



National Black Child Development Institute

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER
Winter 2016

An extraordinary first quarter

The year is off to an amazing start. During the first few months of 2016, the National Black Child Development Institute and our Affiliates have launched into powerful actions that demonstrate being Black is not a risk factor.

From Seattle - where we boldly showed our children that Black men do love; to Detroit - where we are rapidly responding to the Flint water crisis - this newsletter is a testament to the powerful stories of change that are happening across the network.

State of the Black Child: Illinois and Pennsylvania

Black Child Development Institute-Chicago and Black Child Development Institute-Philadelphia, in partnership with the National Black Child Development

Institute (NBCDI), recently held events releasing state-based reports that highlight the strengths of Black children and families.

The reports, titled "*Being Black is Not a Risk Factor: Statistics and Strengths-Based Solutions in the State of Illinois*" and "*Being Black is Not a Risk Factor: Statistics and Strengths-Based Solutions in the State of Pennsylvania*" feature contributions from noted leaders and organizations



BCDI-Philadelphia and BCDI-Chicago held events to celebrate the launch of the "Being Black is Not a Risk Factor" state-based reports.

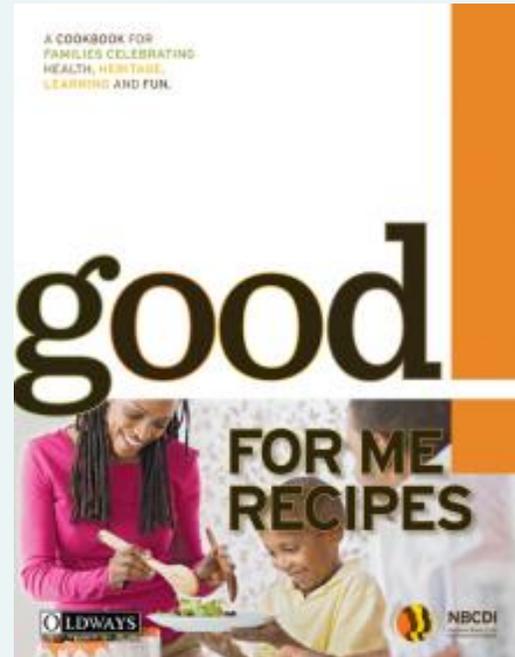
in the early care and education field including the Erikson Institute, Illinois Action for Children, University of Pennsylvania, Ounce of Prevention, Pennsylvania Partnership for Children and the Global Leadership Academy.

The Being Black is Not a Risk Factor initiative is funded by the Alliance for Early Success.

[Read the Pennsylvania report](#) [Read the Illinois report](#)

Good for Me Cookbook now available.

Have you seen the National Black Child Development Institute's Good for Me cookbook? Celebrating health, heritage, education and fun, the informative cookbook is designed for children and families.



Developed in partnership with Oldways, Good for Me features 26 recipes that are inspired by the many facets of our heritage from soul food to Caribbean and African cuisine. This product is a supplement to the Good For Me curriculum. The Good for Me program is funded by Walmart. [Click here to purchase your copy.](#)

NBCDI welcomes Cemere' James

The National Black Development Institute (NBCDI) welcomes Ceméré James, our new Vice President of Policy. Before joining NBCDI, Ms. James was the deputy director of the Work Support Strategies (WSS) and senior policy analyst at Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). Much of her work focused on developing strategies to increase access to public work support programs.



Ms. James previously held the position of lead operations specialist with the Illinois Department of Human Services and was an inaugural fellow in the Illinois Early Childhood Fellows Program where

she worked as an advocate for access to quality early childhood education and supported a strategic planning initiative. Ms. James holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a Master of Industrial Engineering and Management Science from Northwestern University. She earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Florida A&M University.

Network News

BCDI-Detroit

Flint Water Crisis

In response to the Flint Water Crisis, Black Child Development Institute-Detroit is launching the What About the Babies? campaign to bring much needed low-fluoride water and wipes to the babies of Flint.

[Click here to donate to the campaign.](#)



BCDI-Detroit and their partners are also calling on Governor Rick Snyder to stop sending utility bills to Flint residents for lead poisoned water. [Click here read the position statement from BCDI-Detroit.](#)

BCDI-Seattle

Parent Involvement Day

Black Child Development Institute-Seattle and their partners recently sponsored a National African American Parent Involvement Day event at South Shore PK-8 School. More than 200 Black men turned out to greet the children as they arrived at the school. The men formed a line in front of the school and welcomed the students with high-fives and cheers of encouragement. The goal was to dispel the negative stereotypes of Black men by showing students examples of successful Black politicians, police officers and professors. [Read the Seattle Times news coverage here.](#)



BCDI-Atlanta

Creating a Strong Pipeline from Cradle to Adulthood

Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, Vice President, Black Child Development Institute - Atlanta recently represented NBCDI during the *Creating a Strong Pipeline from Cradle to Adulthood* panel discussion organized by the Black Philanthropy Partnership at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation's K-12 education work includes a focus on equity, narrowing the achievement gap and ensuring more students of color and students from low-income households graduate ready for college and career.

[View photos from the event here.](#)



BCDI-Dallas

Hosts Kitchen Table Discussion

Black Child Development Institute-Dallas, in partnership with the University of North Texas at Dallas Leadership Development and Multicultural Programs recently organized a Kitchen Table: The State of the Black Child and Family. NBCDI President and CEO Tobeka G. Green moderated the event which focused on issues that affect Black children and families and featured issue experts from the fields of education, health, faith and criminal justice.



BCDI-Sacramento

Recognized by The Education Trust and Black United Fund

The Black United Fund of Sacramento Valley honored Black Child Development Institute-Sacramento with the Walter Bremond Memorial Community Service Award for their outstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for Black children and families.



BCDI-Sacramento's implementation of NBCDI's Parent Empowerment Program was also recognized by The Education Trust-West in the report "Black Minds Matter: Supporting the Educational Success of Black Children in California." The Parent Empowerment Program was cited as one of the groundbreaking solutions to closing the achievement and opportunity gaps for Black students.

[Read the full report here.](#)

National Listening Tour

NBCDI President and CEO Tobeka G. Green, and Georgia S. Thompson, who directs the NBCDI Affiliate Network and Training Institute, continued the Affiliate-wide Listening Tour with visits to BCDI-Chicago, BCDI-Los Angeles, BCDI-Pasadena, BCDI-Sacramento, BCDI-Seattle, and BCDI-Dallas.

