

Rainbow PUSH Wall Street economic summit

Written by Alaina L. Lewis

Tuesday, 25 January 2011 15:36



Every year around the week of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and his organization, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition (RPC), hold their annual Wall Street economic summit. This year marked their 14th anniversary.

The conference, which always draws a large number of participants, was held in New York City from January 11 – 14th with a theme aptly titled, “A More Perfect Union: Time to Rebuild America.”

With the unemployment rates and lack of available jobs, the summit came at an appropriate hour. The objective of the event was to incite change and promote new beginnings in the lives of those oppressed by economic injustice.

“So many qualified people just cannot get jobs. Unless they put our faces there, then joblessness becomes a statistic,” Jackson said. “When it came to refusing to sit in the back of the bus, we boycotted and acted. We must put faces on things to make it real. It is time to begin to mobilize resumes and enter these streets demanding jobs and justice.”

In addition to addressing unemployment and job creation, the summit covered a range of other subjects like foreclosures, international affairs, labor, civil rights, women and wealth, as well as economic and education opportunities. By highlighting these issues, Jackson hopes the playing field will be evened.

“It's not an even playing field. Take a look at the sports industry where the playing field is level. When the rules are public, the goals are clear and the playing field is even, we all win. It becomes a fair game. Nobody knew how good baseball, basketball, football, golf or tennis could be until everybody could play. We all became better once the doors of inclusion opened to include all talented players. We need to do the same in business,” said Jackson.

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