



# DEALING WITH RACE

## 2015 Annual Report to the Community



William S. Taubman



Shirley R. Stancato

As a race relations coalition, we know that progress on the issues of economic and social equity can only be done with a strong team working together.

To Our Friends and Supporters,

New Detroit, Inc. is a unique coalition where Southeast Michigan's leaders come together to plan cooperative strategies and to demonstrate their commitment to the region. The coalition works to impact the actions of individuals and institutions by serving in a number of roles: advocate, catalyst, convener and facilitator.

Through advocacy and leadership by example, New Detroit has demonstrated new ways for solving specific community problems, as well as provide resources to community-based groups. The Coalition focuses on areas that represent the greatest potential threat to the community's ability to achieve and maintain positive race relations. The areas that demand our greatest attention include improving education opportunity, civic engagement, enhancing access to economic opportunity and advocacy.

New Detroit had many accomplishments in 2015. The Coalition took two separate trips to Lansing to legislate on behalf of Detroit schoolchildren, conducted our 10th annual Youth Leadership Summit, facilitated 8 conversations on race, and helped strengthen early childhood organizations, to name just a few.

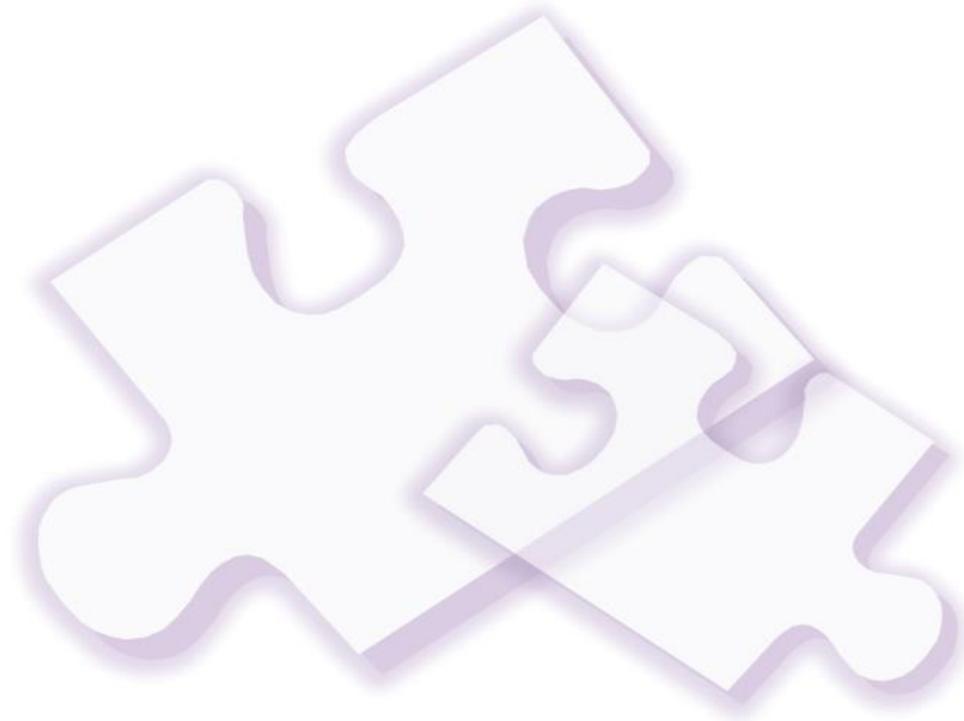
We are proud to share both these accomplishments and others in our report that highlights the work of New Detroit in 2015.

Sincerely,

**William S. Taubman**  
Chair, New Detroit  
Chief Operating Officer, Taubman

**Shirley R. Stancato**  
President & CEO  
New Detroit

**Our Mission:** The metropolitan Detroit leadership organization working to identify and eliminate racial disparities in the region by building economic equity, social justice and racial understanding.



# Improving Educational Opportunity



**Strengthening Early Childhood Organizations:** In 2015, New Detroit delivered training programs for early childhood education providers to strengthen and stabilize their organization's ability to provide high quality education to Detroit children. Our curriculum included administrative best practices, financial management strategies, and cultural competence.



**Camp Enterprise:** This year, New Detroit held two separate business camps for 150 low to moderate-income high school students. The annual Camp Enterprise was held on the campuses of Wayne State University and Michigan State University. Students received mentoring and coaching by local entrepreneurs on leadership, teamwork, and the business fundamentals. Our program increases youths' knowledge in five areas: admissions, testing, financial aid, financial literacy and campus life.

**CHOICE  
IS  
OURS**

**Improving Educational Opportunity:** New Detroit was also instrumental in helping shape the educational landscape in Detroit by serving on several different boards and committees.

These committees include: Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren, Universal Enrollment Initiative, Mentoring Initiative, Excellent Schools Detroit Board, Third Grade Reading Level Campaign, Education Achievement Authority Board and Wayne County Great Start School Ready.

# Youth Development



## **Youth Leadership Summit**

**on Race:** In 2015, New Detroit conducted the Youth Leadership Summit on Race in partnership with the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Approximately 250 high school students from 90 high schools throughout southeast Michigan came together. The Youth Leadership Summit on Race equips young leaders with the skills to combat racism in their schools and neighborhoods. Over the past 10 years, more than 1800 students have participated in our Youth Leadership Summit on Race.



