



Winter 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

Happy New Year!!! The past year of 2020 has been one for the record books.

I can not express how valuable your work has been this past year. So thank you, for all of your hard work, and dedication to **“The Links Incorporated”**, and to **The Wilmington NC Chapter**, in the year of 2020. Despite being in a global pandemic, we quickly adapted, and were able to continue our efforts of transformative and innovative programming in our community. Your resilience and brilliance carried us through the “new normal” year of 2020, and will continue to carry us on.

I am hopeful that with a new administration for our country, that we are able to exhale, and will be able to check off some of the boxes of social injustices in this country. With the vaccine, and a more focused plan for the deployment of COVID 19 vaccines, we can also anticipate our return to a more normal way of providing service to our communities, in the foreseeable future.

CONGRATULATIONS to our honorary **Link Sister Kamala Devi Harris** on her becoming the first... the first woman, the first African American and the first South Asian American Vice President of the United States of America! We've embraced another proud moment in HISTORY, as we helped our Link Sister write HERSTORY at the ballot box across this country in the 2020 general election. Please keep our Link Sister, Madam Vice President Kamala, and her family in your prayers.

I want to remind us of how blessed we are, as we have headed into this New Year. We can not go back into our past to change what has happened, but we can work in the present to prepare for a better future. My wish is that we will continue to be **“Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service”** to make that better future for our communities, and for our people of African American descent. Wishing you and your loved ones good health, happiness and prosperity in the new year of 2021.

Stay safe, and continue your practice of the 3 w's (Wear, Wait, Wash).

Affectionately,
Your Link Sister
Karen Clay Beatty
Chapter President



Getting to Know Link: Karen C. Beatty, Our Chapter President



Getting to
Know Our
President,
Link Karen C.
Beatty



Full Name:

Karen Cornelia Clay Beatty. Cornelia after my great grandmother whom I never met.

Nickname:

Kiley/Kiley Boo (Only my uncle who nicknamed me calls me by it now.)

Retired:

From New Hanover County Schools. (Licensed Social Worker)

Proudest Accomplishments:

Personal – Raised two adolescent daughters as a single parent, who are graduate level college educated.

Adventure – On a cross country trip, I rode the Sandia Peak Tramway, an aerial tramway located next to the Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is longest aerial tram in America. The base elevation is 6,559 feet, and it ascends to an elevation of 10,378 feet, crossing the Domingo Baca Canyon.

Political – Won my bid in 2012 Board of Education Primary Election, as a candidate on the ballot for the 2012 General Election, where former President Barack Obama was seeking re-election. Proud Moment!

What motivates me to work?

Life circumstances motivate me to work hard. Working on things that interest me for the benefit of others, while it offers me the benefit to connect to my community.

Favorite Book to Read:

Nonfiction. I've enjoyed many, but one of my most favorites is *"The Water Is Wide"*, by Pat Conroy. So enjoyed that book, and still think about it from time to time. It was an emotional roller coaster ride. I also enjoyed *"Becoming"*, by Michelle Obama

Favorite Vacations:

My cross country road trip, Lake Tahoe (sooo AH-mazing & beautiful), Hawaii, Martha's Vineyard, & Cancun, Mexico

Hobbies:

Travel, listening to music, reading, day road trips, good conversation

Favorite Holiday

Christmas

Where do you see yourself in five years?

RELAXING & getting to travel to more places on my bucket list.

Celebrity to meet at Starbucks

Michelle Obama (she's a good sport, seems so honest and so inspiring). Would also like to meet Cicely Tyson (her portrayal of roles of strong African American women in movies.)



The Wilmington (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
Supports
"All Hands on Deck for the UN 2015 Millennium Development Goals"
(2009-2015)

In support of the eight United Nations 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), all facets of the Wilmington (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated combined to implement a range of activities from 2009-2015 to address targeted UN issues at the local, national, and international levels. The MDGs were defined and agreed to by all 192 UN member states and 23 international organizations to achieve by 2015. These goals were in support of every individual worldwide having the right to dignity, freedom, equality, and a basic standard of living that includes freedom from hunger and violence and that encourages education, good health, tolerance and solidarity. The Chapter fully supported these 8 MDGs with outstanding programming using the theme of "All Hands on Deck for the UN 2015 Millennium Development Goals" and was recognized with a 1st place \$5000 International Trends and Services national award by The Links, Incorporated at the 2012 National Assembly.

MDG #1: End Hunger-Arranged for food to be donated to an orphanage (Karim Children's Care Center) in Arusha, Tanzania. Chapter coordinated securing 3,240 meals from Feed My Starving Children, transportation, and delivery to the orphanage. This was 230 meals for each of the 14 people at the orphanage.

MDG #2: Universal Education-Supported (financial & school supplies) Centre D'Etudes Classiques de Meyer (Haiti); Supported (school supplies & books) All Saints School (Belize); and Supported (financial) HBCU initiative with contributions to Voorhees College.

