

ENGAGE | IMPACT | INSPIRE

2ND EDITION, APRIL 2013

SUPPORT OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER

April 28, 2013

Christian Fields Style Bar
6550 S. Cottage Grove
Chicago, IL 60637
2:00PM - 5:00PM

Come see why you are so
IMPORTANT to your community
and our **CAUSE!**

Please click on the **FUNDRAISER** link to register.



Chicago's Unsung Heroes: 2014

The Traveling Photography And Audio EXHIBITION

In an effort to unify, inspire and promote community engagement in underserved communities, I Am We™ has launched our first initiative, Chicago's Unsung Heroes: *The Traveling Photography and Audio Exhibition*.

Through this endeavor we will highlight twenty of Chicago's most amazing and courageous citizens who are demonstrating community excellence throughout their neighborhoods and beyond. By highlighting the narratives of these everyday citizens, Chicagoans will have the opportunity to see many underserved communities through a different lens. As a result, we will promote the value of community engagement and inspire others to get involved within

their communities. This exhibition will be featured at select museums and community institutions throughout Chicago beginning in 2014, and will be seen by thousands.

MEET OUR HERO

Officer Clayton Hutchinson, C.P.D. (Cover of Newsletter). Officer Hutchinson started his career as a beat officer in the 3rd district. In the 3rd district many of the youth are vulnerable to illicit street activity, including gangs and violence. However, in this community, youth love basketball. Observing this, Officer Hutchinson developed a program that will not only give youth what they want, but most importantly, what they need. In 2006, Officer Hutchinson founded the 3rd District Basketball Mentoring Group. Today, that

program has touched more than 600 lives, and is preparing to touch hundreds more. Through this endeavor, youth have been provided with a safe haven, incredible mentoring and many are now in college. Officer Hutchinson is making his community safer, building positive relationships between the police and community stakeholders by giving young people opportunities that many of them never knew existed.

At the Chicago's Unsung Heroes Photography and Audio Exhibition, you will learn of many unsung heroes such as Officer Hutchinson, who are creating communities of excellence within their neighborhood and you will learn of the individuals, whose lives have been transformed by our heroic everyday citizens. **Get ready to be inspired and witness the IMPACT.**

CHICAGO'S UNSUNG HEROES SEARCH

WITNESSING THE IMPACT

I Am We™ has been working in various underserved communities throughout Chicago. Our methodology has been to learn the needs of each community, identify the resources and identify the everyday citizens who are addressing their neighborhood needs. We find it valuable to conduct the research for Chicago's Unsung Heroes in this order.

As a result, we are able to learn of a community's history, and its needs. This framework allows us to identify unsung heroes organically.

Through this approach, not only are we able to experience the impact that these ordinary citizens are making in their communities, but also are able to witness the lives touched by our heroes. This is why we are working diligently to share the inspiration hidden in these narratives with you.

However, we can't identify Chicago's Unsung Heroes alone,



"Our Unsung Heroes are creating hope, transforming lives, strengthening their communities and adding rich heritage to their neighborhoods culture."

I Am We™ believes that in sharing the IMPACT of our Chicago's Unsung Heroes, we will inspire others to invest in their communities as well. Can you imagine what that would like like? We can. Empowered and unified communities throughout Chicago!

I Am We™

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Chicago Unsung Heroes

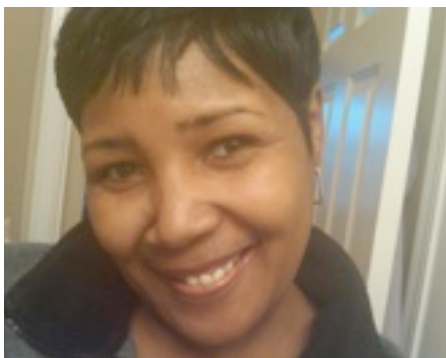
Criteria: Must be an engaged citizen who meets the following specifications:

- ▶ Clearly identified an issue that is deteriorating their neighborhood
- ▶ Identified root cause
- ▶ Created a solution
- ▶ The solution is measurable
- ▶ Candidate is passionate and committed to their solution
- ▶ Is transparent

- ▶ Work and success can be validated
- ▶ Initiative is 3 years old or greater
- ▶ Initiative is inspirational and can be duplicated.

If you would like to nominate a Chicago's Unsung Hero, **contact us** and tell us how they are impacting your community. Please click on the following link to begin your nomination:

<http://iamwecommunity.org/about/chicagos-unsung-heroes/>



Tonya Jackson,
Development Specialist

VOLUNTEER HERES WHY?

