

KAGL & AFFILIATES

KEEP SEARCHING ... IT'S OUT THERE!



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I, *WILL* (Institute for Women



In Leadership and Learning)

Dr. K. Garth-James
Founder, *KAGL and Affiliates*

The *I, WILL* woman is strong, dynamic and willing to learn skills to become a leader in the community. This year, Dr. K. Garth-James was privileged to work with one young lady from Kentucky, who shared her concerns about “stopping violence against women” with attendees to the 52nd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Stephanie Tabor (featured in photo, UN Headquarters, NY), is a junior psychology major and community volunteer on projects helping the poor as well as women and

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KAGL, MEHA and The United Nations

In 2008, Dr. Garth-James and the Young Ambassadors of Public Service from Kentucky Wesleyan College traveled to the United Nations to present a model of hope to help empower women living in poverty.

The group represented the *African Community Center's Safe Haven Shelter* in California that helps women from Africa, Middle East and Europe, escape violence and find safety in the United States. This nongovernmental organization (NGO), is one of many fighting for the safety and the well-being of women in conflict and post-conflict countries around the world.



African Women Leadership, Dr. Garth-James and President of World YWCA, 52nd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 25 February-March 7, 2008. United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY.

children caught in the "cycle of violence."

Stephanie was interviewed by the New York media after giving a poignant statement at the UN of her dedication to finding a way to "interrupt" the violence cycle before it gets to the "fourth generation." Ms. Tabor's hard work represents I, WILL leadership. Are you interested in becoming an I, WILL leader?

Contact us at kagl@aol.com for additional information about programs and opportunities.

MEHA and United Nations (continued from page 1)

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) holds its annual meeting for two weeks during February and March, hosting about 2000-4000 women (some men) from hundreds of nations. Each year the CSW has a theme, e.g., in 2007 the CSW theme and workshop focus was Stopping Violence Against Women; and 2008, and nations presented and discussed models of Women Empowerment through Finance. Joseph Lewis, Stephanie Tabor, and Precious Buxton traveled with Dr. Garth-James to present their model, MEHA, to empower women. They delivered a 12-page handout and power point slide to many of the attendees and discussed their hard work. These students should be commended for their hard work and ideas. Here is a sample of what was handed out and discussed:

**52nd Commission on the Status of Women
NGO Participants representing ACRC-Safe Haven
Shelter**

The M.E.H.A. Ambassadors:

Joseph Lewis, Stephanie Tabor, Precious Buxton

Advisor: Dr. K. A. Garth-James

**THE Mobile Education Healthcare of Africa
(MEHA) MODEL and Microfinance to Empower
Women**

Introduction

Poverty has many faces. It is a starving woman and her child. Poverty is violence against women. There is also an opportunity to empower women through microfinance and the MEHA model. In fact, the *United Nation Millen Development Goals*, emphasize the need for political and educational commitment to make financial resources, and

arguably, financial literacy available for the empowerment of women. In the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, governments were called upon to include a "gender perspective" in the *design and development of all budgetary processes to promote equitable and effective resource allocation and facilitate gender equality* (Resolution S-23/3, annex, para 73 (b)). The MEHA model capitalizes on the concept that education is all important to fight poverty. This paper discusses MEHA and microfinance as a way to empower women; and perhaps, help fight poverty. In so doing, it supports the work of the United Nations *Resolution 1325* and builds on the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nation Millennium Goals.

What is Microfinance?

Microfinance is one way to empower women. Although there are mixed views as to whether or not it helps women out of poverty, research indicates microfinance may prevent the poor from further decline. Often referred to as micro-magic, microfinance focuses on helping the poor obtain small loans from microcredit banks for entrepreneur projects. Since the nineties, millions of tiny loans to the poor, namely women, have been available from microfinance institutions such as banks, international finance institutions, governments and private investors. In 2005, the United Nations declared it as the year of microcredit. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that providing microfinance in the form of small loans of 200-1000 dollars to the poor would help them launch small launch small businesses: "It is a way to build on their ideas, energy and vision" (*Wilson Quarterly, The Micromagi of Microcredit*, 2008, p. 27). Many agree that microfinance helps poor women and children survive in impoverished conditions. The women of the *Kru* tribe in Liberia don't fit the description of weak; they're mothers were educators and business women. They work long hours than their husbands doing farm work and taking the products for sale in the local community. With their earnings, they bought food so that the family would survive another season. Sometimes the food is not enough for the entire family, so they do not eat for the day. In America these women are called the working poor.

These women prove that they can work; as a matter of fact eight out of ten farmers in Africa are women (*Focus on Women*).

ACRC-Safe Haven Shelter and Empowerment

Financial literacy programs are essential to the success of microfinance. *The African Community Resource Center and the Safe Haven Shelter* of California already provide literacy services to women that come to the USA as asylee and refugee victims of sexual or domestic violence. The ACRC-Safe Haven program offers ESL literacy to help women from Africa and Europe with English skills; Civic Education to help them navigate the cities of California--ride the public transportation (bus, train), access medical and employment services; and, obtain *workplace literacy skills* on how to prepare for and get a job. In the Sub-Saharan Africa, a poverty stricken region in the world today, governments that follow a *holistic approach* for socioeconomic growth, can use the Grameen Bank, and its microcredit program as a model to help women in the region.

Fighting Poverty through Education and Microfinance

(M.E.H.A. slide)

The United Nations uses a six region model to analyze the poverty of women. States (or countries, nation-states) are grouped into six geographic areas: Africa, South America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. States are subdivided into developed or non-developed regions based on their political and socioeconomic status; informational reports are available online at websites such as the *PovertyNet* and United Nations. Under **MEHA**, women can learn financial literacy; how to use microfinance opportunities to start a small business. On the continent of Africa and in the USA, microfinance can assist poor women in ways that is "magic."

We are excited to introduce the MEHA model. MEHA is the acronym for Mobile Education and Healthcare of Africa. It represents a joint venture using microfinance organization partnering with healthcare and education institutions (individuals) to help all African continental residents and meets the UN Millennium Goals #1, #5, AND #6).

For a copy of the paper, write kagl@aol.com.

Burgoo Capital of the World: Kentucky's Festival after Derby Day

May is a popular month with college graduations, the Kentucky Derby, and Mother's Day. Also, in May is the barbeque and burgoo festival held in Owensboro, KY.



Burgoo is a popular soup that is cooked in large vats (see below). The ingredients include a variety of meats as mutton, beef and pork. Some people say that this dish dates back to early colonial days; the meats were raccoon, squirrel and other "wild things." Indeed, whatever the soup components, it's delicious!

Cooking Burgoo



The barbeque, live music along the Ohio River and the famous fresh-squeezed lemon-aid, round out the 80 degree warm day spent at the Owensboro Barbeque and Burgoo Festival!

CONGRATULATIONS VERONICA
GENEA LEWIS, GRADUATE 2008

BY MOM

There are many life-changing moments parents can remember when they have children. I was a soccer mom. Shavaughn, Swarthmore '06, and Veronica, University of South Carolina, '08, played hard and with lots of aggression.

Veronica, known as "V," did play soccer all four years at USC-Upstate and, was honored with the All-American and regional awards. On May 6, 2008, she graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts (BFA), concentration in Graphics Design; and, a minor in Art History. The event was well-attended by family members from four states. Mom is happy to witness the event and glad we are done with knee surgeries, and soccer injuries. Congratulations Veronica!!



Corvette Museum in Kentucky



Lacharles Memories of the Stingray he drove in the sixties



**Waiting in the Corvette Nursery for Pick Up.
The Cars are designed by the owner.**

