

MAKING A

GREATER

CHATTANOOGA



Urban League of
Greater Chattanooga, Inc.

A GREATER CHATTANOOGA is a place that benefits us all. And that's what we're working toward every day at the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga—creating a place where people from all walks of life have the opportunity and the resources to live successful lives. Through programs that address community issues from education and employment to finances and healthy living—and with your help—we can make Chattanooga a greater place not only for today, but for future generations.





OUR MISSION

The mission of the Urban League is to enable African-Americans and other disadvantaged persons to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. Realizing that the disparities between African-Americans and other ethnicities in Chattanooga continue to grow apart especially on the forefronts of education, employment and health, The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga (ULGC) felt it was necessary to begin structuring its objectives to focus and embrace the family as a unit—thereby developing the Family Economic Empowerment Initiative. The Family Economic Empowerment Initiative will provide services to the entire family. Whether the ULGC is serving students through our after-school program; a family through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program; or a woman in the Sisters Together: Move More, Eat Better health initiative, the organization will gather the necessary information from clients so as to service the entire family. The ULGC continues to help families set personal goals and equip them with the resources not only to accomplish their goals, but also empower them to thrive.



Natasha Pickett

Hair Stylist
Chattanooga, TN

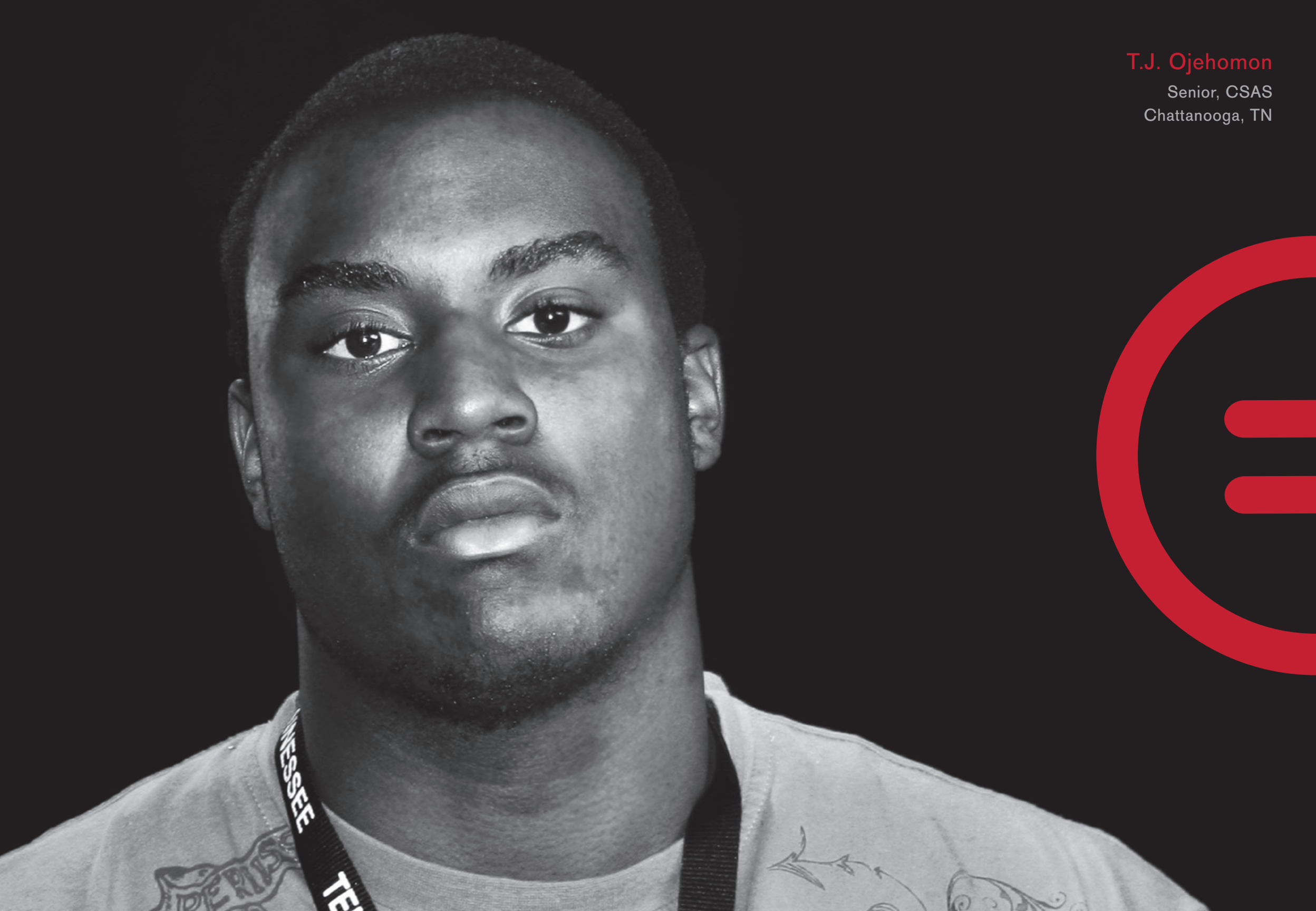




A HEALTHIER CHATTANOOGA

A healthier Chattanooga is a Greater Chattanooga. And healthy-living has been an issue for disadvantaged people in our community for years. In fact, in 2004, over 71% of African American and Latino women were overweight or obese—which means extra risk for heart disease and stroke. But by teaching women how to take better care of their bodies and develop healthier habits, we believe we can help reduce those numbers and get local women—and, in turn, their families—on the path to healthier, happier lives. And that's just what our Sisters Together: Move More, Eat Better program is all about. The program offers workout sessions, healthy cooking and nutrition classes, health screenings and more. And it's one more step towards building a healthier and greater Chattanooga.

No one exemplifies what the Sisters Together: Move More, Eat Better program is all about more than Natasha, a local hairstylist who had just gone through a divorce when she signed up for her first session. "I was feeling down and looking for something to do with my time," she said. And what she found was so much more. "They motivated me to live and eat healthier, and to live a more active life," she said. "Plus everyone there was so kind to me during a tough time. It was like a family." Now, not only has Natasha lost more than 30 lbs, she is teaching her own exercise class for the Urban League.



T.J. Ojehomon

Senior, CSAS

Chattanooga, TN





AN EDUCATED CHATTANOOGA

