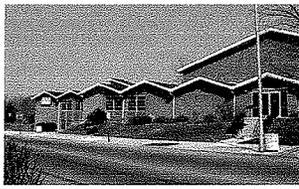


Townsend Community Center



**Still Here
Still Serving
Still Needing You**

**855 North 12th Street
Richmond, IN 47374
(765) 965-5800
Fax (765) 965-5802**

May 15, 2009

Senator Richard D. Lugar
306 Senate hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

On behalf of Townsend Community Center, and the community we serve, we would like to request \$100,000 in funding to support the establishment of *The Wise Women* as a Naturally Occuring Retirement Community (NORC).

The Wise Women is a holistic, community-based pilot program focusing on the overall wellbeing of African ancestry, and women across cultures, ages 55 or older. Many of the women are widows or single. While there are many agencies serving the aging population, there are none in our community that specifically addresses the challenges faced by aging women. The project currently serves 70 women. We would like to expand the program throughout the community.

The honoring of African American elders and respecting their wisdom has long-standing precedence in the community. However, that value has faced challenges in recent years, and elders have been victims of violence, as well as a reduction in extended family support mechanisms.

As these women continue to experience longevity, it is crucial that they be engaged in activities that advocate for their independence, empowerment, as well as educational opportunities that strengthen their knowledge of community resources; offer opportunities to meet new friends and share their knowledge and wisdom; affirm their worth within the Richmond community; engage in community service and intergenerational opportunities; participate in art, technology, cooking, health, financial wellbeing and other sessions which the women choose; build new leadership skills; and identify coping skills, support and resources for the challenges they face in their life continuum.

We look forward you're your support of this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the projects Grant Manager and consultant, Dr. Paulette Sankofa 765-966-2656 extension 1209.

Sincerely,

Mona Mayberry, Executive Director
Townsend Community Center