

Joseph Littles-NGUZO SABA Charter School
West Palm Beach, Florida

ANNOUNCEMENT & INVITATION

From: Amefika D. Geuka
Board Chairman & Co-Founder

To: African-Centered Education Practitioners and Proponents

Subject: A “Walkathon” for Our Children’s Future

Date: June 11, 2009

This notification is to alert you to, and invite your participation in, a “walkathon” to emphasize the critical importance of African-centered education (ACE) for the proper development and growth of children of African descent. This walk, which will originate at our school site in West Palm Beach, Florida and include stops and presentations at the U.S. Department of Education and the White House in Washington, DC, is intended to highlight for the nation and world to see, that there are indeed African-descended adults willing and determined to accept responsibility for guiding Black children along the path to responsible and successful maturation. This initiative is made all the more important by the increasing blame being placed on Black children for the failures of the system of public education in this country, and the culture of crime and criminality that allegedly results therefrom. Indeed, one does not have to look hard or long to find disturbing similarities between the way Blacks are being “set-up” to be blamed for all that is wrong or not right in America, and the pogroms used to justify the Nazi’s “final solution” to the so-called “Jewish Problem” in 1930s Germany!

Prudence and self-preservation dictate that the conscious and caring among us not sit idly by and allow Black people in America to face a fate similar to that of Jews and Gypsies in Nazi Germany. We must not allow that history to repeat itself here in what is supposedly the “land of the free, and home of the brave!” As a direct result of their tragic mistreatment at the hands of Hitler’s agents, Jewish survivors of their “Holocaust” made a determination that “never again” would such a fate be allowed to befall Jewish people. Among the first initiatives Jews undertook after the Allies’ victory in World War II was to establish and finance *schools* for the purpose of assuring that Jewish children were fortified with knowledge

and understanding of what the Jewish experience represented. To this day Jewish children are seldom if ever allowed to attend non-Jewish schools until after they complete eighth grade, coinciding with the conclusion of their “formative years.” Once they have been steeped in and imbued with appreciation of their group’s history, heritage, culture, and religion, Jewish Children are equipped to master the art and science of living and succeeding in a world and societies dominated by non-Jewish powers. It is past time for Black adults to demonstrate similar responsibility for the protection and development of our children as our Jewish counterparts have resolutely performed for theirs. This walkathon is intended to be the first step in a process of **revival** and **restoration**.

We will walk to REVIVE the spirit of responsibility of Black adults, to RESTORE our children’s inherent right to a ‘childhood!’ Too many of our youth gravitate from infancy to adulthood without ever experiencing childhood. My dictionary defines a child as: “*One strongly influenced by another, or by a place, or state of affairs;*” and ‘child-like’ as: “*Marked by innocence, trust, and ingeniousness.*” Who is the ‘another’ that influences our children? What ‘place’ or ‘state of affairs’ is influencing them and their actions? Who protects them in their ‘innocence’ from their natural predators? Can they afford to ‘trust’ anybody or anything? To my surprise the dictionary defined ‘**ingenuous**’ thusly: “*Free born, noble, honorable, straightforward, naive, natural, showing innocent or child-like simplicity.*” If you agree with us that all of our children are entitled to enjoy a childhood as was their Creator’s intent, won’t you join in support of this “WALK to REVIVE and RESTORE” their right to a childhood?

Included among the ‘successes’ sure to result from this walkathon will be financial support for the ongoing work of the Joseph Littles-NGUZO SABA Charter School (JL-NSCS), the only African-centered public school in the State of Florida! Money pledged by supporters for every mile walked by this writer and other walkers will secure the future of our school and enable it to achieve its initial purpose: “*To provide a learning environment in which high academic achievement is always expected. To promote a feeling of self-worth, pride, self-discipline, and responsibility in our students. To provide a nurturing and caring environment where children at-risk of failure in traditional schools and classrooms can learn and be successful through a program of strong academics, high expectations, values, and character-building skills that are based on African traditions and cultures.*”

When through this walk, JL-NSCS proves that adequate funds can be raised independently for the effective education and development of our students, a new paradigm will have been put in place, which will benefit other African-centered education initiatives. Can we expect your support?