



The Emissary

Volume 5 | Issue 1 | Spring 2026

Announcements

- The 2025 Annual Report can be accessed at www.generationsforamerica.org.
- **View the 2025 Scholarship Recipients now on the website www.generationsforamerica.org.**
- Go to the *Generations for America* (GFA) website www.generationsforamerica.org for more information about our **Good Life Initiative (Senior Citizen)** and **Scholarship Programs**.
- Donate to GFA at www.generationsforamerica.org.
- Email inquiries about GFA to grow@generationsforamerica.org.

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Message from the CEO

Welcome to the Spring 2026 Edition of the Emissary!

Generations for America (GFA) invites you to stay connected with our latest updates while enjoying some of the season's most exciting events—the Olympics, the Oscars, and the Super Bowl!

A heartfelt *thank-you* to all who supported GFA in 2025. Your generosity has equipped us to begin 2026 strong, continuing our mission to deliver vital programs that enrich our community. We truly couldn't do this important work without you.



This spring, our board members are excited to host several events, including another Chair Exercise Program for Seniors in April and our 6th Annual Mother-Daughter Brunch on May 9th. The application period for our 2026 \$500 Scholarship Program has now closed, and recipients will be announced in April.

In today's challenging economic climate, your continued support is more important than ever. GFA offers several convenient ways to give—please consider the method that works best for you and make a difference today.

Wishing all of our supporters a joyful and prosperous New Year. We look forward to growing and serving our communities together in 2026.

With gratitude,

Dr. Karen M. Newsome

Founder & President
Generations for America

Give to Grow

Donate!

GFA invites your support this year as we work to provide college scholarships for young adults, helping build a brighter future for our next generation. Every donation creates lasting change for the youth and communities served by GFA, ensuring students in need have access to valuable education opportunities.

GFA relies on contributions from generous supporters to fund these scholarships and make a meaningful impact—your gift truly matters. To help, simply visit any of our electronic platforms and donate today.

Together, our community can empower young scholars and invest in tomorrow's leaders.



Ways to Give

Cashapp
Gen4AME

PayPal
Generations4America

Venmo
Generations-for-America

Zelle
grow@generationsforamerica.org

Website
generationsforamerica.org



Give Where You Live

2025 Annual Report Now Available

We are pleased to announce that GFA's 2025 Annual Report is now available on our website at www.generationsforamerica.org.

The report provides an overview of GFA's activities and accomplishments throughout 2025 and includes:

- **About Us**
- **Highlights for Stakeholders**
- **2025 Financial Summary**
- **2025 Financial Statements**
- **Future Plans for Growth**

Board Member Limelight

Carissa Baldwin Williams

By Dr. Karen Newsome

Carissa is the proud daughter of Wilbur and the late Carolyn Baldwin. Her heart is firmly rooted in Huntsville, AL—a city that has nurtured both her personal and professional growth.

She earned her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Alabama A&M University. She later went on to earn a Master of Business degree from the University of Phoenix, blending her technical expertise with strong business acumen.

For more than 20 years, Carissa has been a key contributor to the Missile Defense Program as a Senior Systems Engineer at Redstone Arsenal.

Family is at the center of Carissa's life. She loves cheering on her sons at their football and basketball games, and she and her husband enjoy traveling to tournaments on the weekends. These moments spent together are what she cherishes most.



Seasoned Citizen Spotlight

Isabell Middleton-McCord

By Dr. Karen Newsome

Known affectionately as “Mrs. Izzy” by her community and church family, Isabell is a respected community and spiritual leader in Evans, GA. She was married to the late Rev. George McCord for 43 years, and together they raised four children.

A devoted member of Oakey Grove Baptist Church, Mrs. Izzy is well known for her teaching, ministerial guidance, and loving spirit. She sings in the church choir and faithfully serves as a deaconess, offering wisdom and practical life advice to younger members. It's common to find young church leaders gathered around her, learning from her example and receiving guidance on how to walk faithfully in God's house.



