutes into the footage, you completely understand why. Owens feat of winning four Olympic Gold Medals did not happen in a bubble. He endured the indignities of racism and segregation in the U.S., and saw prejudice firsthand in Berlin in the 1930s. To the credit of this movie's perceptive team, they didn't shy away from the inequalities and degradation of the period as they retold his story.

Producer Luc Dayan, who developed and produced an award-winning short film tribute to Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis, nurtured this project and was joined by producer Jean-Charles Lévy, director Stephen Hopkins (Predator 2, Lost in Space) and screenwriters Joe Shrapnel and Anna Waterhouse (Halle Berry's Frankie & Alice). Their production has a surprising sensitivity and honest response to racism that carries through for two hours and 14 minutes.

James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens, who was born in Oakville, Alabama, grew up in Cleveland, Ohio demonstrating a passion for running in Junior high, which is where he met his sweetheart, Minnie. Owens made headlines when he tied the world record for the 100-yard dash, running it in 9.4 seconds, while he was in high school. He had his choice of colleges, but because his coach recommended head track coach Lawrence "Larry" Snyder (SNL's Jason Sudeikis) at Ohio State University, he went to Ohio State.

On May 25, 1935, Owens participated in the Big Ten meet at Ferry Field in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he set three world records (long jump, 220-yard dash and 220-yard hurdles) and tied a fourth (100-yard dash), in just 45 minutes. It was an incredible achievement, one that set him up for the Olympic Trials and put him on the road to the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

Behind the scenes, as Nazism spreads in Germany, Jews were being persecuted and killed and Hitler's propaganda machines lauded the Aryan race, and call all others inferior, particularly blacks. Some Olympic officials, like Jeremiah Mahoney (William Hurt), called for a boycott. Others, like Avery Brundage (Jeremy Irons), insisted that athletes go and show the world that an integrated American



Stephan James (pictured on the right) stars as Jesse Owens in the film "Race." (Focus Features)

team could beat the Germans.

The rest is history. Owens won four gold medals and shamed Adolph Hitler in front of the world. Documentary director Leni Riefenstahl (Carice van Houten), who was hired by Hitler's crew to capture the Germans in all their glory, recorded all of Owens triumphs, which proved Hitler's theories on race to be absolute bunk.

Stephan James, who played civil rights leader John Lewis in Selma, brings a duality to his measured interpretation of Jesse Owens: He's confident, without being self-centered; vulnerable without being weak. It's an attractive quality for a protagonist, one that makes you like Owens even more. Jason Sudeikis is also successful at building the Snyder character who is a know-it-all at first, then willing to learn from his student. For a comedian attempting a dramatic role, he's okay. The two actors feed off each other, making the transition, from "coach teaching student" to "student teaching coach" life lessons, believable. Owens to Snyder: "You stick with me and I'll make a great coach out of you." Irons and Hurt make the officials look stiff and calculating. Shanice Banton as Owens sweetheart/wife displays a sweetness that's infectious.

Though the direction, script and acting are steady, they are out-shined by two elements: The first is the spirit of Jesse Owens, which makes watching him win races against tremendous odds a joy, even though you already know he will lead the pack. Secondly, the attention to social issues and civil rights problems, which were prevalent back in the day and remain so today, is admirable.

Race deserves a lot of credit for not whitewashing history.

Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

Audubon Zoo  
A Facility of Audubon Nature Institute

## Soul fest

A CELEBRATION  
OF SOUL

MARCH 5&6  
10AM - 5PM

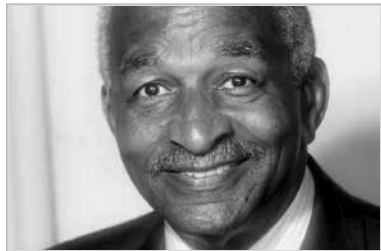
LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD • CRAFTS  
WELLNESS

Presented by:  
**AARP**

Soul Fest is included with Zoo admission or membership. No outside food or beverages. Portable chairs and blankets welcome.  
[www.audubonnatureinstitute.org](http://www.audubonnatureinstitute.org)

# Blackonomics

## *Hillary and Bernie Discover and Re-Discover Black People*



**By James Clingman**  
NNPA News Wire  
Columnist

One thing is for sure; Black folks are enjoying this latest political mating dance with Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Sanders is discovering Black people in South Carolina and Georgia, and Clinton has reopened the “leading Blacks” vault to rediscover their loyalty and will-

ingness to present her to the Black electorate one mo’ time, y’all.

