



# PRIORITY NEWS

A newsletter of the Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.  
March 2013 Issue

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## JOIN THE CCMA "MARCH FOR BETTER LIVES"

Today's youth face more serious and critical risks than any previous generation. The need for intervention is evidenced by high rates of untimely deaths; youth crimes; high school drop-outs; substance abuse; and gang activity, which have put too many of our youth at-risk.

In addition at-risk youth, young black males, between the ages of 18-28, are facing special challenges. Too many young men in this age bracket are caught in the gap between youth and full manhood, with no hands-on support to help them succeed in life. A disproportionate number of these young black males are poor, uneducated, unskilled, unemployed, or underemployed.

The good news is that the challenges faced by at-risk youth and young black males can be overcome by putting constructive strategies to work. The CCMA is committed to providing these resources through self-help and outreach programs, but need your support in this life-saving initiative.

Throughout the month of March, CCMA will hold **"March for Better Lives"**, a special campaign that provides funding for these free programs:

- **Live BAU Die Summit**, a mock funeral and interactive forum, to help young people avoid risky behavior and poor choices that can lead to untimely deaths;
- **"Overcoming the Odds: Success Strategies for Young Black Men"**, three-hour empowerment workshops for at-risk young men of all ages;
- **D.N.A. Young Fatherhood Initiative**, a life skills program that empowers young men to become *Devoted, Noble and Accountable* fathers to their children;
- **Priority Male Institute**, a twelve-week life skills and job readiness program for at risk males, 18-28 years of age.
- **Youth Ventures**, a resource service for churches and organizations that provide free services to young people.

Donations of any amount may be mailed to CCMA or made online at [www.communitycouncilma.org](http://www.communitycouncilma.org). You can make a real difference in the lives of young people!

Join our **"March for Better Lives"** today!!!

## INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS (ELECTED JANUARY 2013)



**SHAWN CRENSHAW, ESQ.**  
Director of Human Resources  
Jackmont Hospitality, Inc.



**COLONEL JOHN HOLLEY**  
Retired Colonel, U.S. Army  
Founder, Maynard Jackson Youth  
Foundation  
Officer, Kiwanis Clubs International



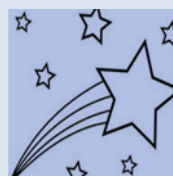
**ERIC MORTON**  
Independent Film Producer  
Priority Male Mentor  
CCMA Logistics Chairman  
"Dads on Duty" Leader



**ANGELA HARRINGTON-RICE**  
Senior Producer  
Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting  
Founder, Radiant Vision Communications  
Ordained Minister



**JUSTIN TRIPLETT**  
Director of Finance & Logistics  
MBC Concessions, Inc.



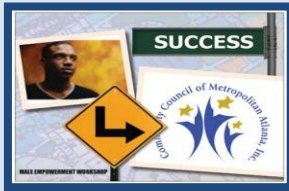
### Other Board Members:

- Norma Joy Barnes, CEO/President
- William Ligon, Vice President
- Marisa Pitts, Secretary
- Reginald Arnold
- Rev. Paul Easley
- Emily Morrow



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## A POWERFUL AND EMPOWERING WORKSHOP!

On Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first male empowerment workshop for 2013 was held at Murrell's Restaurant in the Hickman Student Center, Morris Brown College. Reginald Arnold, Board Member and PMI Recruitment Coordinator opened this free event by giving each participant an inspirational quotation to interpret, as the interactive ice breaker. Introductions were followed by the viewing of "Bring Your A Game", a powerful documentary film that emphasizes strategies that have improved the lives of Black men and boys. The film dramatically illustrates how critical educational achievement, high school graduation, and hard work are to survival and success in today's world.

In addition to the film, three workshops were presented: "Seven Steps to Success" conducted by Norma Joy Barnes, CEO/Founder; "MANifest your Vision", conducted by Michael Fleming, Senior Vice President of the C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute; and "Get That Job", conducted by Ollie Ligon, CCMA Vice President. "Overcoming the Odds" workbooks were provided to participants. Lunch was also served.

The event was attended by seven young men, two additional Board members, and three members of the CCMA Support Team, who served as facilitators. Kudos to all who helped to make this event a huge success!

## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### GED Showcase

Saturday, April 27, 2013, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

### Male Empowerment Workshop

Saturday, May 25, 2013, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

### Father-2-Son Summit

Saturday, June 8, 2013, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

### Male Empowerment Expo

Saturday, July 20, 2013, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

### Priority Male Institute (12 weeks)

September 9 – December 6, 2013

## SEVEN FACTS ABOUT CCMA

1. The Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. (CCMA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization was founded by Norma Joy Barnes, a community activist and retired federal servant, in April 2008.
2. The mission of the CCMA is to advocate, formulate, mandate and coordinate resources that empower and improve the quality of life for individuals and communities.
3. The target population served by the CCMA is at-risk youth and young black males.
4. The CCMA provides free self-help programs to help improve the standards of living for low-income, disadvantaged and at-risk individuals in the multi-county Atlanta metropolitan area.
5. The CCMA sponsors public forums on human service issues affecting the community at large.
6. The CCMA partners with other community organizations, public agencies, and local businesses to more effectively meet the needs of low-income, disadvantaged, and at-risk individuals.
7. With limited funding and in-kind assistance, the CCMA has coordinated and sponsored thirty-eight (39) free programs, serving over 1,500 persons.

## OFFICE STAFF

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