"My volunteer experience with I Am We™ exceeded my every expectation. What I enjoyed the most was the great response and reaction of the people I called about the Chicago's Unsung Heroes Initiative. That let me know that the community is in need of and waiting for an organization like I AM We™. I had the opportunity to observe the care, concern, energy and commitment that Latisha Thomas, Founder and CEO

of I Am We™ has for our communities. I am excited about my next volunteer opportunity."

Currently I Am We™ is in need of:

- ▶ Marketing/Branding Professionals
- ▶ Social Media Enthusiast/ Writers
- ▶ Web Designers
- ▶ Coordinators
- ▶ Film-Makers
- ▶ Sound/Audio Engineers

Please contact I AM We™ today to get involved! Tel| 312. 291. 1273
Email | info@iamwecommunity.org

A NEW INITIATIVE: SPOTLIGHT



There are **ORDINARY** people leading **EXTRAORDINARY** initiatives to transform and strengthen their communities. **THEY EXIST.** You just haven't met ours...yet!

Latisha Thomas, Founder and CEO

BE INSPIRED...ACT NOW A COLLABORATIVE GRASS ROOTS EFFORT

Despite all of the negative stories you hear everyday, there is so much good going on throughout Chicago, even in underserved communities. In many neighborhoods, there are concerned citizens who are working collectively to create communities of excellence.

In support of these efforts, I Am We™ will publish narratives of grassroots innovations that are making an impact within their communities.

Through SPOTLIGHT we will highlight inspirational initiatives, with a primary theme, *collaboration and empowerment.*

The goal is to inspire other citizens to get involved within their communities, collaborate and find innovative ways to make positive impacts. We believe that in doing so, everyday citizens can

rebuild underserved communities, block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood.

SPOTLIGHT

In 2011, a group of close female relatives and friends came together to form a social group. However, these brave and community driven ladies were not just looking to create another social club, they were looking to create a social club that would have a great impact within their community.

As a result, the ladies founded an organization named, Ladye Doves - Social Club. The Purpose of this social club is to empower women and children while incorporating a strong sisterhood. Their goals are to provide counseling and

mentoring to at-risk communities. Today, the organization has already obtained success, by:

- A. Increasing its membership
- B. Providing over 200 meals to families in need
- C. Providing youth programming
- D. Developing a support group for women
- E. Sponsoring marathons to support women's health.

In addition, members of this group have created a bond that will last a lifetime. I Am We™ is excited to highlight their efforts.

To learn more about the Ladye Doves - Social Group, visit them on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Ladye-Doves-Social-Club/214273758589361>



THANK YOU

FOR MAKING OUR LAST PHOTO SHOOT A SUCCESS

Our last photo shoot capturing the narrative of our Chicago's Unsung Hero, Officer Hutchinson C.P.D., was made possible by:

- ▶ The Chicago Police Department
- ▶ Hyde Park High School
- ▶ Alderman Cochran
- ▶ Alderman Hairston
- ▶ Treasure Island
- ▶ Jewel, and our amazing
- ▶ I Am We Team!!!



GET INVOLVED:

[GIVE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[NOMINATE](#)

A SPECIAL Thank You: Hyde Park Highschool

On Wednesday, October 17, 2012, after having a location secured for a photo-shoot where we were honoring Officer Hutchinson, we received some unfortunate news. The location where we were going to have our photo-shoot cancelled. This was devastating, as we already invited members of the community, the mayor and sponsors. Not to mention, the weeks of coordinating schedules for youth and our volunteers; we couldn't cancel.

Therefore, at the last minute, I searched the entire 3rd district to try to find another place to hold our photo-shoot, but nothing was available. At the last minute, I went over to Hyde Park High-School and met Mr. Ross. I shared with him who I was, The Chicago's Unsung Heroes initiative, and my situation. Mr. Ross was very understanding, and accommodating. At the last minute he granted us permission to have a successful photo shoot.

I will never forget how kind Mr. Ross was; and the entire Hyde Park High-School Staff. Mr. Ross, it is people like you who create *community excellence*.

Latisha Thomas



To GET INVOLVED we invite you to contact us at:

Web: www.iamwecommunity.org | **Tel:** 312. 291. 1273 | **Email:** info@iamwecommunity.org

Please click the following link and like our [Facebook](#) page. Thank You, Abundantly!