



UMOJA
VILLAGE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

www.umojavillage.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03. Executive Summary

04. Our Board Chair speaks!

05. Who we are and what we do!

06. We are stable and fiscally sound!

07. We support others to promote unity!

09. 2023 Accomplishments

12. A few 2023 partners

13. Addendum: 2023 Website Analytics Report

www.umojavillage.com



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As founders of Umoja Village, we are truly honored and humbled to receive this assignment from God to serve mankind in such a transformative way. Little did we know that the vision given to us from God over 15 years ago would manifest into a fully functional 501(c)3 organization years later. The work of helping people see the benefits of unity by putting words into action has not been an easy task. However, we believe that if God did not believe we were up to the challenge, He would not have ordained Umoja Village to serve the present age -- nor would the Lord move on the hearts of our fantastic board members and staff, past and present, along with those who financially support or sponsor our programming.

It is our prayer that you will read every word within this 2023 annual report to see the magnitude of the assignment and to also look for ways that you can further support Umoja Village and address the needs of our community.

We acknowledge that there is still much work to be done to adequately meet the needs of the underserved, underrepresented, and marginalized populations. However, through faith, unselfishness, and a desire to exemplify servant leadership, we can serve out the spirit of “Umoja,” which means unity.

Donna Moore Wesby
Chief Executive Officer & Cofounder

Donald M. Wesby
Cofounder/Board Member



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Umoja Village Board of Directors, we are so thankful for the opportunity to serve the Central Savannah River Area, come together in unity, and steer Umoja Village towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance, and financial management policies, as well as by making sure Umoja Village has the adequate resources to advance its mission.

Since, June 19, 2020, Umoja Village has brought a positive change in the CSRA by uniting leaders; training citizens for leadership; connecting clients to needed resources; and by supporting other organizations who are helping and serving in our community.

Umoja Village exists to serve and advocate for the disenfranchised, at-risk, and underserved populations. As a resource management hub, it has been our pleasure to promote partnerships and collaborations as part of our mission, as well. To remain abreast of our services and programming, please visit the Umoja Village website at umojavillage.com. I also encourage you to visit the Community Calendar on the website to learn what's happening in our surrounding communities and to get involved.

I extend a special thank you to our founders, CEO, COO, and staff for giving 110% effort each day to ensure that the mission, services, and day-to-day operations continue with stellar performance! Please consider donating to Umoja Village for we are responsible stewards of funds entrusted to us.

Remember, UMOJA=UNITY!

Velice R. Cummings
Board Chair

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

MISSION:

To unite predominantly Black and African American clubs, organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals to utilize accessible resources for the betterment of those typically disenfranchised, at risk, and underserved populations subjected to inequalities.

VISION:

To cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment within our communities for the betterment of the underserved, underrepresented, marginalized, and those to whom the effects of prejudice, bias, and systemic racism have impacted.

OBJECTIVE:

To amass collective resources to hold ourselves and local, regional, and national elected officials and leaders accountable to ensure a high quality of life for primarily Blacks and African Americans in every aspect of everyday living.



OUR ORGANIZATION IS STABLE AND FISCALLY SOUND!

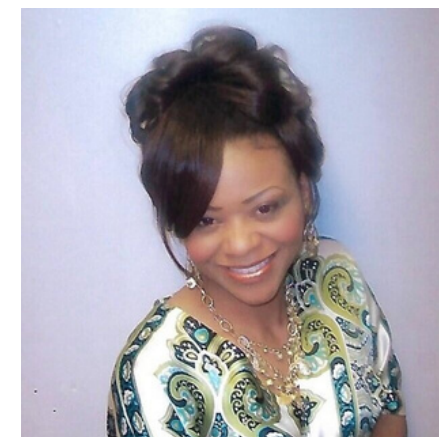
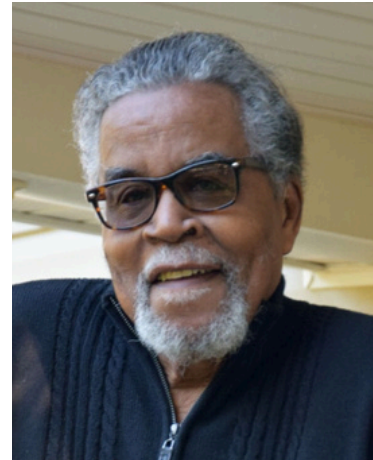


