



# WORLD CHANGERS

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February 2021



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### Community Empowerment Association

Community Empowerment Association (CEA), Inc. was organized by community activist T. Rashad Byrdsong in 1993 in an effort to reduce and prevent violence in the Homewood-Brushton area of Pittsburgh. CEA's mission is to restore, reclaim and transform distressed communities through strategic planning, collaboration, advocacy, education and mobilization. CEA seeks to develop the knowledge, skill, leadership and influence that will enable its participants, families, and the community to live healthy secure, fruitful, and productive lives. Since its inception in 1993, CEA has been tirelessly serving thousands of disadvantaged and minority families throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area and has served over 25,000 individuals, youth and families residing in 48 neighborhoods, enrolled in 74 schools and 9 school districts within Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

# ***Black History Month***

Black History Month provides us the opportunity to reflect on the history of African Americans, which started centuries ago when our ancestors arrived on slave ships. It also provides us the opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments and raise our voices to insist society recognizes Black leaders, businesses, artists, educators, culture and tradition. We must continue to use this month to deepen our commitment to educate, engage and empower.

Community Empowerment Association has been able to empower and serve our Pittsburgh community for over 25+ years. CEA has conducted toy and clothe drives, has served community members and youth through their various programming, These include: Youth Intervention and Prevention, Workforce Development, Mental Health Services, Cultural Engagement, and Community Activism.

## **- World Changers Youth**



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# ***Honoring Ja'far Brooks***

Our hearts still mourn the loss of one of our friends and students. We will continue to keep his legacy alive through advocacy, engagement, and education within the community.

## **- World Changers Youth**



## **Youth Leader Spotlight - Kameron Coles**

### **Define Violence and what it looks like to you?**

One type of violence is physical violence. When people shot, stab, fight, etc. To me, I usually see people fighting or lose someone to gun violence.

### **What would a world without violence look like to you?**

Everyone getting along. More laughter, smiling, and fun.

### **How can you and your generation work together to create a world without violence?**

To be honest, I don't know. I think it starts with our mindsets. I've seen people make a decision that they don't like someone based on just looking at them. I think if we come together things will be better.



## **World Changers Anti-Violence Campaign**

### **What is it?**

World Changers is a youth driven social and interpersonal anti-violence campaign striving to empower our youth, families, and communities to awaken their consciousness and be the change our world needs.

### **January and February Highlights**

Our youth engaged in a round table discussion discussing different topics of gun violence (commodity, the myth of black on black crime, domestic terrorism, and more). This month, they are taking that discussion a bit further and recording their podcast segment with our multimedia educators.

### **Upcoming Workshops**

Our youth will use the month of February to learn editing software, film a short PSA, record a short podcast and more!



## **CEA Community Engagement**

### **A Community Dialog On Black Trauma: Where Does Black Pain Go? A Long Overdue Dialog**

The negative behaviors that are often times demonstrated by members of our community are due to the relentless on-going issues that have not been resolved. Issues such as: childhood trauma, domestic trauma, poverty trauma, racial trauma, trauma brought on by violence, and the premature loss of life trauma.

The impact of trauma on one family is the impact of trauma on all of our families. We are connected due to our shared history of racial oppression, injustice, intercommunal and shared culture.

Join us as we call on therapist, counselors, clinicians, social workers, social healers and concern citizens in supporting this Community Forum by participating in this community virtual dialog.

Missed the event?

**Watch here:**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/Community-Empowerment-Association-14274094642>**



## **Community Health Wellness and Healing Center**

### **Painting with a Twist**

Our Mckeessport site held a “Painting with a Twist” event, that provided fellowship with our community members in safe environment. Our organization is taking on the responsibility to work towards healing the emotional and mental scars from the ongoing pandemic.

COVID-19 impacts marginalized communities by causing mental health fluctuation like: stress, depression, anxiety. These are brought on due to social isolation and lack of social activities. COVID-19 is also impacting our children causing academic inconsistencies.

CEA is creating a new initiative - Community Health Wellness and Healing Center - to address some of these concerns around community trauma. CEA will use this as a space for healing and provide access to social workers, case managers, therapists, and engagement activities. This program will offer things such as: yoga, meditation, poetry, emotional support, expressive art therapy, support groups, educational training, and food security.

**For additional information:**  
**(412)-371-3689**





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