

# Urban League of Rhode Island Annual Report

*July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004*

**Success Is**



**A Journey**



**Not A Destination**



# ANNUAL REPORT

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This report compiled and edited by Vera Wilson  
and M.J. Daly

# The Mission of the Urban League of Rhode Island

**F**ounded in 1939, the Urban League is a community-based, non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Its mission is the elimination of racial discrimination and segregation in the state, and the achievement of parity for Blacks, other minorities, and the poor in every phase of American life. This mission inherently involves the enabling of minorities and the poor to demonstrate their full potential and to exercise their human rights as American citizens. The Urban League of Rhode Island is one of 115 affiliates of the National Urban League, Inc. It is also a member of a network of community-based agencies providing health and human services to those most in need in greater Rhode Island.

The Urban League implements its mission through advocacy, program service delivery, bridge building among the races, and research. It assists members of its constituencies in developing strategies and techniques to bring about positive changes in policies and institutions that adversely affect their lives. The Urban League's wide range of services and programs include:

- Case Management Services, including emergency assistance to individuals and families, housing counseling, and senior citizens' services
- Emergency shelters at two locations for homeless adults and families, including transitional living units and supportive services
- Safe Havens Program of supervised transitional housing and supportive services for homeless mentally ill persons at two locations
- Adolescent Services Programs, incorporating the Providence Partnership for Adolescent Self-Sufficiency, a program of educational, school-to-work transition, and supportive services for pregnant and

parenting teenagers with a goal of self-sufficiency; a program to promote Male Responsibility through education and intervention

- HIV/AIDS education for adults involved with the state court system; and comprehensive health promotion, substance abuse and pregnancy prevention programs for pre-teens, teenagers, and their parents
- Young Fathers Program for case management services for males
- Employment, Education and Training Unit, offering literacy, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation and job training programs for adults; job placement and employment counseling for Urban League clients and constituents; and GED and scholarship programs for youth
- The Urban League Bridge School, an alternative education program for students who have been excluded from the Providence Public Schools
- Minority Recruitment and Child Placement Program, recruiting and training parents for adoptive and foster care
- Host Homes providing short-term shelter for runaway youth
- Advocacy, Public Policy, and Health Promotion Unit, conducting community organization, coalition building, investigations of discrimination cases, monitoring of the conditions of minorities, and public policy research and advocacy; and health promotion activities

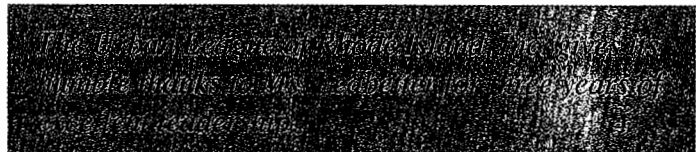


## A Message from Beverly E. Ledbetter, Esq. President

As President of the Urban League of Rhode Island for these last three years, I have been fortunate to witness many agency successes. Now at the end of my term of office, I will renew my past assertion that our achievements would not be possible without the vital and dedicated support from our community and contributors.

I would like to let all of you know, on behalf of my fellow Board members, how proud we have been to be part of guiding this agency into a new era. We live in a quickly changing world. The Urban League's timely response to current events and necessities would not be possible without the willingness and talent of our staff and volunteers. Their seemingly inexhaustible dedication to delivery of the mission of the agency is its strong foundation.

I wish to express my personal continued support of the mission and programs of the Rhode Island affiliate of the Urban League. Regardless of where I am or what position I occupy, my commitment will be unwavering. It has been my pleasure to serve the Board, staff and constituency of the Urban League of Rhode Island.





## A Message from Dennis B. Langley Executive Director

The staff of the Urban League of Rhode Island has developed many programs to effect change for individuals who access services from our agency. We are a preemptive and responsive agency, which is constantly evolving many action plans to address the ever increasing needs of our community.

We recognize the fact that the educational levels of parents are very closely connected with income and often become the determining factor in whether or not children will grow up in poverty. The following programs serve to address the connections between education, employment and income stability.

- We have engaged staff to work with after-school programs, helping students to stay in school.
- Our ProvPASS Program addresses pre- and post-natal care for young mothers. Providing counseling in order for them to delay additional pregnancies until they have completed their educational goals and obtained gainful employment. Less than 2% of young mothers accessing this program have had a repeat pregnancy – until their circumstances were more conducive to healthy childrearing.
- The “Youthbuild” Program, designed to help clients obtain employable skills and focus their attention in obtaining post-secondary education.
- The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program provides volunteer services in filing over 600 income tax forms including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This program is available to low and moderate income, working families with children.

Intensive collaborations and partnerships through advocacy are paying off in a great way for the poor communities of Providence and other areas in the State. During the year we have brought a number of cities, towns and community leaders to the table to address the tax lien sales of properties that adversely affects the poor and senior citizens. From these discussions we will create the formal mechanism to educate individuals about these sales and help them to avoid foreclosures.

Our Minority Recruitment and Child Placement, or Adoption and Foster Care, program is still using the “One

Church, One Child” model to build upon the influence and strength of Black churches in Rhode Island’s Black communities. The recruitment model’s basic principle is to find at least one Black family in each Black church to adopt at least one child. In recent months the program has begun utilizing television and radio advertisements to help make an appeal on behalf of the children who languish in shelters, group homes and State care to find permanent homes with loving families.

We also have a number of programs focused on the youth of our community. We are active in the Providence School System to increase health education and tutoring. We assist in the prevention of truancy and the decreasing of the drop-out rate. Our programs promote responsible behavior and self-sufficiency as teens transition into adulthood. We provide transitional housing, stabilization and mediation for runaway and homeless youth to prevent exploitation and facilitate reunification with their families where appropriate. We also serve, in an alternative setting, high school youth who are temporarily excluded from their schools.

The League operates two permanent, night-to-night homeless shelters and one seasonal shelter. These shelters provide services to men, women and children. Along with the shelters we have emergency apartments for families in transition. Our housing programs are multi-tiered: we have transitional living programs for adults and teens, and we offer a residential program for chronically homeless, mentally ill adults in two facilities called “Safe Haven.” In response to the State’s housing crisis, we have built or acquired and rehabilitated single and multi family homes, which are offered as lower income housing to families who have found today’s housing market to be prohibitive.

The mission of the Urban League is carried out through the leadership of the Board and staff, who are also vigilant to the changes in our society and dedicated to ensuring that our organization remains in step with the times. The agency owes its thanks to these individuals, as well as to the members of the Guild and Young Professionals who carry our intentions to the community through their service projects.

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 Icilda Nembhard  
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# Special Events

## **The 15th Annual Corporate Luncheon**

April 20, 2005

12:00 Noon

Guest Speaker: Alonzo Byrd, Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
The Providence Westin Hotel

## **Not In Mama's House**

May 8, 2005 Mothers Day Celebration

May 22, 2005 Artistic Production

Annual "**Run For Kids**" Road race

TBA

## **The 65th Annual Dinner**

June 23, 2005

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet

6:00 P.M.

