



The Cornerstone Conduit

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. X



Working Toward Stronger Communities!

Election 2020

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
The 59th presidential election has concluded, and with its closure, we mark the beginning of a new phase in the grand project of American civics. The American people—by remarkable, record-breaking margins of voter turnout—have chosen Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Kamala Devi Harris to lead the next presidential administration of the United States.



This election—like many before it—has been marked by strident passion and a diversity of opinions about the pathway forward for our nation. Unlike any election before it, this one has seen an Afro-Asian (or “Dougla” a West Indian term for people of mixed Black African and East Indian descent) woman elevated to the position of the Vice Presidency in former California Attorney General and Senator, Kamala Harris. In the national Democratic Party’s victory in the bid for the presidency, a glass ceiling has been shattered, reshaping the imagination for what is possible for people at an intersection of many identities in the country.



But while many—Americans and our neighbors around the world—are celebrating this changing of hands in power, others feel defeated. Further, there have been concerted efforts by those who would accelerate the decline of our systems to further sow the seeds of division that remain rooted in our country’s cultural mainstream. Surely, there is no shortage of problems which the presidency by itself will be insufficient to solve.

That's where people like you come in.



We face crises in a number of areas, including: maternal mortality rates, mass incarceration, healthcare inaccessibility, widespread income inequality, declining public literacy, inequitable (and often brutal) policing across lines of race and class, and an array of exploitative business models which keep the power for financial advancement out of the hands of workers who are facing the brunt of the cost of a shrinking affordable housing inventory, crumbling public infrastructure, poor public health outcomes and multifactorial ecological disaster.



To make matters worse, the divisiveness of opinion in our country has grown so salient that some of us disagree about whether or not any of the aforementioned problems even exist.



Let's be clear: these problems are real and without significant public and private intervention, our most vulnerable populations will continue to face devastation. And that devastation will continue to grow, affecting all people of this nation and of this world. In the days ahead, we must seize this moment to address the ills of our nation directly, with intelligent and compassionate intention. We must rebuild—better than before—our nationwide understanding of compassionate self-and-public governance. We must build new norms that mitigate challenges, new and old. We must let the milestones we've achieved energize us—not pacify us—in the mission of creating a more perfect union, which practices an ethic of love, action, diversity, equity and inclusion.

**STATEMENT ON BLACK LIVES
MATTER, COMMUNITY
EQUITY, AND THE NATIONAL
MOVEMENT TOWARD
JUSTICE**

We congratulate President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on their victory—and invite them to continue the work of building a better world through advocacy, policy, community, and direct action with you and with us.

In Solidarity,
Cornerstone Collaborative Florida, Inc.

**Jamaica Executive Director,
Carrie Azan-Moncrieffe**

Carrie is a Jamaican – American dedicated to helping reduce poverty, increasing opportunities for sustainability, and helping to create economic growth for underserved communities. She is motivated to create better outcomes for the masses; not just the few.

Carrie owns a boutique marketing agency specializing in strategic growth opportunities for small businesses and start-ups. She



possesses over a decade of experience in: marketing, public relations, technical and non-technical writing, social media, campaign launches, campaign management, sales forecasting, public speaking, design, SEO, analytics, and budget management.

Additionally, Carrie mentors encourages younger generations by coaching dance and gymnastics. She loves inspiring others to pursue active lifestyles, step-out of their comfort zone, try new things, and accomplish their goals.

Mrs. Azan-Moncrieffe holds a B.S. in Mass Communication emphasizing Advertising and Public Relations, and double-minor concentrations in Political Science and International Relations from Bemidji State University in Minnesota.



A bird's-eye view of Jamaica



Ecosystem

Veteran's Mental Health

Cornerstone is working on an initiative to increase veterans, and their families, access to mental health care. Families with TRICARE, the military's health insurance carrier, often experience difficulties with access to healthcare, perhaps more than civilian families with similar medical benefits. This endeavor is a direct result of testimonial sharing challenges finding mental health care providers that accept TRICARE. Coupled with the lack of providers, mental health professionals that accept TRICARE may not have available appointments until weeks or months later, leaving the veteran or family member without treatment for their mental health diagnosis or when in crisis.

Cornerstone is working to pilot a program in Florida to help veterans access mental health. The goal is to create an up-to-date database that the military community can use that will identify providers that accept TRICARE and are able to meet with patients in a timely manner.

We seek to collaborate with active military personnel, veterans and their families, healthcare providers, and mental health

FACTS ABOUT MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH:
HELP US DO BETTER FOR OUR VETERANS!

PTSD AFFECTS A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS:

- 16% Approximately 16% of Vietnam veterans are currently diagnosed with PTSD and it is estimated that approximately 20% will experience PTSD in their lifetime.
- 12% Approximately 12% of Gulf War (1990-1991) veterans experience PTSD in a given year.
- 11-20% 11-20% of Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans have had recent contact with PTSD in the past year.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR PTSD, MANY VETERANS EXPERIENCE HIGHLY INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS OR EXTREME AND EARLY EXPERIENCES THEY HAD IN COMBAT. THESE THOUGHTS MAY OVERPOWER A VETERAN'S ABILITY TO COPE, WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH RATE OF VETERAN SUICIDES.

AN ESTIMATED 22 VETERANS DIE BY SUICIDE EACH DAY.

OUR MOST RECENT COMBAT VETERANS FACE MANY CHALLENGES UPON THEIR RETURN.

