PROGRAM UPDATES

Youth Education & Leadership

ACE
(Academic Center for Excellence) develops the academic talents, leadership skills and character of elementary age children.

BROTHER
(Building Real Opportunities That Help Everyone Rise) is Nehemiah’s strategic program reaching African American middle school boys, guiding them to a productive, healthy manhood.

LIGHT
(Learning is Our Greatest Hope for Tomorrow) reaches out to high school students to support them as they pursue graduating from high school and going on to family supporting jobs or college.

Madison Inspirational Youth Choir
is a youth gospel choir that works to spread the message of “hope, strength and the power to overcome.”

Family & Community Wellness

Our Community Chaplain collaborates with churches and nonprofits serving the at-risk, under-resourced Allied neighborhood. The Chaplain provides advocacy for residents, serves as an intermediary with a wide range of social service providers, offers direct assistance with basic needs and offers spiritual care.

Economic Development

Our Community & Economic Development focus seeks to create healthy, equitable communities for all. We will work with mission driven organizations to create opportunity for economic growth for individuals and the African American community as a whole.

Leadership & Capacity Development

Nehemiah provides a wide array of culturally competent and relevant programs to meet the needs of African American leaders as well as the general Madison population. Our programs are designed to transform the many faces of leadership within our community.

Leadership Institute
We offer a 9-month leadership development cohort for emerging African American leaders.

Community Courses
Justified Anger hosts several continuing education courses for community members. The most notable is our ten-week U.S. African American History course.

Community Workshops
We provide three-part workshops on the realities of mass incarceration in the U.S. in general, and Wisconsin, in particular.

Reentry Services
We provide a wide array of culturally competent and relevant services to meet the reentry needs of men who are leaving jail or prison. We offer emergency and transitional housing along with reentry and recovery coaching to help ex-offenders successfully transition back into our community.
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **52 men** were provided housing as well as 110 Department of Corrections men. 95% of the men in our housing units have jobs.

- **124 meetings** in court, jail or with DOC & MPD.

- **13 new** possible employers were contacted about providing good paying jobs for men & women returning from incarceration.

- **219 men** attended 387 Man Up sessions. Of those, 86 were first time attendees.

- **205** community contacts were made.

- **79 volunteers** provided 225.5 hours of assistance.

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**RECOGNITIONS**

**Business Ally of the Year**
Short Stack Eats

**Volunteer of the Year**
Mother Lola Jones

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**FINANCES**

Total Income
$1,137,971

- **Donations** $302,014
- **Grants** $328,074
- **Rent** $116,650
- **Other** $391,650

Total Expenses
$1,218,156

- **Personnel** $549,957
- **Program** $668,199

**RECOENTRY SERVICE**

- **Business Ally of the Year**
- **Volunteer of the Year**

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Short Stack Eats**
- **Mother Lola Jones**
Nehemiah Staff

Reverend Dr. Alexander Gee, President & Founder, is the visionary of Nehemiah. He is a loving husband and father and also a pastor, writer, community activist, life coach, international lecturer, relief worker, and social entrepreneur. His interests include: understanding the impact of fatherlessness on the African American community, cross-cultural leadership empowerment, spiritual life coaching, motivational speaking, mentoring, and transformational leadership development. You can find more of his own personal thoughts and insights at his personal website: AlerGee.com.

Dr. Gee studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Fuller Seminary’s Distance Learning Program and Bakke Graduate University, where he earned his doctorate. The author of two books and a local radio host, his relief work and motivational lectures have lately taken him to Cambodia, Korea, and South Africa.

Harry Hawkins, Executive Vice President, brings over ten years of management experience to Nehemiah. He holds multiple degrees in Business Administration with a focus on Organizational Behavior. Harry is an author, business owner, and a dreamer. When asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he responded "One of the X-men". He hopes to leave a legacy of excellence at Nehemiah, building on the work of the last 25 years.

Anthony Cooper, Jr. ("Coop"), Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Reentry Services, uses his life experiences to help men in the Madison community. A devoted husband and father of two sons, he dedicates his time to ensure that men leaving prison are re-acclimated to society. Anthony brings over 10 years of job development and mentoring experience to this role. He has served as a placement specialist, corporate recruiter, Fatherhood Program facilitator at the Urban League of Greater Madison and as Owner/Director of Opportunity Tree, Inc.

As the Director of Reentry Services, Anthony is responsible for networking with employers, partnering with community organizations and the Dept. of Corrections, mentoring and establishing mentor relationships, and operating the Nehemiah House and Dignity House. Anthony has a strong passion for changing the view of incarcerated individuals in society so they no longer feel imprisoned when released.

Karen Reese, Vice President of Research and Education, holds a Ph.D. in Physiology granted from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She began her career as a research scientist in academic and biotechnology settings. Dr. Reese is involved in strategic planning for Justified Anger and manages a continuous/dynamic evaluation program to ensure forward progress and quality control. Dr. Reese supports Nehemiah program staff and others to expand their understanding and use of evidence-based practices. She works to help program staff with setting realistic and measurable goals and outcomes and develops data collection tools that can be seamlessly integrated into day-to-day program activities to facilitate accurate tracking and reporting. When she’s not doing research and/or organizing events, Karen enjoys the local music scene (particularly Hip-Hop), playing the cello and singing, and fighting for social justice.