Cranston, RI

## **Urban League Guild**

July 16, 2005, Garden Party

Sprague Mansion, Cranston, RI

## **The Black and White Ball**

The Hyatt Regency

Goat Island – Newport

Entertainment – The Dimension Band

November 19, 2005

## **Annual Awards Dinner**

Honoring Adoptive & Foster Parents

December 3, 2005

Marriott Hotel, Providence, RI



# Sponsors

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***Fleet***



# Black/Jewish Alliance

January 24, 2004

Temple Emanu-El, The Urban League of Rhode Island  
and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Presents: "Songs of Freedom and Justice"  
A Community Sing in honor of  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Host Church: Mount Hope Community Baptist Church  
Rev. Oliver Bala, Pastor

Committee:

Chairmen: Norman G. Orodener, Esq.  
Dennis B. Langley

Belinda Francis  
David Hammarstrom  
Lawrence Katz  
Judy Kaye  
David Leach  
Hillary Salk  
Vera Wilson  
Rebekah Raz



# Corporate Luncheon

*"SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION"*

## April 21, 2004

The Westin Hotel, Providence

Guest Speaker: Marc H. Morial, Esq.  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

Corporate Award Recipients  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
AND  
CVS/Pharmacy

### CORPORATE LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

#### Honorary Chairs

Governor Donald L. Carcieri  
Senator Jack Reed

#### Co-Chairs

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Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson

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Beverly E. Ledbetter, Esq.  
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Lorraine Adams  
Rep. Melvoid Benson  
Merlene Samuels  
MJ Daly  
Onna Moniz-John  
Sheldon Whitehouse, Esq.  
Tom Schumpert  
Vera Wilson



# Annual "Run For Kids" Road Race

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

Saturday, June 12, 2004

Chair: The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of the City of Providence

## COMMITTEE

Cora Brown  
Jorge Cardenas  
Nilton Cardenas  
Jovanna Garcia  
Lisa M. Jackson  
Fred Orwiler  
Everin Perez  
Isabelle Pestana  
Frank Santos  
Ebony Smith  
Sara Sullivan  
Ray Wilson  
Felicia Whesu  
Kevin Woods



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Sodexo Food Services



Stop & Shop  
The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
The Mayforth Group  
Tina's Caribbean Restaurant  
United Skates of America  
YMCA of Greater Providence

# Annual Dinner

Thursday, June 17, 2004

*"MANY VOICES CREATE HARMONY"*

Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet  
Cranston, RI

## COMMITTEE

Chairpersons:

Linda Newton

Rev. John Holt

Allan Fung

Belinda Francis

Brenda Gomes

Joseph Fowlkes

Joyce O'Connor

Kevin Clement

Lillian N. Simpson

Rebecca Flores-Amado

Rita Singer

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Vhonda Simmons

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Beverly E. Ledbetter, Esq.

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Sodexo Food Services

The Urban League Guild of Rhode Island



# Black and White Ball

Marriott Hotel  
Newport, RI

Saturday, November 22, 2003

## COMMITTEE

Senator Lincoln Chafee, Chairman

Mary Ellen Panzini

Linda A'Vant Deishinni

Gertrude Blakey

Jorge Cardenas

David Cooper, Esq.

Carol A. Corwin

Laureen D'Ambra, Esq.

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Vera Wilson

Beverly E. Ledbetter, Esq.



# Black and White Ball

Marriott Hotel  
Newport, RI



# Urban League Guild

We are very fortunate to have Guilders that demonstrate their eagerness to serve as ambassadors promoting the Urban League's mission and programs.

Since its inception the Guild has always focused on the needs of assisting high school graduates in pursuit of continuing their education at an institution of higher learning. The Guild sponsors one major fundraiser each year that enables us to make a contribution of \$3,000 to the Urban League's Scholarship Fund.

The Guild's community service projects this past year were: A contribution to the Battered Women Shelter Residential Program, Adopting of a family from the Case Management Unit during the holiday season and fulfilling their wish list for Christmas, and a community based Easter egg hunt, providing Easter baskets and refreshment.

When we are on a journey we look back from time to time to reflect on our progress and to assess if we have made a difference in the lives of others. We encourage all to empower themselves to stay focused and support the Urban League; together we can meet the needs of our communities.

Lorraine Adams, President  
Urban League Guild of Rhode Island

## GUILD MEMBERS

Lorraine Adams, President  
Rochelle Ives, Vice President  
Jacqueline Smith, Treasurer  
Jeanne Edmundson, Secretary  
Alyce Andrade, Corres. Secretary  
Maxine Anderson  
Maryann Archibald  
Carol Bell  
Cora Brown  
Rosanna Ford  
Roxann Johnson-Nance  
Lynette Lopes  
Thelma Maxie  
Lela Morgan  
Anna Mae Nichols  
Aronda Rodgers  
Andrea Smith  
Doris Tatum  
Vera Wilson



# Rhode Island Young Professionals

Nearing the end of its second year in January 2004, the Rhode Island Young Professionals (RIYP) has been recognized by many as a leading resource for Rhode Island's young professionals between the ages of 21 and 40. The RIYP is an auxiliary of the Urban League of Rhode Island and one of nearly 50 active chapters under the umbrella of the National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP). The chapter works with the Urban League and its affiliates to carry out the Urban League's mission toward the achievement of racial, social, economic, and political equality for all.

The RIYP serves two purposes:

- 1) Foster the personal and professional development of its membership by providing resources and social and networking opportunities to members.
- 2) Empower and enrich the communities of Rhode Island by participating in community service and programs aligned with the NULYP's five-pronged agenda which includes, Economic Empowerment, Education & Youth Empowerment, Civic Engagement & Leadership Empowerment, Health & Quality of Life Empowerment, and Civil Rights & Racial Justice Empowerment.

In 2003 and 2004, the RIYP was successful in increasing its membership to nearly 40 members, developing new partnerships with several area businesses and organizations that support the RIYP mission, and expanding its base of services, programs, activities, and projects for its members and the community. Among our most notable programs are:

- The College Mentor Program launched in the fall of 2003 at Johnston & Wales University, the University of Rhode Island (URI), Kingston campus.
- The College Readiness Program aimed at encouraging under-represented urban youth to attend college and preparing them for the college experience.
- The Book Club, Sunday Brunch discussions give members, along with their friends, family members and coworkers, a chance to gather on a monthly basis to share their thoughts on books and socialize with each other. The books, which are selected from a pool recommended by members,

are diverse in topics and explore an array of themes and cultures.

- The Voter Registration, Education & Empowerment initiative is conducted in partnership with the Urban League of Rhode Island and National Black Agenda Convention Providence chapter. The initiative, which is targeted toward minority and young adult populations, is aimed at raising awareness of voting, increasing the amount of registered voters in the state, and strengthening the capacity for under-represented communities to be heard and have greater representation in the political system.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004

Melissa Bridges, President  
Shemika Moore, Vice President  
Boluwaji Omisore, Treasurer  
Adena Bridges, Secretary

## STANDING COMMITTEES 2004

Raymond Watson, Personal & Professional Development Chair  
Ebony Smith, Public Relations Chair  
Open, Community Service Chair  
Open, Fundraising Chair  
Open, Membership Chair



# Advocacy & Public Policy (APP)

The Advocacy and Public Policy Unit monitors the social climate to address issues effecting the most vulnerable populations in the state of Rhode Island. We passionately mobilize the community as we endeavor to serve as a voice of positive change and stabilization through advocacy, legislation and community building, organizing and networking. In serving the community, we strive to be an innovative resource of information for and about Rhode Island's minority and low-income populations by taking on issues related to equal opportunity and access, civil rights, economics, education, health, housing, social welfare and environmental justice.