A VETERAN DIES BY SUICIDE EVERY 65 MINUTES IN THE U.S.

30% of all veterans have considered suicide.

37% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans know a veteran who has died by suicide.

Among male veterans under 26, there was a 44% increase in suicides in public places between 2009 and 2011.

Among female veterans under 26, there was an 11% increase in the rate of suicides in public places between 2009 and 2011.

Of the approximately 22 veterans who die by suicide per day, only about five are in the VA Health Care System. Getting help does matter. Treatment does work.

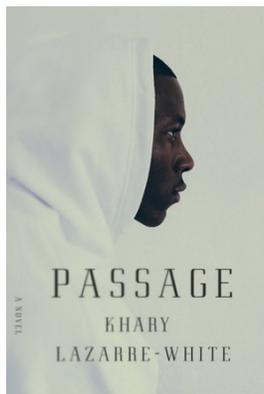
REMOVING THE STIGMA OF SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH CARE WILL HELP SAVE VETERANS' LIVES.

Thought to you by GoodTherapy.org

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1



Khary Lazarre-White is a Social Entrepreneur, Writer and Activist. He is one of the most transformative men of his generation. As co-founder of Bro/Sis Sol he has changed countless lives.

advocates to achieve this goal. If you are passionate about helping the military community or have an interest in public health, please reach out our **Director of Corporate and Foundations Relations, Rebecca Reeves** at rreeves@cornercollab.org.

Check the Technique

Check the Technique is a free virtual tech literacy program for youth and adults ages 15 & up, designed to build their basic skills using computers and software. This is a 12-hour training program that will support individuals and families in gaining the skills necessary to thrive in a world that relies on technology for communication, business, education, and other resources. Each participant will receive an official certificate upon completion of the course along with the added network and opportunities from the cohort of learners and instructors.

Miami Community Needs Assessment

Cornerstone attended a community needs assessment conference call hosted by **Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.** The call highlighted current and emerging needs of those served by the legal aid organization serving Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Inspired by the call, Cornerstone is exploring a workforce development concept to increase training and entrepreneurial opportunities for immigrants, returning citizens and others who face barriers and limited options to overcome socio-economic hurdles.

Bookshelf Spotlight

Passage tells the story of Warrior, a young black man navigating the snowy winter streets of Harlem and Brooklyn in 1993. Warrior is surrounded by deep family love and a sustaining connection to his history, bonds that arm him as he confronts the urban forces that surround him—both supernatural and human—including some that seek his very destruction.

“In [Lazarre-White’s] world, mysticism and madness walk hand in hand with the waking reality of so many young Black men in America, a reality that by any rational measure is itself insane.” –Susan L. Taylor

Youthful Savings

Youthful Savings mission is to help develop the human spirit - one educated, happy youth at a time. They are committed to empowering the next generation with financial education and entrepreneurship training so they can lead the life that they want and create a better world for all.



Youthful Savings

Youthful Savings believes in the power of collaboration... want our youth to learn how to make money work for them and not allow money to overtake them. Together, we can find ways to share the world's resources and be happy, free and peaceful.

Our Growing Ecosystem

Click below to Join Us!

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Community Engagement



Cornerstone Collaborative's network of caring individuals and committed organizations directly engages the most vulnerable populations and people most in need of support for education, training, employment, legal advocacy, housing, health, nutrition, wellness, and whose underserved communities need immediate and sustainable economic development.

Florida

Orlando
Tampa
West Palm Beach
Ft. Lauderdale
Miami
Jacksonville
Gainesville
Daytona Beach
Ocala
Tallahassee

Other States

Massachusetts

Brunch and Ball

The purpose of Brunch and Ball is to provide a safe haven and mentoring services for adolescents and young adults ages 13-19 in response to increasing crime, and teen and gang violence. Each month, a professional speaks to teens about relevant and current topics that will inspire and motivate them to be successful, graduate high school, and aspire to attend college or post secondary education/training -- with an ultimate goal of having the participants give back to their communities. The program is supported by the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity who mentor the teens and build relationships with them while having brunch. The mentors and teens play a friendly game of basketball against and with each other at the end of each monthly gathering.

A safe space has been provided by the Dorchester YMCA and healthy food choices are offered to the teens. Cornerstone seeks to launch the initiative in Florida, and expand it in New England to Providence, RI while broadening to include programming for young women as well as provide additional service-learning opportunities through activities such as field trips or involving educational and community-building resources.



Watering Farms in Jamaica

This month, we launched our crowdfunding initiative for Watering Farms in Jamaica.

This new program will collect small (or large)-



dollar donations from around the world to raise funds for farmers in St. Ann, Jamaica—which will be used to purchase and deliver an 800-gallon water tank to farmers who meet need-based criteria and whose contributions provide agriculture, jobs, and other benefits to their community.

With your help, we can provide demand-access to water through water-storage and water-catchment systems that will significantly improve her ability to care for her crops.

Follow the link below to learn more about our program and to make your contribution to this critically important cause today.

<https://fundly.com/watering-farms-in-jamaica>

Share your ideas to Help!

[CONTACT US](#)



Finance

Join our giving program to support current and emerging initiatives to improve community health, promote youth and adult literacy, strengthen public safety and support education, training, and workforce development.

Cornerstone Collaborative Florida Inc. is an IRC 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Pursuant to Florida Law related to Charitable Solicitation, the following statement is provided: "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."

Click below to Support Us!

[▶ Donation](#)

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