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**More than 400 Community Members Gather for GLORY**

*Where Faith and Action Meet to Prevent Child Deaths During Child Abuse Prevention Month*

**Sacramento**— Today, the Black Child Legacy Campaign hosted Gathering for GLORY: Giving Love to Our Rising Youth at South Sacramento Christian Center, a conference to discuss and outline prevention and intervention steps that can be taken to reduce child deaths, with an emphasis on how the faith community can connect to this work.

Over 400 community residents, including representatives from churches, nonprofit organizations and youth discussed prevention and intervention strategies focused on health, safety and well-being. Attendees participated in 20 workshops focused on preventing each of the leading causes of death and the important roles of faith and collaboration in this effort. Participants heard from Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack, Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville and Dr. Flojaune G. Cofer, Research and State Policy Manager with Public Health Advocates and a number of expert panels supported by members of the Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths. Attendees also took part in group discussions to create next step action plans for the seven neighborhoods with the highest disproportionate number of African American deaths. Community residents left the conference with plans to advance the work currently underway within their neighborhoods.

“Our faith community provides vital resources to residents and this convening was an opportunity for leaders and members of different congregations to come together to create sound solutions,” said Dr. Natalie Woods Andrews, Director, Early Learning Department, Sacramento County Office of Education and Co-chair, Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths.

According to the Sacramento County Child Death Review Team, the African American child death rate was twice the average of the overall child death rate during the period from 1990 to 2009. The leading causes of death include perinatal conditions, sleep related deaths, child abuse and neglect and third party homicides. The disproportionate rate of these deaths are found in seven Sacramento County neighborhoods, Valley Hi, Meadowview, Arden-Arcade, North Sacramento/ Del Paso Heights, Oak Park, North Highlands/ Foothill, and Fruitridge/ Stockton Boulevard. These deaths are often preventable with resources, support and education which were provided at the conference. The event was held in April during Child Abuse Prevention Month, with an effort to connect the faith community to the issues that impact the people they serve.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign is the community-driven movement raising visibility and strengthening collective impact efforts of the Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths (RAACD) to reduce the number of black child mortalities due to homicide, child abuse and neglect, infant sleep-related conditions, and perinatal conditions. To learn more, visit: [www.blackchildlegacy.org](http://www.blackchildlegacy.org) and [www.shfcenter.org/raacd](http://www.shfcenter.org/raacd).

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