Over 7,000 people statewide benefited from APP Unit collaborations and direct services during 2003-2004.

## Legislation

The unit promotes legislative activity for bills that ensure social justice and civil rights. During this period, the unit focused on legislation targeting the following issues:

- Health benefits: Rite Care bill
- Housing issues: fair housing, lead safety bills, tax lien sales reform
- Civil rights: the Traffic Stops Act and its process
- Education: No Child Left Behind
- Economy: Minimum wage increases

## Community Building & Organizing

The unit works closely with many stakeholders in the state to promote partnerships and to collaborate on various projects and activities such as:

- Free Income Tax Filing – VITA – as a member of the Providence Asset Building Coalition, the Urban League serves as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site. The Urban League recruits and trains volunteers to complete FREE electronic income tax returns, at the agency, for low-income families and individuals during the tax-filing season. In addition, the program educates clients about credit and benefit eligibility in order to maximize their income and build their assets for financial

security. For the 2003 tax year we filed returns for over 465 families in Providence and surrounding neighborhoods.

- Have You MET a Hero Award – The Urban League assists MetLife Auto & Home each year in the scouting, recruitment, and recognition of youth in urban communities who have made exceptional contributions in the area of safety promotion and/or achievement. Six youth were awarded for their contributions to society and recognized at the Urban League's Annual Dinner.
- The Black/Jewish Alliance – A community alliance led by the ULRI and the Jewish Federation of RI dedicated to eliminating prejudice and discrimination against Blacks and Jews in Rhode Island and to improving the quality of life in the state for both groups. The Alliance promotes unity by working on issues of common concern, educating each other and the broader Rhode Island community about the culture, history, religious traditions, and life experiences of Blacks and Jews. The Alliance sponsored several community events such as the MLK Sing (a Black Gospel/Jewish musical concert held at the Mount Hope Community Baptist Church), the Newport walking tour that highlighted the shared cultures and experience as they pertain to the state, and other educational and musical activities coordinated for youth of both communities (partially sponsored by the Rhode Island Council on the Arts).

## Voter Registration and Education

Annually the unit galvanizes its efforts to encourage eligible citizens to register to vote. Outreach is conducted in collaboration with over ten community agencies statewide. This year over 100 new voters were registered. The unit conducts the initiative through a nonpartisan approach to educate constituents about current issues, voting procedures, and other political standings in order to empower them to exercise their rights by casting an educated vote.

# Before & After School Program

The Urban League of Rhode Island continues to offer an innovative program that passionately addresses the emotional and intellectual needs of our children.

The Urban League's Before & After School Program is held at the Flynn Annex on Prairie Avenue in Providence. The League understands that the most effective approach to academics includes tutoring, recreation and curriculum development. Experienced staff enthusiastically reach out to ethnically diverse populations in order to best serve all 45-plus children who enrolled in the program.



The majority of participants are from Providence, but a statewide recruitment effort is made to add to the diversity of cultural experience. Our structure for the program includes the following: Academic Enrichment through an after school homework club and tutoring program; Health & Fitness that engages the children in workshops covering nutrition, hygiene, well-being, bike safety, conflict resolution and more; Cooking Demonstrations, Cultural Dance & Music Workshops highlighting various community artists who present workshops on music and dance with a varied cultural emphasis.



Additional activities included hands-on skills with arts & crafts, computer lab, monthly recreational and educational field trips, and many other activities that incorporate overall *fun in learning!* Also, full day programs are available during selected holidays and school vacations.



# Summer Camp

The 8-week summer program commences at the end of the school year at the Flynn Annex site. The children are divided into three age groups (5-7, 8-10, and 11-13 years of age). We provide an assortment of activities featuring the arts and select activities that allow children to explore a vast array of outdoor experiences.

This year's features included an artistic workshop with drawing, design, and arts and crafts, music and vocal workshops, theatre and improvisational skills, modeling workshops that explore posture, etiquette, grooming and marketing. Health promotion workshops included bike safety, conflict resolution, nutrition and exercise, swimming, sports, self-defense and focus through Karate, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Outdoor activities and nature education included a visit to City Farm to explore agriculture, and farm life. Academic enrichment activities included bi-weekly academic instruction in math and reading, computer lab, and journal keeping. In addition, the children attended many other field trips and activities such as skating, bowling, miniature golf, weekly beach trips, day camps, Water Whiz Park in Cape Cod.

The program ends with a Family Showcase highlighting what each child learns throughout the summer.



# Bridge Alternative School (BAS)

## “We Reach Youth”

### Our Philosophy

The Bridge Alternative School (BAS) subscribes to the philosophy and objectives of the Providence Public School Department. The BAS provides a framework for individualized attention and goal setting. The students' development of acceptable behaviors and attitudes to achieve is of foremost importance. The staff makes a concentrated effort to bring the community, school, parent and student together to help students realize their potential. The staff at the Bridge School provide academic and guidance programs in a structured, supportive, alternative community setting. An integrated curriculum style is utilized at the Bridge School.

In 1997 a partnership was formed with the Providence School Department to provide a non-traditional but structured academic environment. The Urban League of Rhode Island Bridge Alternative School and its sister school located at the Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy are committed to helping students modify and improve academic and behavior concerns. Our aim is to enable students to experience success academically, socially, and emotionally upon returning to their “traditional school”, or another suitable assignment.

Since its inception the school has served over 400 students. This academic year the school served 60 students.



# Case Management Unit

The Case Management Unit (CMU) provides comprehensive services and programs to Rhode Island's poverty level, low-income and homeless individuals and families that are facing adversity in meeting their basic needs of living. The unit's goal is to work with clients to create a long-term strategy for attaining self-sufficiency and independence from the social service system.

## **Housing Programs:**

The goal of the housing program is for all minority or disadvantaged Rhode Island residents to have safe, permanent housing, by addressing all aspects of the housing industry.

- a.) Revolving Mortgage Loan Program
- b.) Mortgage Default/Delinquency Assistance
- c.) Rental & Unity Financial Assistance
- d.) Credit/Budgeting Counseling Assistance
- e.) Landlord/Tenant Assistance
- f.) Workshops and Training (i.e. First Time Home Buyer's, Lead Training, etc.)
- g.) Housing Searches and Placements
- h.) Fair Housing Education and Referral
- i.) Construction of Low-Income Housing/Neighborhood Revitalization
- j.) Homeless Assistance and Referrals

## **Emergency Assistance Program:**

This program provides financial assistance to low-income, poverty level and homeless individuals and families that face temporary crises in meeting basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, and household and other necessities. In providing these basic needs, the program aims to reduce homelessness, and develop long-term strategies with clients that lead them toward self-sufficiency and independence from social services.

