



What are leaders saying about the TimeBanks USA Racial Justice Initiative?

James Bell, Founder and Executive Director, W. Haywood Burns Institute

www.burnsinstitute.org

The W. Haywood Burns Institute is a San Francisco-based national nonprofit organization. Our mission: To protect and improve the lives of youth of color and poor children and the well-being of their communities by ensuring fairness and equity throughout all public and private youth serving systems.

“It is wonderful to have creative minds developing innovative legal theories to challenge the most important issue in our justice systems today. Making jurisdictions liable for being deliberately indifferent to their over-representation of youth of color would be a true revolution in the field.”

Shirley Marcus Allen, Partner, Venture Philanthropy Partners

www.vppartners.org

VPP invests in high-performing nonprofit organizations that are serving the core healthy developmental, learning, and educational needs of children from low-income families in the National Capital Region. Although we do not have any desire to achieve a financial return on the money we contribute, we do hope to help nonprofit leaders grow their organizations in size, strength, and community impact. And by demonstrating the value of our approach, we hope to inspire philanthropists, corporate and nonprofit leaders, and public policymakers to help increase the effectiveness and the flow of capital, talent, and other resources to nonprofit organizations showing the greatest potential for improving the lives of children.

“Our children are our future! The extent to which local communities are able and willing to execute effective remedies to address racial disparities in juvenile justice and child welfare will determine the true meaning of ‘future’ for all of us!

“This initiative matters to me because I’m ‘sick and tired’ of being ‘sick and tired’ of giving lip service to changing child welfare and juvenile justice practice. We’ve been at this now for over 30 years. Our children have become commodities. We know what works and we owe it to our children, and ourselves, to stop the intellectual discourse and implement community-based, culturally competent interventions that change the trajectory for all children.

“Now that the Initiative is available in the field it is my hope and prayer that voice will be given to the development of a broad-based community engagement strategy that truly engages the community in decision making for children and youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare system.”

Charles Ogletree, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard Law School

“On behalf of myself and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute, I applaud the work Edgar Cahn and Cynthia Robbins, organizers of the TimeBanks USA Racial Justice Initiative. Their efforts are not only consistent with the work of our Institute but are fitting legacy of the work of Charles Hamilton Houston himself, who taught us all the wisdom of well-crafted legal strategies for eliminating injustice. Although I am not able to join the truly remarkable gathering, “Dismantling Structural Racism in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare,” this week in Madison, Wisconsin, I look forward to finding creative opportunities to contribute to and benefit from the effort to craft strategies that will dismantle the system of inequity facing our young people today.”

Reg Weaver, immediate past President, National Education Association and currently Vice President of the North American Caribbean Region of Education International

The National Education Association is the nation’s largest teachers union, advocating for great public schools for every child. Education International represents nearly 30 million teachers and education workers. Our 401 member organizations operate in 172 countries and territories, from pre-school to university.

“If we know there are better ways to help youth get back on track and improve public safety, it is our national responsibility to do it,” said Reg Weaver. “Our nation’s teachers see firsthand the potential that exists in each child, but some kids need more support and direction. We look forward to the national movement the Racial Justice Initiative will unleash to finally end the squandering of precious resources in our juvenile justice system as well as helping to put an end to racial discrimination.”