

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February Wrap-Up Report



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH BLACK RESISTANCE!

As we commemorate Black History this month, we honor the courage of those who have pushed for equality, justice, and dignity since the abolition of slavery and lynching.

Throughout history, African-American activists and leaders have continually worked to create a safe space for their people, taking action through civil disobedience, such as sit-ins, boycotts, and strikes.

Let us take the time to remember their contributions and reflect on the importance of their legacy in our society. Take a look at our February Wrap-Up Report!

BLACK LIVES MATTER

JUSTICE FOR TYRE NICHOLS



Towards the end of January, we witnessed another tragedy, the brutal beating and murder of 29-year old Tyre Nichols at the hands of the Memphis Police Department.

Tyre should be here today like countless others who lost their lives to police violence and its destructive impact. Our hearts go out to the family of Tyre Nichols and we stand in solidarity with all those who fight against police brutality. View our statement [here](#).

SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY

After the 2020 election, Black Voters Matter was accused of unlawful campaigning by distributing food and water to voters at the polls.

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, the State Board of Elections, concurring with the Secretary of State, determined that no violations had occurred.

Following the hearing, we held a press conference after the Georgia State Elections Board Hearing this month to provide a response.

View our statement [here](#).



**MISSED THE PRESS
CONFERENCE?
[WATCH NOW!](#)**

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

During this special month, we are dedicating ourselves to honor and celebrate Black history from a standpoint of Black Resistance.

At BVM, we decided to give prominence to our local partners, whose hard work and dedication are indispensable in the cause of Black Resistance. Furthermore, grants are provided to our core and lite state partners to carry out their noble cause.

Let's take a look!



The Black Led Organizing Collaborative (BLOC) in Akron, Ohio was created to build Black political power and to equip the Black community with capacity building tools.

Most recent victories? ISSUE 10!

- 9 member citizens' police oversight board representing the community.
- Police Auditor Office with a budget independent of city officials to review police conduct and policies, and make public reports.
- Implement training to improve community policing skills, mediation, race and implicit bias training, and mental health crisis intervention techniques.

Nearly 30,000 residents voted YES!

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

ACT 4 SA in San Antonio, Texas, seeks to empower the community through year-round base building, grassroots actions, educational campaigns, and more to achieve an accountable, compassionate, and transparent public safety system.

Most recent victories?

- Collected over 38,000 signatures from residents in support of placing policing issues, including the decriminalization of abortion and marijuana, on the May ballot. These signatures were immediately delivered to the city clerk.
- ACT 4 SA recently launched a public dashboard, #CopTheData, that tracks officer misconduct and disciplinary actions! Learn more about this initiative at cophedata.com.



Located in Pensacola, Florida, Life Is Hale uses education, entertainment and empowerment to achieve community wide healing.



Most recent victories?

- Last year, Life Is Hale created an R&B Hub that occurs once a month, "B-Sides" to create closer community bonds and give individuals a place to encounter base building, Black organizations and organizers.
- Also in 2022 and in conjunction with Dream Defenders, Life Is Hale launched the "Peace Cypher" project, which addresses community violence and uses hip-hop to culturally critique and also bring people together.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS



Focusing on local issues in Jackson, Mississippi, the Jackson People's Assembly is an assembly of community members sharing ideas to improve the city and discuss the issues that matter most to them.

A part of the [The Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition](#), The Jackson People's Assembly worked alongside 30 other members/community leaders for water distribution in Jackson due to the ongoing water crisis.

The Coalition has continued to be a rapid response provider during this latest crisis affecting the Capital City, providing drinking water across Jackson's 7 wards and assisting those in need. If you are a Jackson resident looking for access to clean water or someone looking to donate and volunteer, visit: msrrc.org

Helping Others Foundation is based in Georgia and founded by Eddie and Kim White to support the community in diverse aspects by providing current needs. Their organization's motto is *"Helping one person at a time."*

Most recent victories?

- Provided transitional needs for multiple women coming out of domestic violence situations.
- Successfully canvassed for the 1st Macon-Bibb Warrant Clinic which led to having a Record Restriction Clinic and increased voter turnout for a critical Senate Run-off election.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

The Power Coalition for Equity and Justice is a coalition of community-based organizations who work together to educate and empower voters across the state of Louisiana.

Most recent victories?

Teaming up with partner organizations, community groups, students, and volunteers to make more than 1.3 million voter contact attempts to 465,000+ infrequent and semi-frequent voters of color across Louisiana, approximately 60% of whom turned out to vote in the statewide election.



LGBT Detroit located in Detroit, Michigan, commits to furthering its mission to increase the prominence and visibility of Detroit's LGBT culture, and building a strong, healthy and vibrant community, with a focus on youth and young adult development, sexual orientation and gender identity education and advocacy, and emotional and physical well-being.



Most recent victories?

Through their Together Campaign, LGBT Detroit developed and implemented HIV Anti-Stigma programming for the City of Detroit and Southeast Michigan.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS



The Northampton County NAACP led by Dawn Daly Mack, in North Carolina, seeks to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all people of color.

Most recent victories?

- Organized numerous Party at the Polls events to increase Black voter engagement, vaccine clinics, free produce drives and Dawn has been tireless in her efforts to fight against systemic racism and inequality in North Carolina.

Hood Media Academy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a collective of socially conscious artists and activists who utilize diverse skills and resources to increase awareness about and eliminate injustice affecting people around the world.

Most recent victories?

- Sent over 250,000 text messages to Black voters in 7 Pennsylvania counties.
- Over 900 online voter registration forms completed.
- Nearly 1,500 doors knocked with over 30,000 GOTV phone calls.
- Increased voter turnout in key regions.
- Help elect the first Black woman to Congress in Pennsylvania and the first Black Queer woman to the Pennsylvania Legislature.



TAKE ACTION WITH BVM

VOLUNTEER CORNER

THIS MONTH, OUR VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED WITH US IN SEVERAL WAYS!

- **9 of our grassroots partners** received assistance from our volunteer attorneys to formalize their nonprofit and are now on the way to obtaining their 501c3 status!
 - Volunteers helped us to send **30,000 text messages** to Wisconsin residents about the importance of the state's supreme court elections and provided information on how to register to vote online.
- **30 volunteers** attended our postcard party, we celebrated Black History Month and discussed the importance of teaching African American Studies in schools with Professor Johnathan Barry-Blocker!
- **Volunteers joined us on the ground** in Dallas, TX to support our partners, The Afiya Center, as they kicked off their "I Am A Reproductive Justice Voter" campaign.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your amazing work! Interested in getting involved with our volunteer program? Sign up now for our volunteer orientation [here!](#)

VOTE NO ON HB 422

Voting rights are under attack in Ware County, Georgia as the House GOP votes to take over the BOE and potentially remove all 3 Black members.

Take action now and tell your state Senators to vote NO on HB422.

Find your legislators [here](#).



BVM IN THE MEDIA

CHECKOUT SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MIDTERM MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS!

- [Daily Kos](#)
- [The Hill](#)
- [The Guardian](#)
- [BET](#)
- [Black Enterprise](#)
- This month we also held our FIRST Policy Corner of 2023: Cop City with special guest, Kamau Franklin, Executive Director of Community Movement Builders. Missed the conversation. Watch [here](#).

GET INVOLVED TEXT **"WEMATTER"** TO 25225!

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I MATTER. YOU MATTER. WE MATTER.

**BACK
VOTERS
MATTER**

BlackVotersMatterFund.org