

# FAME-EAW

## January Newsletter

[fame-eaw.org](http://fame-eaw.org)

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Equity Alliance of  
**WASHINGTON**  
F.A.M.E.  
Thrive • Revive • Dwell

## Building A Beloved Community



### Letter from FAME-EAW

We hope you all enjoyed Martin Luther King Jr. Day! We are reminded of Dr. King's words: "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people." Today, in Seattle, we cannot remain silent about the housing crisis that disproportionately affects our Black community.

Black residents make up just 7% of Seattle's population but represent nearly 40% of our homeless community. Every night, thousands of our neighbors sleep in tents, vehicles, or emergency shelters. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment now exceeds \$2,000, putting stable housing out of reach for many working families.

This is the result of decades of systematic inequities, from redlining to discriminatory lending practices that continue to echo through generations.

But at FAME-EAW, we're actively working to dismantle them. We've taken bold steps toward creating lasting change:

- Through our Spruce Park development, we're creating 44 new homes specifically designed to serve Black families at 50% AMI
- Our FAME-EAW Plaza project will provide affordable housing for seniors and families, along with vital community spaces
- Our wraparound services ensure that residents don't just find housing – they build stability, community, and generational wealth

We're building community and opportunities. Whether through volunteering, donating, or advocating for policy change we hope you join us in making the needed difference.



## Be the Change in a Young Person's Life

The statistics are clear: young people who have mentors are 55% more likely to enroll in college, 78% more likely to volunteer regularly, and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. Most importantly, mentored youth report higher levels of self-esteem and describe themselves as "happy" with their lives.

### Why Mentoring Matters in Our Community

For Black youth, having a mentor who understands their cultural experience and can help them navigate systemic barriers can be transformative. Research shows that mentoring relationships are particularly impactful for students from under-resourced communities, leading to improved school attendance, increased confidence in their abilities and greater access to career opportunities.

You don't need to be a CEO or have multiple degrees to be a mentor. What matters most is your willingness to show up consistently, listen without judgment, and share your life experiences – both successes and failures. Even meeting just twice a month can make a lasting impact on a young person's life.

### Where You Can Mentor in Seattle

Ready to make a difference? Here are local organizations currently seeking mentors:

- Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative: Support at-risk youth
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound: Mentor youth aged 6-18
- Seattle CARES Mentoring Movement: Focus on African American youth
- Year Up Puget Sound: Help young adults develop professional skills



## Quote of the Month!

“

**True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.” —**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

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## FAME-EAW Updates

Dr. King visited Seattle speaking at the University of Washington, Garfield High School, and the First Presbyterian Church. During his 1967 visit, he emphasized the need for both housing and economic justice, issues that remain critically relevant in Seattle today.

His impact still echoes through Seattle as we honor his legacy through the annual MLK March and Rally at Garfield High School brings thousands together in solidarity, while organizations like Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Northwest African American Museum carry forward his message through year-round programs and initiatives. His teaching that "we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality" reminds us that our community's challenges require collective action and shared responsibility.

It may be 2025, but we can still embody Dr. King's principles by supporting Black-owned businesses in the Central District, joining housing justice initiatives, and engaging with youth education programs at organizations like the Black Community Impact Alliance and Africatown Community Land Trust. These actions, both large and small, help build the beloved community Dr. King envisioned - one where justice, equality, and opportunity are accessible to all.



## Understanding Human Trafficking in Our Community

Seattle ranks 13th nationally in active trafficking cases, making it crucial to understand that trafficking often looks different from what we might expect. It doesn't always involve dramatic kidnappings or physical restraint. Instead, trafficking can hide in plain sight, taking place in ordinary settings like restaurants, homes, and online platforms.

Traffickers often use manipulation, fraud, or coercion rather than physical force. They might promise legitimate jobs, romantic relationships, or better opportunities. Victims frequently know their traffickers, making it harder to identify and report cases. Warning signs can be subtle: unexplained gifts, multiple phones, sudden behavioral changes, or someone who seems unable to speak freely in public.

If you suspect trafficking or need help, resources are available 24/7. The National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) provides confidential support and connection to local services. In Seattle, organizations like REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade) at 206-451-REST and the Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network at 206-245-0782 offer immediate assistance and long-term support. Making a call to these professionals could save someone's life.