



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc.

Our mission is to enhance, maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community consistent with the culture and traditions of our diverse ancestral heritage.

DECEMBER

2024

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & THE VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH

in Florida, Inc.

Presents the 23rd Annual

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

CELEBRATION

Unity in the Arts: Bridging Divides with Creativity



Join us for breakfast and an

**ENLIGHTENING & INSPIRING
PROGRAM WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER
IDELL MCLAUGHLIN, PH.D.**

Featuring spectacular entertainment by

**COPELAND DAVIS,
BROADWAY STARS
& MUCH MORE.**

FREE

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025

Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am

Program begins at 10 am

ROYAL PALM BEACH CULTURAL CENTER

151 Civic Center Way

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411



For more information go to www.CAFCIPBC.org or contact
Jannette Sharpe-Paul at 561.229.5733 | Paul Baker at 561.385.0737



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President.....Dennis Wright
1st Vice PresidentGenieve White
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Shirley Morrison * Junette Powell
Max Smith * Barbara Walker

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AllianceGenieve White
Annual Friendship BallDennis Wright
Budget Radcliffe Brown
Bylaws Barbara Walker
CAFCI Home.....Radcliffe Browns
Cultural Jannette Sharpe-Paul
FinanceGenieve White
GrantsShirley Morrison
Historian/Protocol..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Membership..... Macaela Ferguson
Newsletter Junette Powell
..... & Thalia White Lauren
ParliamentarianNadine White-Boyd
Picnic..... Yvonne Wright
Program Rhonda Ferrin-Davis
Relay for Life..... Nova Brown
Student Assistance Fund Junette Powell
.....& Nadine White-Boyd
SunshinePaul Baker
Toys for TotsLauriston Simms
Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund.....
.....Genieve White
Website..... Radcliffe Brown
Youth Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

CONTACT US

Caribbean-American For
Community Involvement
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard
Suite #134
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.790.4002
cafcib@bellsouth.net
www.cafcib.org
www.facebook.com/cafcib

General Membership Meeting
2nd Saturday of month
Board Meeting
4th Thursday of month

See back page for calendar of events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

To all the members, friends and supporters who have contributed to the success of our beloved organization over the past 35 years, we are grateful for your willingness to give your time, energy and talents. Your support allows us to continue fulfilling our mission and serving our community. A special thanks to our new members. You are the light that illuminates the future. You give us hope and confidence that our organization and its commitment to service will continue. Your time, talent and enthusiasm are deeply appreciated. We look forward to your continued participation. Know that our doors are open to you at all times. We prize your energy, enthusiasm and vision. It is what will propel our organization forward and continue our work into future generations.

As we herald new memberships, we speak of the need for change and for the infusion brought about by new and younger members, and new ideas. As many of you may know, we have several board members who have served for many years and who would now like to step aside to enable other members to step up and assume leadership positions so they may continue the work of moving our organization forward. Those openings include positions as directors and officers of the organization, as well as the presidency—a position it has been my honor to have held for ten (10) years.

All of us, board members and the membership at-large, are committed to growing and strengthening this organization. We know the value of the work we do. We believe that each of us stands on the shoulders of community visionaries who preceded us. As such, an integral part of our work is to prepare the next generation to lead and fortify our organization so that it is equipped to serve the community into the coming years.

A Word of Recognition: To all who stepped up to chair committees and raise funds, thank you for your support. We have accomplished much, and we could not have done it without you. Your commitment has been singular and invaluable. I look forward to your active participation in the coming year.

To the membership at-large, our Board of Directors has several directors' slots open, and we are seeking candidates to fill those positions. If you are an enthused and dedicated member who would like to help us build and move our organization forward, please reach out to me. If you believe you have someone who would be an excellent candidate, give me a call. We want to hear from you. We are looking for those members who have a passion to serve and to make a difference in our community. If you have new ideas for strengthening our organization, it's time you came forward. We have tried and done a lot, but we haven't tried it all. We welcome new talent and new ideas.

Now to the business at hand:

Toys for Tots/Christmas Potluck: We encourage you to support our Toys for Tots Drive by bringing a new and unwrapped toy to our December meeting. We all know the excitement of Christmas mornings when our children and grandchildren rip open the new toys they have been given. Sadly, there are many children in our community who will not receive toys because their families are unable to provide them. Your gift will produce the joy and smiles that otherwise would have been missing in their households.

