



JOIN OUR DIVERSITY TASK FORCE IN CELEBRATING

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CASA of River Valley



**Black History Month is a time for us all to honor and celebrate the tremendous contributions that the African American community has had and continues to have on our country. We celebrate the work of famous figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Barack Obama - just to name a few. We also reflect on the hardships that the African American community faced and continues to face. As a program that serves 30% African American children and 17% biracial children, our Diversity Task Force wants to ensure that all of our advocates continue to embrace cultural diversity and take opportunities to learn about cultures different than their own.**

## FEATURE IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- From Foster Care to Fame
- Styles 4 Kidz
- How can you celebrate Black History Month?
- Local Black History Month Events



# FROM FOSTER CARE TO FAME

Successful African American figures who had similar beginnings as our CASA youth



Rapper and actor, Ice-T was placed in foster care after his biological parents died in a car accident and relatives were unable to take him in.

Four time Olympic Gold Medalist, Simone Biles was placed in foster care due to her biological mother's substance abuse problems. Her and her three siblings spent three years in foster care before being adopted by their grandparents.



Actress, Tiffany Haddish was placed in foster care due to her biological mother's untreated mental illness. Tiffany now partners with Living Advantage to host Suitcase Drives for foster youth to have while moving placements.

NBA athlete, Alonzo Mourning was born to teenage parents in a negative atmosphere which led him to foster care. Alonzo was placed in a group home due to his behaviors and then moved to a foster placement until he went off to college.



Actor, Eddie Murphy was placed in foster care after the death of his father and his mother's illness and hospitalizations. Eddie and his siblings only spent a year in foster care and were returned home to his mother. Eddie credits his experience in foster care for helping him develop a sense of humor.



**STYLES 4 KIDZ**  
HAIR CARE WITH HEART

Styles 4 Kidz is a local non-profit who's mission is to provide high-quality, compassionate hair care education and services for kids with textured hair in foster care and transracial adoptive or biracial families.

Styles 4 Kidz host workshops for foster and adoptive parents to learn hair techniques. The next workshop is **Thursday, February 27th 4:30-6:00pm.**

Foster and adoptive parents can also book hair appointments for their youth at the Styles 4 Kidz salon in Oak Park, IL.

To learn more please visit their website at <https://www.styles4kidz.org/>



# HOW CAN YOU CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY?

**Our Diversity Task Force encourages advocates to celebrate Black History not only in February, but all year around. Below are recommendations from CASA advocates to learn more about Black History and culture.**

**\*Please check ratings and use discretion if recommending to a child/family\***

## **Books:**

- Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History, by Vashti Harrison
- The Underground Railroad (American Girl: Real Stories From My Time), by Bonnie Bader and Connie Porter
- Stephen Curry: The Children's Book: The Boy Who Never Gave Up, by Anthony Curcio
- When I Grow Up: Misty Copeland, by Lexi Ryals
- The Story of Ruby Bridges, by Robert Coles

## **Movies/Documentaries:**

- Disney's Ruby Bridge
- Usain Bolt: The Fastest Man Alive
- African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross
- A Ballerina's Tale
- In Our Heads About Our Hair
- Hair-i-tage a Natural hair documentary
- The 13th
- Hidden Figures
- 42
- Lean on Me
- The Blind Side
- Selma
- Remember the Titans
- Red Tails
- Freedom Writers
- Great Debaters
- The Temptations
- Higher Learning
- The Wiz
- Losing Isaiah
- The Princess and the Frog
- Pride
- The Butler
- Rosewood
- Glory Road
- The Tuskegee Airmen
- Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom
- Fences
- Cool Runnings
- The Long Walk Home
- The Loving Story
- When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts
- Roots
- Crooklyn
- Black Panther
- A Raisin in the Sun
- Guess Who
- Imitation of Life
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- The Hate You Give
- Fruitvale Station
- Coach Carter
- The Help

## **Places:**

Graue Mill and Museum  
3800 York Road Oak Brook, Illinois 60523  
630-655-2090 or 630-920-9720

African American Cultural Center  
830 S. Halsted St., #209 Chicago, IL 60607  
(312) 996-9549

Sheldon Peck Homestead  
355 E Parkside Ave, Lombard, IL 60148  
630-629-1885

South Side Community Art Center  
3831 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60653  
(773) 373-1026

DuSable Museum of African American History  
740 E. 56th Place Chicago, IL 60637  
(773) 947-0600

Bronzeville Children's Museum  
9301 S. Stony Island Ave Chicago, IL 60617

# LOCAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS:

**Our Diversity Task Force will allow advocates to log a Black History Month event as a CEU for the month of February. Please include the name of the event you attended and a description.**

**\*Check with the host of the event to inquire about any costs\***

**February 4th from 7pm-8:15pm at the Joliet Black Rd Library**

Emancipation to Inauguration: The Black Experience in Chicago  
Hosted by the Joliet Public Library

**February 6th from 6pm-7:30pm at the White Oak Library in Crest Hill**

Jeopardy: Black History Month  
Hosted by the White Oak Library

**February 8th from 1-4pm at Shorewood-Troy Public Library**

African American History Month Celebration  
Hosted by the Shorewood-Troy Public Library

**February 8th at 2pm at Bolingbrook High School**

The 22nd Annual Community Wide Black History Month Celebration  
Hosted by Black History Month Awareness Club and Valley View 365 U

**February 8th from 12-4pm at the Aurora Historical Society**

Mini Photo Exhibit: Black History Month  
Hosted by the Aurora Historical Society

**February 23rd from 2pm-4pm at Naperville North High School**

Annual Fundraiser-Black History Showcase, Dance Party & Dinner  
Hosted by SUCCESS-Naperville 203 and Naperville School District 203

**February 24th from 7pm-8pm at the White Oak Library in Romeoville**

African-American Music of the 20th Century: an Overview and Performance  
Hosted by the White Oak Library

**February 25th at 10am and 6pm at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park in Joliet**

2nd Black History Celebration: Harriet Tubman  
Hosted by KDG Greater Entertainment

*"All young people, regardless of what they look like, which religion they follow, who they love, or the gender they identify with, deserve the chance to dream and grow in a loving, permanent home."*

*-President Obama*

*National Foster Care Month 2015 Presidential Proclamation*