MDG #3: Gender Equality-Jointly sponsored "Walk to End Violence Against Women & Girls" with UN Women and UN Association.

MDG #4: Child Health- Purchased and installed a water purification system at Centre D'Etudes Classiques de Meyer (Haiti) using the \$5000 national award. The system provided clean water for school students and staff and the local community. Chapter also sponsored a Childhood Obesity Initiative and "Planting Seeds of Knowledge to Grow a Healthier Generation" initiative.

MDG #5: Maternal Health-Supported (financial) Maama Kits which were distributed worldwide through the World Health Organization to help prevent infections and death during childbirth.

MDG #6: Combat Diseases-Sponsored Childhood Obesity Initiative and "From Our Hearts to Yours" Initiative. Supported (financial) South African Diabetes Initiative .

MDG #7: Environmental Sustainability-Jointly sponsored "Taking Root" film screening with UN Association.

MDG #8: Global Partnership- Participated in Public Policy issues, Links Day at the Capital, and Darfur Letter Writing Campaign. Jointly sponsored activities with UN Women and UN Association.



Link Family Firsts

Link Edith Ward had the opportunity to be a very proud grandmother. Her granddaughter, Breanna, was recently featured on ABC's Good Morning America. Breanna was on a segment produced one morning during Christmas week in NYC on the west side of Manhattan with cold temperatures breezing around 30+ degrees...Burr.

Breanna is a trainer with *Equinox*, a Luxury Fitness Company. Their Global headquarters is in NYC, and their clientele is impressive. The EQUINOX theme is "*High Performance Living*". Breanna ran track and field from the age of eight, earning a four-year college scholarship. Although her degree is in English...Breanna loves the healthy exercise lifestyle. Link Edith remembers her running around trying to keep up with her as a little girl, but she was too fast for her. Quoting Link Edith, "Seeing Breanna on National TV and hearing that her ABC Interview was aired in NYC up on the 'BIG' Screen in Times Square where the **Crystal New Years Eve Ball** drops at midnight, was extremely exciting for our family....especially to me as a grandma."

Breanna has agreed to be a guest speaker/presenter for the HHS Facet during the month of February which highlights **Women's Heart Health Awareness Month**, and will be formally introduced at that time.

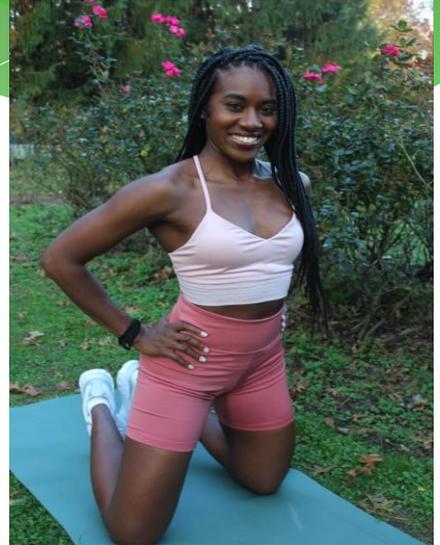
Here's the link for viewing the Good Morning America segment, featuring Breanna:

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/wellness/video/shake-off-holiday-treats-christmas-hiit-mas-workout-74857025>

<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Wellness/video/shake-off-holiday-treats-christmas-hiit-mas-workout-74857025>

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/wellness/video/shake-off-holiday-treats-christmas-hiit-mas-workout-74857025>

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Upcoming Chapter Activities

Executive Committee

Meeting- 2/9/2021

Chapter Meeting – 2/13/2021



Services to Youth Update

As a part of our mission to build knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), our Services To Youth Facet has invited students from local Title I schools to participate in the virtual monthly STEM sessions. Program participants would become members of the National Society of Black Engineers, Jr. NSBE Jr. is an engineering club for elementary, middle, and high school students that promotes science and technology. Promoting these subjects is completed by STEM learning and leadership experiences. The yearly membership extends to college and career through NSBE, allowing students to gain opportunities and connect with others in STEM careers.

Our first session of the year was held on Saturday, January 9, 2021. In this session, we focused on the job description of engineers and highlighted a few types of engineers. Our guest speaker for the session was Myron Lloyd, who is an engineer and currently serves as General Counsel (Attorney) for General Motors. Mr. Lloyd is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, located in Greensboro, NC. A & T was our featured Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) of the month.



Health and Human Services Update

The HHS Facet hosted Linkages to Life, a community presentation and chapter virtual education, in participation in our national initiative to increase organ and tissue donation. The chapter partnered with Carolina Donor Services, an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) as a collaborative partner to increase awareness of the need for organ donation for people of color.

The community presentation included speakers: Elder Christopher Clark, a minister and organ recipient; Link Sheri Shaw, an organ donor; and LaToya Joyner, Procurement Coordinator for Carolina Donor Services. The chapter received education from Ms. Joyner on organ donation and dispelled some myths regarding organ donation. Surveys conducted before and after both sessions showed an increase in consideration of organ donation. In addition, two chapter members have completed the required training for OPO volunteers.