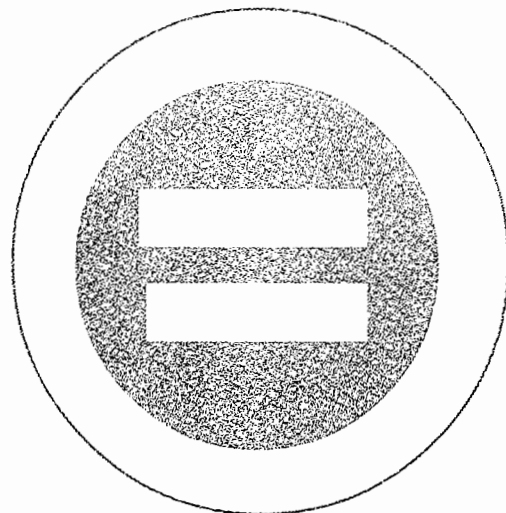
## **Program Components:**

- a.) Year-round distribution of food, food certificates, clothing, diapers
- b.) Holiday distribution of Food Baskets, Toys, and Gift Certificates
- c.) Rental, Utility, Transportation Assistance
- d.) Referrals for Employment, Housing, Furniture, Medical, Prescription, Legal, Financial Assistance, and Education
- e.) Housing Placements in Urban League Emergency Shelters, Emergency Apartment Shelter Program and Permanent Housing Units

The Emergency Assistance Program has serviced a growing number of clients over the years, particularly in light of the country's volatile economy. The program is constantly being expanded to meet the needs of more individuals and families. In addition to its food distribution, the Urban League has now become a licensed food vendor, which allows the agency to predetermine clients' eligibility for food stamp assistance, as well as serve meals to clients.

## **Supplemental Social Security Program:**

This program links SSI clients with case managers who serve as their representative payees. The case managers monitor clients spending habits, create weekly budgets and allowances, pay all delinquent bills, and track and account for all deducted items, making sure that each participant has a sufficient amount of money for self support. The case managers work to ensure that SSI benefits are used for the care and well-being of the client.



# Growth of Housing Properties



## **Growth of Housing Properties:**

The Housing Program aims to develop affordable units and improve the economic viability of low-income neighborhoods, particularly in South Providence. The CMU has been involved in several rehabilitation and construction projects in Providence, which are designed to house low-income and homeless individuals and families.

Over the past few years, the Urban League has acquired, constructed and rehabilitated four properties in South Providence for both permanent and transitional residents.

In addition to its permanent housing, the Urban League provides temporary, transitional housing for homeless families as part of its Emergency Shelter Program. The goal of the program is to help the clients transition into permanent housing.

The CMU staff provides case management and supportive services to individuals and families living in the emergency apartment units and at the Urban League's Welcome Arnold emergency shelter. Services to those residents include housing counseling, information and referrals, crisis intervention, workshops on various topics including substance abuse, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, anger management, fair housing and discrimination, and flu prevention.

The Housing Program continues to be a valuable resource to low-income and minority communities. From the period of Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2004, the CMU serviced 659 clients with regard to housing-related issues.

# Senior Program Spotlight: "Beyond Services"

Sailing across the Boston Harbor taking in the city's historical sites and feasting on fresh seafood on a sunny day at the seaside in Galilee are just two of many activities the Urban League Senior Program offered to Providence seniors in the summer of 2004.

The field trips, which are just one component of the unit's successful Senior Program, provide an escape for low-income residents in Providence's high-risers, who might otherwise remain isolated in their apartments due to a lack of finances and transportation and/or language barriers. These trips give these seniors a chance to see and experience places outside of Providence, and an opportunity to lift their spirits and enjoy life.

And enjoying life and staying active is what the seniors are all about. Whether it is through dancing on the decks of a cruise ship or at monthly birthday parties hosted at the high-risers, watching an old-time film at the cinema, or attending outings to local restaurants, the seniors aim to have fun. Through their constant interaction, they have created lasting friendships with each other, and program staff get to know clients on an individual level and go the extra mile to help and support them.

In addition to the trips, the Senior Program provides clients with several other activities, programs, and services including:

- Social Services (Food, Clothing, & Utility Assistance)
- Home Visits and Outreach
- Information & Referrals
- Advocacy & Health Initiatives  
(Health & Nutrition Fairs & Workshops)
- Recreational Activities (Arts & Crafts)
- Special Events (Birthday Parties, Holiday Gatherings, Outings, & Movies)

The Senior Program not only responds to the daily needs of the city's low-income elderly, it engages them in activities and encourages them to step outside of their comfort zone. This program truly goes "Beyond Services" to improve the quality of life of Providence seniors.



# Employment, Education & Training Unit

The Education, Employment & Training Unit (also known as the Education Unit) provides a number of services to assist individuals with improving their lives financially and academically. The Education Unit assisted over 700 individuals for a variety of services such as, Workplace Literacy, Out of School Youth, and/or Employment Assistance.

## **Workplace Literacy**

This program allows employed, unemployed or underemployed individuals to increase their literacy skills relevant to the workplace. Individuals are exposed to expected workplace behaviors, communication skills as well as instruction in reading, writing and math. The curriculum is designed to assist individuals with limited literacy and job skills. Based on the client's assessment, they will receive one or all of the services provided under this program: ESL Instruction, Academic Instruction, Case Management, Job-Readiness Training and/or Employment Assistance.

## **Out of School Youth Program**

The program works with youth ages 16-21, to provide them with academic instruction and job-readiness training. The goal is to assist youth who have dropped out of school with attaining their GED and provide either guidance with pursuing post-secondary education or job placement. Participants enrolled receive both group and individual instruction. Many of the students require intensive support services; thus the staff work closely with each individual to assess needs and provide a support plan.

## **Employment Services**

This is a service available for anyone in need of assistance with finding employment, and writing or revising a resumé. The agency receives job listings

from local businesses in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Individuals are encouraged to visit the Unit to perform a job search via the job listings or the Internet. Last year several businesses presented overviews of their company and information regarding job opportunities. The organizations included Coca-Cola, Securitas and Southwest Airlines. The Home Depot held a job fair on the campus that was very success for the agency and Home Depot.

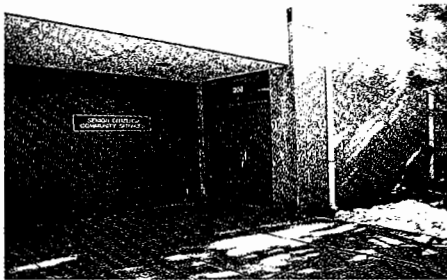
## **Scholarship Program**

The agency provides minorities, who are Rhode Island residents, with the opportunity to apply for supplementary financial assistance to pursue post-secondary education. All applications will be accepted; however, priority is given to recent high school graduates. The application deadline is April 30th. This year 22 scholarships were awarded; the total amount distributed was \$18,246.00. A new scholarship was added this year from the RI State Council of Churches for \$1,000.00 to be given to an ex-offender pursuing post-secondary education.