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| Winston McDonald | 02 |
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If you are a CAFCI member and notice that your birthday or the birthday of another member has not been acknowledged, please send an email to CAFCI (cafcj@bellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Audrey Campbell
Sybell Dawson



CONDOLENCES TO:

Jannette Sharpe-Paul
on the passing of her aunt, Lena Hall

Please Let Us Know...

We want our members to know that we, the Board and Sunshine Committee, are always here to support you. Please contact (or ask someone else to contact) one of our Sunshine Committee members if:

- you are ill or know of any CAFCI member who is ill or
- you have or know of a close family member of a CAFCI member who is ill or
- you have, or know of a CAFCI member who has, lost a family member.

Remember, if we are not notified, we cannot share it in the Newsletter or offer our support.

Paul Baker, Chair.....561.784.0067
Samuel Baxter.....561.358.3737
Elet Cyris.....561.791.9087

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 2)

Donate a gift today. Donated toys will be given to a needy group in our community. Interested in contributing, but not interested in shopping for a toy? If you would like to make a cash donation, we will be happy to purchase the toys for you. Please bring your donation, along with your favorite dish to share with the CAFCI family at our membership meeting on December 14th. Every gift matters, and every gift is appreciated. We thank you for your generosity in advance.

Side Note: Please be aware that we will not be hosting a New Year's event this year, but we send forth best wishes for a blessed and transformative New Year.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Newsletter Committee, we wish each member of CAFCI and their family a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy, Healthy and Productive New Year. May good health, happiness, love, and joy be yours.

Each and every one of us has accomplished great things in the past year, and as an organization we have outdone ourselves. We are proud of our accomplishments, and look forward to doing bigger and better things in the coming year. We are committed to service and are dedicated to community, knowing that what we do matters. It is our responsibility to empower and uplift our community and we are grateful to have been afforded this work.

Be Blessed. Be Loved. Be healthy and know that we are grateful for each and every one of you. You are our salvation, and you are our community's power and its heroes.



Dennis Wright

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

BOARD ELECTION | CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE | GAMES NIGHT

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7 pm

In-Person & Via Zoom

10287 Okeechobee Boulevard

Level-X Fitness Center - Suite A-5

Royal Palm Beach

*(located at the Target Plaza, corner of
Okeechobee Boulevard and State Road 7 / US 441)*

Join CAFCI for the General Membership meeting which will be focused on Toys for Tots, the Board Election and Christmas Potluck. Please bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots Drive, and a dish to share, as well as your favorite game(s). Since there will be no New Year's Eve celebration, this is our last get-together for the year, so wear your festive attire, and let's party like it's 1999 or a future that's even more promising and spectacular.

2025, we are ready, and we are here!

If you are unable to attend in person, join us via Zoom:

- Visit website: www.cafcipc.org
Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=dllNER0a2JuNlhtYUZI VkZzYmRSdz09>
- www.zoom.com Select "Join A Meeting" Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705

Call-In: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

Unity in the Arts: Bridging Divides with Creativity

Monday, January 20, 2025 at 8:30 am

Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center

The Cultural Committee and the Village of Royal Palm Beach are planning an exhilarating 23rd Annual MLK Day Celebration program on Monday, January 20th. The celebrations will begin at 8:30 am with a complimentary continental breakfast followed by the program at 10 am. This year's theme is "Unity in the Arts: Bridging Divides with Creativity." Look out for more information in the next issue of the newsletter and on CAFCI's website at www.cafcipc.org.

Congratulations! TO CAFCI MEMBERS

MARCIA ANDREWS on being selected to lead the Urban Schools Coalition. Ms. Andrews was elected to become Chair of the Council of the Great City Schools Board of Directors for a one-year term, effective July 1, 2024. See the full article in the July 25, 2024, edition of the Town Crier. Learn more about the Council of Great City Schools at www.cgcs.org.

Marcia Andrews was also honored by Free Spirit Outreach with their Community Service Award.

JEFF HMARA on being appointed Mayor of Royal Palm Beach on October 17th. Mayor Hmara will hold the gavel until a special election for the mayor's seat in March 2025.

LET'S DO BUSINESS

When we support a small business in our community or share a recommendation about that business' services and excellence, we help that business to grow; and in helping that business to grow, we help our community to grow. We show by virtue of our dollars and our support, that a business is reputable, valuable, and worthy of patronage.

Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.



BAKES N BALLOONS

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Maureen Rowe-Parchment

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Event Planner

Specialties

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Balloon Arches, Centerpieces & Columns

561.310.1833

bakesnballoons@gmail.com

If you would like to recommend a business to be featured in the "Let's Do Business" section in our Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee so that we can share it with our members.

- junettep56@gmail.com or
- thaliaec@gmail.com

CAFCI'S VALUES STATEMENT

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement acknowledges and honors the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and pledges itself to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences. We believe in giving a voice to all people and respecting all people regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background. We support the participation in and promotion of events that lead to respect and mutual understanding among the various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in our community. We believe in promoting honesty and integrity by being transparent in all our dealings, having fun and fellowship with each other while volunteering and caring for the young and elderly and helping those in need.

DISCLAIMER: *The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views and opinions of CAFCI's members and/or the Newsletter Committee members.*

CAFCI MEMBERS... *If you would like to share the accomplishments of a close relative (e.g., child, grandchild, niece and/or nephew) with your CAFCI Family in the "Our Children Are Our Future" section of the NEWS, please provide the information to Paul Baker (email: ujama4@aol.com or phone 561.784.0067). If there is any other information you would like included in the NEWS, please submit the information to Junette Powell (junettep56@gmail.com).*

IMPORTANT: *Include "CAFCI NEWS" in the subject line when sending e-mails. Inclusion of articles submitted will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee and based on space availability.*

Member Spotlight



Have You Met ... MARVA WILKS?



JAMAICA W. I.

From the time she was a little girl growing up with her Rastafarian grandmother in Nine Mile, Bull Bay in St. Andrew, Jamaica, Marva Wilks has been an education champion. She has distinct memories from that time, including memories of reggae music superstar Bob Marley parking his Volkswagen in her grandmother's yard on his way to play football, and of Freddy McGregor, before he got big in music, tutoring her uncle in math.

But a memory that is more fondly etched in her mind and that seems to have been a sign of the future to come, is of herself lining up soda bottles and mango seeds in front of her bedroom door when she was five or six years old.

She laughs recalling: "I would always get in trouble for writing on the door. I would pretend the door was my chalkboard and the bottles and mango seeds were my students, and I would write big white letters and numbers on the door with my white marl chalk and ask the students questions."

It was from that time that Marva developed a love of reading and writing, and a fierce belief in the power of education to transform lives.

She says "I've always believed education was the gateway to opportunity and to future success, and I'm not talking only about a college education. It could be an education in HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), or as a bricklayer, but if there is a field you are interested in, you must educate yourself in it if you want to progress."

Marva emigrated from Jamaica to the United States—Connecticut—as a young teen, and shortly afterwards she and her family moved to Florida. She attended Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, and later went to college at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, and then to Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida.

Her belief in education as a way to secure a better future became more entrenched in college and she decided to major in education, earning first a bachelor's and then a master's in the subject. She later acquired certification as an education specialist.

The use of digital tools and online learning platforms was rapidly expanding when Marva graduated. Sensing a need for a bridge between educators and the new technologies, Marva decided to create an education technology consulting firm that would train educators how to successfully use the newest technology resources.

Over the next twenty years Marva did just that, travelling to different states, and training administrators, principals, teachers, and other education professionals on how to master the new technologies.

Six years ago, Marva shifted gears and became the Program Manager for the Miami-Dade School District's education technology programs, serving some 400 schools throughout the district and educating administrators and educators in how to use data management systems, analytics' tools, online platforms, and other education technologies more effectively.

Her work is both in-person and virtual, with her traveling to different schools to provide in-person instruction when needed, but doing much of her training via Zoom and other digital platforms.

Marva says she loves her work because it improves academic systems and gives educators and administrators the tools to create even greater results in their work.

She says as a child she could not have imagined the career she has created: "I don't think there's a road map for this, honestly. It is purely based on my passion. I put myself in the learner's shoes all the time. I think, "What if that was me? What would I want? How would I want to learn? And I go from there. I want my work to be meaningful and to give people the tools to improve their lives."

Marva's passion for teaching has been such that for many years, even while running her consulting firm, she worked at several Florida universities as an adjunct, teaching English, World Literature, and other subjects.

