

**Mayors' Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families  
12th Annual Community Leadership Breakfast  
"Boosting Your Child's Brain"**

On Detroit's First Annual "Day of the Young Child", April 27, 2017, the Mayors' Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families held its 12th Annual Community Leadership Breakfast. "On this day there is no better topic to address than Boosting Your Child's Brain. We are pleased to have as our keynote speaker, Dr. Moriah Thomason, Assistant Professor, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development at Wayne State University School of Medicine," stated Alice G. Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, Black Family Development, Inc., who Chairs the Mayors' Task Force.

Dr. Thomason reinforced the importance of reading to children even before birth, and providing stimulating communication to children continuously. We know the development of the brain begins before birth, and the brain is shaped during pregnancy and after pregnancy. We know children from birth through young adulthood need to be involved in age appropriate, stimulating learning and activities to boost the developing brain.

We help shape the brain development through enrichment activities, communication, providing for the physical, social, emotional, academic and psychological well-being of children.

The Leadership Breakfast also included a dynamic presentation from

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Executive Director and Health Officer, City of Detroit Health Department. Dr. Khaldun shared the priorities of the Detroit Health Department, and highlighted the need for early childhood education, parent support and education, as well as community involvement, advocacy, and volunteerism.

The Mayors' Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families was honored to sponsor a listening session on this day, in partnership with Hope Starts Here. Hope Starts Here is leading the way in Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership . . . a partnership committed to building a coordinated, high quality early childhood system to better serve children. Attendees participated in small group discussions aimed at gathering recommendations toward building community resources in support of early childhood development.

CEO Thompson thanked attendees and contributing supporters for their commitment to the well-being of children and families stating. . . "We know that as we work together, we are making a difference in the lives of children and their families in all communities throughout Detroit."



Dr. Thomason responded to questions from the participants following her presentation.



Dr. Moriah Thomason; Alice G. Thompson, Chair, Mayors' Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families; and Dr. Joneigh Khaldun.



Dr. Moriah Thomason; Alice G. Thompson; Dr. Joneigh Khaldun; and Kenyatta Stephens, COO, Black Family Development, Inc.



Furqan Khaldun, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun and daughter.



Keisha Allen, Black Family Development, Inc., led the participants in the Hope Starts Here "Community Conversation"



Dr. Thomason; guest; Latrice Johnson, Detroit Health Department; Alice G. Thompson; Dr. Khaldun; Valentina Djelaj, Detroit Health Department and Karen R. Hall, Task Force member.



Members of the Mayors' Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families with participants in the 12th Annual Community Leadership Breakfast, "Boosting Your Child's Brain".