

What Is The Coalition, Inc.?

The Coalition, Inc. is a diverse network of neighborhood/community organizations and agencies come together to facilitate cooperation, collaboration and the sharing of resources for the betterment of our communities, it is a collective of organizations and persons who have already demonstrated their commitment and expertise in finding and implementing solutions to particular ills that plague our communities.

Members of The Coalition, Inc. are focused on one specific goal: Improving the quality of life for our families. Our members approach this goal from many diverse perspectives; there are presently more than eighty organizations on our roles, offering assistance in the areas of housing, human rights, single father education and support, employment readiness, resume' building, peer counseling, developing entrepreneurial skills, parenting, adult and youth mentoring, adult basic education, intercultural exchange, women's self defense, Rites of Passage, parental/spousal/child abuse prevention, youth developmental activities, peer support, gun control, education, anti-violence, parental rights and responsibilities, conflict resolution and bullying prevention, green consciousness, liberation ministry, youth athletics, ex-offender reorientation, and we are growing at a steady rate.

Each week we publish an electronic newsletter (News From The Coalition, Inc.) that lists, among other things, grants, scholarships, and career/employment opportunities, health /nutrition and environmental concerns, as well as events occurring in the community at no cost to the sponsoring groups or organizations in order to promote 'Communication – Cooperation – Cooperation'.

Brothers Malik R. and Calvin Johnson of Stop the Madness-Stop The Violence, Inc. and C and C Athletic Association respectively, set the precedent for the forming of The Coalition when they called upon representatives of The House of Umoja; SouthWest Action Coalition; Sankofa Association of Roxborough, Philadelphia Black Public Issues Forum and Men United Against Violence in 2003 to produce a basketball tournament for young people. This tournament was designed to encourage young people to socialize in a peaceful, healthy atmosphere. Over the years the tournament, which evolved into the **Weekend of Peace**, expanded into many positive activities including health fairs, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, sexual health issues, positive entertainment and motivational speakers.

The Coalition was formed in July 2006, when the Philadelphia Black Public Issues Forum summoned a gathering of sincere Philadelphia-area activists to the Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia. Those representatives, motivated by, but not limited to, the solving of problematic conditions contributing to the increasing climate of violence in the communities; met and signed the Pledge of Commitment (“For the purpose of retrieving the lost, and preserving our future, I do hereby pledge my support of all reasonable efforts to promote the healing of our communities. I also agree to set aside any past, present or future disagreements that may interfere with, or in any way inhibit our ability to work harmoniously to achieve our common goal of healing our respective communities. I further pledge, where possible, to assist in all reasonable efforts, irrespective of origin, designed to contribute to the healthy restoration of our families, communities and Nation.”) to commit to work in cooperation to solve our mutual problems.

The Coalition presented the Fifth Annual Weekend of Peace and City-Wide Basketball Tournament, in August 2008, hosted by our anchor sites: Tustin Recreation Center, Kingsessing Recreation Center, Eastwick Recreation Center, Marian Anderson Recreation Center, with new comers Mt. Airy and Chew Recreation Centers. In addition, we were joined by Liberation Fellowship CDC’s Family Health Fair at Hebron Tabernacle Church in Germantown, The Fatherhood Institute’s Meet The Author at First African Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia, United Parents for Successful Children at Tustin Recreation Center and Faith & Knowledge’s Caribbean Health Fair at Myers Recreation Center in Southwest Philadelphia.

We have sponsored four Young People’s Anti-Violence Summits. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania hosted the first in August of 2006. The second was hosted in November 2006 by Club 923, where we were interviewed by the popular Hip Hop show Urban Expressions. The third and fourth were hosted by the High School of The Future in April 2007 and 2008 in conjunction with Teens In Charge as part of The American Cities Foundation’s Urban Environmental Summit.

The Coalition was incorporated in November of 2007, as a non-profit entity. We are looking to establish branches in other states, and/or have people around the world examine the model and take what is applicable to their needs. If you wish to inquire about establishing a branch in your state, please contact us The.PA.Coalition@gmail.com.

The Coalition, Inc. in cooperation with Urban network Associates produces many useful Community Improvement Workshops educating organization and community leaders on such varied topics as ‘Getting The Word Out’ (organizational/media relations) facilitated by Patricia Coyne of The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations at Tustin and Kingsessing Recreational Centers; ‘Conflict Resolution’ facilitated by Elsie Woodson of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Ken Houston, hosted by The University of Pennsylvania’s Rotunda and The School District of Philadelphia; ‘Using The Internet To Promote Your Organization’, facilitated by JC Lamkin of Gypsy Lane Technologies, hosted by Tustin Recreation Center, the African Cultural Alliance of North America and the Joseph Coleman Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia; ‘Successful Parenting’, facilitated by Nasir Al-Maliki, hosted by Tustin Recreation Center; ‘Urban Networking 101’, facilitated by Michael Rice, hosted by For My Daughter Library, the Episcopal Church of the Advocate and The School District of Philadelphia; Leading in Difficult Times, facilitated by John Elliott Churchville, Ph. D, also at the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, and The School District of Philadelphia. ‘Show Me The Money’ fundraising workshop facilitated by Kendall Hayes and hosted by The School District of Philadelphia. Workshops are free and open to the public. More workshops are planned on subjects intended to increase the effectiveness of our community organizations.

We are presently re-designing our website TheCoalitionInc.org, and have initiated such online projects as A Hand Up! Group, which seeks to find homes for unwanted and surplus organizational supplies and equipment with groups who need them.

<http://groups.google.com/group/a-hand-up>

We were also proud to welcome For My Daughter Library, an out-of-school program site for girls 8 to 14 yrs of age in 2008. This was the first organization to be actually established through the efforts of The Coalition, Inc.

The only requirement to join The Coalition, Inc. is that organizations pledge and continue to do what they should be doing already, and that is dedicate their efforts to the uplifting of our communities, only to do it in the spirit of cooperation with each other.

Joining The Coalition gives you added effectiveness of being able to call upon the assistance of experts in areas where you may not possess the necessary skills or resources. It does not affect the individual operation of your organization, we assume that you already know how to run your own show, we

simply encourage and provide the opportunity for you to ‘communicate, cooperate and collaborate’ with others of us who are doing the same thing, in order to produce a more efficient universally effective product.

Who should join The Coalition? Any organization that is willing to work with other entities toward positive, permanent change in our communities.

For more information see our website: TheCoalitionInc.org, email us at The.PA.Coalition@gmail.com or call 215.387.2734