

# Ohio Legislative Black Caucus FOUNDATION

## The OLBC Foundation:

*Its Beginnings and  
Where It Stands  
Today*

Formerly known as the Center for African American Strategies, the OLBC Foundation was established to operate exclusively for improving the quality of life of the African American residents of the State of Ohio by hosting activities designed to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. The foundation also was created to serve as an educational resource for the members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

The Foundation works with its Corporate Round Table Members, constituency groups and advocates to share ideas on how best to promote the welfare of African Americans and to eradicate disparities in the areas of health, jobs and education.

The Foundation also hosts several projects during the year, including the African American Legislators' Day Luncheon and town hall meetings to discuss current policies. We look forward to working with you!



## *What Is Inside?*

Pfizer's® Take on Quality Health Care...2

2009 Legislators' Day Luncheon...2

Education and Economic Turnaround...4

Patient Assistance Now...6

Corporate Round Table Membership...6

## *Our Partnership, Our Ohio: Making a Difference in the Lives of African Americans*

*By Representatives Sandra Williams, OLBC Chairwoman and Tracy Maxwell Heard, OLBC Foundation President*

Welcome to the first issue of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation newsletter. Within these pages, you will find valuable information on how the Foundation is working to impact the lives of African Americans in Ohio and how we are working with our Corporate Round Table members to accomplish our mission.

The Foundation has some substantial challenges ahead of it. The economic climate is gray, there are significant disparities in access to quality health care and our public educational system is under tremendous pressure; yet, it is facing scarcer resources. The Foundation, however, is in a unique position to tackle these issues head-on and effect real change in our communities.

Education is a key component in realizing this goal. The Annual African American Legislators' Day Luncheon held in February of this year was our kick-off to engaging our Corporate Round Table members, government officials and community activists about our vision and mission. It also was an opportunity for our OLBC board members to dialogue with the general public on matters that meant the most to them. More information on the Luncheon can be found on page two of the newsletter.

As we move forward, the Foundation is working to raise awareness about the major issues by hosting seminars and workshops for the community, conducting town hall meetings and carving out innovative communication

paths, including rebuilding the existing website ([www.olbcfoundation.org](http://www.olbcfoundation.org)).

Building up the next generation of African American leaders is another key component to the Foundation's mission. The Foundation plans to provide educational programming, volunteer and intern opportunities and a chance to work directly with our Corporate Round Table members on Foundation activities. In addition, the Foundation plans to provide insight and training to our future leaders on coalition building and networking.

The Foundation also is very committed to providing scholarships to college students. Most recently, the Foundation awarded two engineering scholarships through the Minority Engineering Scholarship Program. The program is sponsored also by New Visions Group and the National Society of Black Engineers. In 2010, the Foundation will award its highly anticipated George Washington Williams scholarship and is working toward establishing many more.

In addition, the Foundation was able to provide scholarships to ten students at Central State University, in Wilberforce, Ohio. Central State University is Ohio's only public historically black university.

We must work hard and strategically in these times. The disparities within the African American community require our adeptness and the passion to propel our causes forward to success.

We can do it together! Thank you for your support and interest in our newsletter.

## Corporate Round Table Spotlight

*Submission from Our CRT Member*

### Legislators: Ambassadors to Quality Health Care

*By Teresa Hawthorne, MD, MPH, Primary Care Clinic Physician/Medical Director of the Fairfield Department of Health & Pfizer®*

Access to affordable health care is an enduring dilemma, especially for low-income citizens who are unaware of opportunities afforded to them through the Medicare system.

For example, the nationwide Medicare Prescription Drug Program, referred to as Medicare Part D, provides insurance to qualified individuals for drug purchases. Part D's Low Income Subsidy Program (LIS) significantly helps low-income beneficiaries pay for their prescription drugs.

Unfortunately, almost 80,000 eligible Ohioans, who live primarily in Appalachian counties or urban areas of Ohio's larger cities, are not taking advantage of Medicare Part D, which means they are missing out on prescription aid through LIS.

Here are some of the reasons:

- Social stigmatism
- Lack of LIS education
- Inadequate application assistance
- Reluctance to share personal financial information

The LIS benefit is critical to the health of thousands of residents. It's vital for physicians and elected officials to get the word out to qualified constituents and increase the Ohioans' enrollment in Part D. Some examples of how to do so include targeted mailings and partnerships with community advocacy organizations.

For more information on how to spread the word to constituents and on who is eligible for Part D, legislators should contact the Ohio Department of Insurance's Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) and consult its *Senior Resource Connection*. Legislators can call OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578 or [www.ohioinsurance.gov](http://www.ohioinsurance.gov). An analysis of LIS in Ohio is located at: <http://www.medicare-partd.com>.

The welfare of all Ohioans is a top priority. The more qualified recipients learn about LIS, the more our government can do to assist them.

Ohio Legislative Black  
Caucus Foundation  
340 E. Fulton St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614-341-6912  
[sylviatbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviatbrown@hotmail.com)

Executive Director,  
Sylvia Brown, Esq., M.A.



### Highlight:

## African American Legislators' Day Luncheon

*By Representative W. Carlton Weddington*



Each year, the OLBC Foundation hosts the African American Legislators' Day Luncheon as a way to educate the community about OLBC and its accomplishments. This year, the luncheon was

held on February 10, 2009 at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, Ohio.

The Keynote Speaker was State Treasurer Kevin L. Boyce, and the event was a phenomenal success. Guests were treated to an appetizing soul food lunch by Keaton's Katering and three rousing selections by the Central State University Chorus.