Sanders, after years without doing anything specific for the 1 percent Black population of his state, much less for Black people in general, has now discovered, and some would say rediscovered his love and concern for us. In the vast majority of cases it is really a case of Black people discovering Sanders, because most Blacks knew absolutely nothing about him prior to a few months ago, but for Ed Schultz and Black folks’ penchant for watching MSNBC. Sanders started out by traipsing up to Harlem, cameras in tow of course, to sip tea with Sharpton at a Black restaurant. I am sure

that boosted his “street cred” bonafides with Black voters.

Uncle Bernie then goes to MLK’s alma mater, Morehouse, and tells thousands of Black folks how much he loves them now and how much he will do for them—now. It’s almost like he is waking up from his five-decade “I marched with MLK” respite and discovering that Black people exist and, yes, they are important to court because he cannot win without them. He is pulling out all the condescending platitudes to get the Black vote, and Black folks are lovin’ it.

Hillary, far more knowledgeable and adept at getting Black voters, reached into her bag of politricks

and pulled out an old, tried-and-true, sleight of hand tactic. She met with the Great Triumvirate of Black “civil rights” leaders, folks who will hurt you if you get between them and a news camera, to subliminally suggest she is “down with the bruthas.” Sitting at a table with Morial, Sharpton, and a guy Black folks have yet to discover, Cornell Brooks, was her springboard to vie for the Black vote.

Mama Hillary called on old stand-by, John Lewis, to tell Black folks that Sanders has no street cred, because Lewis “never met him” back in the days of fire-hoses, dogs, and Billy clubs. (Maybe Lewis had a concussion back then

and simply forgot.) Hillary then got members of the Black Caucus to endorse her, a monumental victory that will surely bring home the ultimate victory. After all, we cast from 93 percent - 95 percent of our precious votes for Barack in both elections, and he won; why not the same thing this year for Clinton?

Black folks are discovering and being discovered by Bernie; we are also being rediscovered by Hillary. And while we are making political campaign ads, going to rallies and cheering for the Democratic candidates, as Gil Scott-Heron said in reference to Richard Nixon and the

**Commentary, Continued**  
on page 11.

## Democrats and Republicans Continue to Ignore Black Voters



**Raynard Jackson**  
NNPA News Wire  
Columnist

Another election cycle, another year of Blacks being sold out by their media-appointed leadership.

Why am I the only one who seems amazed at how Hillary Clinton is so ostentatiously pimping Black folks for her own personal gain? Clinton has spent more time in the Black community in the past three weeks than she has in her entire adult life and has invoked the name of “Obama” more than the sum total of all Blacks collectively.

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) members, like the lapdogs that they are, have almost uniformly endorsed her candidacy. All the media-appointed civil rights groups and individuals have either outrightly or tacitly endorsed her.

Groups like the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP), the NAACP, the National Urban League are nothing more than sycophantic supporters of all things Democratic.

I have a few questions for these groups that have blindly sold out the very Black community that they claim to represent. Can anyone name me something specific that Hillary has done for the Black community in her more than quarter of a century in public life? Why has Hillary, the self-avowed feminist who is married to the “first Black president,” not publically demanded Obama nominate or even just consider nominating a Black female to the vacant Supreme Court seat? Why is it that the media-appointed Black leaders are just happy Hillary shows up to meet with them and take photographs?

Isn’t it amazing that she never addresses the high unemployment rate in the Black community? Isn’t it amazing that she never discusses meeting with any Black entrepreneurs? Isn’t it amazing that she never discusses Black-on-Black crime?

All the Blacks she meets with make their living off the negative pathologies prevalent in the Black community. If the Black community actually started solving problems like unemployment, teenage pregnancy, poor schools, etc.; how and where would the NAACP, the National Urban League, and the CBC get their funding or justify their continued service in the United States Congress?

