

# STREET LOVE

## Brothers Serving Mothers:

United Brothers of 9th Street, UB9 was originally formed in 1991. They were just a group of brothers hanging on the corner and wanted something more positive to do with their time. In the fall of 1991 they formed a football league. They opened a Club House in 1994 with the purpose of continuing to encourage each other from not hanging on corners. Eventually they went their separate ways.

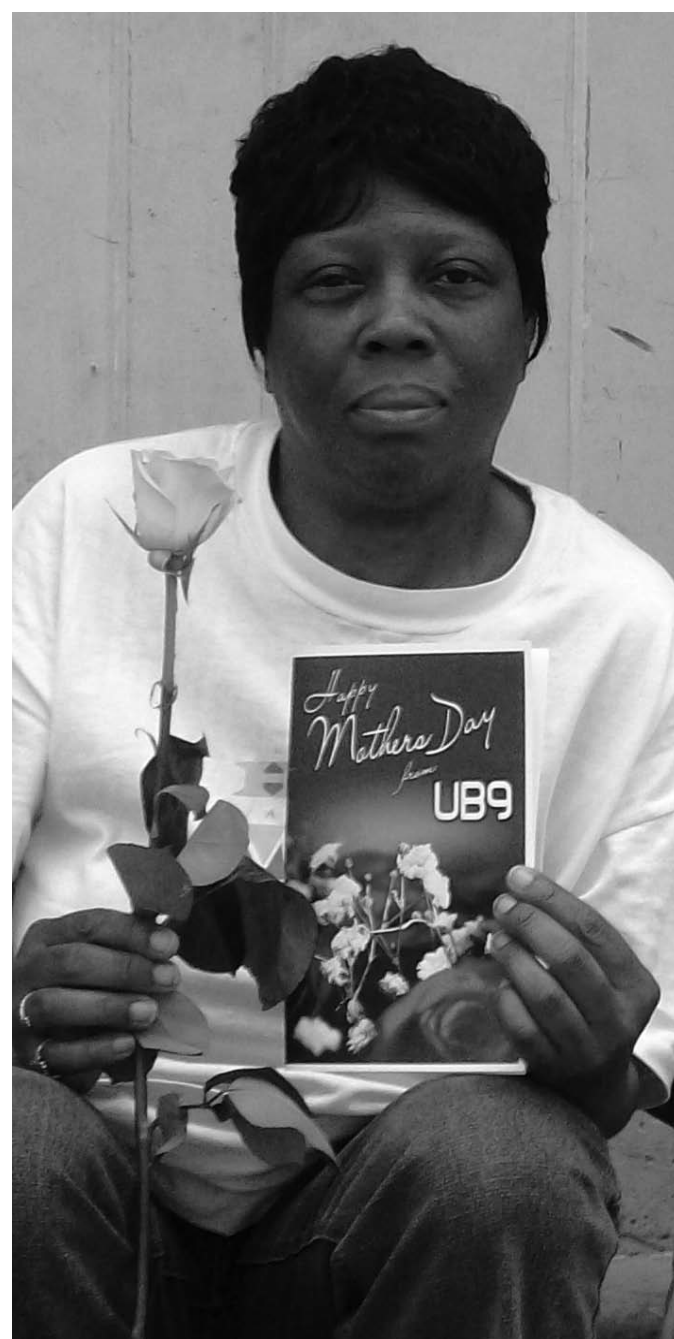
The group with the encouragement of the late Rick Hoey got back together in 2008. Since Rick's passing the group has had a greater commitment to giving back to the community. On Easter Sunday 2009, UB9 sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt at Kirkwood Street Park. The hunt included golden eggs with money inside along with a raffle where four bikes were given away.

On Saturday, May 9, 2009 they held a Mother's Day March, where they distributed cards and flowers to Mothers in the Community.

Going forward UB9 will continue to uphold a positive image in the community by following their Mission Statement:

*"To provide support for UB9 Club Members and other services to the Community. To develop role models, reduce the recidivism rate and create brotherhood."*

**Contact:** Dr. Terrance Newton at (302) 275-0758 for more information.



Eastside Mother

Photo credit: Ben Congo

## BVD opened in the Summer of 2008.

When they opened their ultimate goal was to always give back to the Community. They currently partner with Bancroft Academy and give five students free hair cuts each month. They also have an Honor Roll Program where students on the Honor Roll receive a hair cut for five dollars.

