

# MBA NEWS

Minority Business Alliance of Southwest Michigan

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Erma Gordon, Executive Director

Chris Macon, advisor to Board of Directors

MonaLisa James, Event and Fund Development Chair

Nathan Bolton, Finance Chair

Robert Swartout, Networking and Membership Committee co-chair

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AT&T ~ Bank of America ~ Bronson Health Foundation ~ Fetzer Fund ~ Fifth Third Bank ~ Chemical Bank ~ Kalamazoo County Foundation ~ Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce ~ Kellogg ~ Local Initiative Support Corporation ~ Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation ~ Comerica Foundation ~ Borgess Health Alliance

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## Business Opportunity Forum

On July 15th, 2009 our organization sponsored a Small Business Opportunity Forum at the Fetzer Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Business owners came together to learn about different programs, grants, and other forms of assistance available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The main speaker was Ms. Carol Lopucki, State Director of the Michigan Network of Small Businesses and Technology Development centers. Her Keynote address was titled "Positioning your company: Recovery act and other resources". There were over 50 attendants participate in 10 different workshops. Participants had the opportunity to network with other small business owners and meet with key people. We received positive feedback of the informative and helpful meeting.

## MBA 7th Annual Business Expo



Brad Black, CEO HumaneX Ventures

Our 7th Annual Minority and Women-Owned Business Expo will be Thursday, October 8, 2009 and it will be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. This years theme is titled "Embracing Opportunities for a Sustainable Future." This program will be great for networking and showcasing your business. Our keynote speaker will be Brad Black, CEO of HumaneX Ventures, a human resource assessment, training consulting, research, and coaching firm based in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Registration is going on now. You may register online at our website, or by mailing your registration to the office, or even over the phone. Booths are filling up fast. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to explore over fifty business ventures that will peak your interest and imagination.

# KIDBIZ Young Entrepreneurs Graduation

KIDBIZ young Entrepreneurs is the first program in the state to offer the award-winning curriculum of The National Foundation for teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). Our curriculum is tailored around interests of your child helping them understand and relate to the material and apply what they've learned to the real world. Likewise it reinforces competencies in mathematics, reading & writing comprehension, and

strengthens team building, public speaking, Life skills and critical thinking skills

### Graduates names:

- JaaQwayla Hoskins (1st place winner)
- Hennessey Robinson ( 1st place winner)
- Dyneshia Anderson (2nd Place winner)
- Shera Reece (2nd place winner)
- Courtney Murry
- Jermont Reece
- Heaven Robinson
- Julius Robinson

Mari Wogoman

Registration for the fall KIDBIZ program is starting now. Start date is set to be October 13th.

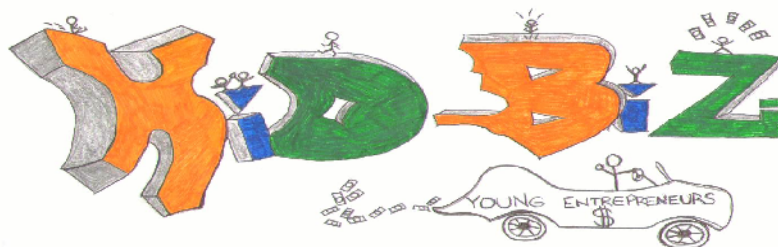
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Thanks to the following donors: Irving S. Gilmore foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Local Initiative Support Corporation, Comerica Foundation, East Side Neighborhood association, Bronson Healthcare Group, Community Development Block Grant 2009 Recovery funds and Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

# KIDBIZ Scholarship Program

Minority Business Alliance has been graciously blessed with the opportunity to establish a youth scholarship fund. The founding sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Chris and Charlotte Macon. Mr. Macon is the Assistance Vice President and Director of Affirmative Action/Community Relations at Fifth Third Bank. He has been an integral member of this organization for some time now. He was the board chair since 2004 and is currently an advisor to the board. He and his wife have a great passion for young people and the scholarship fund, in their name, will be used to support our graduates of our entrepreneurial program. The graduates will be able to use the

scholarship to further their business through research and marketing their products, goods, and services. We are asking the community to join us in donating matching funds to kick off this historic event. We plan to present the first scholarship award to a honored student during the breakfast of the 2009 Business Expo in October. Please support our students. Donations can be sent to our MBA Office at 435 Whitcomb Street Suit J, Kalamazoo MI 49001 or go online on our website under KIDBIZ. Donations are tax deductible. If you would like to be an honorable mention at the breakfast please send your contribution no later than September 20th, 2009.



## Business Member of the Month



Our highlighted business member of the month is Mr. Tony Smith. Mr. Smith, minister and Licensed Mortgage Broker, established a marketplace ministry entitled Seed and Harvest in 2003. Mr. Smith and his brother Roger T. Smith Sr. , began meeting with business leaders to share bible principals to great success and as they continued this work, they realized homeowners and other community members also needed to be aware of how to plant seeds of growth. The Smiths were inspired to combine their knowledge of real estate with their knowledge of biblical principles and provide opportunities to members of the Christian Community. In 2009, the Smiths developed [www.SeedandHarvest.biz](http://www.SeedandHarvest.biz), a Nationwide Christian Community Network that allows all members of the community to have growth and prosperity. They developed Our Marketplace Ministry, a variety of tools; members and businesses can use to generate income while maintaining a Kingdom mindset. Seed and Harvest has expanded to include offices in Huntsville, Alabama; South-west Michigan and Chicago, IL, with membership across the United States.

## Volunteer Recruitment

Minority Business Alliance is a non-profit organization that strives to do great things in business. Volunteers are an integral part of our organization. Whether assisting us in our daily office duties, or working with the children in KIDBIZ, or working with us

during our other programs, we continually value their hard work. We are currently seeking volunteers and mentors to be involved in our KIDBIZ program this coming fall. The volunteer training for this event will be September 24th at 12pm.

There is also a need for volunteers at our 7th Annual Business Expo coming up this October. The volunteer training for the Business Expo will be September 22 at 12pm.

## Key Donor Recognition

Our organization is greatly thankful for all those who support us , either through participating in our offered programs, membership in our organization, and especially those who sponsor us. We would like to recognize our key donors who have contributed to our organization for 5 years or more; Kellogg, Fifth Third Bank, Kalamazoo

Community Foundation, Local Initiative Support Corporation, and Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce. Their continued support has immensely contributed to our success.

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OUR WEBSITE

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United Together For  
Economic Success

MBA Staff

Erma Gordon, Executive Director

Sean Bell, Bookkeeper

Alecia Pollard, Administrative Support /  
Intern, Western Michigan University

Kim Borden, YOU participant  
Western Michigan University

Jimmy Brown, YOU student and  
KIDBIZ graduate

Jan Underhill, MBA member and  
Website Manager

MBA Volunteers

Dan P. McGlenn, ProBono Attorney

Ethel Serunjogi, Administrative Assistant

## Calendar of Events:

September 22nd: Business Expo Volunteer Training

September 24th: KIDBIZ volunteer training

Thursday October 8th: Business Expo

October 13th: KIDBIZ program starts

SEPTEMBER 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2009						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

