

THE RECLAIM

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2008—Quarter 1

REBIRTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ronald Bayles - Executive Director

Welcome to *The Reclaim*

QUARTER ONE

Ephesians 1:3; 2:10 (NKJV)
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Rebirth Community Development Corporation—The Reclaim. We had a very prosperous and exciting 2007! Some of the highlights include the following: (1) Partnered with Barak Live. WAYE 1220 a.m. "Back to School Rally". (2) Submitted pro-

posals for funds for the at-risk programs. (3) Partnered with Milton Management Group—they have taken the lead in launching and maintaining Rebirth's website. (4) Created an online donation web site. (5) Created a shopping ministry through SupportThisMinistry.com. This will allow Rebirth to obtain funds for growth. (6) Formalized our reading program for ages 15 to adulthood. (7) Organized a quarterly community workshop schedule for the low-income, at-risk population.

We look forward to a prosperous 2008—Come and join us!



The Dreidel—Rebirth's Logo

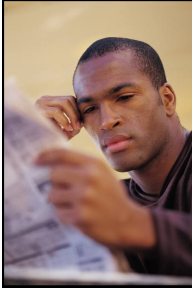
Community Back To School Rally



In an effort to get in the spirit for the 2007-2008 school year, for students in the Birmingham City School District, the Rebirth Community Development Corporation held a "Community Back to School Rally" summer of 2007 with an anticipation of a great school year. This community event was in conjunction with Barak Live and WAYE 1220 Radio Station.

In attendance were supportive parents, students of all ages, neighborhood representatives, relatives, friends, etc.

The rally consisted of educational activities, health booths, and resource booths for the district students. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents, community members, nonprofit agencies, businesses, etc. to unite for a greatly needed purpose.



Rebirth and Adult Literacy

We have spent the year researching reading programs that we think will be affective in assisting adult illiteracy. Our targeted audience is students 15-24 years of age. We have found a company that has a product that will meet their needs. The program is designed to meet the ethnic diversity that has become common to our public schools. We are submitting a proposal to Reading Horizon, that if ac-

cepted, will allow us to pilot their product in at least two districts in the greater Birmingham Area. Our goal this year is to raise enough money so that we can purchase 20 licenses of the reading program.



We are also writing a grant that will yield the seed money needed to launch the At-Risk Initiative we wrote in October and November. This particular grant will give the reward to the organization with the most unique and plausible plan to assist the at-risk population in the area of education and health / medical intervention.

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today"--
Malcolm X*

What to Look For in 2008

Rebirth has a lot in store for the community in 2008. The following are some of the projects that the community will benefit from:

- Proposals submitted to assist our young African males in increasing their reading levels and graduating from high school.
- Computer workshops.
- Monthly workshops.
- Youth rallies.
- Math programs.
- Partnerships with the local agencies.
- Family/Teen/College-oriented seminars.
- At-risk programs.
- A web site to keep the community informed of all of the upcoming events: www.rebirthcdc.org
- A online mall (log onto our web site to benefit from the low prices).
- A donation page on our web site for our donors/supporters.

Quarter 1 Workshops



January—Job Readiness Seminar: Each participant will learn:

Dressing for success, composing a resume and cover letter, assembling a portfolio, and preparing for interviews. A mock interview will be given to each participant .

February—Career Technical Awareness: February observes career technical education; therefore, Rebirth will offer workshops to introduce each participant to the various career technical programs.

March—Establishing and Maintaining

Credit: Each participant will learn and understand: Credit and why we want and need it, etc. Check our web site for more information. (www.rebirthcdc.org).

The History of Our Logo—The Dreidel



The Yiddish word is *dreidel* the Hebrew word is *sevivon*. It is actually a spinning top. This top has a lot of significance in the Jewish culture. It was used as a mean of studying during the time that Israel was in captivity by the Greek Syrians. While in captivity the Jewish people were forbidden to study Torah (the law). This was done in hope of breaking the spirit of the people, since the study of

Torah is the highest form of worship for the Jewish people. During this time the temple was destroyed, and many of the religious observance such as circumcision and the keeping of Shabbat (holy) days where outlawed. The Jewish people were very resilient; they took the study of Torah underground and began to use different means of conveying the truth of Torah. The dreidel was a perfect

cover up. While out in the fields they would use the toy to tell the truth of Torah. The Hebrew letters are word pictures that allowed the truth of Torah to continue among the captive people. The letters represented on the dreidel above are the *Shin, Hey, Gimel, and Nun*, in Israel these letters mean "A great miracle happen here!" There are dreidels that were made in commemoration

of the re-building of the temple. This symbol is used by Rebirth because we believe that through being persistent we can be instrumental in rebuilding the educational structure needed to assist in better educating students. Furthermore we believe that our persistent will yield us the opportunity to say "A great miracle happen here!"

An Overview of Rebirth's Mission for the Community

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE—The uniqueness of Rebirth is our ability to bring together stakeholders to participate in resolving the issues that put young men at-risk. The program is design to bridge the gaps that are created by deficiencies in education, social skills, employment and self-worth. Agencies, institutions, and communities are solicited to invest in proactive rather than reactive measures, to prevent rather than correct negative behavior. The initiative is twofold in that it is design to prevent the behavior in students K-6 and intervene in the behavior of students 7-12 grade. (This initiative has the potential to change how agencies and institutions do business).

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE NEED—The educational component will require a reading program designed to help children who have difficulties in becoming comprehensive readers and for young adults who have not mastered the art of reading. We would need the cooperation of the juvenile courts, states and local agencies to allow incarcerated or troubled students to receive assistance under the program. The officers of the courts will be asked to use their power to promote student participation and to monitor change in students' behavior. Churches and religious organizations will be needed to assist with mentorship and social skills. Local business and technical schools will be needed to provide job readiness and life skills needed to enhance self-worth. Ultimately we will need the endorsement of school boards, civic leaders and various forms of media to launch the initiative to a systemic implementation.