



Educates children, strengthens families and builds community

Kingsley House eNewsletter

September 2009

Board Member Profile: Willie "Michael" Wilson "I would not be the man I am today if it wasn't for Kingsley House"



Willie "Michael" Wilson

Willie "Michael" Wilson is a man who describes himself as driven, determined and disciplined. Currently, Michael is an electrical engineer for Entergy. He has a Bachelor's Degree in engineering and MBA from the University of New Orleans. Wilson also holds a certificate in power engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. In 2002 he was selected to represent Entergy as "The Most Promising Engineer" at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards. Clearly he is an accomplished individual. Michael said he owes this success to Kingsley House.

"I have a lifelong connection to Kingsley House" said Michael, who grew up in New Orleans' St. Thomas Public Housing development. As a child, he attended the Kingsley House Head Start program and later participated in the agency's daily after-school, summer camp and teen programs. Michael also began his first job at the agency as a summer camp counselor while attending high school and college. Most of Michael's youth was spent within the gates here at Kingsley House. "This

was my place of refuge," he said. While things in Michael's home life were at times emotionally and physically stressful, Kingsley House served as his safe place, his place to participate in activities he may never have had the chance to experience. Michael recalled learning how to swim in the Kingsley House pool at four years old and participating in a wide variety of sports and recreational activities. He notes that without these positive outlets and the constant focus at Kingsley House on education and its importance, he would not be the man he is today.

Michael chose to study engineering because of his aptitude for math and science. He wanted to continue to develop and challenge himself which he said his career path has accomplished. Michael also spent time in the Navy. He joined the Board in an effort to give back to the organization that gave so much to him. As a Board Member, he hopes to contribute to the community in a positive light by participating in the Kingsley House programs and sharing his experiences with students. "I want the youth to know that they can overcome obstacles and meet their goals," said Michael. He also stressed the importance of the many important learning opportunities he expects to receive from those same youth he seeks to help.

Kingsley House is proud and honored to welcome agency alum Willie "Michael" Wilson as a Board Member.

The Southern School of Social Sciences and Public Services Celebrates 95th Anniversary

The Southern School of Social Sciences and Public Services was the first training program for social workers in the Deep South. 2009 marks its 95th anniversary. And it all began here at Kingsley House.

In 1914, under the sponsorship of Kingsley Settlement House, a group of Tulane social science faculty offered the first classes in social welfare. A formal one-year program was implemented in 1921 sponsored by grants from the American Red Cross and in 1927, a Rockefeller grant allowed the school to become a separate program with a two-year curriculum qualifying students for a Master of Arts. In 1935 Tulane University established the degree of Master of Social Work. More than 5,500 students have since received this Master's Degree at Tulane from all over the U.S. and 30 other countries.

Kingsley House Prominent in New Book



Local author and Kingsley House alumna, Christine Allen Ewy, thought it was time for a collective answer to the question, "Why do people live in New Orleans?"

Moscow Ballet Benefit for Kingsley House Needs Sponsors

The Moscow Ballet will be returning to New Orleans this holiday season for a special performance of its critically acclaimed Great Russian Nutcracker benefiting Kingsley House on **Saturday, Nov. 28th at 8:00 p.m.** The event will take place at the newly reopened Mahalia Jackson Theater.

Kingsley House is currently seeking sponsorship for this special event and would like to thank Whitney Bank for becoming a sponsor. Sponsorship levels range from \$2,500 to \$20,000 with benefits including tickets to the play, patron party with Nutcracker cast members, recognition on all promotional materials, and at some levels, a chance to participate in the performance of the Nutcracker.

"Kingsley House is proud to be collaborating with the Moscow Ballet on this wonderful event," said Kingsley House Development Director Donna Paramore. "It's a chance to bring a great ballet back to the New Orleans community and help spread the word about Kingsley House and the programs we offer."

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker features spectacular sets and more than 45 beautifully costumed Russian dancers. Whimsical and imaginative storytelling blends with the richness of Russian classical dance to make the Great Russian Nutcracker a unique performance available in southeast Louisiana this year.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Development Director Donna Paramore at 504-523-6221 ext. 163 or via email at dparamore@kingsleyhouse.org.

Tickets to the show are now available for purchase at Ticketmaster or at the Mahalia Jackson Theater Box Office at 504-287-0350. For more information, please visit www.nutcracker.com or www.mahaliajacksontheater.com



To ensure that the answer represented the people's views, she interviewed 58 residents from the area, including 10 Kingsley House youth and adult patrons. She wove together the compelling reasons residents gave her about why *they* live here with the historical and current reasons why the nation and world *need people* to live here. She added over 200 photographs, including some of Kingsley House and one of each person she interviewed. So now anytime the question comes up, we have the facts, figures, photographs and fellow residents' answers all in one place to help us relate our own ideas.

Why People Live in New Orleans is now available in a number of New Orleans and Metairie bookstores, so check it out and see how many people you recognize! Until then, you can see a preview of the book and some of Kingsley House's participating patrons on the author's website: www.christineallenewy.com

[Click here to make online donation to Kingsley House](#)

Adult Services 2nd Annual Healthy Aging Open House

Join Kingsley House Adult Services, Care Giver Support Services and Inter-Parish Coalition on Aging for a Healthy Aging Open House on **September 18th from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Kingsley House.**

The Healthy Aging Open House is designed to showcase "Healthy Aging Month", an annual observance month that focuses national attention on the positive aspects of growing older. The main objective of Healthy Aging Month 2009 is to encourage local level Healthy Aging events that promote taking personal responsibility for one's health including physical, social, mental and financial health. The theme of the 2009 Healthy Aging Month is "because there's lots of living left to do."

Some activities at this year's open house are a tour of Kingsley House's Adult Services program, a presentation on home health by Southeast Louisiana Home Health and a lecture on positive mental health provided by Oceans Behavioral Hospital.

For more information on the program, please contact Program Manager Paul Metoyer at 504-523-6221 ext. 131 or via email at pmetoyer@kingsleyhouse.org.

Visit us on the web at www.kingsleyhouse.org

About Kingsley House

Kingsley House, nationally renowned as the oldest Settlement House in the South, has served more than half a million people since it was founded in 1896. Today, we serve nearly 7,000 people annually in a wide variety of nationally accredited and state certified capacity building programs. We continue to devote all of our energies and resources to our mission— ***Kingsley House educates children, strengthens families, and builds community***—as we work toward the successful recovery, rebuilding and healing of our city, state and region.



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