Active 11-member Board of Directors:

Ms. Velice Cummings, chair
Ms. Kimberly Toney, secretary
Mr. Leroy Myrick, treasurer
Mr. Malcolm Banks
Mr. Ron Brown
Mr. Richard Johnson, Jr.
Mr. Sidney Moore
Mr. Keith Myrick
Ms. Rachel Toney
Mr. Donald Wesby, cofounder
Ms. Debbie Williams

Four staff members:

Ms. Donna Moore Wesby, CEO/cofounder
Ms. Gloria Wesby, COO
Ms. Grace Preston, Communications Adviser
Mr. Jahleel Johnson, Administrative
Assistant/Community Engagement Adviser





UMOJA VILLAGE SUPPORTS OTHERS! -- THAT'S UNITY!

2021

- * Aiken County NAACP Youth Council, \$1,500.00 (leadership retreat)
- * Carolina Vipers AAU Athletic Program, \$1,000.00 (operations budget)
- * Choices: A Lifetime Development, Inc., \$3,000.00 (annual scholarship campaign for high school students)
- * Education Matters Nonprofit Corporation, \$3,000.00 (2022 technical symposium for adults and youth)
- * The Hankinson Boxing Gym, \$5,000.00 (operations budget and USA Boxing Nationals competition)
- * People of the World Holding Hands, \$500.00 (My Neighbor's Table neighborhood event) -- declined award
- * SuccessTeam, \$10,000.00 (Leadership Academy for Young Men)

2022

- * Aiken Warriors, \$1,920.00 (paid to City of Aiken Parks & Rec. for gym rentals) -- Feb. 2022
- * Reflections Art, \$150.00 (event for Smith Hazel Senior Citizens)
- * Vision Youth 2020, \$500.00 (youth conference) -- Nov. 2022
- * Hankinson Boxing Gym, \$5,000.00 (equipment, facility) -- Nov. 2022/Dec. 2022

2023

- * City of Refuge Youth Development Center, \$800.00 (facility rental for youth summer explosion)
- * Carolina Grizzlies, \$500.00, AAU registration (paid directly to the Tournament)
- * SC Titans, \$1,500.00 (AAU gym rental fees)

For 2023, Umoja Village awarded \$2,800.00 to youth mentorship organizations through our Umoja Village Funding Allocation Process, which aligns with objectives listed in the Umoja Village Rebuilding The Foundation Crime Prevention Plan, bringing the grand total from 2021-2023 to \$34,370.00.



UMOJA VILLAGE SUPPORTS OTHERS! -- THAT'S UNITY!

Sponsored/supported or participated in several community initiatives to include:

- A. Aiken Technical College and USC Aiken's Dr. MLK Community Celebration Program
- B. Black Historical Committee's annual Black History parade
- C. Axel Adams Foundation's Scholarship Gala
- D. The Center For African American History, Art & Culture's Juneteenth Celebration
- E. Koda's Kids Foundation Christmas Giveaway
- F. Community Town Hall in partnership with Aiken County Branch NAACP
- G. Aiken County Homeless Coalition
- H. Greater Augusta Black Chamber of Commerce networking event
- I. Cohosted a mayoral candidate forum with NAACP and Second Baptist Church

Umoja Village does not just talk about unity in the community. Umoja Village provides tangible examples of unity. We believe that by supporting others, we all win. Another philosophy we maintain is that Umoja Village will not re-invent the wheel. If a program or initiative exists that is working well, we want to support it and ensure that our population is aware of the opportunity. Unity is an action word to Umoja Village!

