

THE NOBLE NEWS

ENSURING ALL MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES GAIN THE CONNECTIONS, KNOWLEDGE, AND EMPOWERMENT TO BUILD A MORE JUST, EQUITABLE, AND HEALTHY SOCIETY...

JANUARY THRU APRIL 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Pictures of black dolls hanging “lynch style” in an unspecified location were sent to the NAACP – Vancouver Chapter

COMMUNITY ACTION

BLACK WOMEN LEADERSHIP CREATING CHANGE IN THE ‘COUVE PRESENTS “MY BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL...”

On Saturday, May 26, 2018 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at Esther Short Park “SW Washington Communities of Color Coalition” will host the “My Black Is Beautiful...” gathering in response to the March 13, 2018 hate crime where several black dolls were found hanging “lynch” style from a tree in an unspecified area of Vancouver, Washington. Police were called and were responsive to the situation; However, our community felt we needed to take additional action to address this event by highlighting and showcasing the social, political, and economic contributions of women of color living in Vancouver, Washington. Join Us!

2018 INITIATIVE UPDATES

WHAT’S NEW

SW WASHINGTON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR COALITION

The Noble Foundation (TNF) in partnership with Southwest Washington Emergency Response Network Against Hate (SWWA-ERNAH), The Vancouver Chapter of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Odyssey World International Education Service (OWI) created Southwest Washington’s “Communities of Color Coalition” to empower, connect, educate, and advocate for the needs for our communities of color living in the region. Our collective goal is to “work as a coalition through transparency, reciprocity, and honesty” while “raising awareness and outreach efforts to marginalized communities across the region.” said Karen Morrison, OWI Executive Director. This is an exciting opportunity to build “better communication within and amongst our community by creating safe spaces where communities of color are able to focus on issues that are important to us.” said Ophelia Noble (TNF).

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS

“WOMEN’S PEER SUPPORT GROUP”

We are currently looking for women of color who are interested in learning the skills needed to host “Peer Support Groups” throughout SW Washington. “It is vital that we continue to create safe spaces in our community to do our work as women” said Sarah Wilson. We currently host bi-weekly “groups” hosted throughout the region (Vancouver, Battle Ground, Camas, Woodland, Kelso, and Longview). We have realized across several years of organizing that our community of color needs to create “safe spaces” in which we can support our diverse cultural and social needs. Please contact Ophelia Noble, 360-635-5235 if you are interested in becoming a part of this wonderful opportunity!



“LET’S GET MOVING”

We would like to extend a huge Thank You and Congratulations! to the “Let’s Get Moving” program created by Kelli Keyes and sponsored by The Noble Foundation and The National Association for The Advancement of Colored People-Vancouver. The 12-week program served 20 black families in Vancouver, Washington. “It is so important for our community to learn new strategies to improving their health” said Kelli Keyes. “It is vital that we, as a community, recognize the health disparities that exist in our community and do something about them” said Veah Keyes. “There are so many different options from juicing to staying motivated to change our behaviors through motivational mentorship” said husband and wife trainers Gerald and Deborah Dory. We are excited to support the empowerment and growth of our local black community. Thank you!!!!



KELSO HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

In January 2018, The Noble Foundation partnered with SWWA-ERNAH, NAACP-Vancouver, OWI, LULAC, and Healthy Living Collaborative of Southwest Washington to host the “We Care...” program. This program was developed to address the recurring trauma experienced by children of color attending Kelso High School. “It was incredible to see the impact that being together as a group had on students, and it was realized early among facilitators that students of color need peer support in Kelso.” said Sarah Chivers, Executive Director of The Noble Foundation. 97 Kelso High School Students participated in the community assessment which was supported by high school administration and staff. Because of this work, Kelso High School implemented the first Diversity Class where students are engaged in issue specific learning. “I would love to be able to do this work in Vancouver” said Brandi Williams, Vancouver Community Leader. This work has led to the establishment of the first in history “DIVERSITY CLASS” at Kelso High School. Our goal is to promote



VIGIL FOR STEPHON CLARK “IT WAS A PHONE, NOT A GUN”

On Wednesday, April 4, 2018, exactly 50 years after the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., community organizations and individuals from Southwest Washington came together to honor the life of Stephon Clark, a young black man killed in cold blood on March 18th by the Sacramento police in his own backyard. The citizens of Clark County and beyond gathered to hold a vigil to express our profound sense of malaise at the racism of police departments across the country and their lack of accountability for their wanton and senseless violence against people of color.

Fifty years after the hateful murder of Dr. King, black and brown men and women are still the targets of lethal violence in the U.S. by law enforcement and by organized white supremacists. In the indomitable spirit of Dr. King, a number of community groups and individuals will come together not only to mourn the loss of Stephon Clark, but to show our determination to continue our efforts to make this violence a thing of the past. As Dr. King said in his last speech, less than 24 hours before he was murdered: “We will get to the promised land!”

The vigil started at 6:00 pm, and it was held at the southeast corner of Vancouver’s Esther Short Park (at 6th St and Columbia St). This event was sponsored by Southwest Washington Emergency Response Network Against Hate (SWWA-ERNAH), the Vancouver Chapter of the NAACP, The Noble Foundation (Kelso), the League of United Latin American Citizens-Vancouver (LULAC), Odyssey World International Education Services (Vancouver), and supported by YWCA Clark County.



