



# THE WILLIAM KELLIBREW FOUNDATION

## About The William Kellibrew Foundation...

The William Kellibrew Foundation (WKF) is a resource to people and institutions committed to breaking the cycle of violence and poverty in America and across the globe-with a special focus on women and children.

### Board of Directors

- Dr. Barbara Harvey, Vice President
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- William Kellibrew IV, President
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For more information visit:

[www.TheWKFoundation.org](http://www.TheWKFoundation.org)

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Victims' Candlelight Vigil



Every year The Office of the New York State Attorney General and The Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims join together in support of community advocacy, healing, and crime prevention through a crime victims' candlelight vigil. This year's program marked 25 years of service, championing the theme "25 Years of Transforming Lives" and was held On April 18<sup>th</sup> at the West End Collegiate Church located on 368 West End Avenue in Manhattan, New York. The audience was incredibly diverse, being filled with roughly 300 crime victims, service providers, legislatures, politicians, and spiritual leaders.

The program marked the commencement of National Crime Victim's Rights Week and consisted of musical performances, responsive readings by crime survivors, and a candle lighting ceremony dedicated to the lives of those that both died and survived acts of violent crime. William



Kellibrew was the keynote speaker of the vigil. He shared his own life story and was honored with the opportunity to be the lighter of the Candle of Remembrance. According to its purpose the Candle of Remembrance is significant because it is more than a recollection of horrors and shards from the past that cut. It is a celebration that can be replayed at any time. It shows why we live, love and hope. It shows us why we dare to dream to be whole once again.

During his speech, Kellibrew elaborated on his own past of trauma, resilience, and growth. He remembered the people that gave him a reason to live when he wanted to take his own life and the

25th Annual Candlelight Vigil Continued...

love he felt from his grandmother who took on the burden of raising him and his siblings in the aftermath of the tragedies. Concluding, William thanked the team within The William Kellibrew Foundation that work to give hope to the victims of crime struggling to cope and exclaimed, "Telling my story hopefully gives you permission to tell yours or someone else's. Silence invites isolation, anger, and despair. But, I submit to you today, that there is hope in our system. Everyday we learn new ways to help those affected by crime." For more information visit <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/gallery/>

## Fitchburg Alternative High School

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, family and friends watched as 165 alternative high school students were awarded their diplomas and officially became graduates of Fitchburg Alternative High School. The graduation began at 6PM and was held in the Fitchburg High School Field House located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Notable attendants of the graduation were Mayor Lisa Wong, Superintendent Andre Ravenelle, State Representative Steve DiNatale, and Principals Richard Masciarelli and Michael Pelland.



William Kellibrew delivered the commencement address for this special occasion. Many of the students were considered at risk youth and may be experiencing success for the first time in their lives. During his speech, William reflected upon his own traumatic past allowing him to make a deeper connection with the graduates. He focused on personal qualities that connect him with each and every graduate, the spirit of perseverance and resilience. With these personal qualities he articulated to the graduates how they could determine their success or failure. "If you want to fail, Watch as much television as you can. Don't read. Everything that you need to know is on MTV, BET and your TV," said Kellibrew. This was one of his recipes for failure, which he countered with a recipe for success that gave students some of William's tools for success. "Read, read, read. Read magazines, newspapers, fiction, novels, and biographies. Expand your vocabulary, your world and your imagination," said Kellibrew.



In closing William reminded the graduates that they are in charge of their own destiny. "No one knows for sure where you will end up, but the choice is up to you. Class of 2010, repeat after me. "If it is to be, it is up to me!"

The William Kellibrew Foundation family would like to congratulate the 2010 Class of Fitchburg Alternative and Fitchburg High Schools. The Foundation was present at both graduations to support the students and remind them of the Foundation's ongoing support and dedication.

## The Brady Gala



The Brady Center Gala was held on Tuesday evening, May 18, 2010, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. The Brady Center honored and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Million Mom March. This March gathered some three-quarters of a million people on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and

nearly a quarter of a million more marched in cities around the country, for the largest demonstration in history supporting stricter gun laws.

It was an inspirational evening where Jim and Sarah Brady, along with other gun violence victims, activists and donors came together to celebrate the Brady Center and its many accomplishments. The William Kellibrew Foundation was proud to join the Brady Center in its celebration of ten years of excellence in service for a safer tomorrow. The Brady Campaign and Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, under the leadership of President Paul Helmke, is a strong strategic partner of the Foundation. The WKF congratulates President Helmke and the entire Brady family on a wonderful gala.



## DC Gun Law Press Conference

It is difficult to cope with the harsh realities of life: death, murder, and gun violence; but these terms are real and more prevalent than ever before. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the residents of the District of Columbia decided that the time had come to take a stand and make their voices heard. Beginning at 9:45 am, Kenneth Barnes, Sr, Founder and C.E.O of R.O.O.T., Inc., lead city officials and the community



as they made a proclamation demanding that elected officials across the political spectrum recognize and address the gun violence epidemic facing the nation. Representatives of The William Kellibrew Foundation along with several prominent politicians and activist stood in support of the day's efforts and

## WKF Supports 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit of Democracy Awards

For the past thirteen years The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, a partner of The William Kellibrew Foundation, has held the Spirit of Democracy Awards. Several representatives from The WKF attended and volunteered for the banquet dinner. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, friends, family, affiliates, sponsors, and volunteers joined with the National Coalition's Board of Directors,

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demonstrations.

Among the many prominent figures was former DC Mayor and councilman, Marion Barry. He led the crowd in one single chant, "zero murders." All of the speakers had one reoccurring and uniting theme: the people of the District of Columbia should have the right to govern themselves like all other tax paying U.S. citizens. The press conference came on the heels of several vicious murders and a central piece of legislation that Arizona Senator John McCain proposed. This piece of legislation would completely repeal gun registration in Washington, DC for heavy-duty assault rifles and AK47s. This is alarming and problematic because its passage would undoubtedly lead to a rise in the number of murders. The WKF joins with its partners R.O.O.T. INC., The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Mayor Fenty, Chairman Gray, the DC City Council and concerned citizens of DC in denouncing the "Second Amendment Enforcement Act" and standing up for peace in the nation's capital.

Spirit Democracy Awards Continued...

Melanie L. Campbell, President and CEO, the Youth Advisory Board, and staff primarily for two reasons – to offer recognition to five individuals who have done extraordinary work to promote change in the lives of many people and – to pay tribute to Civil Rights leader Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who passed away in April 2010.

Popular television and radio commentator LaToya Foster served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. William Kellibrew led the audience in singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as well as read a litany with Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner. The festivities included the



presentation of a number of distinguished service awards to: Ralph B. Everett, Anthony L. Gladney, Makani-Themba Nixon, and Marc H. Morial; all of these awards lead up to the Chairman's Circle Award which went to Congressman William Lacy Clay, Jr., Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients and to the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation for yet another successful awards banquet. For more information and photos please visit [www.ncbcp.org](http://www.ncbcp.org)