## Some of their other Community Events Include:

- **Back to School Event** (school children received a hair cuts for five dollars)
- **Thanksgiving Turkey Drive** (50 turkeys were given to the Community Members)
- **Christmas Coat Give Away** (200 coats were given to children in the Community)
- **Easter Shoe Give Away** (200 pairs of shoes were given to children in the Community)



**Black Visionary Designers Barber Salon (BVD)**  
223 West 8th Street,  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-888-BVD1 or  
e-mail: bvdsalon@aol.com

**Owners:** Terrone Warren, Hakim Warren and Rick Robinson

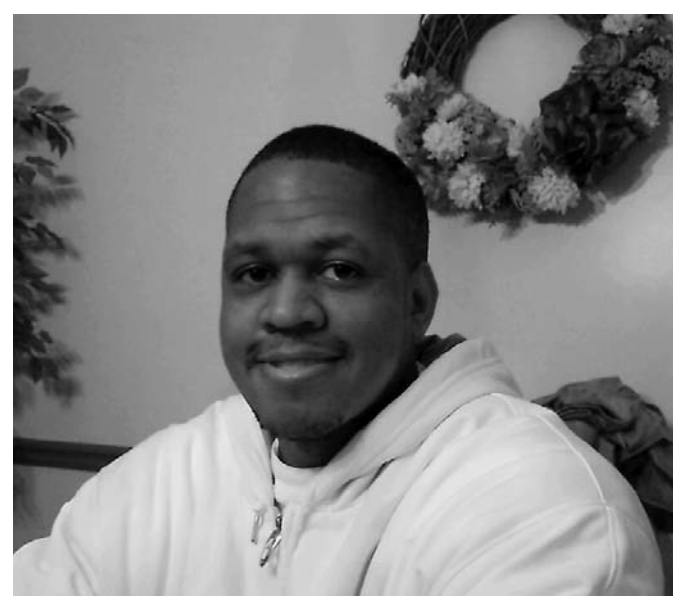
**To submit news or ideas for the HOPE Commission newsletter visit:** [www.wilmingtonhopecommission.org](http://www.wilmingtonhopecommission.org) or call 302-573-3735 and ask for Carmen Brown. We are looking for community volunteers to assist with the newsletter publication.

## Harness the Power of HOPE! Change begins with you.

### HERE'S HOW TO START:

- Join your neighborhood association or start a Block Association
- Volunteer to work with the HOPE Outreach Network (HON)
- Stay up to date with your City Council meetings and representative and tell them about your concerns [www.ci.wilmington.de.us/council](http://www.ci.wilmington.de.us/council)
- Volunteer at the local community center or senior center

## Community Speaks



**As a Southbridge business owner for 13 years** and active member of the civic association, I have seen a major difference over the past two years since HOPE Commission. There have been fewer problems with youth and kids hanging out and getting into trouble. Families and children are getting help at school and in their homes with counseling services, men returning to the community from prison have someone to help them and the community is working together to try to find solutions to some of our community problems.

*Amere Robinson  
Boney's Barbershop  
Southbridge, City of Wilmington*

The HOPE Commission does not tell us what we need — we figure it out together. I believe we absolutely need the HOPE Commission in our city because we have seen the impact and there has been a reduction in crime in our Southbridge neighborhood and the energy in the community is just different — more positive. They brought resources to the community — people and funding. The \$1.3 mil the city gave over three years was a great start but it is not enough to do all the work that is necessary in every community. We need to work together to find more resources and support to rebuild our communities — neighborhood by neighborhood and the HOPE Commission can help us get it done. We need to support their work and find ways to get more people involved in their own neighborhoods — the Southbridge HOPE Zone model has worked!

# HOPE NEWS

Your link to the HOPE Commission at work in Wilmington

ISSUE: No. 1



SUMMER 2009

## IN This Issue:

### What's Going On...

- Neighborhood Planning Leadership Council
- Public Meeting on Reentry Issues
- Voices of HOPE Show
- Day of Service

### Partners, People, and Progress

- "Empowering Mothers Breakfast"
- City Council Corner
- Hope Outreach
- The Business of Community

## Notes

from Charles A. Madden, J.D., Executive Director

### Greetings All!

It's great to be writing this letter to you in the HOPE Commission's first newsletter. My hope is that this newsletter will serve as a way for us to keep you informed of HOPE Commission initiatives and other positive activities and important events taking place throughout the city of Wilmington. We want your input and ask for your continued support as we continue to work with our community partners to revitalize our neighborhoods.

