



 **Quad County
Urban League**

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.

Affiliations
National Urban League

Fox Valley United Way



THE YEAR IN PICTURES



President Gillespie, Darryl King & Guest at Gala



The Whispers perform at Gala



Comedian James Stephens does an impersonation at Gala



TSTM Students at Gala



Guests pose at Gala



2006 Gala Chairperson Sally Long makes remarks



Board Chairman Coleman Hughley presents Frank Gihan with award



TSTM Students & President Gillespie at TSTM Banquet



President Gillespie & Sally Long at Gala 2006



Students enjoy lunch at TSTM/Project Ready College Tour



Staff keep busy at TSTM Annual Banquet



Students listen to speaker during College tour

MISSION, VISION, STRATEGY

OUR MISSION

Quad County Urban League is dedicated to advocacy and establishing programs that facilitate the social and economic growth of African Americans and similarly disadvantaged populations in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will counties.



OUR VISION

To be the area's leading social service organization serving African-Americans and similarly disadvantaged people.

OUR STRATEGY

Through educational, community and direct social services and advocacy, the Urban League strives to:

1. Ensure that our youth are well-educated and equipped for economic self-reliance as they enter adulthood;
2. Help adults sustain economic self-sufficiency through employment, home ownership, entrepreneurship and wealth accumulation; and
3. Ensure civil rights for all people by eradicating barriers to equal participation in the economic and social mainstream of their communities.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COLEMAN HUGHLEY *Board Chairman*
CDent

DWAYNE BASS *National City Bank*

BARBARA BROWN *TCF Bank*

CHERE NABOR *1st Vice Chairperson*
McDonald’s Corporation

PAMELA MEYER DAVIS *Edwards Hospital*

ALBERT DEMMING *Demming’s Hallmark*

LAWRENCE LEWIS *2nd Vice Chairperson*
United Parcel Service

RICHARD HOWARD *DaimlerChrysler Truck Financial*

LEIGH ANN HUGHES *Comcast - Chicago West*

KEVIN JOHNSON *AT&T*

O.J. ABOYADE *Treasurer*
International Truck & Engine

LAWRENCE LEWIS *United Parcel Service*

SALLY LONG *Caterpillar, Inc.*

LATONYA SIMELTON *Secretary*
Old Second National Bank

DR. DEBORAH LOVINGOOD *Waubonsee Community College*

PATT MEDCHILL *Hollywood Casino - Aurora*

ARCHIE NEEDAM, *TSTM Advisory Board*
Retired

OBOI REED *Nike, Inc.*

ANTHONY TAYLOR *Coca Cola Bottling Corp. of Chicago*

MARIE WILKINSON *President Emeritus*

KAREN WELLS *McDonald’s Corporation*

Board Advisors

THEODIA GILLESPIE *President / CEO*

GERALD JONES *Kane County Board*

LAWRENCE PARRISH *Immediate Past Chairman*

SCHEKETA HART-BURNS *City of Aurora, Alderperson*

The Quad County Urban League is entering into a new era that brings new opportunities and possibilities to residents and communities in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will counties.

The League’s expanded Vocational and Educational Training Center will be one of the best social service centers in the four counties and in the state of Illinois. Through this one-of-a-kind Center, we will offer an innovative and unique program that addresses the employment, education, housing and economic needs of all area residents.



BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

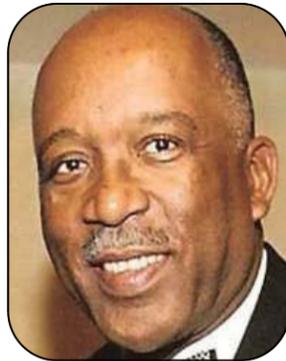
It is with great pride that we present the Quad County Urban League Annual Report for the fiscal year 2005-2006. The Board of Directors and staff of the Urban League have sharpened their focus on living our mission of enabling economic self-reliance in those we serve. During the past year, we have strived and will continue to work tirelessly to assure that our programs affirm this notion and that activities assist our constituents toward reaching this objective.

One of those activities include our staff further utilizing their specialized skills to empower those we serve to improve their lives by (1) understanding available options; (2) addressing accountability issues; and (3) helping them to move forward through our employment, education, housing, health, and wellness programs. More importantly, our staff will continue to advocate for our communities and proactively work to ensure equal opportunities for all people.

It is well established that Quad County Urban League advocates for the rights of African Americans and similarly situated, disadvantaged and disenfranchised populations. But, many do not have a complete picture of the range of activities and opportunities that the Urban League offers. We have built a solid reputation for helping those who are experiencing challenges in the areas of education, housing and employment assistance. However, there may not be equal awareness that the Urban League sponsors yearly in and out of state college tours and cultural excursions for academically promising and high-achieving students. The Urban League also identifies African American candidates for positions on various community boards, and we actively encourage entrepreneurship opportunities and homeownership. To bridge this information gap, we have re-evaluated and revamped of our communication plan in order to more effectively share with you what Quad County Urban League has to offer. We are utilizing local media to share our initiatives, client success stories, quarterly newsletter, e-news and our website.

