



ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP POWER

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Alliance to Develop Power leaders to travel to Washington DC to participate in “Realizing the Promise: A Forum on Community Faith and Democracy” on Thursday, December 4th

*Valerie Jarrett and Melody Barnes, Senior Advisors to President-elect Obama to
participate in historic gathering with grassroots leaders and Congress*

Washington — Over 80 members of the Alliance to Develop Power (ADP) will be traveling to Washington DC on Thursday, December 4 to join 2,000 community leaders from across the country at “Realizing the Promise: A Forum on Community, Faith and Democracy.” The forum will provide grassroots leaders, everyday people, Senior Advisors to President-elect Obama and Congress with an opportunity to sit down and discuss issues facing our nation and the solutions needed to make America work for all of us.

Senior Advisors to President-elect Obama will participate in the discussions at the Forum. Valerie Jarrett, recently appointed White House Senior Adviser and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Liaison, and Melody Barnes, the next Director of the Domestic Policy Council at the White House, “It’s very important that everyday people be heard during the transition period and the first 100 days, so that the President can begin to address their concerns from day one,” said Caroline Murray, ADP Executive Director. “There’s much work to be done in easing the country’s problems; having the transition team’s ear is a good start.

“We are excited to be participating in this historic event,” said April Page, a member of ADP from Greenfield, who will be a speaker at the forum. “This is a chance to keep democracy alive after Election Day, and to make sure the voices of everyday people help shape the policies that affect us all.”

“Realizing the Promise” is an extension of the Heartland Presidential Forum held on December 1, 2007, in which then-Sen. Barack Obama pledged that grassroots leaders would help shape his agenda as

president. At the Heartland Presidential Forum, ADP leader Dedra Lewis and her daughter Alexsiana appeared on stage with then Presidential candidate Barack Obama. Lewis talked about the Children's Health Insurance Program and pushed Obama to guarantee health care for all. "A year ago, then-Sen. Obama promised he would have members of his transition team meet with grassroots leaders." said Lewis, who will be speaking at an immigration reform rally on December 4 with Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL). "Well, he fulfilled that promise,"

Realizing the Promise also builds on ADP's Community Convention on October 28, 2008, at which over 500 community leaders met with Senator John Kerry and other political leaders to demand an America that finally works for everyone.

Realizing the Promise will feature two roundtable discussions moderated by Juan Williams, noted journalist and news analyst for National Public Radio. These roundtables will provide a setting for real dialogue between community and faith leaders, members of Congress and the representatives of the incoming administration about the issues facing everyday Americans, including the economy, jobs, health care, immigration and the environment.

The Alliance to Develop Power is a membership based community organization that is well known for its work to improve the lives of low-income people and for its model of cooperative economic development. ADP has transformed 1,450 units of deteriorated housing to tenant owned permanently affordable coops; created worker controlled businesses and food cooperatives that distribute 200,000 pounds of food annually. Immigrant and low wage members of the ADP Worker Center have secured over \$500,000 in restitution from employers. ADP has developed hundreds of area leaders and has led a number of successful campaigns including saving funding for the federal Section 8 Program. ADP has created business and capital holdings worth \$45 million. These community-owned assets contribute \$20 million a year in cash flow to the local economy.

"Realizing the Promise: A Forum on Community, Faith and Democracy" is presented by the Gamaliel Foundation and the Center for Community Change's Campaign for Community Values, of which ADP is a member. For updates on "Realizing the Promise" and to watch the webcast of the forum, please visit www.realizingthepromise.org.

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