Observing Hillary’s interaction

with the Black community, one would conclude that all Blacks are involved in some aspect of the criminal justice system. As shocking as it might seem to liberal Democrats, most Blacks have nothing to do with the criminal justice system; but yet that seems to be all that she talks about relative to Blacks.

Will she ever address how under Obama, the continued existence of Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) is in doubt?

The average Black voter has no allegiance to Hillary and the Democratic Party; this is why I am so frustrated with the Republican Party.

The average Black voter is open to Republican solutions to Black unemployment, stronger enforcement of housing discrimination laws, school choice, civil and voting rights legislation, etc.

The Republican Congress must begin to engage with Blacks on substantive policy issues. Republican presidential candidates must begin to discuss Black entrepreneurship, school choice, and racial disparities with an eye towards proffering solutions.

We already know that Hillary and the Democrats will use fear to try to get Black voter turnout up. They know they have nothing of substance to say to motivate Blacks to vote Democrat, but they also know that Republicans are totally

inept when it comes to engaging with the Black community.

Democrats will use the usual mantras: Republicans want to suppress the Black vote, they want to repeal civil rights laws, they want to build more jails for Blacks, etc.

Of course, none of these accusations are rooted in fact.

Republicans will reflexively go to all the liberal Black conventions (NAACP, Urban League, etc.) in their bizarre attempt to prove they are not racist; but they never demand any concessions from these groups like they would from a White group.

I have constantly advised Republicans to refuse to speak to any Black conventions unless they agree to put Black Republicans on their various panels throughout the week of their meetings. To my astonishment, their response is, “We can’t do that. We need them more than they need us.”

Let me interpret that statement for you. They are afraid to play hardball with Black groups because they “may” be called racist by the liberal media.

I am amazed at how much of the interactions Republicans have with the Black community is out of fear of being labeled a racist, as opposed to engaging with the Black community based on a set of shared values and interests.

Between both political parties, there have been close to twenty presidential debates; and no substantive discussion on the Black unemployment rate, the decline of HBCUs, or Black entrepreneurship. Why?

Black media, especially Black newspapers, are totally invisible in the presidential debates in both parties. Both parties are tripping over themselves with Hispanic media and addressing issues specific to that community; but with Blacks, not so much.

This despite the fact that Blacks vote at a much higher percentage than Hispanics and Blacks have a much larger voting age population (VAP).

Both parties fear Black people. The Democrats fear that Blacks won’t turn out without Obama being on the ballot; Republicans fear Blacks won’t vote for a Republican. Both are equally wrong.

Raynard Jackson & Associates, LLC is an internationally recognized political consulting, government affairs, and PR firm based in Washington, DC. Jackson is an internationally recognized radio talk show host and TV commentator. He has coined the phrase “straticist.” As a straticist, he has merged strategic planning with public relations. Visit his website at: [www.raynardjackson.com](http://www.raynardjackson.com).

# Diversity Among Doctors Drives Trust in Health Care

By Patricia Maryland  
NNPA News Wire  
Contributing Writer

Black History Month gives us the opportunity to reflect on the countless examples of the contributions that African-Americans have made to build our country. By celebrating these pioneers who helped shape America, we are inspired to overcome adversity and realize the positive change we, too, are capable of enacting in areas where inequity still persists. Black health is one such example where much has been achieved, but much more can be done to secure positive health outcomes in the Black community.

We know that on virtually every measure of health, African-Americans fare far worse than their White counterparts – from diabetes to heart disease to infant mortality. These disparities can be explained by myriad and co-influencing factors, including a lack of access to affordable healthcare, nutritional education and safe spaces to exercise.

A less apparent, but equally troubling, reason for unequal outcomes in Black health is a strong sense of skepticism – even mistrust – in physicians, in medicine and in the healthcare system in general. The impact of the Tuskegee syphilis



study, a four-decades-long clinical trial in which African-American men, unaware of their condition, endured the disease for the purpose of medical observation, still looms large on the Black consciousness, perpetuating a culture of wariness that has lingered for generations.

Mistrust in medicine is particularly pronounced among African-American men, many of whom will enter the healthcare system only after their conditions are severe or life-threatening. A 2011 study by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that Black men who self-identified as “highly mistrustful” of healthcare were more than twice as likely to delay check-

ups and cholesterol screenings, and three times more likely to delay a routine blood pressure screening, than those who were more trusting.

