



THE CARRIE MEEK  
*Foundation*

*The Tie That Binds a Community in Need*



**PRESS KIT**

**1111 Park Centre Blvd., Suite 202**

**Miami Gardens, FL 33169**

**Tel: 305-953-0525 Fax: 305-474-0190**

**Website: [www.carriemeekfoundation.org](http://www.carriemeekfoundation.org)**



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## THE FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE

### ***About the Carrie Meek Foundation***

The Carrie Meek Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that sponsors and promotes programs in Education, Affordable Housing, Healthcare, Economic Development and Community Empowerment and is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents of our community.

### ***Our Programming***

**Affordable Housing:** The **SOUL LIVES in THE CITY** campaign is an effort to provide quality affordable housing to residents of Miami-Dade County and to encourage former residents to come back to the community. There are ten affordable housing projects participating in The Foundation's "Soul Lives in the City" program. These apartments are specifically for low income families and senior citizens.

**Health:** The Foundation will impact South Florida's healthcare landscape through establishing healthcare clinics in underserved communities, organizing healthcare screenings and facilitating job fairs and seminars geared toward encouraging minority youths to pursue health sciences careers.

The Foundation also implements **Hip Hop 4 Health™** a health-based initiative that incorporates a dance completion and wellness fair featuring valuable health information, screenings and entertaining activities for students, their families and the community at-large.

**Education:** The Foundation recognizes that education is a critical ingredient for transforming impoverished urban neighborhoods, which is why we have initiated **The Carrie Meek Foundation Scholarship Program**. These scholarships are designed to offer more educational opportunities to low-income families by providing children with the dollars necessary to attend a private school of their choice.



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**Economic Development:** In an effort to revitalize the once thriving Opa Locka community, The Foundation is undertaking a massive development project at the Opa-Locka Airport. The Foundation will build the **Opa Locka Aviation and Commerce Center**, a mixed-use industrial park that would include retail and office space, as well as a business incubator.

The 121-acre facility, will seek to attract transportation-related businesses to rent warehouse and commerce space. The project is expected to create at least 1,500 permanent jobs.

**Community Awareness:** One of the core values of the Foundation is addressing issues that affect our community, both positively and negatively. Domestic violence has increasingly become a growing problem in the community. The Foundation seeks to open the dialogue surrounding violence against women at the hands of men through our program **Men To Men**.

**Men To Men** is a series of conversations held in the community that addresses violence against women. The informal forums focus on the social ramifications of domestic violence in the community, causes of domestic violence and solutions to address domestic violence.

**Civic Engagement:** Civic Engagement is based in the fact that all citizens can contribute ideas, energy and action for proposals for improving community and these proposals are more likely to be accepted if citizens have a role in shaping them. The Foundation strives to give members and leaders of the community a first hand look at the inter-workings of the nation's political machine.

**The Carrie P. Meek Congressional Classroom** puts the participant front and center of the political arena. During the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference. The program is open to all South Floridians and gives participants the opportunity to meet key lawmakers and hear their perspectives on current issues in Congress.



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The **SOUL LIVES in THE CITY** campaign is an effort to provide quality affordable housing to residents of Miami-Dade County and to encourage former residents to come back to the community. The Carrie Meek Foundation, will pre-qualify potential residents for these new facilities, and provide the housing and credit counseling necessary to prepare residents to take advantage of these opportunities.



These apartments are specifically for low and very low income families and senior citizens. Each apartment has occupancy limits as well as minimum and maximum income requirements, depending on the size of the apartment.

All residents' income must be at or below 60% AMI (Area Median Income), for example a family of four must earn \$33,540 or less. A portion of the units have been set aside for residents having an income at 33% AMI or below. At 33% AMI, a family of four must earn \$18,447 or less.

Lafayette Plaza, located at 145 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street in Little Haiti is the first of ten affordable housing complexes to open. For more information about the program call The Carrie Meek Foundation at 305-953-0525 or visit the website at [www.carriemeekfoundation.org](http://www.carriemeekfoundation.org).



Congresswoman Carrie Meek flanked by Miami-Dade County Auditor Audrey M. Edmonson and State Representative Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall



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## **HIP HOP 4 HEALTH™**



HIP HOP 4 HEALTH™ is a health-based initiative that incorporates a dance competition and wellness fair featuring valuable health information, screenings and entertaining activities for students, their families and the community at-large. Using a genre of music and dance that is widely popular with your, Hip Hop 4 Health™ encourages physical activity, cardiovascular health and positive healthy behaviors.

For the fourth consecutive year, The Carrie Meek Foundation with the generous support of AMERIGROUP Community Care is hosting Hip Hop 4 Health™ at underserved middle schools located primarily in lower income neighborhoods throughout Miami-Dade County.

Hip Hop 4 Health™ has also joined forces with South Florida After-School All-Stars (SFASAS) which as a partnership with Miami-Dade County Public School and Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation to enrich the lives of middle-school aged youth through comprehensive after-school programs. The 2009 competition will target twenty SFASAS-affiliated middle schools - the majority of which include students who are at-risk for unhealthy behaviors.