Not content with merely sharing the gift of education through her work, she also started a nonprofit, Education Gateway Foundation, which she ran with her husband, Wayne Wilks, for five years.

Through Gateway, the couple was able to provide scholarships, uniforms, books and school fees for school children in Jamaica. Over the course of its existence, the foundation sponsored students in 13 schools throughout the island, from grades 6-11, paying the annual school expenses for promising young scholars whose families were economically challenged.

Gateway served some 100 students before disbanding in 2019. Many of those students have since gone on to academic success at university.

Marva says the nonprofit is something she'd like to resume in the future when she has more time. "The gratitude was unbelievable and knowing we had opened the door to opportunity for so many was overwhelming."

Where she finds the time is a wonder, but Marva stays busy. She is active in multiple volunteer efforts, including serving as a member of CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee and raising annual funds for graduating Palm Beach County high school seniors to attend college. She is a youth advisor for her sorority, Delta Epsilon Zeta, mentoring girls ages 9-13 in leadership development, and she serves as the sorority's Z-Hope coordinator, finding opportunities for her sorority sisters to serve in the community.

Marva is a member of the Urban League Guild, is active in her church, and often offers her services as a mortgage loan officer—a certification she obtained during COVID—for free to community members seeking to purchase a home.

She and her husband are high school sweethearts. She says he is her cheerleader and partner in all business and community-service ventures. His work is also in service to the community. She explains: "Wayne is a probation supervisor. He also volunteers in a fatherhood program that teaches formerly incarcerated fathers how to re-establish relationships with their children."

The couple has three children and celebrated their 30th anniversary in May.

Marva has been a CAFCI member for ten years, and a member of the Student Assistance Fund Committee for six. She credits the SAF Committee SAF with providing vital resources to students. "If I could encourage anyone reading this to do any one thing, it would be to contribute \$100, or whatever amount they can, to the Student Assistance Fund before the March fundraising deadline," she says. Those funds, makes a tremendous difference in our young people's lives."

Written by Max Smith, Newsletter Committee Member

Member Spotlight is an opportunity to share your story. If you would like to be featured or have someone to recommend, please email us at: junettep56@gmail.com or thaliaec@gmail.com.

Thanks, CAFCI family. We look forward to shining the spotlight on you.

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

CAFCI and the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee would be honored to recognize the accomplishments of its members and/or their relatives. Please share your good news with us and we will publish it as space permits.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

EMPOWERING YOUTH & INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Each year the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee offers deserving Palm Beach County high school seniors the opportunity to apply for a monetary "Student Assistance Award" from CAFCI. We need your help! A donation of any amount will help CAFCI's SAF Committee reach its fundraising goal. To donate to the Student Assistance Fund and/or sponsor an award recipient, you can use one of the methods listed below:

1. Mail check payable to CAFCI, Attention: SAF (write "SAF" on your check on the notes line to make sure it is posted to the SAF program), 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411.
2. Donate online at <https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center>. Select the Student Assistance option.
3. Support SAF Golden Krust "Dining to Donate": Patronize Golden Krust between November 1st and December 13th and 10% of your purchase (excluding seafood and oxtail meals) will be donated to CAFCI's SAF. VERY IMPORTANT: Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. The coupon is below which can be duplicated.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND APPLICATION

Applications are now being accepted for students graduating in 2025. Go to the Student Assistance Fund tab of CAFCI's webpage (<https://www.cafcipbc.org/student-assistance>) for a link to the application form OR access online fillable forms in PDF format by clicking <https://www.cafcipbc.org/student-assistance>. Please share the application with Palm Beach County's graduating seniors, and your friends and family.

Deadline to apply is February 28, 2025.



Golden Krust[®]

CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT

DINING TO DONATE

Dine or shop at Golden Krust, present this coupon and
10% of your bill will be donated to

**Caribbean-American For Community Involvement
STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND**

Valid: November 1 through December 13, 2024

***6901 Okeechobee Blvd, #B2, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
GOLDENKRUST.COM**

*Valid ONLY at the location mentioned above. Must present this coupon for the organization to receive credit.
Excludes seafood and oxtail meals.