An educated Chattanooga is a greater Chattanooga. That's why—with support from local, state and national partners—we offer programs that help prepare both children and adults for academic success. Programs like after-school tutoring and book distributions help give students the support they need in the classroom. And our special honors program, the National Achievers Society, rewards the area's most exceptional students. The results? The majority of students who participate in our after school, summer, spring break and Saturday programs consistently score at proficient or advanced levels in reading and math, have great behavior, and learn early on about the importance of pursuing higher education and skills training. Now those students are the foundation of a greater Chattanooga for us all.

As an aspiring journalist, T.J. loves to gather all the facts he can. "I've really enjoyed high school," said the CSAS senior. "I've learned a lot, and I love to write." And as a member of the Urban League's National Achievers Society, T.J. has had the opportunity to gather facts on subjects ranging from African-American art, history and culture, to navigating the college application process. "This program has allowed me to experience so many different things," he said. "It's really helped me to focus on what I need to do to be successful." And with the support of the Urban League the sky's the limit for young achievers like T.J.



Michael McDonald

Express
Chattanooga, TN





AN EMPOWERED CHATTANOOGA

An empowered Chattanooga is a greater Chattanooga. And nothing is more empowering than the sense of purpose and accomplishment that comes with landing a great job. But for many African-Americans, that sense of empowerment can be elusive. In fact, the unemployment rate among African-American men in Hamilton County is more than double that of other residents. So it's no wonder more than 1,500 people visited our Employment Center this year, seeking to land a good job, explore a career fair or gain new career skills. And with the help of Urban League resources like computer and Internet training, career workshops and a staff of professionals dedicated to matching qualified job-seekers with local employers, 84% of those supported through the job search, interview, and placement process remain employed. Now they represent an empowered and greater Chattanooga.

Like so many others in these tough economic times, Michael found himself out of work and struggling to find a living-wage job. That's when he went to the Urban League Employment Center where they told him about the Workforce Development program which matches job-seekers with employers based on their skills and interests. "The people at the Urban League genuinely care about people," he said. "They really do want you to succeed." Now Michael is working two jobs. "I'm making good money now," he said. "And it's all because of the Urban League."



Angi Reed-Thomas

Op. Supervisor, Convergys Corp.
Chattanooga, TN





A CONNECTED CHATTANOOGA

A connected Chattanooga is a greater Chattanooga. And that's especially true when it comes to our community's young people. That's why, this year, the Urban League sponsored the formation of the ULGC Young Professionals Association. This group of over 50 young professionals from throughout the community was formed to encourage the next generation of leaders to connect with one another and explore issues that impact Chattanooga and its residents. The organization also gives young people an outlet to make a positive impact on the community and learn to work together using their diverse talents. And it's clear that, for Chattanooga, the future looks bright. In its first year, the Young Professionals Association has connected with several organizations, volunteered at Urban League events and activities, and even had lunch with the Mayor to learn how to make this a greater Chattanooga for us all.