Sue Cotton, Vice President of Advancement & Community Relations at Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development, is an energetic and collaborative leader with a keen ability to clarify complex ideas. I have experience and expertise in people development, program management, process improvement, project leadership, and communications in the for-profit and non-profit sectors. I have worked in health care, higher education and business and in each of those settings I earned a reputation as a skilled facilitator, effective project manager and an inclusive leader.

Gloria Manadier-Farr, Director of Community Chaplaincy & Allied Empowerment Services, is a Licensed Minister of Fountain of Life Church and licensed Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor. She has worked in several positions throughout Dane County, including: Allied Wellness Center, Harper Adult Family Home, Rise-Up Inc., Tellurian U-CAN, Madison Inner City Council on Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Center of Dane County. Most notably, Gloria has over 18 years of experience in the fields of substance abuse, trauma, and mental health. She worked for seven years as the Program Director for Genesis Development Corporation, serving primarily African American families of Dane County and surrounding areas.

Ozanne J. Anderson, Director of Youth Development and Education, is the only girl of four children in her family from Milwaukee, WI. Collectively Ozanne has worked with children and youth for over twenty years. State certified as an Early Childhood Education Program Director, she has worked in both children’s and youth ministries for her home church. As a creative outlet, Ozanne uses her passion for music, singing, and dance or writes poetry when inspired to capture quiet moments. She has been married for 13 years and has three children of her own; they are her joy.

Jasmine Zapata, MD, Empowerment Coordinator and Assistant Director of the Madison Allied Community Gospel Choir, is a mother, wife, pediatrician, singer, songwriter, musician, and community leader. She loves working alongside her mother as a co-leader of the choir. Ever since the sudden death of her 16 year old brother in 2007, she has been passionate about spreading the message of "hope, strength and the power to overcome" to not only her patients but to the kids she works with in the community. One of her favorite activities is holding empowerment sleepovers with teen girls across the city focusing on self-esteem, inner beauty, healthy relationships, and positive choices.

Julia Saffold, Program Director of Performing Arts for Madison Allied Community Gospel Choir (MACGC), is a choral director and gifted teacher of music with a sharp ear for both vocalists and instrumentalists. Having served as guest director for several choir workshops and community programs, Julia's 30+ years of directing experiences, along with her anointed and energetic style, encourages, motivates, and demands excellence, from those whom she serves. Julia's passion to encourage and uplift others is greatly inspired by the life of her son, Aaron Battle, who suddenly passed away in 2007 at the age of 16. As a result, Julia, along with her daughter Jasmin Zapata, M.D. (Empowerment Coordinator for MACGC) instituted MACGC's theme to spread the message of "Hope, Strength, & the Power to Overcome" with the goal to help empower others to overcome various obstacles in their lives as well. Julia currently serves as Director of Choral Ministries and Worship Team Leader at Fountain of Life Covenant Church. She cherishes being a grandmother and is happily married to husband, Melvin Saffold, who also plays organ at their church.
Lindsey Johnson, Director of External Relationships, grew up a military brat, having spent the majority of her life traveling the United States. She lived in six different states and has revisited each multiple times. Moving across the country has allowed Lindsey to build lifelong friendships with people from all different backgrounds. She brings over 10 years of administrative skills to Nehemiah and she is passionate about family, health, and fitness. As a mother of four children, Lindsey is committed to helping make positive changes that will help underprivileged children and families. Her hobbies include working out, traveling to new parts of the world, exploring Madison’s parks and libraries with her kids and shopping.

Marie Stolzenburg, Director of Mobilization, is a Madison native, but also lived in Maine for 8 years, during which time she became passionate about community organizing. In Maine, Marie helped lead a citizen’s initiative and also founded a state chapter of the Public Interest Research Group. In Madison, she helped to organize during the WI Uprising, while also teaching public speaking and English as a Second Language to international students at the UW. Marie uses my skills and experience in volunteer management and organizing to empower and mobilize this community, to help work towards social justice and the elimination of disparity. Marie is passionate about her work and sees the energy at Nehemiah as strong and leading the continuing fight against systemic racism here in Madison and beyond.

Ellie Steenlage, Director of Communications, has a Masters in Cinema and Media Studies from DePaul University and has previously taught Film and Media in higher education. Ellie is a filmmaker and instructor with experience ranging from community development, digital marketing, and cross-cultural interaction. He is passionate about storytelling and highlighting the amazing work that individuals are doing in their community. Ellie has three energetic kids with his wife Jessica and enjoys podcasting, traveling, trying new restaurants, and debating film theory.

Britt M, Housing Coordinator for Reentry Services, is a Spoken Word Artist and uses her days to inspire and create laughter among those she encounters. She has been a leader for Brunch & Bible, Inc. for the past two years reaching out to women in the community through ministry. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Legal Studies and a Certificate in Criminal Justice. She has a strong passion to help, encourage, and inspire men coming out of incarceration to reenter into the community with not only their basic needs met but also how to be successful and leave a powerful, influential legacy.

Tyler Nylen, Special Assistant to Dr. Gee, received his Master’s of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary in May of 2017. After serving as an intern at both Nehemiah and Fountain of Life Covenant Church during the summer of 2016, Tyler relocated to Madison following graduate school in order to pursue the vision of Nehemiah after his compelling experience with the organization. He loves reading, exploring the city through coffee shops (he even ranks and reviews them all), and all things Chicago sports.