Members from the House and Senate were in attendance, as well as Governor Ted Strickland, Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher, Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and Attorney General Richard Cordray. Many members of the Corporate Round Table also were in attendance.

The Foundation was pleased to recognize Zandra Moss of National City and Kevin

Baron of Nationwide Insurance as our Corporate Round Table Trailblazer Awardees for 2009.

The Foundation also recognized Otto Beatty, Jr., Attorney and Rhine McLin, Mayor of Dayton as its 2009 C.J. McLin, Jr. Trailblazer Awardees. Both Attorney Beatty and Mayor McLin previously served in the Ohio General Assembly and have continued an outstanding record of public service.

Next year, the Foundation hopes to make the event even better with the addition of a National Speaker.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2010!

*"The Luncheon is an opportunity for us to dialogue about the issues."*

## Choice and Quality Care for People with MR/DD

By Mark Davis, President of the Ohio Providers Resource Association

Families and direct support staff are the foundation of Ohio's system of services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. Absent these critical caretakers, individuals with developmental disabilities would face significant jeopardy and Ohio's developmental disabilities support system would disintegrate. Ohio is facing a direct support staff crisis.

An example of the great work that families and direct support staff provide can be found in "Mr. and Mrs. H." Mr. and Mrs. H spend much of their time caring for a thirty-four year old young man who is living with autism. They are direct support staff working with Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI), a provider of developmental disability services and a member of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). OPRA is a trade association representing community-based providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Mr. H is a full-time home manager, and Mrs. H is a part-time caregiver who shares that she "likes being around individuals with developmental disabilities and seeing their enthusiasm for life."

The young man they care for lives in his own two-bedroom apartment, but he is in need of around the clock assistance. Direct support staff work straight-through shifts to provide him the care he needs, which includes activities such as banking, shopping, cooking, personal care, taking him for doctor visits and dispensing medications.

According to CEO of Champaign Residential and OPRA President Than Johnson, this young man has experienced many behavior challenges; however, "It is the staff that has helped him overcome acting-out issues,...and taking him home with them expands his socialism and helps him get used to people, which has added to his improvement."

Developmental disability waiver providers' rates have been frozen since 2005. These waiver providers rely almost completely on Medicaid to fund these services. As a result, direct support staff wages have not kept pace with inflationary indices. With such low wages, workers are attracted to less difficult work with similar rates of pay. Many hard working families find themselves dependent on government benefits such as child care and food stamps. Higher compensation is critical to ensure consistency and quality in the hard-working developmental disabilities workforce, and better reimbursement is necessary to achieve this goal. OPRA is working toward educating the public about the excellent work being done and ways to help these workers.

### Smart financial planning for a brighter future.

Through our partnership with The Smiley Group, Nationwide is working to promote financial literacy among African Americans. We believe that proactive planning is the key to economic empowerment and financial freedom. And we're here to help.

Nationwide provides a full range of insurance and financial services. To learn more, visit us at [nationwide.com](http://nationwide.com).



On Your Side®

Nationwide, the Nationwide framemark and On Your Side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2009 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved.



## Diverse backgrounds. Limitless potential.

Why do diversity and inclusion play such a big role at AT&T? Because we know they are essential for our success. We know that innovation and leadership thrive on multiple perspectives. And our diversity allows us to better serve a diverse world. So we find the best. For more information, go to **att.jobs**.



**at&t**  
Your world. Delivered.

©2009 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property.





## Help for the Uninsured

By Cathy McGeehan, Associate Director of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation®

The more than 47 million Americans who have no prescription drug coverage will now have easier access to information about prescription drugs and programs that may provide assistance with the cost of medications.

While many assistance programs and resources are available to benefit the uninsured, patients are often unable to find these programs or are confused when determining which programs best fit their needs.

To address this, a new resource, Patient Assistance Now, has been launched by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation that may help uninsured Americans afford their Novartis medicines and help patients find information to help them take care of their health.

Now patients can access an easy-to-use Web site that provides specific information about programs and services available.


Patients and caregivers can visit [www.PatientAssistanceNow.com](http://www.PatientAssistanceNow.com) or call (800) 245-5356 toll-free to find programs that may be right for them.


?

### Did You Know?

The more than 47 million Americans who have no prescription drug coverage will now have easier access to information about prescription drugs and programs that may provide assistance with the cost of medications.

Patients and caregivers can visit [www.PatientAssistanceNow.com](http://www.PatientAssistanceNow.com) or call (800) 245-5356 toll-free to find programs that may be right for them.





## Join the Corporate Round Table

Corporate Round Table Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (1) CRT membership with voting rights; opportunities to become CRT officer</li> <li>• (1) Seat on any established CRT committees</li> <li>• Invitation to all OLBC Foundation events</li> <li>• Special recognition and reserved seating at all OLBC Foundation and CRT events</li> <li>• Exclusive invitation to make presentations to and meet with the OLBC executive committee</li> </ul>	\$2,000.00	
Corporate Round Table Membership <i>Gold Level</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All benefits of Corporate Round Table Membership Level and the following:</li> <li>• Free ½ page advertisement in select OLBC Foundation print materials</li> </ul>	\$5,000.00	
Corporate Round Table Membership <i>Platinum Level</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All benefits of Corporate Round Table Membership Level and the following</li> <li>• Free full page advertisement in select OLBC Foundation print materials</li> <li>• Company link on OLBC Foundation website</li> </ul>	\$10,000.00	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach, insert into an envelope, postage prepaid and mail to:

340 E. Fulton St., Columbus, OH 43215