



ISAAC

— DOING JUSTICE

An interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners working together to build a more just community

Jan 2011

ISAAC Preparing for a Year of Transitions!

First, *Overseer Daniel Cunningham* of Greater Faith Empowerment Center, will end his second term as President in March. We are grateful for his 4 years of dedication to building a more just community and a more powerful ISAAC. *President-Elect Milton Wells*, pastor of Open Door Ministries COGIC, will become President. We look forward to his leadership.

Second, two ISAAC staff members will take new opportunities to grow. *Jomil Wells*, full-time Organizer, is taking a position in Oakland, CA, with Genesis, a Gamaliel affiliate. Her last day is March 4. We are grateful for her energy and skill. *Rachael Tanner*, Executive Director, is attending graduate school in urban planning in the fall. Her last day is July 29. We are grateful for her skillful leadership. She will train our new Executive Director before she leaves.

The ISAAC Board has named a Transition Team to manage these changes and ensure the momentum continues and ISAAC remains strong.

You can help!

1. Attend our Banquet on March 19,
2. Circulate this job posting:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANIZER - Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community, ISAAC, a faith-based organization in the Kalamazoo region seeks a strong individual to identify, train, and organize community leaders and congregations to address social justice issues. Must have a deep desire to work for justice in society. Negotiable salary and benefits. Contact Briarwood Group Associates www.briarwoodgroup.com for detailed information regarding this position.

ISAAC 2011 Banquet

The COMMUNITY That Could

Keynote Speaker
Early Childhood Education Expert
Dr. Valora Washington
"My whole life has been about working for social justice."

Performance by:
Aspire Ensemble

Poetry By:
Denise Miller

Saturday, March 19
Radisson Plaza Hotel

6:00pm Seating • 6:30pm Program

Tickets: \$35 for Banquet
\$65 for Banquet & 5pm VIP Reception
with Valora Washington
Reception FREE for GEMs
(ISAAC donors who Give Every Month)

Response to Keynote: **State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker**

Ally of the Year Award: **Greater Kalamazoo United Way**
Elected Ally of the Year: **Kalamazoo County Commission**
Founders' Award: **Open Door Ministries COGIC**
ISAAC Leader of the Year: **Shay Cobb**

For tickets see an ISAAC leader, call ISAAC at 341-4213 or purchase tickets at isaackalamazoo.org

Place your Banquet Book message by Feb 28!
Contact Amy Peterson, 345-4483, gipeterson99@hotmail.com

Keystone (full page color ad, 10 tickets, plaque & more!) \$2000,
Cornerstone (full page color & more) \$1500, **Buttress** (full page color) \$1000,
Pillar (full page B/W ad) \$500, **Gateway** (half page) \$300,
Stairway (1/4 page) \$200, **Steppingstone** (1/8 page) \$125,
Groundbreaking (business card) \$75.

ISAAC Public Meeting—October 14, 2010 at Galilee Baptist Church



Kinetic Affect gave a powerful preshow performance

LaShana Jones with Trey and Rickelle enacted the need for state funding for **EDUCATION**, birth through 12th grade.



Pastor Milton Wells, President Elect of ISAAC, inspired many new GEMs (donors who Give Every Month to ISAAC).



Lisa Smith told her story on screen —

escaping homelessness with a locally funded **HOUSING** voucher.



Representative Robert Jones —just 2 ½ days before he passed away on Oct 17 — spoke in support of an Eastside **Center for Youth and Community** and state funding for **EDUCATION**.

Robert Jones was a champion for a better community. ISAAC will greatly miss him.

Nathan Dannison, Shay Cobb and April Lee enacted the urgent need for a **Center for Youth and Community** on the Eastside.



County Commission candidates pledged support for funding the Local **HOUSING** Assistance Fund.



Cantor Larry Charson, Temple B'nai Israel, and Gulnar Husain, Kalamazoo Islamic Center, along with Rev. Lisa Batten (not pictured), Wesley Foundation, gave the interfaith benediction.



Building the Beloved Community is working!