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement, in Florida, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) Organization – (EIN #65-0965408)

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Suite #134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
www.cafcipbc.org • E-mail: cafci@bellsouth.net • Phone: 561.790.4002
Follow us on Facebook

December 10, 2024

Dear Prospective Student Assistance Fund Donor:

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) continues its more than 34 years of service to the community. CAFCI, a 501(c)(3) organization, functions due to 100% of dedicated volunteers and is committed to advancing our youths' higher education. For the past 30 years, CAFCI has raised funds to assist well deserving college-bound high school students in our communities to achieve their educational goals. Your financial donation and dedication to CAFCI will help to open college doors to students. With your financial support, CAFCI will be able to award between \$500 to \$1,500 to each deserving student.

Many ambitious students are denied access to a college education due to financial constraints. As you can imagine, many high school students may hold the key to a cure for a disease but may never have the opportunity to maximize their potential. Many have innovative ideas for probable solutions to social problems, yet may never have a chance to expand on them. Others are discouraged simply because the first step to higher education may seem financially impossible.

CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund Committee is requesting your financial help. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of our youth as your donation will not only provide hope for more students but will also help to ease their financial burden. We look forward to receiving your life-changing contribution to help with assisting students as they embark on one of their lifelong endeavors to begin college. We will publicly acknowledge you on our *List of Donors*. **You may make your donation online by going to www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center and select **Student Assistance** or by mailing your donation by April 30, 2025, to:**

CAFCI
Attn: Student Assistance Fund
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite 134
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

For more information about our organization and past recipients, please visit our website at www.cafcipbc.org/studentassistanceprogram. Thank you in advance for your donation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 561.790.4002.

Respectfully,

Leonie Escoffery

Leonie Escoffery
Treasurer, Student Asst. Committee

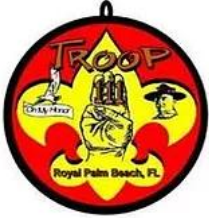
Junette Powell

Junette Powell
Co-Chair, Student Asst. Committee

Dennis Wright

Dennis Wright
President, CAFCI

CAFCI SCOUTS + TROOP 111



Greetings CAFCI!

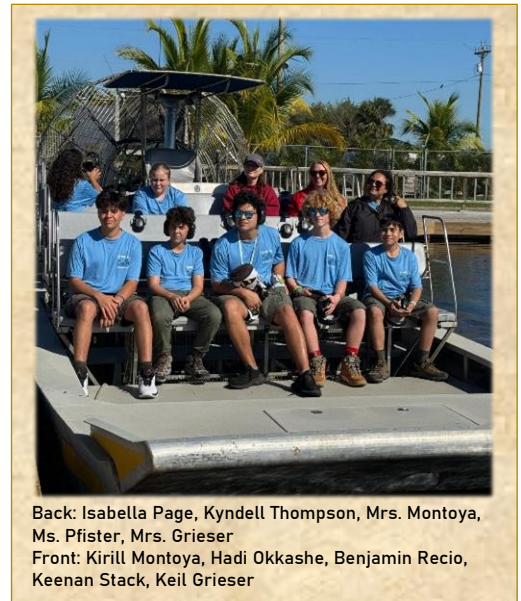
Troop 111 had quite a few things happening this November. These events were enjoyable for all who participated. We kicked off the month with our annual Scouting for Food event where we left door hangers on many houses in neighborhoods in our area to collect non-perishable food for a local food bank. On the following Saturday we went around and collected all the food that was left out to be donated. CAFCI'S Pack 111 also participated in both weekend events. Together we collected 1,707 pounds of food.



Haroon Almasoodi

As is tradition, we had our annual Mystery Campout this month. We had an amazing turnout where almost the entire troop attended. I can safely say that everyone had an amazing time, considering all we did; from our awesome time on our airboat ride, to getting to watch alligator wrestling, to the hike through the Everglades in search of Bigfoot. In addition to all of this, we were invited to join another

group in their campfire, where we showed them how we like to end our day at camp with skits and songs. We are looking forward to an awesome December!



Back: Isabella Page, Kyndell Thompson, Mrs. Montoya, Ms. Pfister, Mrs. Grieser
Front: Kirill Montoya, Hadi Okkashe, Benjamin Recio, Keenan Stack, Keil Grieser



Landon Girard
Senior Patrol Leader



To apply for membership in BSA Troop 111
or to volunteer for scouting, visit
<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-085taa0111>

"On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." - Scout Oath

"A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." - Scout Law

During these times, more than ever, please help us put a smile on our children's faces.