Chair Exercise Fundraiser

Coming April 2026

Due to incredible community interest, GFA will host another Chair Exercise Fundraiser in the spring. Chair exercise is a low-impact class designed specifically for seniors and individuals with mobility concerns, making movement safe, gentle, and enjoyable.

This spring event will take place in April, location and exact date TBD. The certified instructor Stephanie Quinones from Thiq Fitness will lead participants through a series of senior-friendly exercises focused on wellness and safety.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any GFA board member or by sending \$10 via CashApp to \$Gen4Ame with "Chair Exercise" in the note. Please make plans to join us in the spring for fun, fitness, and supporting a great community cause.



Mother-Daughter Brunch

SAVE THE DATE!

May 9, 2026

The Mother-Daughter Brunch will be held on **Saturday, May 9, at the Bibb Mill Event Center in Columbus, Georgia.**

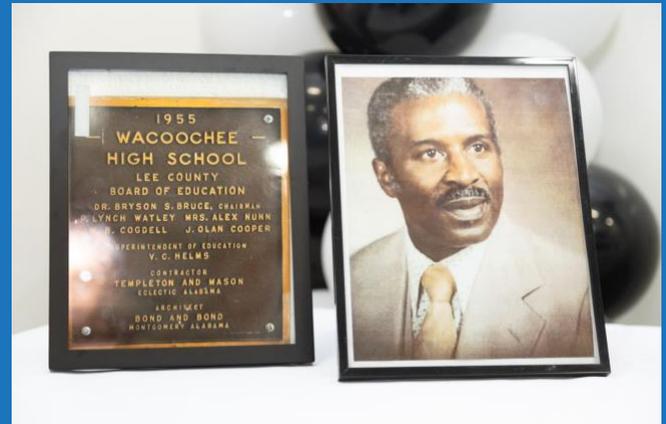
Individual tickets will be available for purchase beginning in April, but donations and sponsorships are being accepted now.

For details on sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Event Coordinator, Shakela Johnson, at (470) 729-1684 or shakela@bellsouth.net.

Honoring the Past Wacoochee High School

By Dr. Shakela Johnson

Wacoochee High School in Salem, AL, was a beloved institution that educated Black students before the integration of schools in Lee County. It served students from Bleecker, Crawford, Motts, Salem, and Smiths Station communities who were in grades 1-12. Despite the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954, which declared segregation as unconstitutional, Wacoochee operated as a segregated school from 1954 to 1970. Eventually, in 1970, under the direction of President Richard Nixon, various court rulings on desegregation were enforced, leading to the full integration of Lee County Schools. Wacoochee represents the journey to gain civil rights for all Americans. For this reason, GFA is making efforts for Wacoochee to be recognized as a historical landmark. GFA is currently collecting information from Wacoochee Alumni as part of the application documentation. The application is expected to be submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission this year.



Nonprofit Resource Corner

Beginning Your Nonprofit Journey

By Dr. Karen Newsome

The most important step in starting a nonprofit is simply to take action! If you feel called to lead a nonprofit, you're already thinking like a social entrepreneur—someone who wants to make a difference, not a profit.

Begin by writing down the programs or initiatives you want to launch to improve your community. Next, identify a group of people who share your passion and are willing to support your cause. Start meeting with friends and colleagues to brainstorm ideas and gather feedback.

Be sure to record your ideas and discussions to measure community interest in your organization. At the same time, research the IRS Form 1023 and your state's requirements for officially registering your nonprofit.



A Nonprofit Podcast with GFA

Host: Dr. Karen Newsome, President of GFA

Purpose:

The podcast is dedicated to promoting the programs, events, and activities of GFA, keeping listeners informed about the organization's impactful work.

Frequency:

Episodes will be released quarterly.

Topics for Discussion:

Content will be based on the headlines featured in the Emissary, GFA's quarterly newsletter, including:

- Message from the President
- Discuss Fundraiser Highlights
- Board Member Spotlight
- Senior Citizen Spotlight
- Current Affairs related to GFA's mission



Website:

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“Give to Grow”
“Give Where You Live”

