

Thank you for joining a nationwide movement to honor the elders in your family by capturing their stories through oral history interviews in this FAMILY MENTORING MISSION STATEMENT ACTIVITY.

Please read the instructions below in its entirety for the smoothest process possible before beginning the activity on page 6.

ACTIVITY ONE – INTERVIEW

Select the Elder you will interview

- Agree on a date and time convenient for the elder; and, show up at least 30 minutes early. [Holidays are a great time for this activity]
- Do not surprise the elder. [Encourage elders who witness this process to join in if desired. (This will increase the number of family interviews obtained.)
 - **Take a Photo (required)**
 - Take a photo of the person interviewed.
 - Take a separate photo of the person interviewed with the person conducting the interview.
 - **Write an Essay (required)**
- Document your experience in a one-page essay [or more if desired].

The photos and essay should be exhibited during a Black History Month celebration during the month of February; then, find other events throughout the year to conduct a presentation to others [including family members not present at the interview] about your findings.

- **Video Instructions** (preferred but not required)
 - Review and follow instructions on pages one through four for this option shared in the “ADDITIONAL FAMILY INSTRUCTIONS” document provided.
- **Historical Biographical Data Form (Suggested Question Protocol)**
 - This form, found on Page Three - Five, provides questions that will guide your interview process. We are encouraging you to include the younger generation to conduct the interview.
 - Become familiar with this data form in advance of your interview. This will ensure you will deliver the questions without stumbling over them.
 - Consider filling out the form in advance with interviewee so that they will be familiar with possible questions.
- Do not make this a surprise to the one being interviewed.
- Share a copy of interview when completed with the Elder.

- **Plan a family activity to share the interview**
 - Example: If you conduct your interview during the Spring, Summer, or Thanksgiving holiday, then share it during the Christmas season.
 - Family reunions and other times of the year are excellent as well; it's your choice.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Save this interview in a secure place immediately. This is the time to decide where family treasures are stored.

ACTIVITY TWO – FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT ACTIVITY

- **Page Six** begins the instructions for the family mission statement activity.
 - This activity can be the beginning of starting anew mentoring within the family. (page ten is a mentoring guide providing important points about being a mentor—share it broadly in your family—visit this document often.)
- **Page Eight** you will find the actual questions to ask when developing the mission statement with your family.

END OF INSTRUCTIONS

Share this activity with your friends, neighbors, colleagues, church family, etc. Let's help restore the Village Concept that was so popular and effective in our neighborhoods in the past. This activity begins the process of bringing our families together to help make this world a better place to live.

Enjoy!

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM

FAMILY MENTORING MISSION STATEMENT ACTIVITY

A resource for retrieving information in advance of OR during your interview.

NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED

RESIDING IN CITY STATE ZIP

AGE: 65 – 70 71 – 75 76 – 80 81 – 85 86 – 90 91 – 95 96 – 100

GENDER: Female Male

MARITAL STATUS: Single Married Divorced Widow (er)

NUMBER OF: Children: _____ Grandchildren: _____ Great Grandchildren: _____

EDUCATION (Highest level completed):

Elementary School Middle School (through 8th grade) High School College Graduate School

MILITARY SERVICE: Yes No

(If yes) BRANCH

DATES

OCCUPATION (If Retired, Former Main Occupation)

Name as many occupations as possible on line below beginning with your main occupation listed first—describe duties:

Memberships (Any organization Interviewee belongs to)

FAMILY HERITAGE:

Where family originated _____

Interviewee can trace his/her family back to what year _____

To this century: 1700s 1800s 1900s

FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD:

Continent	Country	State
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Circle ETHNIC BACKGROUND (includes):

African American Caucasian Native American Hispanic Asian Other

Circle NEIGHBORHOOD (Interviewee's current neighborhood is primarily) Integrated

African American Caucasian Native American Hispanic Asian Other

Circle ECONOMIC SELF CLASSIFICATION: (Interviewees considers him/herself to be):

Upper Class Middle Class Working Class Disadvantaged Other

INTERVIEWEE HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING HISTORIC MILESTONES OF THE 20TH CENTURY SPECIFICALLY EFFECTING AFRICAN AMERICANS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Migration of African Americans from the south to the north | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor People's Campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti discrimination protests prior to the 1950s | <input type="checkbox"/> Million Man March |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights demonstrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Million Woman's March |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March on Washington, 1963 | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Lives Matter Movement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wars or Support of War Efforts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

Have you heard of Carter G. Woodson? If so, in what capacity?

Did your school celebrate Negro History Week?

Did your teachers use the *The Negro in Our History* as a textbook in your classroom in either elementary, middle or high school?

Share anything you knew about Dr. Woodson.

Activities participated when young: hobbies, sports, significant childhood experiences, awards accomplishments?