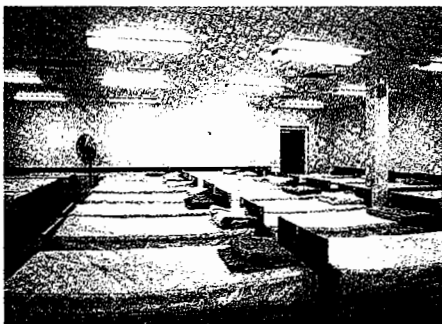
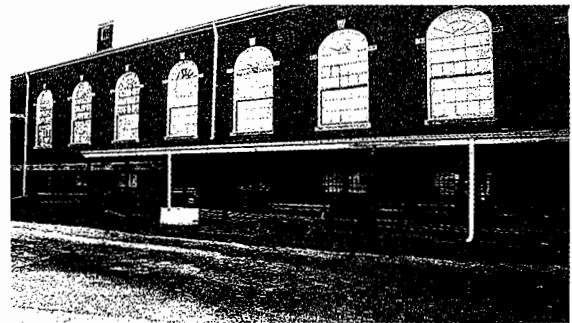


# Emergency Shelters

Since 1984 the Urban League of Rhode Island has operated emergency shelters for the homeless. The Welcome Arnold Shelter in Cranston has 114 beds available to serve homeless men, women, and families. The 208 Prairie Avenue Shelter has 50 beds available for men only. Dinner, a shower, and a bed for the night are provided, as well as hygiene products as needed. A social worker is on site to provide services for the clients, and various workshops are conducted on a regular basis to discuss housing, addiction, and interpersonal issues.



Harrington Hall is another emergency shelter typically operated by The Urban League during the months of November through April, due to the inclement weather. This shelter is for men to utilize when The Welcome Arnold Shelter is filled to capacity. As 48 bed shelter for men operates in Providence-clients there are provided with a dinner, shower, and bed for the night.



Homelessness in Rhode Island continues to be a very serious issue. The average cost of apartments has risen, and is not in line with individuals' income. More single adults and families are finding themselves in a situation of homelessness. Mental illness, domestic violence, and addiction further compound the problem. The services provided by these three emergency shelters are a vital and necessary component in the battle against homelessness.

# Safe Haven Programs

## Caring Change for the Homeless

The Urban League of Rhode Island has provided temporary shelter for thousands of people. These environments are often not suitable for people with severe mental illnesses. Thus, the Safe Haven programs were created in 1996 to serve this segment of the population who need a supervised, stable atmosphere. An environment staffed with qualified personnel experienced with working with mentally ill, homeless adults.

The Safe Haven programs provide safe, private, residential facilities with 24 hour supervision. These programs assist the resident in becoming a functioning, self-sufficient participant in the community.

A resident who was once homeless – *living on the streets, staying in shelters, or sporadically receiving care at various mental institutions* – can now focus on his or her recovery.

*In the two Safe Haven houses, the programs provide the residents with an opportunity to achieve stability without the pressure of a departure deadline.*

### Safe Havens Offer:

- private residences with 24 hour supervision
- warm, supportive environments, which do not require residents to leave the property during the day
- a dedicated staff that provides restorative services in order to reintegrate individuals into society
- three meals a day, laundry & bath facilities, distinct designated personal areas and common areas & transportation
- case management services & guidance

*Each resident is assigned a case manager who assesses the individual's needs, determines their treatment plan, & links them to the appropriate entitlements and services in the community and within the Urban League.*

### Case Managers Provide:

- information on medical, dental, psychiatric, & therapeutic services



- information on GED courses, educational courses, vocational programs & internships
- appropriate clothing for intended work environment

**Education, Employment & Housing:**

- life-enhancing courses: GED courses, computer & secretarial courses, or community college courses
- resumé services, internships & employment searches
- once working, resident donates 30% of income – helping the program & assisting resident in learning basic budgeting skills
- once financially solvent, staff helps resident find affordable housing, obtain furniture & pay the security deposit.



*Small steps are celebrated;  
success is measured individually,  
regardless of magnitude*

*The Safe Haven programs have transitional phases to help residents gain confidence, maintain stability & achieve self-sufficiency.*



**Stabilization Is Achieved By:**

- obtaining appropriate medical, dental, psychiatric or therapeutic treatment
- maintaining consistent eating & sleeping patterns
- maintaining personal hygiene
- cleaning personal & common areas
- helping with morning & afternoon meal preparation
- adhering to curfews
- participating in house meetings twice a week

Our partnerships with the Providence Center, Rhode Island Food Bank, and other caring agencies and individuals are vital resources for the success of our residents in their transition back to self-sufficiency.



If you, a friend or a loved one is in need of a program like the Safe Havens, please contact the Urban League for more eligibility information. Referrals are welcome.

# The Minority Recruitment & Child Placement & At-Risk Programs

“You can make a difference – one child at a time”

The mission of the Minority Recruitment & Child Placement Program (MRCPP) is to seek out adoptive and foster parents to care for the abundant number of minority children in the child welfare system. Since the program's inception in 1983 the program has provided recruitment, training, and certification to families for adoption and foster care. The program is fully bilingual and offers all of its services in Spanish.

Getting the message out, recruiting, and educating families takes time and many other resources. The program constantly emphasizes to the general public that *“You don't have to be rich, college educated, or own a home. You can be single and over 40 years of age.”* All that is required is the love to care for children who are not your own.

This contractual year, the program achieved the following accomplishments:

- Received **82** inquiries for adoption. Out of 82 families, **13** families completed the requirements and were approved for adoption.
- A total of 15 children were adopted by individuals and families who completed the Adoption process with the Urban League.

We are happy to say that Urban League families play an integral part in providing temporary shelter for children waiting for adoption. Many of our foster families received anywhere from 5-10 placements every year. This includes active Urban League families who were licensed over 5 years ago.

- Received **96** inquiries for foster care. Out of 96 families, **13** families received a foster care license from the R.I. Department of Children, Youth & Families
- Several foster families also adopted children. A total of five (5) children were adopted by Urban League foster parents.

**STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM:** Outreach educators seek out runaway youth between the ages of 12 to 18 and encourage them to “leave the



streets.” Additionally, they provide educational materials, case management, counseling, and referral services to prevent sexual exploitation.

This contractual year, the program achieved the following accomplishments:

- SOP Street Outreach Workers are to perform approximately 150 intakes annually.

The Urban League as had **197** intakes.

- Information about sexual abuse and exploitation is provided to approximately 3,000 street youth annually. Over 3,000 youth in Newport and Providence have received information on sexual abuse and exploitation.

- Sixty-eight (68) youth received emergency assistance.

- Two hundred and thirty-one (231) youth received referral services.

- Urban League assisted 30 youth with educational assistance/referrals.

**Host Homes Program for Runaway Youth:** The Host Homes Program serves adolescents, ages 12-16, who are at risk of running away from home. This program provides short-term services, mediation, counseling and/or placement, to adolescents and their families in a preventative effort to allow families to remain intact. Host Homes are private homes with families who are specifically trained to provide a home, encouragement, and guidance.

This is a short-term program, up to three months. The program provides crisis intervention, mediation, case management, and counseling and referral services with the goal of family reunification.

- The program maintains 24-hour accessibility to clients. Program coordinator is on call at all times and can be reached by pager.

- Coordinates with the Runaway Hotline.