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **Presented the 2nd Annual Umoja Village Black History Month Community Celebration** on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, with the theme "We Are A Royal Priesthood," in an effort to give back to the community. Just as with the first year, the event sold out garnering over 250 attendees and featured keynote speaker Dr. Marcella Heyward-Shaw, the 2023 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year and the Barnwell County Consolidated School District Superintendent.

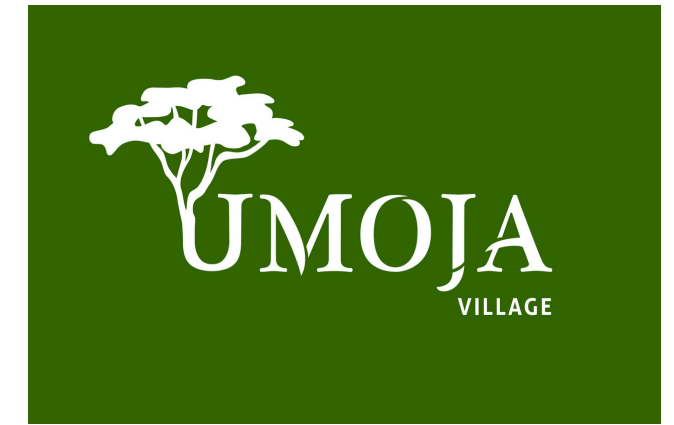
2. **Organized and implemented our first Unity Weekend, October 21-23, 2023,** which consisted of three major events:

A. 15th Annual Shoutfest (the largest, free outdoor Gospel festival in the CSRA). Roughly 3,500 people attended.

B. "Descended From the Promised Land: The Legacy of Black Wall Street," short film documentary shown at the USC Aiken Etherredge Center. Event also included a panel of subject matter experts and vendors geared toward mobilizing attendees to generational wealth creation within their families. 129 tickets were sold, and the event paid for itself through ticket sales and sponsorships.

C. The first Umoja Village Unity Golf Tournament held at the Houndslake Country Club in Aiken, SC. 83 golfers participated. The event cleared nearly \$15,000.00 to be used for our crime prevention efforts and to support the Richard Johnson, Jr. Umoja Village Resource Center.

3. **Launched the EMERGE/SUN Job Training Program** through a collaborative partnership with The Imani Group and Solar United National, which was a three-week renewable energy job training program in November 2023, which provided comprehensive employability training, solar panel installation, electric car charging station installation and maintenance training, OSHA-10 training, and continuous wraparound services case management for the 19 scholars. Umoja Village invested \$13,900.00 to assist with stipends for the scholars and payment for the EMERGE employability training costs.



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4. Welcomed **323 visitors** to the Umoja Village Resource Center for 2023.

5. Moved into a **new location** at the end of November 2023 going from renting two rooms in our first location to entering into a new lease of a 1,148 square foot building.

6. Held a public open house of our new location on December 1, 2023, and unveiled our sign **naming the center the "Richard Johnson, Jr., Umoja Village Resource Center."** Over 50 community leaders and citizens attended the event, which was a total surprise to Mr. Richard Johnson, Jr.

7. Designed and released the **first Umoja Village Celebrates Black Excellence fundraiser wall calendars** where we featured movers and shakers under 45 years of age. We designated them as "Shining Stars" who are making notable contributions in the areas of civil and voting rights, education, business, youth mentorship, community service, and rising stars in the legal/justice system. Each year, Umoja Village will select a new theme to celebrate Black excellence to salute every-day Blacks and African Americans who are blazing trails.

8. **Distributed over 100 text messages** to the Umoja Village text distribution list to share important empowerment information to keep participants well-informed about events, employment opportunities, workshops, etc.

