**For Immediate Release**

**32nd Annual Black Family Reunion celebration is Aug. 13-16**

*The Black Family Reunion returns this year with a hybrid event structure adapted for COVID-19 safety protocols. UC Health returns as the presenting sponsor and the theme for the event is “Faithful and Fearless.” A combination of virtual events and a call-to-action day at Sawyer Point make up this year’s celebration.*

**Cincinnati**, OH--The Black Family Reunion Celebration (BFR) is set for Aug. 13-16, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s event will look different, and encompass virtual events and a day of community support at Sawyer Point Park, including a new structure for Sawyer Point. Saturday’s (Aug. 15) focus will be to provide access to COVID testing for African-Americans, voter registration, a school supply giveaway, and food box giveaway. This year, organizers plan to use the day at the park specifically to serve the community.

“The Black Family Reunion exists to uplift and celebrate the black community and family structure. With our community experiencing devastating results of COVID-19 and continuous injustices at the hands of police and a broken system, it’s important for us to have this event this year,” says Tracey Artis, executive director of BFR. “We want to shine a light on how faithful and fearless we are as a people and bring some joy and positivity to those who might need it.”

Cincinnati’s Black Family Reunion event is the last- remaining in the country. This year’s schedule of events will include:

**Thursday, Aug. 13**

* Speaker Series featuring Rev. Dr Jamal Bryant; 7:00 p.m. EST. This event will be held virtually and is free.

**Friday, Aug. 14**

* Heritage Breakfast feat. Dr. O'dell Owens, President and CEO of Interact for Health; 11:00 a.m. EST. This event will be held virtually and is free.
* Gospel concert featuring Karew Entertainment artist Kierra Sheard; 7:00 p.m. EST. This event will be held virtually and is free.

**Saturday, Aug. 15**

* Community support at Sawyer Point (sponsored by the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio)- 12:00-6:00 p.m.- featuring COVID-19 testing (sponsored by UC Health), voter registration (sponsored by the Cincinnati chapter of NAACP), school supply giveaway (sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.), and food box giveaways (sponsored by Inspirational Baptist Church). COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols will be followed.

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* Urban concert featuring Kenny Lattimore; 7:00 p.m. EST. This event will be held virtually and is free.

**Sunday, Aug. 16**

* Sunday worship service feat. Pastor John Gray as keynote speaker; 11:00 a.m. EST. This event will be held virtually and is free.

This year’s BFR Family of the Year is Mr. and Mrs. Jesse and Iris Roley and family.

Sponsors for this year’s event include UC Health (presenting sponsor), The Digital Factory, Fifth Third Bank (Speaker Series and Heritage Breakfast sponsor), Western & Southern Life, Kroger, Procter & Gamble, Interact for Health, Metro, Kroger, McDonalds, Miami University, Inspirational Baptist Church, The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio and The Health Gap.

The Black Family Reunion was started in 1989 by Dr. Dorothy Height, who was president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) at the time. NCNW has a local Cincinnati chapter still in operation.

For more information and to see a complete list of events or to sponsor, please visit [www.myblackfamilyreunion.org](http://www.myblackfamilyreunion.org) or call 513-229-0502.

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**About the Black Family Reunion**

The National Black Family Reunion Celebration was founded by the National Council of Negro Women, led by Dr. Dorothy Height, to celebrate and recognize the strength of the African American family. The Black Family Reunion Celebration was inaugurated in August 1989, and is the only one of 28 nationwide remaining. It is held annually on the third weekend of August at Sawyer Point and other sites in Cincinnati.

**About Tracey Artis**

Tracey Artis is the CEO of JazJordan Inc., a firm that plans and promotes special events. One of the signature events is The Black Family Reunion. Artis took over the production of the Black Family Reunion in 2013.

**For media inquiries contact:**

Keeyana Avery

Publicist, Agency Seven PR

keeyana@agencysevenpr.com

937-631-1459 (cell)

513-399-7772 (direct)