

REPORT:

**AHMHA Attends Holiday on the Boulevard**  
With the ASHE Cultural Arts Center

On December 1, 2007, Dr. Hutton, Vice President for New Orleans Programs, ran a table at the Holiday on the Boulevard Event with the ASHE Cultural Arts Center in New Orleans, LA. The goal was to present the film *Black and Blue* on DVD with headphones to attendees and address issues of mental health in the post-Katrina African-American community during the Christmas/Kwaanza Bazaar on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard. This event was the second in a series of **Rising From the Water Forums** to reduce stigma, make information accessible to persons of color, encourage support group development, and increase connections to other faith-based and secular community programs serving the communities of color. In addition to the film, Dr. Hutton provided written information about recovery stages, recognizing and managing burnout, and local emotional support resources.

Thirty people dropped by the table which was centrally located in the main hall. Dr. Hutton had an opportunity to announce her presence in a walk around interview with members of the cultural arts center. Four persons sat down and watched a portion of the film. Four additional persons came up and asked questions about mental health issues. Discussions included efforts to support a charter school, faith-based support group in Baton Rouge, LA, and family members that have been challenged with emotional changes since the Hurricane Season of 2005.

In addition, information regarding the podcast by Dr. William B. Lawson, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Howard University Medical Center was provided regarding depression in African Americans.

Later that same evening, Dr. Hutton attended a reading of *Stories of Survival*, a book collecting the stories of Hurricane Katrina survivors sponsored by the Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies and Rhodes Funeral Home. The director is Dr. Denese Shervington.

Respectfully submitted,

**Charlotte Hutton, MD**

Vice President for Clinical Programs In New Orleans  
All Healers Mental Health Alliance - NOLA Chapter