

helped around 1,000 more prepare for finding employment. The league's career-development efforts range from helping job seekers draft resumes to mock job interviews.

In recent times the league has sponsored Saturday morning enrichment classes for children. And it has found buyers for dozens of new single-family homes built on vacant or abandoned property under its Project Rebound program in Russell, helping to transform the surrounding neighborhood.

League efforts annually include career expos; job training, referrals and career counseling; a variety of services for employers; homeownership training and counseling; a health and wellness program called Get Fit Louisville; a walk to defeat childhood obesity; and a long list of programs to help both youths and seniors in many ways.

Benjamin K. Richmond, 71 and single, was born in Durham, N.C., and raised in Jackson, Miss.

Richmond came to the Louisville Urban League as president and CEO in 1987, after top jobs with league affiliates in Wisconsin and Michigan. Richmond here replaced the league's longtime leader, the late Art Walters. Walters, who died in 2010 at age 91, directed the Louisville Urban League from 1970 to 1987.

Since Richmond took over, the league's staff has grown from around 20 to 30—also aided by dozens of volunteers—and its annual budget has grown from under \$1 million to around \$3.3 million this year. The funds have been cobbled together largely by Richmond—from Metro United Way and numerous public and private sources.

The current budget, for instance, includes about \$340,000 from United Way, less than \$100,000 from Metro Government and a \$1.2 million federal grant earmarked primarily for programs for seniors.

The league has several departments, including the Center for Workforce Development, the Center for Housing and Financial Empowerment and the Center for Youth Development and Education.

Richmond said in an interview Monday that he expects to remain on the job until around June 30, or until a replacement is named by the agency's board, after a planned national search. He said he may then stay on under a contract for a while longer.

Richmond intends to stay in Louisville, while traveling some to visit relatives in Mississippi and Arizona.

But he pledges to remain active, noting that "there are many opportunities in both the public and private sectors here. I will see what emerges. But I want to have fun."

Among many achievements during his tenure, Richmond cited:

Opening the league headquarters in 1990 at 1535 W. Broadway, a 19,000-square-foot office, community meeting site, classroom and job-training facility. The league invested \$1.6 million in the headquarters, which was paid off long ago. Richmond said the league headquarters has spurred significant nearby development along Broadway.

The economic impact of the league in terms of finding jobs for more than 200 people last year. Their combined annual income should be nearly \$5 million.

Richmond noted that in recent years the league helped find jobs for dozens of minorities in construction of the KFC Yum! Center, and he said the league was instrumental in getting the PGA of America to establish an urban youth golf program and also hire top staff minorities.

That a halfway point has nearly been reached toward a goal—shared with partner organizations such as Simmons College and Jefferson Community and Technical College—to have 15,000 local African-Americans earn college degrees between 2012 and 2020.

The minority effort is part of the community's 55,000 Degrees effort.

That the league last year received a top score in a self-audit—a review of its staff, policies, finances and procedures—required every three years by the National Urban League. The Louisville agency was just one of 13 affiliates of the national organization to achieve that status, Richmond said.

Richmond said he is proud that under his oversight the local league has attained financial stability, adding that he believes his organization is widely respected.

Under Richmond, the league has become more diversified. About half of its 36-member board and about half the staff are white. Richmond said he has strived to "practice what we preach—racial diversity."

Richmond "has been a tremendous leader," said Metro Councilman David Tandy, D-4th District. "There is still work to do, but he has been at the forefront of the second, or third, wave of the civil-rights movement, focusing on economic opportunity. . . . He has played a pivotal role in the community."

Richmond "has tried to create opportunities and meet challenges our community has faced," said longtime ally Sam Watkins, president of the Louisville Central Community Center, another West End-based, pro-development group.

"He's been a champion for west Louisville and has been proactive in trying to garner desperately needed attention for the area's issues and problems."

#### REMEMBERING WENDELL FORD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the United States Senate family lost one of its Members. Early this morning, our friend and colleague, Senator Wendell Ford, passed away at his home in Owensboro, KY.

Senator Wendell Ford's service to his State and country spanned seven decades. A veteran of World War II and longtime member of the Kentucky Army National Guard, Wendell Ford's first elected position was that of State senator. In 1967 he ran successfully for Lieutenant Governor. Four years later he was elected Governor.

Following his term as Governor, the people of Kentucky sent him to the U.S. Senate, where he enjoyed a distinguished 24-year career. He was my predecessor as Democratic whip, a position that he held from 1995 to 1999. When Senator Ford retired, he was the longest serving U.S. Senator in Kentucky history, a record that my friend, the majority leader, eclipsed in 2009.

Senator Wendell Ford loved Kentucky. His loyalty to his home State was never in question. During his time here in the Senate, he unabashedly and unapologetically fought for anything that would give Kentucky families a helping hand. Similarly, anyone or anything that threatened Kentucky and its people was met with Senator Ford's fierce opposition.

My thoughts today are with his family. I express my condolences to his wife of 71 years, Jean Neel, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Senator Wendell Ford will be greatly missed by his loved ones, the people of Kentucky and the United States of America.

#### FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CITIZENS UNITED DECISION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 5-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. In this sweeping opinion, on a divided 5 to 4 vote, the Court held that the First Amendment permitted corporations to spend freely from their treasuries to influence elections. As a result of *Citizens United* and the series of decisions that followed in its wake, we have witnessed wealthy, well-connected campaign donors and special interests unleash a deluge of cash in an effort to sway Federal, State, and local elections across our Nation.

Let me be clear: I firmly believe that every voice should be heard in our country, and every perspective should have a seat at the Nation's policy-making table. However, *Citizens United* has led to a system that allows a privileged group of deep-pocketed donors and corporations to drown out the voices of ordinary citizens in an effort to buy and control every seat at the table.

The numbers speak for themselves. During the last Presidential election, outside groups poured more than one billion dollars into Federal races, over three times the \$338 million that outside groups spent in 2008. More than 93 percent of all super PAC donations in 2012 came in contributions of at least \$10,000 from 3,318 donors, who make up 0.0011 percent of the U.S. population. Of that group, an elite class of 159 people each contributed at least \$1 million—funding nearly 60 percent of all super PAC donations that year.

We saw this trend continue during the recent midterm elections. Outside groups spent more than \$560 million to influence 2014 Federal races—8 times the approximately \$70 million spent in 2006, the last midterm election cycle before *Citizens United*. In 2014, we also saw a significant increase in political activity by tax-exempt "dark money" groups that do not publicly disclose their donors. *Citizens United* and its progeny have created a campaign finance system flush with secret cash and sorely lacking in transparency.

The impact stretches from Congress to state capitols to city halls throughout the country. As in Federal campaigns, *Citizens United* has led to an explosion of outside spending at the State and local levels, with corporations and wealthy single spenders looking to play kingmaker, pouring cash into races for positions ranging from district attorney to city commissioner. One of the most startling examples last fall occurred in Richmond, CA, a city with a population of 107,000. Chevron—an energy company with more than \$200 billion in annual revenue—spent approximately \$3 million through campaign committees aimed at influencing the mayoral and city council races. That means Chevron spent at least \$33 per voting-age resident in Richmond.

While the influx of spending is well documented, I believe that the long-