Beginning in January through April, a panel of judges will seek first, second and third place winners at preliminary round competitions held on school campuses. Valuable prizes such as Apple iPods, Miami Heat tickets and Nike gift cards will also be awarded to the top dancers as well as consolation prizes for all participants. The winners at selected schools will have come together to compete at the Hip Hop 4 Health™ Fair which will be held at Miami's beautiful Jungle Island theme park. The finale will be judged by a panel of local celebrities who will name a Grand Prize Winning Team of the 2009 Hip Hop 4 Health™ Dance Competition.



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## **THE CARRIE MEEK FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**



### THE CARRIE MEEK FOUNDATION

#### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

did not receive diplomas in 2007 because they couldn't master the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Congresswomen Carrie Meek, who has spent more than 30 impassioned years as a Florida educator, continues in her commitment and efforts through The Foundation.

Because she recognizes that education is a critical ingredient for transforming impoverished urban neighborhoods, The Foundation initiated The Carrie Meek Foundation Scholarship Program. These scholarships are designed to offer more educational opportunities to low-income families by providing children with the dollars necessary to attend a private school of their choice.

Under this program, disadvantaged students receive funding of up to \$3,950 to attend the private school that best fits their educational needs. Scholarships are awarded to students who provide documentation that they meet federal guidelines for the national free or reduced lunch program.

For more information on The Carrie Meek Foundation Scholarship Program, call (888) 334-MEEK (6335).

Currently, the Sunshine State trails most of its 49 counterparts in terms of education spending, teacher pay and graduation rates. Roughly 8 percent of Florida's high school seniors – 14,260 students -



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## **THE OPA LOCKA AVIATION AND COMMERCE CENTER**

In an effort to revitalize the once thriving Opa Locka community, The Foundation is undertaking a massive development project at the Opa-Locka Airport. The Foundation will build the **Opa Locka Aviation and Commerce Center**, a mixed-use industrial park that would include retail and office space, as well as a business incubator.



The 121-acre facility, will seek to attract transportation-related businesses to rent warehouse and commerce space. The project is expected to create at

least 1,500 permanent jobs.

The Foundation's goal is to create a significant economic development, job creation engine in the NW Miami-Dade community, with a particular focus on the residents of Opa Locka. Additionally, the project will generate revenue to the Foundation from the development in a manner which maximizes the Foundation's ability to reinvest in additional projects and programs for the benefit of the community.

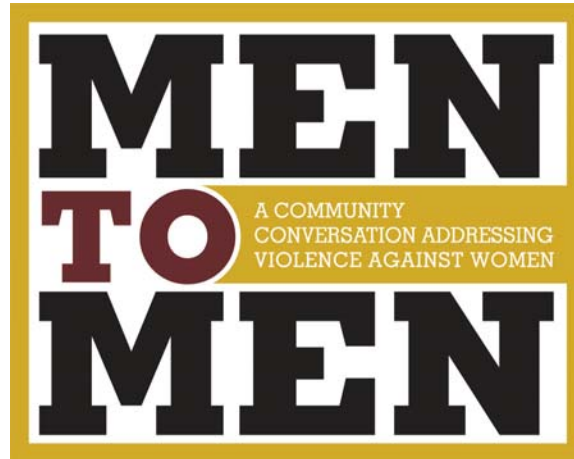
The Foundation is specifically committed to developing the site in a manner that maximizes job creation, is environmentally conscious meeting U.S. Green Building Council LEEDS certification thresholds, and pays homage to the unique neo-Moorish architectural heritage of the Opa Locka community.

Additionally The Carrie Meek Foundation is dedicated to the continued development and economic growth of small, minority, and women-owned businesses. We strongly advocate and encourage small, minority and women-owned businesses to develop relationships and partnerships, with developers, prime contractors, sub-contractors, to ensure being included on this project.



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According to statistics, a woman is battered every nine seconds and, tragically, every six hours a woman is killed. During the 2007-08, the 42 certified domestic violence centers throughout Florida provided emergency shelter to more than 14,500 individuals and provided in-person counseling to more than 60,000 individuals. Nearly 150,000 individuals called local domestic violence hotlines.

Recognizing the need to address the epidemic in South Florida, The Carrie Meek Foundation initiated the **Men To Men Program**.

The program is a series of conversations held in the community that addresses violence against women. The informal forums focus on the social ramifications of domestic violence in the community, causes of domestic violence and solutions to address domestic violence.



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## **THE CARRIE P. MEEK CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOM**



**The Carrie P. Meek Congressional Classroom** puts the participant front and center of the political arena. The program takes place during the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference. The program is open to all South Floridians and gives participants the opportunity to meet key lawmakers and hear their perspectives on current issues in Congress.

Participants are responsible for their travel, lodging and food accommodations. The experience gained through the Congressional Classroom program is invaluable.