We have particularly been honored to participate in a dialogue to build a better working relationship between the African American and Latino communities and the Aurora Police Department. This is only one example of our continuing advocacy on behalf of the communities that we serve.

We realize that the efforts mentioned here and other highlighted events in this report are only possible because of your good will and financial support. You are the engine and the fuel that keeps the Urban League running. Thanks to your confidence in and championing of the Urban League, we can envision a better community, one in which a strong, diverse and vibrant citizenry are able to rise to their greatest potential. As a united front, we will extend our impact and deepen the value of our work. This is the Quad County Urban League charge and we thank you for joining us as we move forward.



COLEMAN HUGHLEY
Board Chairman



THEODIE GILLESPIE
President & CEO

MAJOR DONORS & CONTRIBUTORS

Quad County Urban League Board of Directors, President & CEO and Staff are pleased to recognize the generous contributions of corporations, government agencies and entities whose support allows the League to continue its mission to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals and families in housing, employment and education.

\$50,000 +

City of Aurora
East Aurora School District #131
West Aurora School District #129
Fox Valley United Way

\$25,000-\$49,999

United Parcel Service
Hollywood Casino, Inc

\$10,000-\$24,9999

Waubensee Community College
Chicago Tribune
SBC
International Truck & Engine,
DaimlerChrysler Truck Financial
Anheuser Busch Corporation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Comcast Cable
Communities in School
Albertson/Jewel Osco

\$2,500-\$4,999

Aurora Township
BP Corporation
Cdent
Exelon Corporation
Merlen Fund

Coca Cola
Old Second National Bank
Edwards Hospital
Painter District Council No. 30

\$1,000-\$2,499

Northern Trust
BFI Waste
TCF Bank
W & W Consulting Group
Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
Enterprise Leasing Company of Chicago
Awin Management

R C Wegman
Dolan & Murphy
BNSF Railway
Provena Mercy Center
Waste Management
Cordogan & Clark
CitiGroup
Aurora Rotary Club



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FUNDING SOURCES:

	2005	2006
Contributions & Grants	1,697,815	1,776,147
United Way	48,248	118,265
Membership Contributions	3,280	1,415
Special Events	142,905	192,719
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	1,892,248	2,088,546

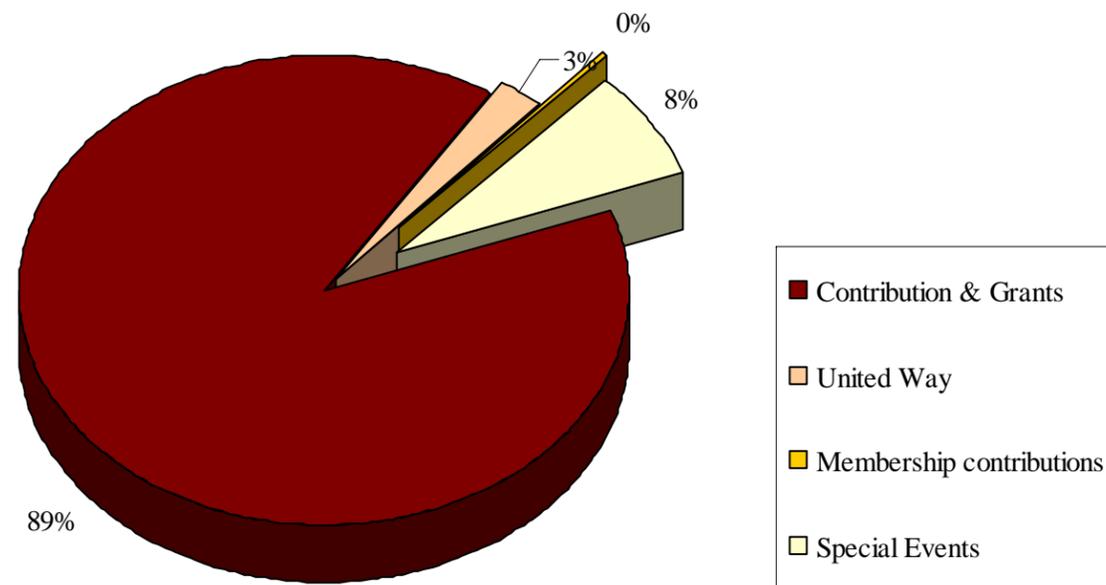
OPERATING EXPENSES:

	2005	2006
Management & General	117,926	175,119
Programs	1,516,751	1,609,402
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,634,677	1,784,521
NET FUND BALANCE	257,571	304,025

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	2005	2006
Assets	921,652	1,302,433
Liabilities	168,318	288,308
NET ASSETS	753,334	1,014,125

Funding Sources



OUR HISTORY



Quad County Urban League was founded in 1975 by a diverse group of local leaders responding to the absence of a community based organization to address the need for academic achievement, job placement and training, equal access to employment, housing and cultural enrichment for low-income, displaced citizens.

