



BETHEL CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF INNOVATION & IMPACT 30 Years of Transformative Services

THE LEGACY OF FINANCIAL LITERACY FACT SHEET

CO-CHAIRS

Clayton Turnbull
President, The Waldwin Group

Rev. Ray Hammond, M.D., M.A.
Pastor, Bethel AME Church

Rev. Gloria White Hammond,
M.D., M.Div.
Co-Pastor, Bethel AME Church

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Bethel Institute for Social Justice is a 501 (c)(3) organization that was founded in 2009. Its mission is “to provide educational and social services to high-risk youth and families in Greater Boston in ways that measurably transform their lives and the communities in which they live.” Though it is supported by Bethel AME Church, it is a non-sectarian organization committed to serving people of all faiths and no faith. In this 30th year of Bethel’s service, we want to highlight four programs and ministries that focus on the Legacy of Financial Literacy.

PURPOSE:

The **Legacy of Financial Literacy** is an integral and critical component of one youth program and two adult initiatives that help almost 300 participants a year in making sound financial decisions. The three programs include:

- 1. REAL NET WORTH** focuses on improving the 740 church members’ personal and family financial status. We are offering group and individual instruction and support for establishing budgets, significantly reducing or eliminating debt, setting aside 4-6 months of operating expenses in emergency savings, and developing investment, retirement and estate plans. Because of the increased focus on this area during this year, we expect more than 125 people to participate in small group, workshop and online financial literacy training in the winter, spring and fall.
- 2. PLANNING AHEAD** is a three-month series of guided conversations that help people to plan ahead for the reality of aging, illness, and dying, and to consider what kinds of health, financial, homecare/hospice and funeral decisions they might make in the face of these realities. While talking about death and dying is never an easy family conversation, the 184 people ages 20 to 80 who have participated have begun or completed their planning ahead goals. We expect another 100 people to be engaged over the coming year.
- 3. THE MATH & SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM** provides a mix of student-centered, supplemental **Science Technology Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM)** education services for 60-80 middle-school age youth in public school. Using an innovative, hands-on approach we make STEAM a fun, learning adventure that inspires and exposes our youth to a variety of future STEM careers.

THE NEEDS WE ADDRESS:

Data show that 35.1% of the populations we serve live in poverty. Although 98% of our youth come from low-income or impoverished families in the community, Bethel church members are primarily middle to upper-middle-income families. Data also show that having one child in Boston requires a \$60K annual income for child care, housing, medical, food and other essential survival costs.

GOALS

To annually enable approximately 300 youth, adults and families in Greater Boston to receive financial education and planning services and to create sound plans for financial security and the achievement of life goals. Targets for 2019 are:

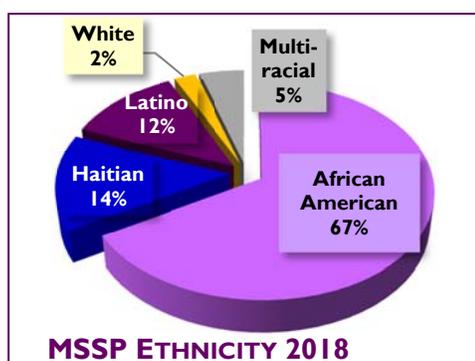
1. Expand partnerships with institutions and professionals to increase access to financial literacy services;
2. Recognize partners at the 30th Anniversary Celebration on May 30th at the John F. Kennedy Library, and year round on the web.

HOW PARTNERS MAY PARTICIPATE

1. **Real Net Worth. Presenters are needed for workshops** in three phases of financial literacy:

- (1) Budgeting, credit repair and debt reduction;
- (2) Savings and investments; and
- (3) Retirement and estate planning. We expect 35 or more adults to participate in each of these phases.

2. **Planning Ahead. Presenters and speakers are needed for spring, fall and winter sessions** to assist with financial and estate planning for 100 persons.



3. **The Math & Science Scholars Program (MSSP). Two Speakers are needed during the Summer Session**—July through early August—to introduce youth to the concept of saving to purchase important items/gift and to expose them to careers in the finance and insurance industries.



LOCATION:

All financial literacy classes and workshops are held on-site on Bethel's campus in Jamaica Plain in:

- The Youth Center ~ 84 Wachusett Street, and
- The Fellowship Hall ~ 40 Walk Hill Street

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact: Patricia Bonner-DuVal via email at Pat@Bethel-institute.org or via phone at 617-232-5453. **Thank you!**