# The Minority Recruitment & Child Placement & At-Risk Programs (continued)

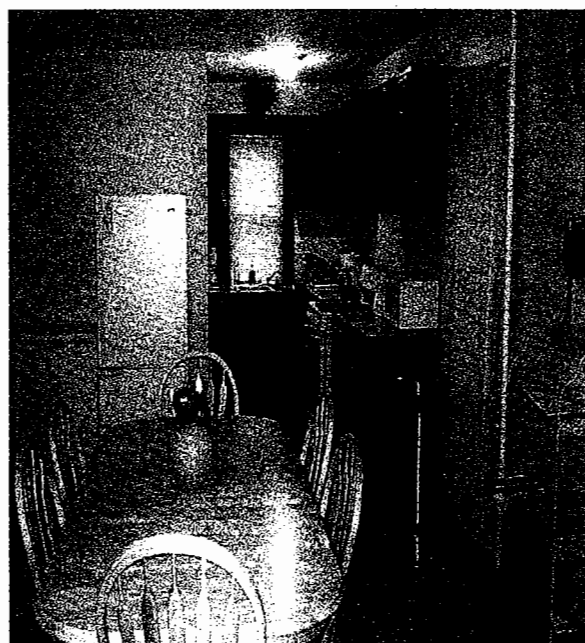
- Ninety percent (90%) success rate in keeping youth at home with their family as a result of mediation and short-term counseling.

**TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM:** *Provides housing, educational, social, health and follow-up services to adolescents.*

The Transitional Living Program is an integrated program available to adolescents' ages 16-21 that are homeless and in need of temporary shelter (for up to 18 months). This program assists them to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency by providing a safe place to live, adult supervision, two meals a day, education, health, and social services. The program provides housing in either our four-bedroom home in South Providence, or in one of our trained Host Homes. Currently, our house is able to accommodate up to five full time residents and has two emergency beds for short-term residents.

While in the program participants take part in life skills trainings, group and individual counseling. They are also offered the opportunity to engage in numerous other recreational, educational and social opportunities.

This year the program has served 25 youth and transitioned half of them back into their family home or into independent living situations. All of our current clients are engaged in full time employment or educational programs. We are pleased to report two of our participants graduated from high school this year and one completed a GED program. We look forward to reporting the continued successes of our participants.



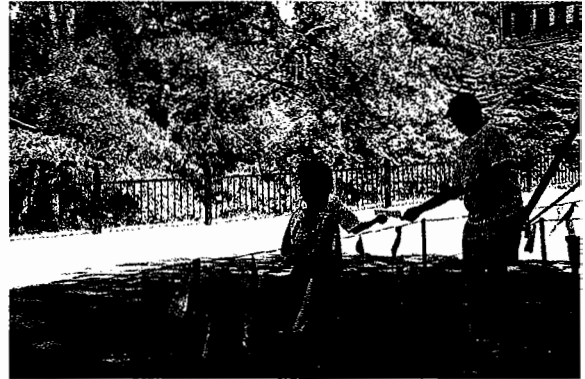
# Urban League Annual “Run for Kids” Road Race

One of our major recruitment events this year was the Annual “Run for Kids” Road Race held on June 12, 2004 in Roger Williams Park. The intense publicity for this event yielded many inquiries for Adoption & Foster Care. Our goal is to make the road race an annual recruitment event to highlight the need for more families to adopt older children in collaboration with Progreso Latino.

Our thanks to Sodexo School Services who provided all the food and Red Bull for providing the drinks for the post ceremony event barbecue. Their generous contribution was a major factor in the success of the Road Race.

A special thanks to Neighborhood Health Plan of New England for also sponsoring this event and to the many volunteers who assisted us in the planning and implementation of both events.

*Since 1983, the Minority Recruitment & Child Placement Program has made a positive impact in finding loving homes for children who languish in the care of the state. However, thousands of children are still waiting. Won't you consider becoming an adoptive or foster care parent? The requirements are easy and financial assistance is available. **It takes a village to raise a child.** Call or visit us today at the Urban League of Rhode Island, 246 Prairie Avenue, Providence, RI. (401) 351-5000.*



# New Opportunity Homes

*The New Opportunity Homes were established by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services to provide pregnant and parenting minor teens, who are eligible, with a positive family environment that is supervised, safe, nurturing and offers opportunities to develop life skills and parenting competencies.*

Girls enter the New Opportunity Homes with their families' permission, choose to reside there and agree to abide by the house rules. Girls must be Family Independence Program-eligible, which means each girl must be either in her sixth month of pregnancy or have a child living with her. She can remain until she is eighteen-and-a-half years old.

While a resident in New Opportunity Homes each girl will:

- Agree to postpone further pregnancy
- Increase her knowledge and skills to become an effective, nurturing parent
- Participate in an educational, vocational, or job-readiness program

New Opportunity Homes provide teens with three levels of supervised residential care:

- Level I is the most structured setting and provides 24-hour, awake on-site supervision
- Level II is designated for participants who have demonstrated marginal competencies in specific areas including parenting and independent living skills. These young women are in need of exposure to a wide range of learning opportunities and skills development and will require a significant amount of supervision.
- Level III is designated to serve those young women who have demonstrated some competencies in the aforementioned areas, but who continue to lack the independent

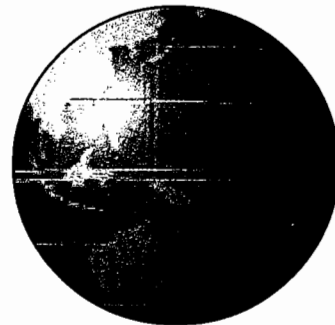
living skills, education and job-readiness skills to live independently.

The teens transition between levels as appropriate.

There are currently four New Opportunity Home locations throughout the state of Rhode Island with placement for a total of sixteen teens and their children.

The Urban League of Rhode Island New Opportunity Home currently has placement for teens in Level I and Level II. The young women are all required to enroll in a formal education program and receive on-site life skills workshops weekly. Residents receive education around budgeting, self-esteem, parenting, healthy relationships and hygiene. Counseling is provided weekly in a group setting or on an individual basis. As an added program incentive these young women participate in a variety of recreational activities that provide them with peer socialization that may be absent from their lives due to parenting obligations.

The Urban League this year has successfully housed five Level I residents and their children, and four Level II residents and their children. Of the Level II residents one successfully transitioned into Level III housing.



# Providence Partnership for Adolescent Self-Sufficiency (ProvPASS)

*ProvPass is a collaborative partnership of the Urban League, Providence ambulatory Health Care Foundation, Women and Infants Hospital, Dorcas Place Parent Literacy Center and West End Community Center. Funding provided for this program by the Department of Human Services.*

The goal of the program is to assist pregnant and parenting adolescents in Providence to become self-sufficient, responsible adults, contributors to the larger community and effective parents of their children.

The ProvPass program in its continued effort to provide quality supportive services has extended case management to 570 pregnant and parenting teens. Of those teens 32 have completed a GED and 52 have completed a formal education.