**Joining us is easy.** Everyone can be involved in the work of transforming our communities. One way is to be part of the HOPE Outreach Network (HON) that the HOPE Commission launched in the fall of 2008. HON is made up of your neighbors and friends who are committed residents dedicated to improving the quality of life in our communities. By helping community members get connected to needed services, supporting and participating in community beautification projects, serving as youth interventionist in troubled areas, learning about community needs and developing solutions together, the HON was created to provide opportunities for everyday residents to become involved in their communities. We intend to increase our presence throughout Wilmington and build a strong network of partners in every neighborhood.

**Stay on top of other HOPE Commission activities** by visiting our web site [www.wilmingtonhopecommission.org](http://www.wilmingtonhopecommission.org). You will find information on upcoming events and opportunities to get involved. You can find us on Wilmington's local cable television station, Channel 28, every 3rd Sunday from 10:30am - 11:00am—and on radio and other TV programs as well.

**Inspiration...collaboration...transformation...**these are what the HOPE Commission is all about. Join us and be part of the transformation that will create, safe, vital neighborhoods where we all can thrive.

## WHAT'S GOING ON...

### Make Your voices heard! City government represents YOU!

Be sure to let your representatives know what's on your mind so policies and programs reflect your needs.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

#### The City Council welcomes public comment!

- Dates:** The Council meets on the first & third Thursday of each month
- Place:** Council Chambers, located on the first floor of the Louis L. Redding City/County Bldg, 800 North French Street
- Time:** Public comment welcomed at 6:00 p.m. (SIGN IN BY 5:45 P.M.) Meetings start at 6:30 .p.m.

**VISIT:** [www.ci.wilmington.de.us/council.htm](http://www.ci.wilmington.de.us/council.htm)  
for more information.

### SOUTHBRIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

- Date:** The Civic Association meets on the third Thursday of each month
- Place:** Neighborhood House, 1000 B. Street, Wilmington, DE
- Time:** 6:00 pm

## HOPE

### Find Hope on Channel 28!

**VOICES OF HOPE** — A channel 28 program brought to you by the HOPE Commission

**Dates:** Third Sunday of each month  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Hear community members and experts discussing important topics and sharing strategies for transformation.

## GET INVOLVED! 1000 Man Rally: A Call To Consciousness & Action

Calling all men to stand up for **safer** streets, unity, jobs, education, and community solidarity. It's time to wake up and take back our streets from the devastation, violence and hopelessness that has overcome the community!

**Saturday, June 27, 2009, 12:00 pm**  
**Church of Saint Paul**  
**1010 West 4th Street**  
**Wilmington, DE 19805**

**For More Info Contact: Poppa Rogers**  
**(302) 290-5125**

**Tell us what you want to see and discuss on Voices of Hope!**

Please contact Carmen Brown at [info@wilmingtonhopecommission.org](mailto:info@wilmingtonhopecommission.org) or 302-573-3735.

## Neighborhood Planning Council

**HOPE Begins with You...join your planning council and civic association and volunteer to help keep your neighborhood clean!"**

**Greenspace Challenge**—The Neighborhood Planning Leadership Council has teamed up with the Delaware Center for Horticulture to create a new category in the Wilmington City Gardens contest called the Greenspace Challenge. Challenge your civic or community groups to participate in a community greening project and they could win the prize of \$250!

In order to participate, please take a photo of the site before you begin the project, then submit an application with the photo to the Delaware Center for Horticulture by **June 15, 2009**.

Remember that community greening projects come in different shapes and sizes and can include container plantings, cleaning a vacant lot or open space, tree plantings, flower gardens, vegetable gardens and many others.

### Apply Now!

The application is available online at [www.dehort.org](http://www.dehort.org) or by contacting Marcia Stephenson of DCH at (302) 658-6262, ext.105. The entry deadline is Monday June 15, 2009 and the judging will take place on Saturday, July 11 between 9 and noon. Call Marcia Stephenson of Delaware Center for Horticulture at 658-6262 or Sophia Hanson at 576-3100.

**ENTRY DEADLINE: JUNE 15!**



**Operation Clean Sweep**—The schedule is set for your neighborhood's spring cleaning...and getting involved is being a part of *Take Pride Wilmington*. Want to know when your neighborhood's scheduled?

Visit: <http://www.ci.wilmington.de.us/CleanWilmington/cleansweep.htm>



## REENTRY

*Helping people successfully return to their families and communities.*

There was standing room only, over 200 people in attendance at the Chase Center on the Riverfront at the March 10 public hearing on offender reentry. Hosted by the Criminal Justice Council in collaboration with the HOPE Commission, the hearing provided a forum for ex-offenders, clergy, community residents, state employees, city council members, non-profit service providers and those in business to share their insight, expertise, and passion about issues and policies related to reentry.