9. **Held bi-monthly and special call Umoja Village board meetings** to monitor the strategic progress of the organization in relation to achieving our mission and objectives, and to ensure the organization maintains fiscal responsibility.

10. **Sponsored the first cohort of eight individuals** interested in possibly becoming an elected official to attend the DMW Communications, LLC. course entitled "So, You Want to Become An Elected Official?"



"So, you want to become an elected official?"



Offered as a community service by Umoja Village 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Donations accepted.

Free informational course provides a basic, nonpartisan knowledge foundation, including campaigning tips, for individuals interested in seeking public office, now or in the future.

COURSE ELEMENTS

- Slide presentations and lectures
- Guest speakers to include current/former elected officials and political operatives
- Case studies
- Group project
- Completion certificate

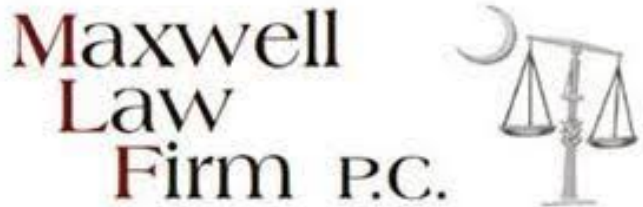
REGISTER: Send email to Donna at umojavillage333@gmail.com 803-226-0150

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

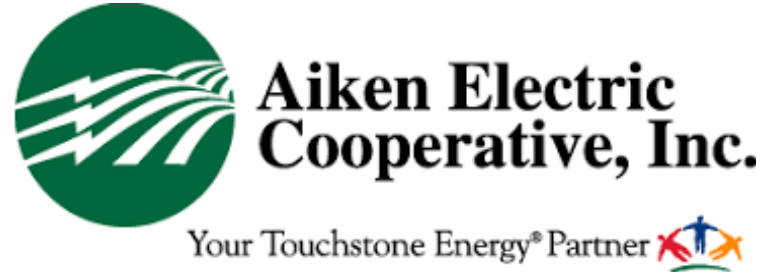
11. Enjoyed a very healthy **partnership for the second year with Greater Faith Fellowship of Aiken, South Carolina**, under the leadership of Pastor Olen I. Jessie and Pastor Gladiola Jessie. Every 4th Sunday in 2023, GFF celebrated "Umoja Village Sunday." A special offering was collected and matched by the church. A total of \$7,287.00 was credited to GFF for 2023.
12. **Formalized the Umoja Village Project Bounce Back Program.** With this initiative, Umoja Village facilitates the process for clients to devise their personalized Life Action Plan. Through continuous case management, we provide support toward helping clients achieve their goals. We were able to enroll approximately 21 individuals from August-December 2023, and provided \$17,971.65 in housing, utilities, transportation, fees, and other assistance needed to help remove barriers and help clients move forward in life.
13. **Hired new staff** in 2023 to include Chief Operations Officer Dr. Ronald McKie and Executive Assistant Ms. Gloria Wesby.
14. Maintained a very **functional website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts** attracting over 91,000 visits to the website.
15. In November 2023, **presented "Mind Your BizNess" virtual business summit** for businesses affiliated with Umoja Village and listed on the Black Business Online Directory located on Umoja Village's website. Presenters represented Titan Financial Small Business Funding, the South Carolina Small Business Development Center, Our Businesses United, and Complete Care Solutions. 20 businesses registered.
17. In partnership with Security Federal Bank's Financial Management Department, we **conducted a financial services overview workshop for 16 Umoja Village clients** who had goals of improving their credit, establishing credit, or to learn better money management skills.



A FEW OF OUR 2023 PARTNERS



S.C. Rep. William Clyburn



Umoja Village not only talks about the power of unity, we demonstrate unity by partnering with other organizations, churches, businesses, agencies, clubs, councils, sororities, and fraternities to serve Aiken County and surrounding communities. We are proud to highlight just a few of our 2023 partners.



UMOJA=UNITY

UmojaVillage.com