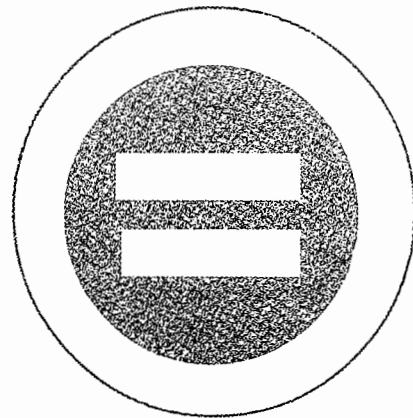
In addition the program has provided adult supervision to five minor parents, which allowed them to live independently outside of their home of origin while actively participating in the program.

Included in the service provided for our teens, case managers facilitated the programs required life skills workshops. Becoming A Responsible Teen (BART) which covers HIV/AIDS information and What Do You Stand For which is education around character development. The goal of these workshops is increased education around HIV/AIDS and self-esteem and social skills building.

ProvPass continues to provide workshops and education around effective parenting, time management, education and prevention, family planning with the focus on preventing second pregnancies, welfare to work and career planning. Case managers have

provided these workshops on site and within the local high schools and community based GED programs in the community.

The ProvPass program with the support of the Urban League as a whole remains dedicated to improving the well-being of our Adolescent Parents. It is our goal to assist them with building a foundation that will prepare them to become future leaders with the potential to make effective contributions to their families and the communities in which they live.



# MEN 2 B

BECAUSE YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL

The Urban League of Rhode Island's Men 2 B Program, funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health, continues its services of providing workshops to the Providence Metropolitan and surrounding areas. The program conducts workshops to empower role models and mentors in the communities to help bridge the gap between young men and the general population of the State of Rhode Island.

Men are provided with support workshops, which enable them to connect with youth who are missing the influence of a positive male role model in their lives. The workshops includes a series of 12 hour training sessions with role models and mentors to provide information and practical tools necessary for their work with young men.

During this program year, workshops were conducted for various agencies, groups and faith-base organizations throughout the city and surrounding areas. Workshops were held at the Nickerson Community Center's South East Asian Program, Olneyville Youth Pride Program, The Urban League's Youth Responsibility program, and the Rhode Island Training School. And in the faith-based organizations, workshops were conducted at Congdon Street Baptist Church, Camp Street Community Ministries Men Program and their Young Men Program.

There were eight Men 2 B workshops held this year, with a total of 128 people participating in the 12-hour session workshops. Of that number, 117 attended and completed all of the sessions. A total of four females and 113 males completed the workshops. Eleven participants attended a 2-month/4-hour "Follow-Up Session" held on a Saturday.

The following is a breakdown of the age and ethnic/racial background:



## Tobacco Control and Population Disparities

The *Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program* served nearly 1,000 men, women and children. They represented all ages and ethnicities, with the majority identifying themselves as African-American and/or Latino. Services were provided through trainings, Health Expos/Fairs and other mixed venues.

We were successful in getting a proclamation from Governor Carceri that declared May 2004 as Rhode Island No Tobacco Month. He also declared May 8, 2004 as Rhode Island "No Tobacco Day."

In addition we launched a Mother's Day Celebration "*Not In Mama's House,*" which has now become one of our signature events. In cooperation with Brenda Bell Caffee, founder of the national voluntary pledge program to address the dangers of second-hand smoke "*Not in Mama's Kitchen,*" we presented this a faith-based initiative that culminated in a celebratory luncheon and presentation. Ms. Bell Caffee traveled from Hattiesburg, Mississippi to educate and entertain the Rhode Island community with her important message.

## Town Teen Program

The Town Teen Program is an after school program held at the Oliver Hazard Perry Middle School. The program meets Monday through Thursday from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The coordinator works in conjunction with the teachers to enhance students' ability to develop positive study habits, and to learn how to cope and avoid problems encountered through the peer pressure.

The Town Teen Program also works with the Rhode Island Truancy Court and Rhode Island Family Court to ensure that every child has the necessary tools to excel not only in school, but also in life.



# Health & Prevention Services Unit

The unit houses three programs targeting high-risk adults. Our clientele are injecting and other drug users, homeless, incarcerated or newly released from prison or otherwise involved in the judicial system.

## **Fresh Start:**

This program provides high-risk inmates with comprehensive transitional services for their re-entry into the community upon release. Prior to release group level Life Skills workshops are also provided in the prison. These workshops assist those individuals who have been incarcerated for significant periods of time to readjust to society upon re-entry. These workshops are scheduled over a three month period.

Individual level support is the primary focus of program staff, providing clients with a wide range of services varying from birth certificates and social security cards to rental assistance and prescription medication.

## **HIV Prevention Services:**

Project HOPE works with the HIV Prevention Program, targeting injecting and other drug users and their partners. The program also works with the judicial system, probation and parole, SSTAR detoxification facility and AIDS Care Ocean State.

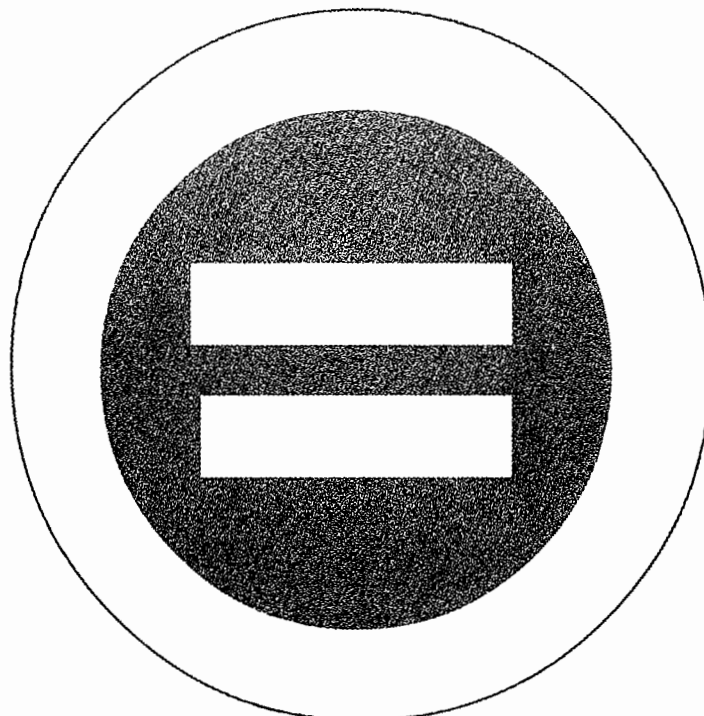
There are three primary interventions available to clients of this program...

- Individual level prevention and management services
- Group prevention education workshops using the "Safety Counts" curriculum and
- HIV OraSure Testing

All services are provided free of charge.

Over 400 individuals participate in this program annually.

The second HIV prevention program is a community-based effort sponsored by Rhode Island Department of Health, it targets the same high-risk populations concentrated on court-mandated persons, and provides similar individual and group level services. 100 clients participate annually.