**Youth Leadership Institute:** This year, New Detroit held its third annual Youth Leadership Institute. The year-long program focuses on college readiness and leadership training experience for the high school students with an emphasis on race and race relations.

The curriculum includes: leadership awareness, future goals, communication skills, role of race in the personal leadership development, cultural competency, and financial literacy.



# Enhancing Access to Economic Opportunity



**Supporting Neighborhood Business:** New Detroit’s Minority Business Education Series is a practical overview of essential business topics created for minority and non-minority small businesses operating in recognized Metropolitan Detroit “low to moderate income” neighborhoods.

The series is open to all types of businesses that have revenues of \$1MM or less annually and have been in operation for not more than 5 years. Business owners are presented with actionable information which will assist them in growing and sustaining their business. They also

gain valuable insight into a variety of business subjects. New Detroit is committed to supporting and elevating neighborhood small business in Metropolitan Detroit.

The topics covered in the sessions include: Writing a business plan and creating a marketing plan; understanding financial statements and the commercial lending process; insurance and bonding; legal structures, licensing and taxation; business technology; human resources; and cultural competency.

This year, New Detroit served 58 small businesses. In 2015, one business from the series received a commercial loan from two separate sources, while two businesses received a grant from Motor City Match.



# Civic Engagement



**Conversations on Race:** New Detroit is widely-recognized for our series of Conversations on Race. We engage community leaders in dialogues that help to build relationships and identify and address key issues where race is a barrier.

In 2015, through our conversations on race, we reached every level of the community.



**Multicultural Leadership Series:** New Detroit's Multicultural Leadership Series offers a highly innovative approach to building cultural competency. The program's goal is to develop a greater understanding of African American, Arabic, Asian, Chaldean, Latino and Native American communities, and to provide participants with the tools to enhance communication and make change within their institutions. Participants enhance their ability to understand the complexities of our multicultural society and gain valuable exposure to networks with persons from cultures different than our own. It is our expectation that the leaders involved in this experience take the information learned to create changes in race relations within their own organizations and communities.

The 2014/2015 Multicultural Leadership Series included participants from organizations including AAA Michigan, ACCESS, Blue Cross Blue Shield, DAPCEP, HAP, Quicken Loans, SER Metro, Tech Town Detroit, The Auto Club Group, Taubman, and University of Michigan - Dearborn, as well as others.

## *Civic Engagement Continued*



**Additional Civic Engagement:** In addition to our Conversations on Race and Multicultural Leadership, New Detroit is involved in civic engagement in a multitude of ways. Members of The Coalition have been keynote speakers, participated in panels and discussions, and have given speeches for multiple organizations. Some of these organizations include: Leadership Detroit, Wayne State University Detroit Revitalization Fellows, Public Relations Society of America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, as well as many others.

## *Advocacy*



**New Detroit's Advocacy:** In September 2015, New Detroit, as part of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren, made its second trip to Lansing to make a case to lawmakers about the coalition's "The Choice is Ours" report and their official recommendations about how to improve Detroit schools.

New Detroit helps comprise the coalition in numerous ways. New Detroit's president and several board members serve as co-chairs or steering committee members.

# 2015 Closing the Gap Awards

Each year at our annual “Closing the Gap Awards Dinner,” we honor individuals and organizations that are helping to advance racial progress. The awards consist of four categories: **Social Impact Sector** (The Coleman A. Young Foundation); **John Rakolta, Jr. Leadership in Race Relations** (Paul Hillegonds); **Business** (The Detroit Lions); and **Young Leader in Action** (Theresa Q. Tran.)



## OUR 2015 CLOSING THE GAP HONOREES:

**The Coleman A. Young Foundation (CAYF)** has been helping young Detroiters achieve their educational dreams since its founding in 1982 by Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young. In addition to awarding scholarships to college students, the foundation’s Real Skills program for sixth through eleventh grade students provides meaningful information and valuable tools that prepare the students for a positive school experience.

**Paul Hillegonds** has had a career in public service and in the private sector, which has earned him respect for his thoughtfulness, fairness, civility and effectiveness in forging constructive public policy. He is a sought after speaker who is comfortable dealing with and discussing race and social justice as issues within our community. Hillegonds currently serves on New Detroit’s Board of Directors.

**The Detroit Lions** have embraced the mission of diversity in hiring, as is demonstrated in their current management roster. In addition, the team’s racial diversity is extended even further with other African Americans and Latinos in other key leadership positions. The Lions have set the standard in the NFL for developing a culture committed to racial diversity and to closing the gap.

**Theresa Q. Tran** is a young leader in Southeast Michigan who is making an impact on improving race relations. Tran is the Executive Director of Asian & Pacific Islander American vote – Michigan. In addition to working extensively on election efforts, Tran has led various APIAVote – MI projects and has also consulted with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, managing young philanthropy initiatives, and Esteemed Human Development International, facilitating corporate culture competency. Tran is a board member for the Council of Asian Pacific Americans, and is a founding member of the Young Vietnamese American Professional Association of Michigan.

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