List activities:

Awards: _____

Significant childhood experiences:

Family Mentoring – The Village Concept Restored

*Let truth destroy the dividing prejudices of nationality and teach universal love
without distinction of race, merit or rank. Carter G. Woodson*

MISSION STATEMENT: To reach as many families as possible with this activity as a means of helping families become intentional about their purpose in life as individuals and as a family unit serving their community.

PURPOSE OF THIS ACTIVITY

(HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD READ THIS STATEMENT TO FAMILY PARTICIPANTS BEFORE BEGINNING ACTIVITY.)

Everyone has a reference point. We learn how to act, how to react, and how to live our lives from our orientation family—the place where we had our beginning. Your morals and values [or lack thereof] started with your orientation family. When a family unit does not set in motion a “mission” for their family, they go through life never intentionally seeking or even thinking about their purpose. That is the purpose of this activity—to get families to begin becoming intentional about their goals as a family and putting each individual member of their family on a mission to figure out their individual purpose in life starting at a very young age, for those who still have young families, and beginning that path for those who are older but have never discovered their purpose in life. This activity will start families thinking about what their family should look like and how their family can serve the community in a positive way from this point forward.

This activity will also provide an opportunity to introduce Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson and the Association he founded in 1915 to as many people as possible. [Activity started during ASALH’s centennial, September 9, 2015, and continues today]. ASALH’s mission is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. They are the keepers of our history since 1915—the founders of Negro History Week now celebrated as Black History Month. This is the piece of United States history that has been largely ignored and left out of our text books. This activity will have far reaching affects on our families and communities. It is our hope to help get our families back on track as leaders in our communities, as leaders in partnership with the school and church community. If we strengthen families, our churches, schools and communities will also be strengthened as well. Mentoring is a legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s institution, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (formerly Negro Life and History (ASNLH) 1915). Although Dr. Woodson never married nor had biological children, he was a true family man and his relatives often shared, through documentation, his strong sense of family.

Everyone, no matter how old or young, needs a mentor and a true understanding of who they are. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said “**Intelligence plus character...**that is the goal of true education.” Dr. Carter G. Woodson once said “the mere imparting of information is not education. The effort must result in making a man think and do for himself.” There-in lies the purpose of this family mentoring activity. Our nation is out of control because integrity has been put on a shelf by many who hold leadership positions in this country. Integrity—doing the right thing even when no one is looking. We line the halls of Government agencies, operate cash registers at grocery stores, take cash payments at gas stations, pack groceries at commissaries, act as tellers at bank counters, serve as teachers in classrooms, sit on church pews Sunday after Sunday—the list goes on and on. But, what positive mark are we making on a nation that appears so totally out of control? Do most people even believe they can make a difference as an individual? What are we teaching the children by the lives we live?

So where do we start—we start at home with the family. Even if you are single, the same applies—you are the head of your household so it is important for our single family head of households to conduct this activity as well. Let’s begin our journey. Follow the instructions provided.

INSTRUCTIONS – FAMILY MENTORING MISSION STATEMENT ACTIVITY

People do not set out to be great...the decisions they make starting with their childhood lead to their greatness. Let's look at the Father of Black History and a pioneer of multiculturalism, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson's childhood. Dr. Woodson's example is a great one—his journey to greatness was set in place because he was intentional about working hard to achieve his goals. His parents were formerly enslaved in Virginia and experienced poverty. Dr. Woodson, born ten years after slavery was abolished, was strongly influenced by the example set by his father and mother who taught him to work hard, be persistent in overcoming obstacles, and maintain a faith in God that would sustain him in spite of his circumstances. [Conduct this team building activity with your family and learn more about Dr. Woodson's point of reference gained from his orientation family.]

https://kiamshayouth.org/kyeo/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Tools-for-Teachers_Team-Building-1.pdf

https://kiamshayouth.org/kyeo/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Tools-for-Teachers_Team-Building-2.pdf

Let's visit our orientation family—that is the family where you were raised. What types of examples were in your home because your journey to where you are now started there. Think about it and jot down some examples of what you have learned and become because of your orientation.

Now, conduct the Family Mission Statement Activity with your family (or as an individual as head of your household) using the questions provided. (page 90 from *Before and Beyond the Niagara Movement: As the Youth See It* is included in this package.)

- Make sure every family member provides input so your final mission statement will reflect the entire family's thoughts and desires for the family.
- Answer every question on the mission statement activity and record the answers for reference.
- Once your mission statement is completed, frame it and hang it prominently in your home, visible to your family and to those who may visit your home.
- Encourage each other to live daily by the mission statement you have developed as a family.

End of instructions.

