# NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

The National Urban League, which has played so pivotal a role in the 20th Century Freedom Movement, grew out of that spontaneous grassroots movement for freedom and opportunity that came to be called the Black Migrations. When the U.S. Supreme Court declared its approval of segregation in the 1896 ***Plessy v. Ferguson*** decision, the brutal system of economic, social and political oppression the White South quickly adopted rapidly transformed what had been a trickle of African Americans northward into a flood.

The year is 1910. Over 90,000 Southern Blacks have migrated to New York City and other major cities in the North, hoping to improve their lives and economic circumstances. The degree of difference between South and North lay in opportunity, and that African Americans clearly understood. Those newcomers to the North soon discovered they had not escaped racial discrimination. Instead, they are confronted with a host of unique new problems – urban problems – the need to acquire more sophisticated job skills, overcrowded housing and schools, poor health care services and other barriers

The National Urban League (NUL) was born out of the need to help these new city dwellers from the South cope with the difficult transition from rural to urban living. Headquartered in New York City, NUL is the nation’s oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic mainstream.

The Urban League Movement was founded in 1910. The National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, is the nation’s oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic mainstream. Today, the National Urban League operates 105 affiliates in over 100 cities in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

NUL employs a five-point empowerment agenda:

* Education and Youth Empowerment: Ensuring that all of our children are well educated and prepared for economic self-reliance in the 21st century.
* Economic Empowerment: Empowering all people in attaining economic self-sufficiency through job training, good jobs, homeownership, entrepreneurship and wealth accumulation.
* Health and Quality of Life Empowerment: Working to build healthy and safe communities to eliminate health disparities through prevention, healthy eating, fitness, as well as ensuring access and complete access to affordable healthcare for all people.
* Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment: Empowering all people to take an active role in determining the direction, quality of life, public policy and leadership in their communities by full participation as citizens and voters, as well as through active community service and leadership development.
* Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment: Promoting and ensuring our civil rights by actively working to eradicate all barriers to equal participation in the all aspects of American society, whether political, economic, social, educational or cultural.

**National Urban League Contact Information**

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**National Urban League Initiatives**

* **Annual Report on Socio-economic Conditions in Black America**

The State of Black America is the annual Urban League report that addresses the issues central to Black America in the current year. The publication is a barometer of the conditions, experiences and opinions of Black America. It examines black progress in education, homeownership, entrepreneurship, health and other areas. The publication forecasts certain social and political trends and proposes solutions to the community's and America's most pressing challenges.

Published since 1976, The State of Black America is released each year during a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., at the Legislative Policy Conference.

* **NUL Policy Institute**

**The National Urban League Policy Institute**, which grew out of the League's Washington Operations, conducts research, policy analysis and advocacy focused on issues of critical importance to the African-American community and the nation as a whole.

Dedicated to the pursuit of economic self-reliance and equal opportunity for African Americans, the Institute's work concentrates on such key issues as employment and workforce development, education, housing, criminal justice, economic and community development and macroeconomic policy. The Institute provides data and analysis on the impact of current and proposed public policies on African Americans and urban communities, and offers policy prescriptions aimed at ensuring access for African Americans to the economic, social and political mainstream of America

* **Whitney M. Young Center for Urban Leadership**

All professional development for National Urban League affiliate staff, CEO certification and re-certification, Board training is provided through the Whitney M. Young Center for Urban Leadership. Succession planning, strategic planning, leadership development, fiscal management and resource development are the primary areas of training provided during the year.

**The Whitney M. Young Center for Urban Leadership (WMYCUL)** is a nonprofit educational institute that exists to foster positive social and economic change through effective leadership development. Our mission is to cultivate and enhance the leadership capabilities of individuals and organizations that serve urban communities. Our role is to convene and link those entities to practical leadership development tools and resources to help them address capacity issues and various leadership challenges. Our philosophy is that through the enrichment and/or development of urban leaders, urban communities can be improved and empowered, thereby helping to create a society whereby all people have equal opportunity to be positive contributors.

# I AM EMPOWERED

**The National Urban League: Celebrating 100 Years**

The National Urban League celebrated 100 years in 2010, at the forefront of the civil rights movement. Since its inception in 1910, the National Urban League has been steadfast in its commitment to empowering communities and changing lives. Today, with key programs focused on eliminating the equality gap for African Americans and all people, the National Urban League delivers social services and programs to over two million people annually through a network of over 100 affiliates.

**I AM EMPOWERED**

While the centennial celebration was a time to reflect on the rich history and legacy of the National Urban League. It was also a time to move forward as the transformative movement of the National Urban League continues to serve the emerging and future needs of urban America.

With a proven track record of pulling people out of poverty and putting them on the path to empowerment, the National Urban League celebrated its centennial in 2010 with a bold, nationwide call to action. We launched **I AM EMPOWERED**, an initiative focusing on four aspirational goals for empowering communities to achieve in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, the cornerstones of our approach. **I AM EMPOWERED** will galvanize millions of people to take a pledge to commit to help achieve the goals by 2025!

