

HOHAYE Eying the Family from a Christian Worldview

By Hertz Clyde Dézir

At the dawn of the New Year, Hope for Haitian American Youth & Elderly (HOHAYE) has proved once again its strong commitment toward the public it has targeted over the last few years of its existence.

In a meeting held at the South Haitian Church of God, 8901 S. Baltimore Ave. on Jan. 12, the Committee for the Empowerment of Haitian American Youth and Families, a division of the organization, unveiled a series of family oriented issues it plans to address in the coming months.

In all humility, Dr. Maryse Nason said the Committee for the Empowerment of Haitian American Youth and Families is willing to support the Haitian families.

“We have the ability to build strong families,” she said. “The idea of building up those families doesn’t mean they are destroyed; rather, we want to work hand in hand with them.”

Dr. Nason’s words expressed the same passion of Dr. Karen Thames and Mr. Daniel Jean who formed a three-member-panel who addressed the audience that Saturday evening.

In spite of a number of workshops in store for the community at large, the first meeting of the current year offered a prime opportunity for all three psychologists to get acquainted with the public.

Therefore, during a segment dubbed the icebreaker, everyone at the event literally had a chance to greet and introduce himself or herself to each other, including the panel members, Pastor Franco Valdemar and other well-known members of HOHAYE.

In the upcoming workshops, the panel has a pool of at least 20 topics from which to choose. The priority for those topics will be based upon the community’s feedback through a survey that had been circulated on the occasion. In other words, the workshops will consider the response of the individuals to address their needs accordingly and from a Christian perspective.

The topics vary from parenting, domestic violence, career choice, saving for education, long-term care, child protection, DCFS, communication, stress management and many more.

At least 70 people attended the event, according to Pastor Valdemar. People from the South Side as well as those from the other side of town joined together in a spirit of fellowship. Pastor Valdemar openly expressed his satisfaction as he noticed those who turned out for that meeting that meant so much to him and the whole organization he’s been leading since its foundation.

He was particularly happy to see that the organization is getting grounded.

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