END ACTIVITY WITH THIS STATEMENT:

Start building your family mentoring goals around this mission statement. Become a mentor to each other in the family and make sure you personally have a mentor as well, no matter how old you are. Then become the example that the world needs as a family unit and as an individual. Let's help our nation and the world strengthen as many families as possible as we join the United Nations in their celebration of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 – 2024) and evaluate what this has meant, first to our individual family, and then to our overall community—a community of one race, the human race.

FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT – WHAT IS IT?

Create a mission statement for your family using the following questions as a guide.

- What is the purpose of our family?
- What kind of family do we want to be?
- What kinds of things do we want to do?
- What kind of feeling do we want to have in our home?
- What kind of relationships do we want to have with one another?
- What things are truly important to us as a family?
- What are our family's highest priorities/goals?
- What are the unique talents, gifts, and abilities of family members?
- What are our responsibilities as family members?
- What are the principles and guidelines we want our family to follow?
- Who are our heroes? What is it about them that we like and would like to emulate?
- What family members inspire us, and why do they inspire us?
- What families inspire us, and why do we admire them?
- How can we contribute to society as a family and become more service-orientated?
- ADD YOUR OWN STATEMENT(S)/COMMON VISION(S)

MISSION STATEMENT SAMPLE ONE

- Value honesty with others and ourselves
- Create an environment where each of us can find support and encouragement achieving our life's goals
- Respect and accept each person's unique personality and talents
- Promote a loving, kind, and happy atmosphere
- Support family endeavors that better society
- Maintain patience through understanding
- Always resolve conflicts with each other rather than harboring anger
- Promote the realization of life's treasures

MISSION STATEMENT SAMPLE TWO

- To love each other
- To help each other
- To believe in each other
- To wisely use our time, talents, and resources to bless others
- To worship together forever

MISSION STATEMENT SAMPLE THREE

Our family will be a place where we, along with our friends and guests, find joy, comfort, peace, and happiness. We will seek to create a clean and orderly environment that is livable and comfortable. We will exercise wisdom in what we choose to eat, read, see, and do at home. We want to teach our children to love, learn, laugh, and work and develop their unique talents.

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT MENTORING REMEMBER:

- **YOU CANNOT LEAD SOMEONE WHERE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN.**
- **YOU CAN ONLY LEAD TO YOUR LEVEL OF CAPABILITY.**
- **AT THAT POINT, ENCOURAGE MENTEE TO SEEK HELP AND WORK WITH THEM TO FIND THAT HELP. (NEVER BE AFRAID OR EMBARRASSED TO SAY "I DON'T KNOW"...BUT, NEVER LEAVE A MENTEE HANGING—USE HISTORICAL TRUTH AS A GUIDE OR GO TO SOMEONE WITH WISDOM AND INTEGRITY WHO CAN HELP.)**
- **NEVER ALLOW MENTEE TO DISRESPECT THEIR PARENTS OR AUTHORITY FIGURE.**
- **NEVER SAY ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT THEIR PARENT OR AUTHORITY FIGURE.**
- **LOVE IS THE KEY; SHARE THE MEANING OF LOVE (LOVE IS AN ACTION WORD—IT IS UNCONDITIONAL) AND THE ADVANTAGES OF SHOWING LOVE EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT SHOWN TO YOU.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: MENTORING IS A COMMITMENT. DON'T BEGIN IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO FINISH. BEING A MENTOR TAKES FOCUS, PLANNING AND DEDICATION.

THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN ADVISING YOUR MENTEE (in this order):

1. **What's the problem?**
2. **What have you done to solve the problem?**
3. **What can I do to help?**

MENTORING:

- **IS NOT AN EASY TASK**
- **INSTEAD IS A DIFFICULT BUT FULFILLING, ENJOYABLE, TIME CONSUMING (IN THE BEGINNING) TASK**
- **REMINDEE MENTEE THAT NO ONE IS PERFECT AND**
- **NEVER PRESENT YOURSELF AS PERFECT (YOU MUST BE ASTUTE IN THE CONCEPT OF "MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE")**
- **HELP YOUR MENTEE SEE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN EVERY SITUATION**
- **SEEK TO MOVE YOUR MENTEE TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, NOT DEPENDENCE ON YOU. (THIS INDEPENDENCE IS THEIR INDEPENDENT REALIABILTY ON THEIR INNATE ABILITIES)**
- **YOU CAN DO IT—BUT ONLY YOU CAN DETERMINE WHEN.**

REMEMBER: EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A MENTOR? PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO IT AND CHOOSE SOMEONE YOU ADMIRE TO BE YOUR MENTOR. ADMIRATION OF THIS PERSON IS NOT JUST MATERIAL WEALTH AND WORLDLY SUCCESS; BUT, SUCCESS BASED ON OBEDIENCE. REMEMBER, DEFINITION OF GOOD SUCCESS IS KNOWING WHO YOU ARE, DISCOVERING YOUR PURPOSE AND LIVING YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO THAT PURPOSE.