CAFCI's TOYS FOR TOTS CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

**Deadline
Dec. 15, 2024**



**Also Need....
Wrapping Paper
Gift Bags
Tape & Tags**

NEWBORN TO 18 YEARS

Drop-off unwrapped toys at the CAFCI Office

675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

or

Donate online and we will shop for you.

Go to cafcipbc.org/donation-center and select "Toy Drive"

or

Call Simms at 561.719.0263 for pick-up.

**Your donation will help make a difference
in the life of a child from our surrounding communities.**

WAYS TO SUPPORT CAFCI . . . WE NEED YOU!!!

CAFCI website: <https://www.cafcipc.org/donation-center>

GoFundMe: Visit <https://gofund.me/7319cf9a> • Please share with your friends and family.

HAVE YOU JOINED OR RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCI???

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$80 • Couple - \$140)

Submit your membership dues online at: <https://www.cafcipc.org/membership-dues> OR

Mail to: CAFCI

Attention: Lawrence Logan,

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

A For C.A.F.C.I.



In August we were presented with an opportunity to purchase a condo unit. Unfortunately, we were unable to close the deal due to a lack of available funds or a letter of commitment for a mortgage. This incident magnifies the need for our organization to be able to demonstrate a more significant and consistent stream of income, if we are to obtain a commitment letter.

As such, be on the lookout for a call-for-assistance as we enter another phase in our efforts to purchase a Home of Our Own. One option we are considering: setting up a for-profit business as a means for generating steady income.

*Participation in the **Home of Our Own** project is available through the Buy-A-Brick program. Visit the web page at www.cafcipc.org and click on the “Home of Our Own” tab or call Radcliffe “Woody” Brown at 561.791.3344 for more information. We have made it easier to take part in the program by facilitating monthly payments to buy a brick. Monthly payments of \$50 for a \$1,000 brick and \$150 for a \$3,000 brick are available.*



Scan QR Code to Support
CAFCI's Home Of Our Own

Despite the above setback the search for a property continues, with a primary focus on lease-to-own options, including the possibility of purchasing land or commercial condominiums. Another option being considered is jointly purchasing and sharing a property with a partner organization, thereby reducing the cost of acquisition.

If you have information about an available property, or about a potential investor (or investors) who may be able to help with funding, email cafcipc@bellsouth.net, and copy radcliffewoody@aol.com, or call 561.790.4002 and leave a message.

Submitted by Radcliffe “Woody” Brown, CAFCI Home Of Our Own Chair

HAPPY KWANZAA

KWANZAA IS A WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION THAT HONORS AFRICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, PRIMARILY OBSERVED IN THE UNITED STATES. IT TAKES PLACE FROM DECEMBER 26 TO JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, CULMINATING IN A FESTIVE GATHERING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

ON EACH NIGHT A CANDLE IS LIT TO OBSERVE THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA.



RED CANDLES
Kujichagulia (self-determination)
Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
Kuumba (creativity)

BLACK CANDLE
Umoja (unity)

GREEN CANDLES
Ujima (collective work & responsibility)
Nia (purpose)
Imani (faith)



HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

Let's face it: Holiday shopping isn't for everyone. Choosing a thoughtful present for each person on your gift list can be time-consuming and frustrating — even without the added pressure of (hopefully) staying within the budget you've set.

Whether you eagerly look forward to Black Friday and Cyber Monday each year or adopt a "Bah humbug" attitude between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, we've come up with some savvy holiday shopping tips to make this year's shopping experience stress free, budget friendly, and — dare we say? — enjoyable.

1) Set your budget before you start holiday shopping--Even if you're not planning to limit your holiday spending, it's a good idea to have a set holiday shopping budget in mind. *Don't forget to include the cost of Secret Santa or group swap gifts (and remember — you don't have to spend the full amount).*