Past participants experienced issue forums that focused on contracting opportunities for minority-owned businesses through the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security and were given presentations from key agency representatives and contractors focused on the procurement process for these departments and how minority-owned firms can contract for government business.



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## **CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE P. MEEK** **BIOGRAPHY** ***President and CEO***



Congresswoman Carrie Meek, the first African-American elected to Congress from Florida since Reconstruction, has had successful careers as a public servant, college administrator and educator.

Carrie Meek was born on April 29, 1926, in Tallahassee, Florida. The granddaughter of a slave and the daughter of former sharecroppers, she spent her childhood in segregated Tallahassee. Meek graduated from Florida A&M University in 1946. At this time, African Americans could not attend graduate school in Florida, so Meek traveled north to continue her studies and graduated from the University of Michigan with an M.S. in 1948.

After graduation, Meek was hired as a teacher at Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, and then at her alma matter, Florida A&M University. Meek moved to Miami in 1961 to serve as special assistant to the vice president of Miami-Dade Community College. The school was desegregated in 1963 and Meek played a central role in pushing for integration. Throughout her years as an educator, Meek was also active in community projects in the Miami area.

Elected as a Florida state representative in 1979, Meek was the first African American female elected to the Florida State Senate in 1982. As a state senator, Meek served on the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Her efforts in the Legislature also led to the construction of thousands of affordable rental housing units.

In 1992, Meek was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida's 17th Congressional District. This made her the first black lawmaker elected to represent Florida in Congress since Reconstruction. Upon taking office, Meek faced the task of helping her district recover from Hurricane Andrew's devastation. Her efforts helped to provide \$100 million in federal assistance to rebuild Dade County.



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Successfully focusing her attention on issues such as economic development, health care, education and housing, Meek led legislation through Congress to improve Dade County's transit system, airport and seaport; construct a new family and childcare center in North Dade County; and fund advanced aviation training programs at Miami-Dade Community College. Meek has also emerged as a strong advocate for senior citizens and Haitian immigrants.

After retiring from the United States Congress, Rep. Meek has dedicated her time and service to the Carrie Meek Foundation, a not for profit corporation founded by the Congresswoman. The foundation's mission statement speaks to "encouraging investment and partnerships in the diverse urban inner-city neighborhoods of Miami-Dade County, improving the overall quality of life, and building a stronger community."

Meek has received numerous awards and honors, including the Leroy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award and Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from the University of Miami, Florida A&M University, Barry University, Florida Atlantic University and Rollins University. While in Congress, Meek was a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, in addition to serving on the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government and the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies.



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## **ANTHONY WILLIAMS** **BIOGRAPHY** *Executive Director*



Anthony Williams serves as Executive Director of The Carrie Meek Foundation, a not for profit organization based in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Prior to his appointment to this post, Mr. Williams served for four years as District Director for the Office of Congressman Kendrick B. Meek, 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Florida, (Representing over 600,000 residents from downtown Miami to Hollywood.) Other professional highlights have included administrative positions with Miami-Dade College, Cooperative Education Clubs of Florida, the City of Hollywood and The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Additionally, he has distinguished himself as a rising leader in the South Florida community having served as Political Action Chair for the Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP and as President of the Miami Dade County Democratic Black Caucus.

In addition to his responsibilities with the Foundation, Mr. Williams currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for The Village, a Miami-based not-for-profit drug and alcohol treatment center.

Anthony Williams proudly resides in Miami Gardens, FL.



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The Carrie Meek Foundation goes about its work with one overriding mission in mind - the betterment of South Florida's underserved communities. The Foundation never loses sight of that goal thanks to its diligent highly-accomplished Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors for the Carrie Meek Foundation is comprised of the following individuals:

## **Hon. Carrie Meek - Founder & President**

**Aletha Player**  
**Charles Wellons**  
**Craig Barkley**  
**Cynthia Stafford**  
**David Wilson**  
**Dean Harry Hoffman**  
**Marie Etienne**  
**Rev. Darryl Baxter**  
**Vincent Brown**

**Dr. Craig Wilson**  
**George Yap**  
**Guylene Berry**  
**Hugh Westbrook**  
**Jerry Rushin**  
**Margarita Ollett**  
**Mike Abrams**  
**Rhonda Wimberly**  
**Yolanda Cash-Jackson**

## **Staff**

**Anthony Williams**  
Executive Director  
[Anthony@CarrieMeekFoundation.org](mailto:Anthony@CarrieMeekFoundation.org)

**Gina Lebolo**  
Office Manager  
[Gina@CarrieMeekFoundation.org](mailto:Gina@CarrieMeekFoundation.org)

**Mia S. McDonald**  
Operations Director  
[Mia@CarrieMeekFoundation.org](mailto:Mia@CarrieMeekFoundation.org)

**Bill Anfield**  
Executive Assistant to Chair  
[Bill@CarrieMeekFoundation.org](mailto:Bill@CarrieMeekFoundation.org)

**Nakia Bowling**  
Program Director  
[Nakia@CarrieMeekFoundation.org](mailto:Nakia@CarrieMeekFoundation.org)

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