Through a robust national multi-media campaign with messages centered on the theme of empowerment, the National Urban League is engaging Individuals, communities, corporations and government agencies to improve the state of America and pledge to commit to their time and talent to the following Empowerment Goals

    

* **Education:** *Every American child is ready for college, work and life.*
* **Jobs:***Every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefit*
* **Housing:***Every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy efficient housing on fair terms*
* **Health Care:***Every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions.*

**IAMEMPOWERED.COM**

By signing the pledge you will become a part of the **I AM EMPOWERED** community through the National Urban League’s new Social Mobilization Platform (SMP), at www.iamempowered.com. You can work towards the empowerment goals right from your computer or mobile phone as the website and mobile application provides information on programs and services in your community. You can also get information on way to get involved or volunteer, all while connecting to friends, colleagues, and others that have taken the pledge! Community organizations have traditionally been static, reactive entities.

The National Urban League is positioning itself for its next one hundred years of service with this first of its kind social networking platform for civic engagement. The use of this technology and social networking allows the **I AM EMPOWERED** campaign to truly live, expanding the audience, the services delivered, and the ways to get involved. The groundbreaking platform is the central nervous system of the **I AM EMPOWERED** campaign and playground and meeting place for civically engaged people across the country that have taken the pledge committing to building a better future and empowering the nation! The largest interactive empowerment community, iamempowered.com provides information on schools and housing counseling. You will also be able to find a job with online searches and step by step instructions to post an online video resume. The Social Mobilization Platform will also feature a mobile application compatible with iPhone, Blackberry and Andriod.

**START NOW!**

Take the **I AM EMPOWERED** pledge at www.iamempowered.com and join the growing number of people across the Courtney committed to building a better future and empowering the nation! You can find programs and services in your area and get information on ways to get involved, all while empowering yourself, your family and the nation!

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA URBAN LEAGUE

The Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL) is a non-profit, nonpartisan, multi-ethnic, social service organization. Our mission is to enable Northern Virginia African Americans and disadvantaged others to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights through program services and advocacy.

Established in 1990, NVUL is one of 105 affiliates of the NUL in over 100 cities in 34 states and in the District of Columbia. Our service delivery area includes the city of Alexandria along with the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William.

NVUL programs and services include:

**Annual Scholarship Opportunities**

Minorities have a keen understanding of the great importance of a college education and view the acquirement of a post-secondary education degree as the key ingredient to successfully overcoming racial, economic and social barriers. Our Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to minority applicants that attend Northern Virginia high schools. To date, we have awarded over a half a million dollars in scholarships.

**Community & Civic Advocacy**

**NOVA Coalition**

Northern Virginia Coalition is a collaborative of over 30 civic organizations in Northern Virginia. Founded in August 2008, the NOVA Coalition is a nonpartisan effort created through a grant awarded to the Northern Virginia Urban League by the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation to make an impact on voter turnout and education for local, state and national elections. Below are the programs that we administer under the NOVA Coalition:

Educating and Encouraging the Black Vote: This initiative is focused on voter registration and empowerment targeting African American and Hispanic voters. We encourage these communities to participate in all elections. In our nonpartisan education and awareness effort, we utilize social media, door-to-door canvassing and phone banking to:

• Register voters

• Educate residents on voter ID bills recently passed which impact voting

• Minorities in leadership within elected offices

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA URBAN LEAGUE GUILD

**Mission**: As an auxiliary of the Northern Virginia Urban League the Guild’s mission is to promote an agenda which supports the Northern Virginia Urban League.

**Our History**: The National Urban League Guild was organized in 1942 at a time when the organization was struggling financially. It became an auxiliary committed to support and render a variety of services to the League. Mrs. Mollie Moon of New York City was the Guild’s founder and first president. Today there are Urban League Guilds around the country.

In May of 1995, a group of folks from Northern Virginia and neighboring jurisdictions met at the home of Margaret and Carlton Stockton pf Alexandria, Virginia to survey interest in establishing an Urban League Guild. The fifty or so attendees expressed such enthusiasm about forming our own Guild in Northern Virginia that all of the steps required by the National Urban League were accomplished and our charter was presented in August, 1996 at the National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**About Us**: The NOVAUL Guild brings together people who are interested in enhancing the quality of life for all people in the community through the promotion of intercultural and interracial activities. Membership is open to men and women interested in providing support for the Urban League’s mission, which is to advocate for and provide services to African Americans and the disadvantaged. The NOVAUL Guild holds active membership in the Eastern Region.

Our activities since 1996 have included Luncheon and Silent Auction fundraisers, an annual Open House in December at which time NOVAUL’s office, formerly the Franklin and Armfield Slave Market, is converted into a virtual Christmas mansion for the benefit of the general public, demonstrating the talent, imagination and hard work invested by Guild members and the new face of a historic house of horrors. Each year the Guild sponsors a group of youth to the National Urban League Annual Conference held in major cities around the country.