# Information Telephone Numbers and Programs

For more information regarding Urban League Programs, please call (401) 351-5000

PROGRAMS	EXT.
Adoption and Foster Care	117
Advocacy and Public Policy	136
Before and After School Program/Summer Camp	143
Bridge School Alternative Education Program	144
Case Management Services	122
Child Placement/Host Home Program	112
Education and Training	144
HIV/AIDS Prevention Services	119
Men-2B Mentoring Program	154
New Opportunity Home	111
Providence Partnership for Adolescent Self-Sufficiency	111

## **Shelter Services**

Welcome Arnold	462-0190
208 Prairie Avenue	861-9112
Safe Haven I	455-1984
Safe Haven II	455-1983
Special Events/Membership	129
Tobacco Control Population Disparities Program	162
Town Teen After School Program	138
Transitional Living Program (Homeless Youth)	112
Young Fathers Program	138

*Membership in the Urban League of Rhode Island provides the opportunity to make a statement in support of our mission. Your annual contribution helps to answer the private needs and address the public issues. Thank you.*

- \$25      Annual Individual Member
- \$50      Annual Family Contributor
- \$100     Annual Individual Patron
- \$250     Annual Individual Supporter
- \$500     Annual Family Supporter
- \$1000    Annual Benefactor

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Urban League Scholarship Fund.

*Please provide the address to which mail should be sent.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions are tax-deductible

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like information regarding opportunities for establishment of a scholarship or endowment
- I would like information on how to remember the Urban League of Rhode Island in a bequest.

URBAN LEAGUE Financial Report

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2004 AND 2003**

ASSETS

<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	373,942	142,942
Grants receivable	482,294	675,342
Accounts receivable	22,125	50,959
Notes receivable, less allowance of \$20,000	3,329	5,466
Rents and utilities receivable	25,166	61,165
Prepaid expenses	47,082	36,208
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>953,938</b>	<b>972,082</b>
<b>Land, building &amp; equipment, net</b>	<b>2,113,652</b>	<b>1,936,272</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,067,590</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,354</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Note payable	50,000	110,000
Accounts payable	96,768	113,382
Accrued payroll and related expenses	366,950	277,619
Accrued expenses – other	23,000	36,801
Advances on grants	113,536	98,320
Custodial accounts	24,557	24,286
Current portion of long-term debt	3,589	4,074
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>678,400</b>	<b>664,482</b>
<b>Long-term debt</b>	<b>233,957</b>	<b>137,618</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>912,357</b>	<b>802,100</b>
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	2,089,461	2,042,500
Temporarily restricted	20,772	18,754
Permanently restricted	45,000	45,000
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,155,233</b>	<b>2,106,254</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,067,590</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,354</b>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004**

<b>Public support and revenue:</b>	
United Way Allocation	\$ 136,211
Governmental agencies	4,082,139
Contributions & Grants	172,807
Program Fees	690,584
Memberships	995
Investment	19
Facility rents	193,242
Administrative fees	45,924
Special events	56,292
Miscellaneous	10,618
Net asset released from restrictions	12,753

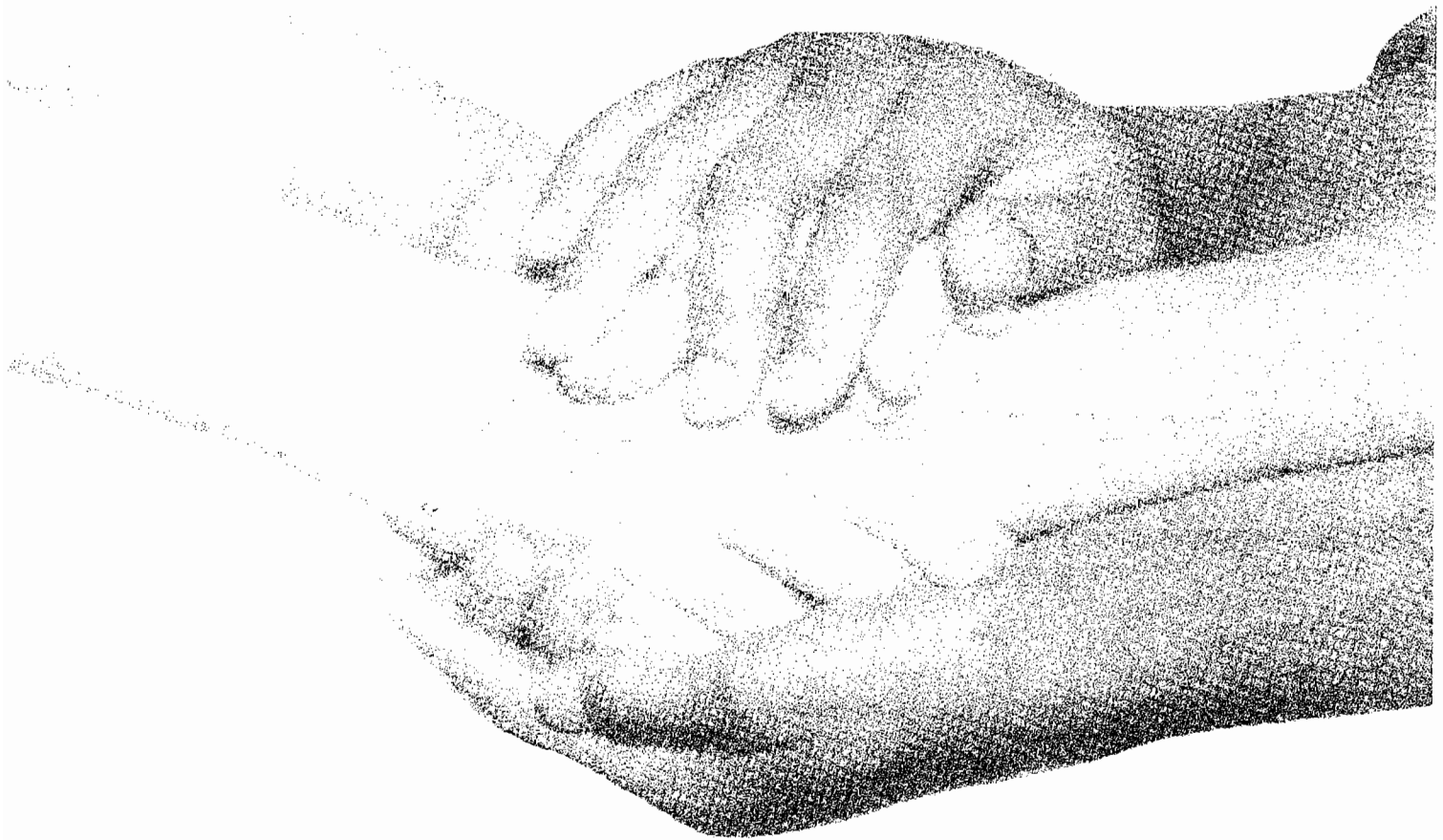
**Total unrestricted public support  
& revenue** **\$5,401,584**

<b>Expenses:</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 4,006,948
Insurance	35,694
Professional Fees & Contract Services	416,191
Office supplies	34,296
Program supplies	78,510
Advertising & Public Relations	20,542
Stipends	15,324
Utilities	91,738
Equipment rentals, repairs & maintenance	66,307
Rents	54,590
Conferences & Meetings	35,562
All Other	498,921

**Total Expenses** **\$ 5,354,623**

**Net assets, beginning of year** 2,042,500  
**Net assets, end of year** 2,089,461  
**Changes in net assets** \$46,961

*The financial records of the Urban League of Rhode Island, Inc. have been audited by Prescott Chatellier Fontaine & Wilkinson, LLP*



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