



Lucretia Sullivan-Wade: Visionary Extraordinary
by Betty Banks

People arrive in Madison and sometimes they have no idea how long they will be staying. That was the case with Lucretia Sullivan Wade. She and her husband Anthony came here because his job sent them here. "I had no idea we would be here this long," she said to me. It wasn't unusual for Anthony to be offered promotions that would take them to other areas, so she has always been flexible and ready to go.

I met Lucretia because I was on the committee that hired her to be the Coordinator of the South Madison Health and Family Center, a unique collaboration of agencies that soon became known as the Harambee Center. She was unfamiliar with the neighborhood and with Madison but soon built relationships with others who would be her guides and become her "Sister Girlfriends".

This quiet but very committed woman ushered the 7 partner agencies into the renovated bowling alley that became an anchor in a struggling neighborhood.

This collaborative initiative was the dream of Paul Soglin, who in 1988 was Mayor of Madison. Paul recognized that there were gaps in services in South



Madison where he had worked when he was a young UW college student. He knew the area well and felt strongly that something innovative needed to happen to bring health and family services to the area. The then

Madison Department of Public Health became the lead agency and others followed that brought literacy, family support, and other health services together in a one-stop shopping pioneering effort.

A grant from Maternal Child Health funded a Coordinating office that was charged with ensuring that collaborative efforts were coordinated with a focus on removing barriers such as language, transportation and the usual hassles when trying to navigate systems.

Lucretia became the lead person in this office. She was skillful as she gave life to the Federal grant that was written by the Health Department. She followed workplans, worked with partners from the UW, Wingra Clinic, UW Nursing School and she staffed committees that ensured there would be financial stability and safeguards in place so that the Harambee Center would be the beacon that encouraged other positive changes in the neighborhood.

Staff was hired who became her team in the Coordinating Office.

Together they oversaw coordinated efforts created by Partner Agencies, such as the annual tribute to Dr. King, reading in the waiting room, the annual Healthy Babies, Healthy Families Fair, the Taste of Harambee, the annual Board/Partner Agency retreats and other trainings that furthered Center goals that were put in place.

They created the procedures for transportation access for partner agency participants as well as the provision of translators for those where English was not their first language. Lucretia was diligent in her efforts to see that the building was welcoming and presentable. She built relationships with maintenance staff as well as with each partner agency.

When she facilitated the Site

change, the Harambee Center still provides one stop shopping for its customers and it is recognized as a beacon of stability and hope for the neighborhood.

There was life after the Harambee Center for Lucretia. She is active with the African American Health Network and is recognized as a health professional who motivates others to take control of their lives and their health. She has been called upon to work on issues such as seatbelt safety, breast cancer awareness, HIV and Aids awareness and was Project Coordinator for "Changing Lifestyles for Health, a Witness Project of Madison. Her most recent work is as Outreach Coordinator with the UW Center for Women's Health Research and Team Study. She recruits and enrolls study participants, assisting in study participation and completion.

Lucretia became the lead person in this office. She was skillful as she gave life to the Federal grant that was written by the Health Department.

Because of her work history, Lucretia is aware of many resources here in Dane County. She utilizes this

knowledge to make referrals when it is obvious someone is in need of a program or service. "Sometimes a woman is isolated and when talking with them, it becomes apparent that they are in need, so what I do is direct them to an organization that may be able to work with them."

A devoted Christian who is active in her church, the following is a guiding scripture for her:

5 Trust in the LORD with all of your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Lucretia Sullivan Wade goes about her work without a lot of "fanfare" but she is truly making a difference in the lives of many during a time when we are all concerned about the lack of healthcare and quality healthcare for some of us. While decision makers wrestle with what to do, she is in the trenches doing.

VOICES Newspaper
"We are each other's most valuable resource."
Published Monthly by the Allied Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association through Voices, Inc:
PO Box 1163 Madison WI 53701
Phone: 608-770-2049
Editorial Email: news@madisonvoices.com
Website: www.madisonvoices.com

Advertising and Classifieds Email: sales@madisonvoices.com
Editor: Lucy Gibson
Managing Editor: GBD
Copy Editors: Betty Banks, Jeanne Erickson
Page Layout & Design Graphics: Leccia and Associates, Inc. - Bill Breitsprecher
Sales and PR: Leccia and Associates, Inc.
Web Design: Bill Breitsprecher www.breitlinks.com
Illustrator: Marcus Nickels
Photography: Lucy Gibson, GBD, Jeanne Erickson, Bill Breitsprecher, Jackson Tiffany, Thomas Duter
Columnists: Betty Banks...*Building Bridges, This 'N That*
Gladis Benavides.....*Know Your Rights*
Bill Breitsprecher.....*School Matters*
Freddie Clark.....*Commentaries*
Lina Trivedi.....*Commentaries*
Susan Corrado.....*It's All About Health*
Gail-Perry Daniels.....*Letters to the Village*
Armena Ketchum.....*Conversations with Armena*
Lauren Brown-Perry.....*Commentaries*
Carousel Bayrd.....*Letter to District 8*
Tiger & Pooka Bear.....*All The Best Answers*
Senator Risser*Serving the People*
Representative Berceau.....*Working for ...*
Alderson Konkel*Commentaries*
Reporters/ Contributing Writers: Robert Artis, Jeanne Erickson, GBD, Lucy Gibson, Brenda Gonzalez, Alice Howard, Julie Landrie, Mary Mullen, Leslie McAllister, Brian Solomon, Jason Ostrega
Distribution: Allied/Dunns Marsh Neighborhoods, Businesses, Institutions and Direct Mail

TOO much fighting in the house?

Free Counseling for teens ages 11-18 and their families.
Call toll free 800-798-1126
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin

BRIARPATCH

-Family Troubles?
-On the Run?
-Work or School Problems?
-Drugs & Alcohol Use or Abuse?

1955 Atwood Ave