The remarks were spirited and gave attendees a deeper understanding of the need to support ex-offenders in areas such as education, job training and placement, housing, mental health, and reconnecting with their loved ones in the community.

Charles A. Madden, executive director of the HOPE Commission, shared that the discussion will go on—that actions will be taken to help remove obstacles ex-offenders face to bring about a successful reintegration back into the community.

May 11th, Governor Markell introduced the state's reentry plan. The plan that gets state agencies working together to help inmates prior to their release and outlines plans to address employment, housing and drug and alcohol addictions. It requires several agencies to coordinate their outreach to inmates; changes how services are delivered to maximize results; and initiates a system for re-entry planning that begins at point of incarceration rather than at release. The Individual Assessment, Discharge and Planning Team (I-ADAPT) was created to assist in implementing the plan. The I-ADAPT team will include representatives from the agencies represented on the Cabinet committee (the Departments of Correction, Labor, Education, Health and Social Services and the Delaware State Housing Authority), as well as representatives from faith-based and community organizations and an ex-offender. Madden shared that it is the intention of the HOPE Commission to build a functioning, collaborative partnership with the state and other community based organizations in creating model re-entry initiatives guided by best practices from around the country including those right here in our own backyard. The commission plans to create a single point of service facility, a "One-Stop Reentry Center". The "One Stop" will provide services such as job preparedness, educational opportunities, housing and health services at one facility which will greatly reduce the chance of recidivism.

**The HOPE Commission wants your involvement!. Contact us by phone or e-mail to let us know how you and your community can support reentry projects.**



**Fugitive Safe Surrender** – Delaware was launched under the leadership of David Thomas, United States Marshal for the District of Delaware. The four-day surrender period was held April 29th – May 2nd. Bishop Thomas Wesley Weeks, Sr., pastor of New Destiny Fellowship Church, served as the faith-based leader of Fugitive Safe Surrender-Delaware and hosted the surrender days in his church located at 906 E. 16th Street in Wilmington. Safe Surrender was designed for individuals with outstanding non-violent warrants in the State of Delaware. Lawyers and judges were on hand to hear cases on-site at New Destiny Fellowship Church. Individuals with warrants for serious or violent offenses were able to surrender in the safe confines of the church. There were no religious requirements.

During the first three days nearly 650 people with outstanding charges turned themselves in to authorities and law enforcement also cleared more than 1000 warrants.



## PARTNERS, PEOPLE, AND PROGRESS

### Women/Mothers Join Together to Help Reduce Violence

More than 100 women/mothers attended the "Empowering Mothers Breakfast" on March 21 at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Representative Hazel Plant hosted the breakfast, which provided a forum for women to exchange challenges and experiences related to the loss of a child, companion, or loved one to violence...and for those who witness violence in their homes and neighborhoods. Leading the discussion about how these women/mothers could meet those challenges while raising their children and helping their communities were speakers Reverend Pat Harris, Bishop Aretha Morton, Councilwoman Hanifa Shabazz, Community Activist Jackie Wright and Life Coach, Joan Sloan.

Representative Hazel Plant plans to continue working with the young women and others who need help. For more information about the next activity, contact Representative Plant or Councilwoman Shabazz at (302) 577-8476 or (302) 576-2140.



## CITY COUNCIL CORNER

### City Council's Hanifa Shabazz: Working Hard to Help HOPE Take Hold



Councilwoman Hanifa Shabazz has been involved with issues related to strengthening the fabric of our communities for a long time.

As a member of City Council representing the Southbridge community, she sees the need to bring all resources together to bring about safe, vibrant communities, including parents, police, state officials, social services organizations, schools.

In looking at what has been accomplished in Southbridge, she says that a great change for the better is occurring for kids and families through the work of the civic leaders and community organizations in partnership with the HOPE Commission. Community members and families are receiving and accessing the much-needed services of the family crisis therapist, juvenile probation officer and outreach worker provided by the HOPE Commission.

## HOPE Outreach Workers are Busy Building Partnerships for a Better Neighborhood

HOPE Outreach Workers greet students in the morning before school to offer a kind and supportive word and provide a nutritional meal before they start their day. The students look forward to the free meal and the kind hugs and smiles they receive from the outreach workers. A small gesture that means a lot to the children.



### HOPE Outreach Worker Kirk Lacy is making a difference in Southbridge.

In Southbridge, Kirk has seen the difference collaboration can make. Many people are less confused about where to go for assistance. Residents are very receptive to the assistance Kirk provides about community services.

*"We need a stronger reentry support system," he pointed out, adding that he spends much of his time focused on helping ex-offenders access job training, education, and other resources that help them successfully integrate back into the community."*