

# 8TH ANNUAL BLACK FAMILY REUNION CELEBRATION TO BRING NEW EMPHASIS ON WAYS FAMILIES WORK TO OVERCOME ADVERSITY

Sharing the many ways families work to solve problems and build stronger communities will be the focus of the 8th annual Black Family Reunion Celebration, which returns to seven major U.S. cities this summer, it was announced by Dorothy I. Height, President and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women. "Family Working Wonders: Something to Celebrate!" is the theme uniting the many activities and programs comprising what many view the most significant event affecting African Americans since the 1960's. Dr. Height also announced that actor Danny Glover will serve as

Honary Chair for the 1993 Black Family Reunion Celebration.

"There are creative and compelling things that African-American families are doing in the face of so many challenges," stated Dr. Height. "Collectively, these successful efforts represent simple and tangible examples of families coping effectively with the problems they face. This year's Black Family Reunion Celebration will provide a venue for presenting these success stories, which we feel can be inspiring and life-enhancing for the millions of participants who come each year."

The 1993 Black Family Re-

union Celebration will begin in Chicago at Grant Park on July 16-18 and travel to Philadelphia (Fairmont Park, July 23-25), Atlanta (Georgia World Congress Center, August 6-8), Cincinnati (Sawyer Point, August 20-22), Los Angeles (Exposition Park, August 27-29) and Washington DC (Washington Monument Grounds, September 10-12) before completing its schedule at Memphis' Overton Park on September 17-19.

The Black Family Reunion Celebration first began in 1986, when over 200,000 people attended the multi-media mix of workshops, self-help resource

gathering, free health checks, exhibits, celebrities and entertainment over one weekend on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Conceived and sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women in response to the negative projection of African American families in Bill Moyers/CBS special "The Vanishing Black Family," the event quickly spread to other major U.S. cities because people and communities embraced the vital importance of it's content and message. Within a short time, the major national media had a positive story on the black family, recognizing as well it's crucial role in

dealing with major social issues. Newsweek dedicated a full page article, calling it "a show of strength." An editorial in the Wall Street Journal in 1988 stated "The council is delivering an infrequently heard message that deserves the widest possible audience...if it's movement to reinforce black families gains momentum, it could be the best thing that ever happened to the black underclass."

To date, an estimated ten million people have attended the Black Family Reunion Celebrations. In Los Angeles alone, more than 900,000 attended the 1992 weekend (according to LAPD reports), which was hailed as a healing opportunity in a city scarred by riots only a few months prior. Bill Clinton, then presidential candidate, visited the Washington event and spoke before an estimated 80,000 people.

In addition to the many positive stories and editorials celebrating the African-American family in all it's forms and diversity each year, The Black Family Reunion has also spawned a highly-rated, annual syndicated television special airing between



**DANNY GLOVER**  
Honorary Chairman  
1993 Black Family Union

Thanksgiving and Christmas, which first aired in 1991. The Black Family Reunion Cookbook, first published in February, 1992, has also helped spread the message, with more than 200,000 copies sold (now in release as a Fireside/Simon & Schuster paperback). A sequel entitled The Black Family Dinner Quilt is now available.

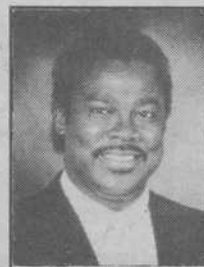
Free admission to The Black Family Reunion Celebration is made possible thanks to corporate support by Procter & Gamble, Avon, AT&T, Anheuser-Busch and others.

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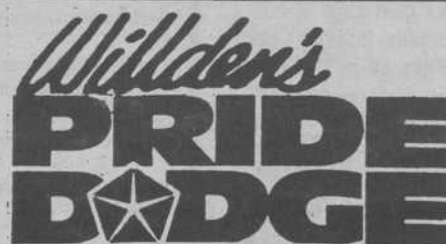
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