Guild volunteer activities and services include:

* Fundraisers
* Friend-raisers – NVUL Membership Drives
* Advocacy
* Community Relations
* Special Projects
* Support of NOVAUL Program Initiatives
* Resource Support for NVUL Staff (based on professional expertise of Guild members)

The Guild’s signature event is the Annual Christmas Ball.

The Guild’s program year is September through August. Meetings are held monthly on a designated Saturday morning.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

The Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network (YPN) is an auxiliary organization of NVUL and is the Northern Virginia chapter of the National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP).

Our mission is to engage young professionals in the Urban League Movement toward social and economic empowerment. The organization was founded in 1999 as a way to identify young professionals and develop them into future leaders of the community. YPN works to support the mission of the Northern Virginia Urban League and provide a forum for young professionals that foster professional development, social consciousness, and civic involvement.

**Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professional Network**

***Signature Programs***

**Education**

**#BlackHistory365 -**The monthly celebration of Black History that includes a tour of the Historic Freedom House Museum and discussion on varies topics of interest. We believe that Black History should be celebrated daily.

**College Survival 101**

College Survival 101 is YPN’s signature serve event. It is an all day, fun-filled experience with the resources, networks, support, assistance and guidance to prepare youth to be college-ready and not just college-eligible. This program is open to all high school students in the DMV area. College Survival 101 consists of workshops with themes including- academics, financial aid, social life, life skills, and parents.

**Backpack Drive**

Each year YPN hosts the Backpack Drive to provide new backpacks filled with school supplies to children in Northern Virginia. By providing them with the right tools, we help our kids succeed in school and give their parents one less thing to worry about. We’ve provided supplies for an average of 100 - 150 students each year over the past several years, and we expect the need to be just as great this year.

**Unlocking Literacy**

The mission of the Unlocking Literacy program is to bring the joy of reading to underserved communities, including students, adults and members of correctional facilities, many which have very limited libraries.

Currently in planning for the third annual event, Unlocking Literacy has been able to more than 1,000 local residents and families in Northern Virginia, enriching their lives for years to come.

**The Edge - 4-part Community Money Management Series**

*The Edge* is a wealth and money management series designed to assist college students, young professionals, newly married professionals and the community at large in being financially fit.

This course will walk participants through the effects of money on their lives and topics will include: Fundamentals of budgeting, How to live within your means and not run out of money, Credit and credit scores, Funding education/career decisions, How to understand, control and eliminate debt, including student loan debt, Managing the ups and down of your job and budget, Big purchases (homes, cars, vacations, etc.), Love and money (getting married and combining finances), Fundamentals of savings, investment and retirement, and so much more.

**Jobs**

 **YPN Business Directory**

**Justice**

**Political Forum**

YPN recognizes the importance of empowering all people to take an active role in the political process. Through our annual Political Forum, YPN informs Northern Virginia residents about the issues critical to the social and economic empowerment of all people. We examine issues such as civil rights, affordable housing and workforce development. During national and regional elections, YPN invites candidates running for office to discuss their platforms and speak directly to residents about pertinent community issues. The Political Forum is free and open to the public.

**Youth Mentoring**

**THRIVE! Mentoring Program**

THRIVE is YPN’s flagship youth empowerment program, aimed at empowering youth to become contributing members of our community through character-building, self-esteem, educational, civic and social programming. YPN is partnering with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority’s Momentum Leadership program.

**Professional Development**

**YPN Life University**

YPN’s monthly Professional Development speaker and panel series that brings young professionals and the community together with national and regional industry experts to discuss everyday topics that affects their lives.

**Signature Events**

**Black Opal Awards Gala**

The Black Opal Awards Gala is the annual fundraising event that provides scholarships to area high school students and directly supports organizational community programming, such as College Survival 101, the Political Forum, and the THRIVE! Mentoring Program.

# National Urban League Young Professionals

**National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP)** is a network of young professionals across the country who provide leadership development, economic empowerment and community volunteer opportunities for other young professionals. The organization trains, develops, and educates young professionals to take leadership roles within the National Urban League, the civil rights movement, and society-at-large. Members of NULYP are defining, developing, implementing, and leading the next generation civil rights agenda.

NULYP's mission is to engage young professionals in the National Urban League's movement towards the achievement of social and economic equality. NULYP does this by providing an effective forum through which young professionals can support the Urban League's more than 100 affiliates in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

We support the goals and mission of the National Urban League by serving our communities and developing our members through mentoring, tutoring, scholarships, economic empowerment, political engagement, and leadership development programs. Our chapters implement local programs in support of the National Urban League empowerment agenda. NULYP also works to strengthen our members by encouraging them to achieve balance in their lives even as they work to strengthen their communities. To this end, NULYP strives to develop programs that encourage individual members' personal and professional development.