Distrust, skepticism, fear — these beliefs are intensely embedded in the history of Black healthcare, but they are ones we must overcome if we are to truly improve the health of our families and communities. Today, too often, a lack of trust can become a huge liability, even a death sentence, for Black patients.

I became a healthcare professional, because I saw my family members, friends and neighbors plagued by diseases that could have been prevented, if they had

taken a proactive approach to their care. While it's important to acknowledge that African-Americans' relationship with the healthcare system is complex, our community cannot afford to remain disengaged in these matters.

That's why all of us must take a hard look at the barriers that prevent African-Americans from achieving health equity and commit to an effort to reclaim Black health and wellness.

On the part of individual members of the Black community, that means not only taking advantage of the coverage opportunities provided by the Affordable Care Act, but also taking a hands-on approach to health – one that seeks out care in a timely and accountable fashion and works to nurture a positive culture of health in our families, churches, neighborhoods and cities.

On the part of healthcare providers, this work will require a new standard of care that recognizes the unique needs of minority populations and designs a care strategy around what works for each individual patient. Working with physicians at our facilities, we are learning that when we actively engage the patient in his or her care, we're better able to build meaningful, long-term relationships that lead to better health outcomes. This per-

sonalized care approach is proving vital in earning trust and improving the health of the African American community.

Representation also matters when it comes to building confidence in healthcare among minority communities. Black Americans make up 13 percent of the population, yet they account for barely 4 percent of practicing physicians nationwide. What's more, studies show relationships between patients and physicians of the same race or ethnic background also are characterized by higher levels of trust, respect and patient satisfaction. It's clear that more needs to be done to encourage African-Americans to pursue medical professions – and ensure the proper supports are in place to nurture diversity in the field.

As we remember and reflect on Black history – the bad and the good, the darkness and the light – there is no better time than now to commit to actions that will make our community healthier and stronger. And it begins by working together to break down barriers, real and perceived, to the care we need and deserve.

Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer of Ascension Health.

## Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring for two positions in our New Orleans Office.

### Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

#### About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com) is the most read Black website in the region.

We are currently seeking a strong leader to proactively manage broad aspects of the advertising division. You will be working in a positive team-oriented atmosphere which has a modern press, leading website and award-winning newspaper.

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Prospect and develop sales leads for print and digital product lines
- Drive online and cross platform advertising sales
- Identify, create strategies, develop influential contacts, and help close new digital products
- Increase overall revenue opportunities in both print and online
- Develop a team sales atmosphere

Our ideal candidate will possess the following education, skills and experience:

- Minimum 5 years print and digital sales and manager experience
- Self-starter, capable of executing within all phases of sales cycle
- Strong relationship building and client service background
- Strong organizational, communication and presentation skills
- Team player and leader
- Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
- Strong motivational skills
- Recruit talent

Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans LA 70125

# Hillary Clinton Meets with Civil Right Groups, Black Millennials

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA News Wire Senior  
Washington Correspondent

A few days before presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton racked up a huge win in Nevada's Democratic primary, largely thanks to the overwhelming support that she received from Black voters, the former Secretary of State met with civil rights leaders for a frank discussion about the 21st Century Agenda for Jobs and Freedom.

According to exit polls from the Democratic primary in Nevada conducted by CBS News, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) won 53 percent of the Hispanic vote while Clinton garnered 45 percent of the Hispanic vote. Sanders narrowly won among White voters, earning 49 percent of their vote compared to 47 percent who went with Clinton. But 76 percent of African Americans that turned out for the primary voted for Clinton compared to just 22 percent who supported Sanders.

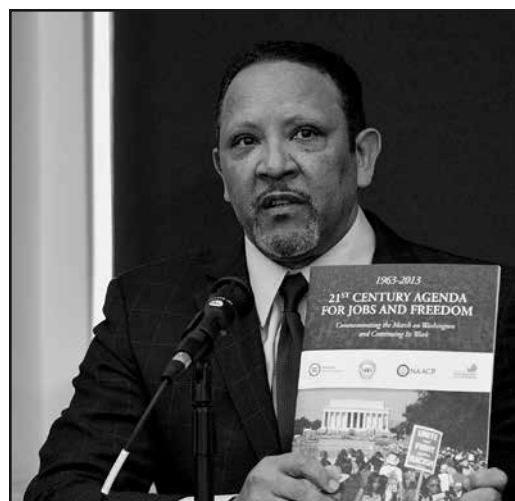
As presidential candidates covet Black voters, civil rights leaders want to make sure that the needs of the Black community are also addressed.

