

## Annual Report 2017

We have continued our activities of educating and advocating for the rights and inclusion of Black LGBT people, especially those of faith, in their Black communities.

We held our fourth annual forum, our Transgender Day of Remembrance event and our participation as Co-Founder and sponsor of the Circle of Life Celebration. Both the forum and the Transgender events are held to provide audiences with resources, information and supports to become more vocal in addressing their needs and rights. These are the major activities we use to educate in the larger Black community; to validate mobilize and empower members of the Black LGBT community; and to demonstrate the intersectionality of our Blackness, faith and sexuality. The work that we began under the Robin Hood Foundation continues. We started this work with other Black LGBT organizations, houses of faith and health care institutions focusing on the needs of Black homeless gay youth.

All of our events are well attended by both LGBT Black people of faith and the general Black community. This outcome is that more people are better informed and educated, becoming more effective advocates. The meetings have been held in centrally located Harlem locations so that they are accessible to all and visible

In addition to these program activities, our members have continued to write articles for leading Black and/faith based media outlets. These are usually focusing on attacks against our community by leading Black Clergy or gospel singers.

Our members have also received recognition for our work providing the organization a voice for our messages. Several of our members have gone on to hold leadership positions beyond our organization. The members' work has been involved in Transgender rights, small street vendor rights and district wide LGBT leadership in the Quaker and Buddhist communities. One of our members co-facilitated a workshop on homosexuality and faith at the national annual conference for Black progressive clergy.

We have maintained and developed new contacts with organizations serving LGBT people and, in particular, Black LGBT people. These have included a Metropolitan Hospital LGBT youth Health program and Depressed Black Gay Men among a few. We continue to represent at local demonstrations for social justice, community educational panels and as speakers at public rallies. We have also been active co-founders in the development of the Community Board 10's LGBT Black and Latino Task Force, The NYC Equality Coalition and the Pride and Power PAC. All these activities allow us to build a base of Black LGBT people who have a strong political voice and presence in the larger Black community and the City. We continue to carry a unique role as Black LGBT people of faith active in the Black community. These activities we consider basic to our mission and consistent with work around social justice issues in the Black community such as police brutality, housing, murder of Transgender woman and homeless gay youth. Our voices are better heard when we are organized and represent as a solid community. We bring both our sexuality, our faith and our Blackness together to this work.

Submitted by Dr. Wilhelmina Perry  
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