

# COLLECTIVE IMPACT OVERVIEW

**Collective Impact (CI)** is a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It is an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across government, business, philanthropy, nonprofit organizations and civil society to achieve significant and lasting social change.

**Sister to Sister International, Inc. (STSI)** has served as the backbone for the Black Women Girl-Child and STILL I Rise initiatives, since 2015. These areas of focus stem from the President Obama White House Council on Women & Girls, “Advancing Equity for Women & Girls of Color,” report (2015). STSI was pleased to begin this phase of our 25-year journey, by attending White House conferences and collaborating on programs and initiatives. STSI also holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations and has been an advocate, partnering with many NGO’s on these issues locally and globally.

## **Our Collective Impact (CI) Common Agenda / Mission**

"To improve outcomes for Black girls and women in Westchester County related to rates of exclusionary school discipline, entry into the juvenile justice system, decreasing maternal mortality and teen pregnancy rates, along with enhancing healthy lifestyles, increasing STEAM & Health education opportunities and expanding entrepreneurship, pay equity and economic prosperity."

\*To ensure we were managing by fact, STSI spent four years implementing programs, forums and focus groups, relationship building with potential partners and stakeholders, providing training opportunities and conducting qualitative and quantitative research on the plight of Black women and girls in Westchester County. Equity and inclusion, shared measurement of impact, and quality principles are key components of our implementation process.

## **OUR WORK GROUPS & PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS**

### **I. STEM, STEAM, Health (SSH) Curricula & Careers (Dr. Angela Campbell & Crystal Bonds)**

- Determine the current state of inclusion of Black girls in advanced math and science courses in the region
- Determine barriers to representation of Black girls in (SSH) recommend remedies and share best practices
- Create a directory of STEM, STEAM & Health enrichment programs in the region that embrace Black girls, then share with students, parents, educators and other partners

### **II. Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Maternal Health and Healthy Lifestyles (Millissa Bess & Donna Bell, Co-chairs)**

- Develop strategies to decrease the rates of pregnancy among teens, maternal mortality among Black women and overall health disparities
- Develop and share customized obesity and chronic disease prevention strategies
- Promote positive mental health and healthy lifestyles

### **III. Suspensions, Trauma & the Juvenile Justice System**

**(Dr. Darlene Russell & Vera Cheek, Co-chairs)**

- Education, training and best practice sharing on the root causals of the school to prison pipeline
- Prevention, recovery strategies and community wrap-around services for youth and families
- Research and advocacy for policies, systems and environmental change across the spectrum

### **IV. Entrepreneurship, Pay Equity & Economic Prosperity**

**(Charmaine Golding & Subomi Macaculay, Co-chairs)**

- Facilitate entrepreneurial education, training and certification opportunities
- Promote pay equity, equitable financing and capacity building opportunities
- Promote financial management, wealth building and economic prosperity

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Shawyn Patterson Howard

Linda Heyward

Cheryl Hunter Grant

Allison Lake

Heather Miller

Dr. Pauline Mosley

Dr. Marcia Keizs

Cortesia Norman

Cheryl Green

Lynda Bagley

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Valerie Mason Cunningham, BWGC Consultant

Nikki Jones, BWGC Consultant

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*\*partial listing*