



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service  
Oakland County (MI) Chapter

# Oakland County (MI) Chapter Newsletter

Highlighting the service provided  
and the partnerships that made our service possible

Transformational Programming Through Five Facets:  
The Arts | Services to Youth | International Trends  
National Trends | Health & Human Services

The 7th & 8th grade Rising Star students of the Pontiac Middle School participated in Health and Human Services' National Manufacturing Day on October 5, 2018 with a Links field trip to GM's Orion Assembly Plant. They saw the assembly process, interacted with those in a variety of job categories and learned about STEAM careers in the automotive industry. Three engineers shared stories of being Black students striving to be engineers and encouraged the students to reach as high as they could to prepare for a job like those they learned about.

## Pontiac Students take STEAM Career Tour of GM Plant



## Oakland University Holds Pontiac Day for Students

Links were hands-on and highlighted on the scoreboard as OU hosted Pontiac School District students January 12th. Youth were led in exercise during the pre-game Olympic Challenge. They then cheered on the basketball team. Winter Wellness activities at the OU's medical school included a tour of the facility's equipment and healthy eating tips. Grade schoolers quilted blankets to donate to those in need.



## The Arts - at Wayne State

Links hosted Southfield Birney 4th graders on campus with a planetarium view of the stars and an artist's view of the power of creativity. The Arts field trip to Wayne State provided exposure to the campus environment and to careers in the arts and sciences.

## Motown Maven's Foundation Partners with Links to Donate Musical Instruments to Southfield's Birney School



The Links were proud to donate \$2,500 - a gift matched by the Esther Gordy Bullock Edwards Foundation to purchase musical instruments for the K-8th students at Southfield's Birney K-8 School. The school has an award-winning jazz band and emphasis was placed on the college scholarships available to accomplished musicians.



## St. Mary's Preparatory School St. James Parrish, Jamaica

OCC Links have a long-stand relationship, supporting St. Mary's Prep through International Trends. This includes improvements to the school building, its kitchen and classrooms.

St. Mary's 4th Grade class and the students of Pontiac's Rogers Elementary are pen pals - exchanging friendship and forging the bonds between people of African descent from all across the African diaspora.



## Festival of Giving



Each year Oakland County Links collect and contribute items to donate to the children of Pontiac during the holidays. This year, the Annual Festival of Giving was held during the school day at the Pontiac Middle School. Students were treated to a full array of games and treats. While there, Links restocked the clothes closet of uniforms established at the school and supplies for the washer & dryer donated by partner, The Rush Group, LLC.

## What's An Engineer ? Lessons from Wakanda



National Trends and Services to Youth presented the "What Is An Engineer" program to introduce 4th grade students at Pontiac's Rogers Elementary and Southfield's Birney K-8 to STEAM, educating them about various engineering fields. The program highlighted the various ways that engineering was present in the fictional world of Wakanda as created for the movie Black Panther.

A demonstration activity had students build boats that could float while carrying a load of the movie's precious metal, vibranium (psst! they used pennies!)

## Lessons in Water Conservation and Filtration



OCC Links International Trends educated the 4th graders at Southfield's Birney K-8 and Pontiac's Rogers Elementary on the scarcity of water on every continent and the need to conserve water to protect the environment. It was part of resource awareness training for the NSBE Jr. members, in partnership with the National Society of Black Engineers. Students donned Earth Day t-shirts during the March water filtration environmental awareness event.

**The Oakland County Links thank our  
 2018 -2019 Community Partners:**  
 James McDonald, MDJ Financial Services Inc.  
 O & I Transport  
 The Rush Group, LLC  
 GAA Manufacturing & Supply Chain Management  
 General Motors  
 The Esther Gordy Bullock Edwards Foundation  
 Oakland University-Pontiac Initiative