



# New Song Urban Ministries

loving God, loving our neighbors

Spring 2007

## NEW SONG LEADERSHIP TRANSITION!

New Song is thrilled to announce that Antoine Bennett and Patty Prasada-Rao are taking over the leadership of New Song Urban Ministries as of April 2, 2007!

Established in 1990, NSUM is the community development arm of New Song Community Church and includes programs in housing (Sandtown Habitat), education (New Song Community Learning Center and Academy), health care (New Song Family Health Services), job development and placement (EDEN Jobs), and development of the arts (New Song Arts) as well as working in partnership with Newborn Holistic Ministries and Martha's Place. NSUM serves as the overall leadership and coordination organization for these programs.



Allan Tibbels has served as the Executive Director of NSUM for the majority of those years. This leadership transition to Patty and Antoine is momentous in that it represents the passing of the baton from founding members to the next generation of leaders. They will now work with the NSUM Board of Directors in leading New Song into the future. Allan will serve on the NSUM Board and will continue to serve as the Co-Executive Director of Sandtown Habitat with LaVerne Stokes.

Patty and Antoine are optimally qualified to serve as the Co-Executive Directors of New Song. They both exhibit a depth of love for God and for others, with a passionate commitment to the New Song model of community development and a long-term love for the Sandtown community. They both abundantly possess the gifts and skills that are needed, and their gifts and skills are very complementary.



Antoine is a lifetime resident of Sandtown and has been a Habitat homeowner on Leslie Street for over 8 years. He began working for New Song Health Center in 1996 and for EDEN Jobs in 2000, taking over as Executive Director of EDEN in 2004. He serves on several New Song Boards and is a member of the National Youth-Build Board of Directors. His public speaking skills are consistently known to bring tears to the eyes of his audiences. Antoine will also continue leading EDEN Jobs.

Patty began working for New Song Arts in 1998 and has subsequently worked for Sandtown Habitat and New Song Urban Ministries as well as volunteering for every New Song program. She has traveled to India several times over the past years to assist with the school her family began there in Tanuku. Patty recently purchased a vacant house on the 1200 block of Stricker Street that she will be gut-rehabbing over the next few months. Congratulations to Antoine and Patty as they hit the ground running!

## Congratulations to Bert J. Hash Jr...



On February 26, 2007, *The Credit Union Times* named Bert J. Hash Jr., President and CEO of the Municipal Employees Credit Union of Baltimore (MECU), their CEO of the Year! He was selected from over 60 credit union leaders around the country.

Bert's selection was based on his leadership within his credit union which grew from one branch to seven, the credit union industry where he serves in numerous national and state positions, and most notably his leadership in the community where MECU volunteers thousands of hours to help Baltimore area nonprofits.

New Song and Sandtown Habitat have benefited tremendously from the involvement of Bert Hash with us since 1993. He has volunteered in working on Habitat houses, spoken during morning assembly to the students at New Song Academy, brought hundreds of visitors to see our work first-hand, and served on the Board of Directors of both New Song Urban Ministries and Sandtown Habitat (both of which he continues to serve on). He has presided over Habitat house dedications and has had MECU sponsor Habitat homes, providing both financial support and volunteers. And he has generously given of both his time and resources to benefit all of our New Song programs.

And so we celebrate with Bert Hash on this well-deserved honor and are proud to know him as a member of the New Song family!



## ...and to the New Song Academy Boys Basketball Team!



The New Song Academy middle school boy's basketball team just completed another excellent season in the Greater Baltimore Basketball League. Finishing with a record of 8-2 resulted in their advancing to the championship game against Harlem Park on March 24th; they played well but lost. According to Coach Sean Stevenson, "The boys gave their all; I could not have asked them to play any better, especially on defense. We just played against a little better team. Hopefully we're right back in the mix again next year."

Congratulations to all of the team members and to coaches Sean Stevenson, Mike Barb and Antoine Bennett. We are proud of you for representing New Song so brightly!

Now it's time to cheer on the girls who begin their season on April 7th.

## New Song **Urban Ministries** is ...

New Song Community Church • Sandtown Habitat for Humanity • New Song Community Learning Center • EDEN Jobs • New Song Family Health Services • New Song Arts • and in Partnership with Newborn Holistic Ministries

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