- 2) Make your holiday shopping list ahead of time—Know exactly who you need gifts for before heading to the store or browsing online. Not only will it save you time—it'll preserve your sanity (and your bank account). Divide your holiday shopping list into categories: immediate family, relatives, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, teachers/service providers (babysitter, mailman, the Amazon delivery driver who comes to your house daily) and check off each name once you purchase their gift. *Pro tip: Be practical. If you don't know someone well enough to know what they'd like, consider whether you should even buy them a gift, or whether a handwritten note would be just as meaningful.*
- 3) Know the best time to shop during the holidays--A gift-buying schedule is a great way to avoid feeling overwhelmed during the holiday season. You'll need to consider when you should start your holiday shopping, obviously the fewer weeks (or days) you have left, the more gifts you'll likely need to purchase in a short time. *Keep in mind that you'll need to prioritize time-sensitive gifts: think teachers, colleagues, friends, service providers—anyone you'll need to gift before the actual holiday.*
- 4) Find ways to save on holiday shopping--Is the best deal available online or in store? Is now the best time to buy that gift? It might be a better idea to wait until next July—when furniture tends to be on sale—and give it to him for his birthday. Perhaps an interim gift is best until the apt time for the Big Gift's purchase arrives.
- 5) Consider DIY gifts--Not only could homemade gifts save you money during the holidays, but they'll feel much more personal to the recipient than the same item bought in a store. *Pro tip: Plan ahead to give yourself enough time to purchase needed materials or ingredients and to make the gifts*
- 6) Don't rule out secondhand gifts--If you have a family member or friend who's a collector or routinely shops in thrift stores, chances are you can find unique, low-cost gifts at thrift stores, yard sales ... even in your own home! *Be certain that the recipient will appreciate a gently-used gift.*
- 7) Avoid last-minute holiday shopping--Holiday shopping can be stressful enough on its own. But compounding that stress by waiting until the last minute to purchase gifts is probably not your best move. The closer you get to the actual holiday, the greater the chance that availability and selection will be limited (or nonexistent), especially for "hot" items. Give yourself every opportunity to enjoy the holiday season by starting your shopping as early as possible. *Need another reason to shop sooner, than later? Inflated "holiday" shipping costs. Overnight shipping can sometimes cost more than the item itself! So shop early and save money and the likelihood of an avoidable headache.*

A few more holiday gifting suggestions--Know how much you want to spend, but not sure what to get? Click on the link below for some gift ideas categorized by price. Source: <https://www.citizensbank.com/learning/7-smart-holiday-shopping-tips.aspx>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR CAFCI'S EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Please check the current issue of the NEWS and the website.

Saturday, December 14th at 7 pm; Hybrid
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Board Election | Christmas Potluck | Toys for Tots Drive | Games Night

Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 7 pm; Hybrid
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Board Swearing-In

Monday, January 20th at 8:30 am
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION
Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center

Saturday, February 8th at 7 pm; Hybrid
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, March 8th at 7 pm; Hybrid
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 12th
CAFCI ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, April 26th
VAFMSF DIVINE WINE & HIGH TEA PARTY
Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center

Saturday, May 10th
CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

Saturday, June 14th at 7 pm; Hybrid
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AROUND TOWN

- Saturday, December 14th, 7:30 am – 2 pm | GOLDEN KRUST CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY**. Join us for traditional food and live broadcast and Breakfast with Bro Garry. Lots of prizes and surprises. 6901 Okeechobee Blvd., #B2, West Palm Beach (corner of Jog Road & Okeechobee Blvd.)
- 3rd Wednesday of the month | CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH presents **SOUL OF THE CITY JAZZ EXPERIENCE**, Lake Pavilion, 101 S. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL. For more information, go to <https://downtownwpb.com/jazz/>
- Visit the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County at <https://www.palmbeachculture.com/events> for upcoming events and activities.
- Visit the Kravis Center at <https://www.kravis.org/> for upcoming events.
- Events in Wellington, go to <https://aroundwellington.com/>
- Events in West Palm Beach, go to <https://downtownwpb.com/explore/calendar/>

Happy New Year

CAFCI

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On behalf of CAFCI Board and members of the
Newsletter Committee, we wish you a

Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year!

We're still here, alive, thriving, loving, living, and experiencing life's challenges and more than we ever imagined and overcoming it. We are Blessed and we are Formidable! We are a gift from GOD and how grateful are we? In truth, we cannot enumerate our thanks.

We thank God, our families, and our community, and we commit to doing all that we can to move our community forward, and to demonstrate via our deeds our gratitude for all that we have been gifted by our forefathers who fought, struggled, and overcame so that we could be here and live to accomplish our finest dreams.

All the best in 2025 family! Forward ever, Backwards never! GOD Bless, preserve and protect you, your family, and our community, and all that we love and live for! We are faithful, optimistic, committed to change, and we believe—in us, and our power and ability; yes, we believe!