"For the first time in American history, we will watch a Black family leave the White House and we do not want to see the concerns of Blacks leave with them," said Reverend Al Sharpton, the founder and president of the National Action Network.

The 21st Century Agenda for Jobs and Freedom, crafted about three years ago around the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, outlines a number of challenges affecting the Black community and identifies five main domestic goals to address those challenges.

The goals of the agenda include: achieving economic parity for African Americans, promoting equity in educational opportunities, protecting and defending the voting rights, eliminating healthcare disparities and achieving comprehensive criminal justice reform.

Last Tuesday, Clinton met with leaders from nine different civil rights groups including the National Urban League, the NAACP, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, the National Action Network, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP Legal



Secretary of State and Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (center) addresses audience during a town hall held by the National Urban League. Seated with Secretary Clinton are Marc H. Morial, President & CEO of the National Urban League (left) and Rev. Al Sharpton, President of the National Action and TV host of Politics Nation on MSNBC.

Defense and Educational Fund, the National Bar Association and the National Council of Negro Women.

The coalition of civil rights groups hosted a similar meeting with Sanders in Washington, D.C. last Thursday.

Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League said that the nine historic civil rights organizations represented tens of millions of Americans and that all of their organizations were multicultural and multi-ethnic.

Morial also made it clear that the meeting was not an endorsement of Hillary Clinton's run for the White House.

"Each of us is either a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4) organization. Our organizations do not endorse or recommend candidates for public office," said Morial. "This is a meeting that we have convened and we have organized in an effort to provide to every candidate who is running for president of the United States, be

they Republican or Democrat, with the opportunity to hear from us on issues of civil rights, social justice and economic justice in America, today."

Clinton said that her staff has "always found an open door and a responsive ear to help us forge the kind of policies that we think can directly address many of the issues" that the leaders raised during the meeting.

"My campaign is really about breaking every barrier. I believe that America can not live up to its potential unless every single person has the chance to live up to theirs," said Clinton.

The former Secretary of State also met with more than a dozen "emerging leaders" that represented the next generation in the leadership of the civil rights groups that attended.

"While we are proud to be historic organizations, with legacies from the NAACP and the National Urban

League being over 100 years old, others being 50 to 25 years old, we are also proud that, in every case, every one of our organizations is standing up and emphasizing the new generation and emphasizing the leadership role that the new generation can, will and must play in the future of this country," said Morial.

Leigh Chapman, the president of the National Bar Association's young lawyer division that represents lawyers under 40 and lawyers who have practiced less than 10 years, said that access to education without the burden of lifetime debt, ensuring full participation in the political process, eliminating barriers to voting, and ending mass incarceration were a few of the issues that they wanted the next president to address.

Christopher Wilds, a legal fellow at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), said that for 75 years LDF has been engaged

in protecting the rights of African Americans and other minorities in the areas of political participation, education, criminal justice and economic justice.

"Although young people of color are often disproportionately impacted by legislative judicial and policy decisions, we rarely have or hold the position to directly control those positions, said Wilds. "Growing use of discriminatory voter ID laws, the current attacks on affirmative action, the disinvestment in African American communities, the continued targeting of youth of color by police and the criminal justice system all to often work together to turn the American Dream into a nightmare."

Clinton said that it was absolutely critical for the next president to work on a full array of issues that stand in the way of every American living up to their full potential.

"I am not a single issue candidate, we don't live in a single-issue country and we have work to do," said Clinton. "And that work can only be done in partnership with one another to advance the cause of civil and human rights and to live up to the ideals of our country."

Clinton continued: "Whether it's student debt or it's a judiciary that is not as diverse as it needs to be, or whether it is criminal justice issues or voters' rights issues we have work to do."

Clinton added that her campaign, and her presidency, if she was so fortunate, must reflect the thinking, the planning and the proposals of the young leaders who attended the meeting.

