



ISAAC — DOING JUSTICE

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

Dec 2008



A crowd of 800 filled Galilee Baptist Church for the **ISAAC 2008 PUBLIC MEETING**



Issue: Early Childhood Education

“Are You Smarter than a Preschool Graduate?” Game Show presented serious facts such as: “True or false? Children who participate in high quality preschool are less likely as teenagers or adults to become involved in crime?” Adult contestant Howard Steiner: “False!” Second-grader and Headstart graduate Rickelle Cobb: “True!” Game show host Rev. Carol Richardson: “True! Among at-risk children, participating in high-quality preschool reduces involvement in crime by 80%.”



Solution: Superintendents Ron Fuller (KRESA) and Michael Rice (KPS), Peter Battani on behalf of the County Board of Commissioners, Jacque Eatmon from Great Start Collaborative, leaders from United Way, Upjohn Institute, and early childhood educators pledged to collaborate in a Kalamazoo County Committee for Early Childhood Education, to create a public/private plan within 2 years to provide high-quality preschool accessible to all children in the county. Four candidates for State Rep and both candidates for US Congress expressed their commitment to work for adequate, stable funding.



Issue: Youth Violence Prevention

In a somber presentation a candle was blown out as the name of each of the 9 local youths killed by violence in 2007 was read. Antonio Potts, relative of one of the youths killed, made a moving statement about being a good father to his children to prevent their involvement in violence. Teenager Darius O’Bryant asked community leaders to pledge their help.



Solution: Mayor Bobby Hopewell, both candidates for Sheriff and for Prosecutor, and other leaders agreed: “We pledge our support to ending youth violence in Kalamazoo County by working together to provide facilities and programs to create a safe environment for the children of our community.”





A countywide transit millage is essential for people who depend on busses and Care-A-Van to get to jobs , classes and appointments! We need transit for our county's economic development!

★ ISAAC 2008 Public Meeting ★

1 WMU Step Dancers. 2 ISAAC President Daniel Cunningham, County Commissioner Jack Urban & County Administrator Peter Battani. 3 State Rep Lorence Wenke & State Rep candidate Julie Rogers. 4 Tiffany & Tamara Chatman & County Commissioner Nasim Ansari. 5 Soloist Havier Hill-Roller. 6 & 7. Banners of newest ISAAC congregations. 8 Wanda Burton, kindergarten teacher. 9 Ella Fabel-Ryder, Public Meeting Chair. 10 Shay Cobb, Early Childhood Education Task Force Co-chair. 11 Dr. J. Louis Felton, host pastor, Galilee Baptist Church. 12 ISAAC clergy: Rev. Matt Laney, Rev. Gail Holman, Rev. Kathleen Kingslight, Rev. Dr. Wayne Price, Rev. Linda MacDonald, Bishop C.G. Charles, Bishop James Bailey.

We need YOU to donate to ISAAC.

With YOUR support, ISAAC will go on to even bigger and better victories in our community.

With YOUR support, our organizing capacity in 2009 will be tremendous!



America/ISAAC/Kalamazoo County needs YOU to help make change!

Your donation is tax-deductible.

Please return the enclosed envelope by December 31 to:

ISAAC , 412 E. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

or call 341-4213 or donate online at www.isaackalamazoo.org

ISAAC Public Meetings Make a Difference!

ISAAC holds a large public meeting every two years to mobilize community support for solutions to community concerns, in partnership with community agencies and public officials.

Past ISAAC public meetings have been key to bringing about:

- ◆ The Nurse-Family Partnership for at-risk new parents
- ◆ Expansion of the **Mobile Dental Clinic** in the Kalamazoo Schools
- ◆ The **County Housing Commission's** ability to help homeless people move into affordable apartments
- ◆ The **Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness**



program which helps low-income workers qualify for better-paying jobs.


We're stronger together — ask your congregation to join ISAAC!

ISAAC President
Overseer Daniel Cunningham

13 Jeff Brown, Director, Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI). 14 Rev. Milton Wells. 15 Cantor Larry Charson. 16 Rev. Ed Scully called for legislation requiring hospitals, when they move out, to keep essential services in a community. 17 Wendy Flora, Rev. Carol Richardson & Don Cooney, City Commissioner & candidate for US Congress. 18 Former Marine Albert Dixon. 19 Anita Smith, Youth Violence Prevention Task Force. 20 Jobs, Economy, Transit Task Force. 21 ISAAC VP Elder Doug King collects offering. 22 Union leaders Larry Talbot, Walt Christopherson & Chad Miller pledge to work with ISAAC and PRI to rebuild our economy. 23 ISAAC Singers led by Franklin Ballard. 24 Rev. J. Louis Felton & Cantor Larry Charson. 25 Governor Granholm's representative, Greg Roberts, expresses the Governor's support for ISAAC solutions.

Photos: Amy Peterson & Holley Lantz



 **ISAAC — DOING JUSTICE**
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 **SPECIAL PHOTO EDITION!**
ISAAC 2008 Public Meeting 

Read the story of President-Elect
Barak Obama's experience as a
Gamaliel Community Organizer
www.gamaliel.org



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powerful leader!**

Go to Gamaliel Leadership Training

Teaching ordinary citizens to unleash power within themselves
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economic decisions affecting their lives.

«**Gamaliel "Weeklong" Leadership Training,**
Sun 7 pm – Sat noon Offered four times a year.

«**"Ntosake" Women's Leadership Training,**
Jan 29–31 St. Louis, MO

*ISAAC pays for training for members of dues-paying
congregations and organizations.*

Meals and accommodations are included. You only need to pay for your transportation.

Call ISAAC, 341-4213

Save the Date!
ISAAC 2009
Banquet
Sat. evening,
March 21

WMU Bernhard Center

**"Season of
Forgiveness"**

**Powerful Speaker
Inspiring Entertainment**

ISAAC— Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy &
Action in the Community

An affiliate of the Gamaliel Foundation

17 congregations and counting!