Photos by Amy Peterson and Holley Lantz

**ISAAC asked these Sponsors...
Why have you supported ISAAC with
a Banquet Book ad year after year?**

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra proudly supports ISAAC's efforts because we share in their vision. May we continue to bring people together to build a more harmonious and just community.



Thomas B. Andrews
Director of Marketing & Public Relations



We support ISAAC because it works to help people in

Kalamazoo by bringing together diverse faith-based groups in a spirit of love and tolerance. ISAAC promotes thoughtful discourse and reasonable action to address issues critical to fairness for everyone.

Rex L. Bell, President

I got involved with ISAAC about 7 years ago when the focus was on children's access to dental health. ISAAC takes more of a social justice approach, instead of just charity. Both are important, but justice is more about long term solutions and of course is more difficult to accomplish.



Dr. Ken Beadling

KEN BEADLING DENTISTRY

GLENN D. STEEG & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

1. ISAAC gives a voice to the poor and disadvantaged who otherwise have no one to speak for them.
2. ISAAC calls for government to be accountable for policies which impact children, youth and others who are vulnerable.
3. ISAAC is effective because it proposes workable solutions, instead of just complaining about injustice.

Martin D. Glista, Attorney

Join them! Place your ad by February 28!

ISAAC — DOING JUSTICE
Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy
& Action in the Community
412 East Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3888
269-341-4213
www.isaackalamazoo.org

**THANK YOU to our
major funder for
investing in ISAAC!**



community foundation™



President's Message

I would like to give a big thanks to all of those who helped make it possible for ISAAC to raise over \$37,000 in just 8 weeks. I'd like to make special mention of everyone who joined Gideon's 300 and your commitment to the financial success of the organization. Also, special thanks to Von Washington, Sr. for the educational experience through the play "My Heart belongs to You Kalamazoo." Because of all of you, ISAAC is able to continue its work in Kalamazoo.

Thank you, again, for your moral and financial support as we continue to build a more just community.

March 19th ISAAC 2011 Banquet -- Now is the time to make your plans for this event!!

**Overseer Daniel Cunningham
President of ISAAC**

THANK YOU to our 2010 Keystone Sponsor



**A strong community is our
greatest asset.**

We believe communities are built on the goodwill and energy of the people who belong to them. That's why we're proud to support ISAAC's pursuit of advocacy and social justice.

STOP BY ANY BRANCH
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VISIT pnc.com





Photos: Amy Peterson

A full house of 150 people attended the exclusive Von Washington play premiere at the Epic Theatre.

The talented cast of "My Heart Belongs to You Kalamazoo" gave a powerful, moving performance. Lead singer of the Velvelettes, Cal Street (front row, just to the right of center), told how it felt at age 14 to be chosen by her family and church to integrate Loy Norrix High School when all her older siblings and friends went to Kalamazoo Central.



Yes for HOMES!

Lisa and her baby, pictured on page 2, are two of the many local people who have a place to call home because of the Local Housing Assistance Fund. Since Lisa told her story on screen at our Public Meeting, the ISAAC Housing Task Force has been very active in the effort to make sure there will be funding to prevent and end homelessness for other families like Lisa's.

There's great progress! 1.) The new HOMES Coalition (short for Housing Opportunity Makes Economic Sense) is researching what we need to do to build support county-wide for ending homelessness. 2.) The Public Housing Commission, which runs the Local Housing Assistance Fund, is reporting to the new County Commission on the impressive success of the Fund since the County created it 3 years ago.

YOU can help! *Would you be willing to contact your County Commissioner later this winter? Do you live out-county, or can you help us reach people from your congregation / organization who do?* Out-county residents are especially needed because homelessness is less visible there—since the shelters and services for people from all parts of the county are in the city. *Please contact ISAAC.* We'll get you everything you need to contact your County Commissioner later, about the stories of people without homes like Lisa and her baby.

*Check out the
ISAAC Website!*

www.isackalamazoo.org

Buy Banquet tickets online!

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flyers*

**See Banquet Book ad
choices & sponsorships**

See slideshows of past events

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tions and organizations**

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or your credit card*

Become a G.E.M.!