Morial said that the former Secretary of State "demonstrated an ease and a familiarity with many of the issues that were discussed" and that the group found "great support" for many of the issues contained in the 21st Century Agenda.

"Our aim is not partisan politics, our aim is not to decide on a candidate to endorse," said Morial. "Our aim is to impress upon these candidates the challenges of these times and the important creative and thoughtful ideas that we have to solve the problems that this nation faces, with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by communities of color and urban communities, those who have been locked out and left out of the economic system in the 21 century."

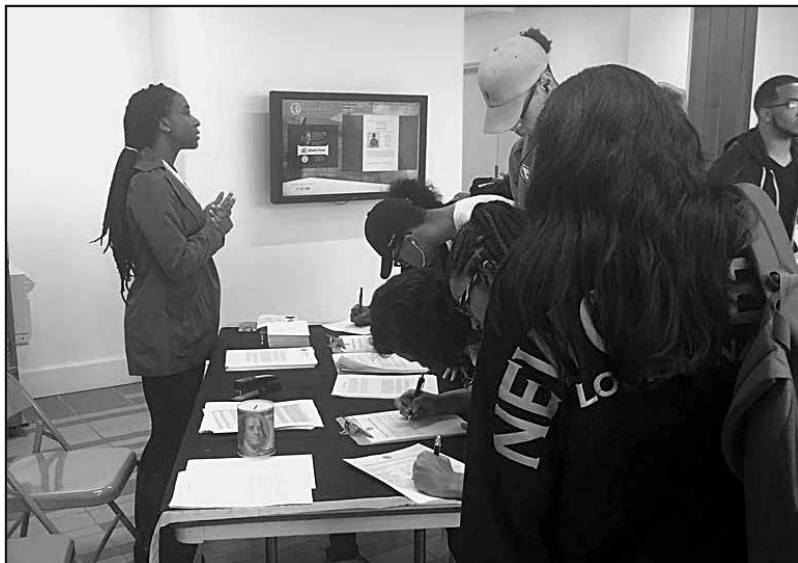
# Xavier Students Join in With Other Universities to Call On State to Preserve TOPS Program.

By Nigel Palmer  
Photo by Tatyana Aubert  
Data News Contributors

Xavier University students and officials are petitioning State Government's request that legislatures stop proposed cuts to the popular TOPS Scholarship Program, and to preserve the program for future students. On Feb. 24th roughly 800 students signed a petition at Xavier's University Center that was organized by the University's Office of Financial Aid. The petition requested that budget cuts towards TOPS cease as the State of Louisiana debate how to balance its budget given a \$940 million deficit.

"Students who are currently receiving TOPS, the state has agreed to pay 80 percent of their current award and as far as future awards, we're not sure what the status of those are," said Janikah Miles, Xavier university's Scholarship and TOPS Coordinator.

TOPS is a Louisiana Scholarship Program that pays the average tuition of public universities and partial tuition for private universities. TOPS, which stands for, Taylor



On February 11, 2016, college students from across the state took to social media to protest the news of the TOPS Scholarship program being suspended. Above, Xavier students sign a petition for reinstatement of the popular program.

Opportunity Program for Students started in 1998. Roughly 58 percent of Xavier students could be impacted if the State Government were to cut funding or eliminate TOPS payments. On Wednesday, February 24th, students along with Xavier's Financial Aid Office Staff passed around petitions for students to sign. Miles said the uni-

versity hopes to send over a thousand signatures on the petition to the State Legislature and Governor in advance of March meetings that could determine the fate of TOPS.

On February 11, 2016, college students across the state took to social media to protest the news of TOPS being suspended. On February 11th, recently elected, Governor of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards, announced a suspension of the scholarship program due to Louisiana's budget woes. Students argued that the move was one that harmed their ability to finish school and earn their degrees. It would also impact high school students in the state who are deliberating whether to attend Louisiana Universities during the crucial college decision-making season.

Xavier University of Louisiana is one of the many universities in the state that are bracing for the impact of cuts to TOPS should the program remain on the chopping block. It could impact enrollment for the university in the Fall and the ability to retain current students into the next academic year. More than half of the students that attend Xavier University are from Louisiana. Currently at Xavier, 688 students receive TOPS, Miles said in an interview, adding that the future of TOPS is unclear at the moment, as the State Legislature is scheduled to meet on the matter on March 9th. That's when Xavier University, along with other colleges, will receive information on TOPS, Miles said. Xavier University's backup plan hasn't been discussed until they receive the state's deci-

sion, according to Miles.

