

Let your light so shine that others might see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.... (Matt 5:16)

This bible passage is the cornerstone of the Fuller family.

Courtis Fuller is a familiar face to everyone throughout Greater Cincinnati. Tristate television viewers have watched the tireless veteran news anchor for many years on WLWT-TV. But he has another strong community presence as a much sought after speaker and emcee for dozens of events each year. An example of some of the events Courtis has hosted each year for the past 15-20 years ---- The MLK Jr. Coalition King Day, Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation, Council of Christian Communion, Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, NAACP Freedom Fund, Cincinnati Human Relations and Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion.

Consistently, Courtis has shown his leadership and commitment. From leading the effort to have an inner city street being renamed in memory of high school honor student Derrick Turnbow, who was shot and killed, to winning the 2001 primary election in Cincinnati's first direct election for mayor in 75 years.

In addition, Courtis has helped raise millions of dollars for organizations by volunteering his time. Courtis is a graduate of Excelsior College. He has received more than 300 awards for his excellence in journalism and his work in the community including the Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamkeeper Award, YMCA Achievers Legend Award and he is also one of the first people inducted into the Central Florida Association of Black Journalists and Broadcasters Hall of Fame. To mark his 30th anniversary in broadcasting a scholarship was established in his name through the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation to help young aspiring journalists achieve their dream.

Marla Hurston Fuller is a Community Relations Manager at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Marla developed and led a community relations strategy that supports the mission and agenda of the medical center by providing leadership in the identification, design and evaluation of collaborative projects to improve the community health status of children. She also expands the hospital's commitment to be a conscientious corporate citizen through the management of sponsorships and an array of community partnerships and collaborations.

In 2011, Marla received the distinguished "Connecting Cultures to Communities" Award from the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission. She is also the recipient of the "Supplier Diversity" award from Cincinnati Public Schools. She serves on several local boards including 4C...for Children, Cincinnati Children's Museum, Adopt A Class Foundation and the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation.

Marla is a graduate of Miami University and she earned certification in community involvement from the Boston College School of Carroll Management, the only university in North America that offers certificate programs in the areas of community involvement and corporate citizenship. She is also a 2010 graduate of the Cincinnati Chamber's Women Excel Leadership program.

Nicole Fuller is a graduate of Spelman College where she majored in biology. She is currently a candidate for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2012 from Georgia State University. Nicole chose physical therapy as her life's pursuit because of

her passion to help other people. She is a Physical Therapy Aide at Genesis Sport Medicine and Rehabilitation in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to her work and school commitments Nicole still finds the time to give back by volunteering in the community and in her church. She mentors elementary school children. She is a Girl Scout Leader and Cheerleading Coach along with serving on the Black Women's Film Preservation Project of Atlanta.

Nicole was selected to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Faith Fuller is a second grade student at Bethany School but she is learning at an early age that in this family service to others is a ministry. Faith, like her older sister, has been taught the meaning of the phrase, to whom much is given much is required. She is always eager to join her parents or other relatives at various events from painting homes to serving meals to the homeless to participating in charity walks. One of her favorite things to do is sorting items for distribution for the homeless with her aunt Portia Fuller who volunteers at Mary Magdalen House in Over the Rhine after a 30 year career at Howard University.

Courtis and Marla will tell you that their extended families laid the foundation to which they continue to build upon today. Courtis' mother the late Dorothy Fuller, who was a regular at the Black Family Reunion Celebration, passed away in 2004. He says he witnessed firsthand her commitment to make her community, the Hill District of Pittsburgh, a better neighborhood by donating her time and whatever resources she had to help others. Whether it was fighting for the rights of union workers, empowering voters or serving at her church, historic Central Baptist, she set an example that inspired others. Courtis' father Sam Fuller was the first African American crane operator at U.S. Steel in Rankin, Pennsylvania. He died at the age of 38 when Courtis was only 6 months old, the youngest of three children. But Courtis says his father's pioneering spirit is like a light that guides him, even to this day.

Marla credits her parents, Dan and Lana Hurston with embedding the idea that community outreach is the right thing to do and a family requirement. Marla is the youngest of five children. Their Oxford home always had an open door policy. From serving meals to students from Miami University to providing shelter to someone in need, everyone was welcomed. Marla's father was a longtime employee at AK Steel. But it was her parents' work through their church First Pentecostal Bibleway, a church founded by Marla's great-aunt Lenora Jenkins, which served as an empowering lesson about the benefits of sacrifice and putting your faith into action.

The Fuller Family is humbled to be named the 2011 Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion Family of the Year. We accept this wonderful recognition in the memory of all of those individuals whose shoulders we stand on especially our friend the late Dr. Dorothy I. Height. She urged Americans to honor her memory by serving and improving their country. As she said, "we have survived because of family."