When Angi heard through a friend that the Urban League was sponsoring the formation of the Young Professionals Association, she knew right away that she wanted to be a part of it. "I've always been involved with the community," she said. "And the Young Professionals Association provides us with lots of opportunities to get involved and give back." Angi, an Operations Supervisor at Convergys Corp., has also enjoyed collaborating with her local peers. She was recently named the Chair of the YPA Membership Committee. "It's great to connect with such a diverse group of talents," she said. And it's clear that when young talents like Angi get connected, everyone benefits.





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR—It is our mission at the Urban League to help make Chattanooga a place where African-Americans and other disadvantaged persons are able to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights—where people from all walks of life can live happy, healthy and successful lives. In short, we want to make a greater Chattanooga.

We've been hard at work this year to help make Chattanooga greater for disadvantaged families based on our four empowerment areas—education, financial stability, workforce development, and health and wellness.

For starters, we completed free tax returns for 3,032 low and moderate income Chattanoogaans, which resulted in \$3.7 million in tax refunds going directly back into the local economy. We also provided high-quality after-school programs for over 900 local students, facilitated \$1.3 million in college scholarships and sponsored the founding of a Young Professionals Association. We even helped 1,107 local women take action to prevent obesity, heart disease and diabetes through workout sessions and health classes. And we've already gotten a jump start on 2010 by partnering with EPB, Comcast, AT&T, The City of Chattanooga Human Services Department and GreenSpaces to provide skills training for high-demand careers in green construction, fiber optics and broadband networking early next year.

So many people have been educated, empowered, connected and have gotten healthier through the work of the Urban League. And that equals a greater Chattanooga—for everyone. But none of it would have been possible without the help of our partners and supporters. We'd like to extend a special "thank you" to everyone who helped us make Chattanooga greater this year.

Warren E. Logan
President/CEO

Charlesetta Woodard-Thompson
Board Chair

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October 2008 – June 2009

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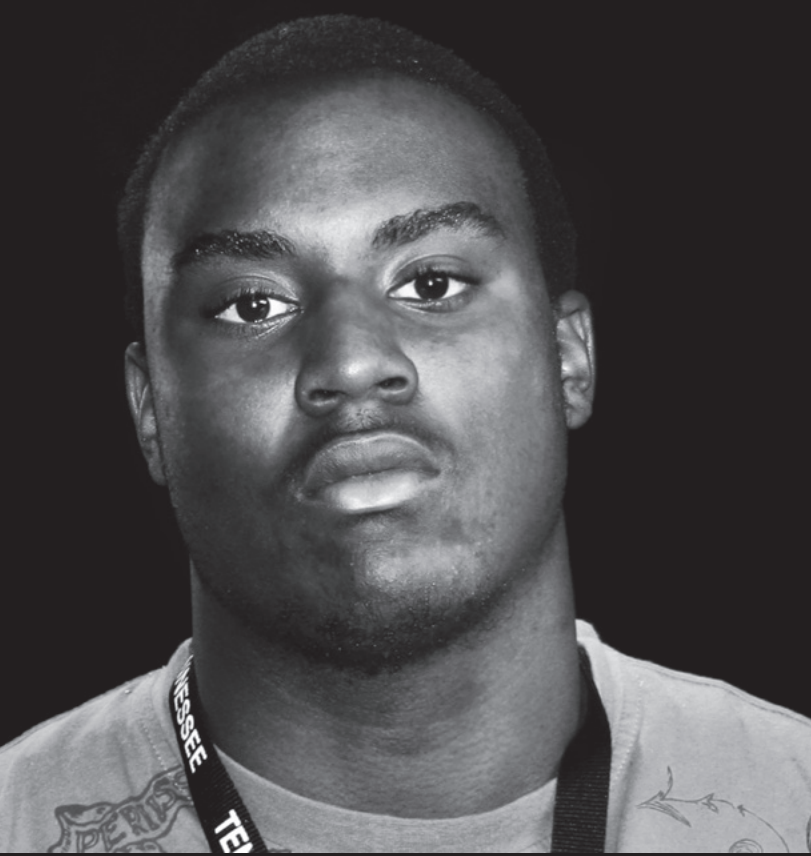


HOW YOU CAN HELP—When you make an investment in the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, you're helping disadvantaged people in our community achieve complete self-sufficiency. You also help extend our reach, sending a message of hope to those in our city who could use a little assistance now—so they and their families won't need it in the future. You can make a difference today. Become a member of the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga by calling **423-756-1762**. It's a positive step you can make today that helps our neighbors down the road.

Learn more online at: ulchatt.net



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Urban League of
Greater Chattanooga, Inc.