Students who signed the petition said they felt it was important to join in numbers and send a clear message to State Legislators that they depend on TOPS to earn a degree.

Cydney Evans, a Junior Biology/Pre-Med Major from New Orleans, Louisiana, said she was disappointed by the situation. "As a student who receives TOPS, this really affects my financial aid. Xavier is expensive and I know every student that attends Xavier needs every penny they can get," Evans said.

Out-of-state students said that the TOPS decision could have a ripple effect on other students. It could impact university budgets also forcing schools to make tough choices about cutting programs, as is the case with Louisiana State University and other public universities. Sydney Booker, a Sophomore Biology/Pre-Med Major from Pass Christian, Mississippi, understood the need for the state to make tough decisions to stabilize its deficit. However, she did feel that the state should find another spending item to cut instead of support for local students. "Although I don't receive TOPS, I feel like it should still be in place. It's for a good cause and it's helping students pay for school. I just don't agree with tuition cut because it will leave a lot of students in a financial hold," Booker said.

Gov. Edwards and the Louisiana House agreed on February 25th to an increased sales tax of four cents on every dollar in order to find a solution to the state's budget crisis. This increase in sales tax is seen as critical to the budget balancing. The taxes would begin on April 1st on purchases. Republican lawmakers have been hesitant to agree with Gov. Edwards. They believe that the State Government is bloated and in need of restructuring.

Some local students said they were concerned about the future of high school students who depend on TOPS to begin college. Ronald Haroon, a Sophomore Biology/Pre-Med Major from New Orleans, Louisiana, said he knew of many high schoolers who, if not for TOPS, would not be able to afford a college in the state. "It's unfortunate. It'll force a lot of Louisiana students to drop out of college and it'll effect high school students who had aspirations of attending an in-state college who depended on TOPS," Haroon said.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

Republicans, "All is calm and quiet along the white sands of San Clemente." In today's political world that simply points to the Republicans continued strategy of ignoring Black people by saying absolutely nothing on our behalf or in support of issues that specifically pertain to Black voters. But why should they? We are "all in" for the Dems.

Hype is meaningless unless it is accompanied by real accountability and substantive results. If the Black vote is so important and so precious, as we like to say, then why is it literally given away for a song and a dance or a rousing speech? Saying how bad it is for Black people is not doing something about it. Glad-handing and hobnobbing with two or three leading Blacks is not doing anything to elevate Black people to a state of economic empowerment—and not even political empowerment. Feeling our pain and walking in the streets with us does nothing to alleviate that pain or stop the injustices we suffer.

It is embarrassing to see our people fawning over folks who, when they get what they want from us, will return to the political status quo. If that were not true, we would have seen huge benefits by now. It's always, "this time it will be different," when it comes to Black voters.

One practical question to ask candidates who are running around our neighborhoods, churches, and college campuses seeking our votes: "How much campaign money have you spent with Black-owned media, i.e. newspapers, radio?" That's just one of many acts of reciprocity and the bare minimum of what we should demand. If they do as the current POTUS did in 2012, spend one-tenth of 1 percent with Black media, don't support them until they increase that amount, and then move on to the next demand. Stop allowing them to use and insult you, and stop slobbering over this latest discovery process; Black people have been in this country since the show started.

James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, *Black Dollars Matter!* Teach your dollars how to make more sense, is available on his website, [Blackonomics.com](http://Blackonomics.com).

## DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to  
place your classified ad.

### Job Opportunity

#### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

We can't wait to  
hear from you!

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

# NO MORE

“SHE WAS ASKING FOR IT”



Domestic violence and sexual assault are never the victim's fault. It's time we all speak out to stop the violence.

No more excuses.  
No more silence.  
No more violence.

JOYFUL  
HEART  
FOUNDATION



ENTERTAINMENT  
INDUSTRY FOUNDATION™

NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

[www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org)

Lisa Leslie

© 2013 Joyful Heart Foundation. All rights reserved. All content and trademarks used under license (or with permission).