



AT THE HOME OF MAYOR BLOOMBERG, ISIS SAPP-GRANT SPEAKS ON YOUTH & DEPRESSION

For Immediate Release

New York, NY. On February 26, 2008 at the residence of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Isis Sapp-Grant, Founder and Executive Director of the Youth Empowerment Mission (YEM) Inc. led a conversation for the New York Women's Foundation's Fundraising Cocktail, hosted by Boardmember businesswoman Diana Taylor.

As one of its first funders, Sapp-Grant expressed the significant impact The New York Women's Foundation has made on YEM. She also applauded the philanthropic efforts made in countries around the world, yet urged guests to understand the value of giving to underserved communities here in America.

"Only thirty minutes away, young girls are being victimized. The term 'being blessed' for some girls is the experience of rape by several gang members who in exchange give a twisted, ironic sense of 'protection from violence,'" she painfully informed guests. Sapp-Grant challenged Taylor (Bloomberg's significant other), Foundation members and other esteemed guests (representing the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Council of Fashion Designers of America, et al.) to invest near and far- namely in closer proximities like Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, where her organization is based.

Sapp-Grant also spoke on how depression has seeped deeper into the societal norm, spanning across economic class, race and age. Several mental health issues are now compounded by the effects of poverty, poor health, violence and inadequate or limited mental health services. YEM is dedicated to providing young people and families in high-risk environments with real alternatives to these self-destructive forces.

"This is not about a hand out; it's about *paying it forward*, so the next generation is empowered to effect change in their lives and in the community. That's a good investment, and the type of work YEM and the New York Women's Foundation supports," she proudly states.

This and upcoming collaborative events with the New York Women's Foundation are included in a year-long series to raise awareness on the issues facing youth and families of central Brooklyn, and to promote the health and wellness of all communities in crisis. *SEE PHOTOS ATTACHED.*

To learn more about YEM's 10th Anniversary "A Second Chance: Making Good on a Promise" 2008 campaign, visit www.girlsblossom.org and contact Trina Morris, Style Root Inc. 718.789.9290 / trina@style-root.com.

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