

The Traveler Weekly

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Concerned African American Retirees Partner with Brighton to Deliver Soles4Souls



Pictured L – R: Gwen Wilson, James Tyler, Walter Williams, Jackie Callahan, Patricia Tillman, Rosemary McCullough, and Deborah Johnson Photo by Kevin Kyle

The Concerned African American Retirees (CAAR) organization partnered with Brighton at the Shoppes at Grand Prairie in Peoria, Illinois to collect gently worn shoes to be distributed to many people in the United States and 127 countries around the world. Several other organizations, the African American Hall of Fame Museum and Zion Baptist Church joined the team to help collect of women's and children's shoes. More than 300 million people worldwide are without a single pair of shoes – leaving them vulnerable to injuries and infections, yet every year millions of shoes are thrown away in landfills. Soles4Souls creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world.

The Concerned African American Retirees (CAAR) organization is dedicated to improving the social, economic and educational conditions within the community of Peoria, IL. CAAR provides charitable financial support and or/pro bono professional expertise to those organizations needing assistance in achieving community-based goals.

CAAR received 501c3 status in 2012 and has been committed to the community by serving as mentors in Manual High School's academic progress conferences, District 150 reading program, Illinois Central College – Harvesting Dreams Program, tutoring Woodrow Wilson/Sterling Middle School, serving as PCCEO mentors to young adults, improving the citizen's knowledge of private and governmental agencies by holding workshops and seminars like; Elder Law Seminar, Health Care Seminar, & Social Security Seminar. Professional expertise has been

provided to the George Washington Carver Community Center and CAAR participated in the “Dress for Success Program.” Voter registration drives are included as an important initiative of this organization. This year the organization provided support for an academic scholarship to an outstanding African American high school college bound senior through the African American Hall of Fame Museum.

The organization is always looking for new members and encourages any interested retiree or other community supporters to join the organization. CAAR meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Living God, 2815 W. Lake Avenue, Peoria, IL. For additional information please refer to the website: .