Quad County Urban League sets policies and directions that are implemented by a highly trained professional staff and network of hardworking concerned volunteers, working on problems and opportunities in the fields of economic development and employment, education and youth initiatives, housing, community planning and health and welfare.



THE YEAR IN PICTURES

EDUCATION

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION/TRAINING:

Located at QCUL's Galena and Farnsworth facilities, the Computer Instruction/Training program offers a total of 35 work stations, free basic computer classes and free Internet access. In 2006, 725 youth, adults, novice and expert learners received training to enhance or update their computer skills. Classes are offered in English and Spanish during the day, evening and weekends.

URBAN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (UYEP):

As a "second chance" program, the Urban Youth Empowerment Program encourages youth to take responsibility for themselves and their community. This apprenticeship program for young adults, between the ages of 18 and 21, is dedicated to developing leadership skills and civic awareness through education, employment and community service. In 2006, 33 participants completed all requirements for the GED. Twenty-two (22) of those students have maintained full time employment, five (5) enrolled in post secondary school, one (1) completed a CNA program, two (2) enlisted in the military, one (1) enrolled in the YouthBuild AmeriCorps Katrina Rebuilding Project and two (2) enrolled in an apprenticeship program.

2006 UYEP Accomplishments

Maintained Full Time Employment	22
Enrolled in post secondary school	5
Completed a CNA Program	1
Enlisted in the military	2
Enrolled in volunteer and community service organization	1
Enrolled in apprenticeship program	2

AURORA MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY (AMSA):

The Urban League's life skills sessions, anger management workshops, academic assessments, school review conferences and mentorship program continue to positively affect AMSA participants. During the 2005-2006 school year, one hundred forty-two (142) youth who attended the innovative program were successfully returned to and re-integrated into their home schools. The Academy is a collaborative of Aurora School Districts 129 and 131 and Quad County Urban League.

TOMORROW'S SCIENTISTS, TECHNICIANS, AND MANAGERS (TSTM):

Minority high school and middle school students (6 - 10 graders) who are high achievers in English, Science and Mathematics participate in this program. TSTM exposes students to various vocational fields while also offering tutoring sessions, field trips, supervised projects and summer internships. Last year, \$10,000 in book stipends and scholarships were awarded to four high school seniors who successfully completed the program.

PROJECT READY:

Project Ready provides 9th and 10th grade students and their parents guidance in making their transition to college successful. Participants receive peer mentoring and acquire leadership skills. In addition, they attend workshops focused on academic excellence, PSAT/SAT/ACT test preparation classes, and attend college tours both in-state and out-of-state. Fifty (50) students participated in Project Ready .



MISSION, VISION, STRATEGY

EMPLOYMENT

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (Y.E.S.):

Y.E.S. affords eligible youth exposure to the world of work and to the team approach in a work environment. The program encourages school completion, strong academic performance and builds citizenship awareness. Two hundred (200) YES students, between the ages of 16 and 21, received work and life skills training at the League's Aurora and Elgin facilities. YES is funded through the Kane County Department of Employment and Education (KCDEE).



EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AND REFERRAL:

This program, which links participants to employment opportunities and prepares them for job placement, continues to meet the needs of our community. In 2005-2006, 977 persons (79% African American, 11% Hispanic-American, 10% Caucasian) participated in the program. More than 70 percent were referred or placed in employment and received higher paying positions along with updated computer technology skills. Participants also updated professional resumes and received more knowledge about contacting employers, proper interview methods, and negotiating salary offers. The League offers this program in collaboration with Waubensee Community College, College of DuPage, Aurora University, local IETC offices, Family Focus and unsubsidized employment.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY:

Quad County Urban League facilitates meetings and forums that serve to ensure the basic civil The Quad County Urban League is committed to addressing the needs of the community and often partners with civic leaders and community groups to facilitate change on a variety of issues including education reform, police relations, and fair housing. The League continues to drive and expand the diversity initiatives of Indian Prairie School District #204 and is an active supporter of an ongoing wellness program designed to address health issues specific to African American women and children.

RENTAL/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE:

This advocacy program provides one-time (per calendar year) emergency financial mortgage or rental assistance to individuals and families. The program also works to uncover and address the root cause of the recipients' situation. Recipients are required to undergo employment counseling and credit counseling before funding is allocated. Over nine hundred persons (930) were served under this program in 2006. Many clients cited an increase in gas and electricity prices, lower wages, and loss of employment due to health issues, as reasons for needing assistance.

