

Dear friend,

Nearly half of all children in Rochester, NY live in poverty, according to the U.S Census Bureau. Rochester ranks second highest in the nation in poverty, of areas with a population of 100,000 or more. At least 42 young people, under the age of 18, were victims of gun violence in Rochester last year. Rochester has a long history of suffering from a culture of police impunity and systemic racism.

Most remarkable was the outcome of this past Fall's student assessment data showing a negative trend among Rochester City School District students in nearly every grade level K-8. Of the more than 12,000 students who took the iReady assessments, 41 percent are three or more grade levels behind in reading, while 42 percent are three or more grade levels behind in math.

So, it is critical that we prioritize marginalized children and their families. There is a tribe in Africa called Masai whose traditional greeting to each other is " Casserian Egeri." It means, " And how are the children?"

This greeting is steeped in the belief that monitoring the well-being of their children is the best way to determine the future health and prosperity of their whole society. SPARC and BCFF wholeheartedly agree with this truth for not just the Masai tribe but, for Rochester, New York state, and our nation as a whole. We must monitor and secure the well-being of our children. When children prosper and thrive with well-being, we all benefit and fulfill Dr. King's dream to address economic inequities and injustice.

In a recent poll, Rochesterians named crime/violence, equality/inequity, education, economy, and racism/racial bias as the top five important issues needing attention. In each issue, the life of a child hangs in the balance! Children of Color are disproportionately impacted. It is imperative that we shift our work toward child well-being and thriving! Come and hear Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson invite us into a revolutionary paradigm shift toward actions designed to transform our work with children and youth within our community! Join us for this event.

You can purchase tickets at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and attend in person or virtually. See details on our flier. Help us ensure that the children are well!

Rev. Myra Brown (Pastor of Spiritus Christi Church)
SPARC (Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition)
BCFF (The Black Community Focus Fund)



SPARC & BCFF PRESENT



AND HOW ARE THE CHILDREN? (CASSERIAN ENGERI?)

"Our Hope for Years to Come: Toward a Vision of Child Well-Being"

Saturday
February 25, 2023
1 p.m. -3 p.m.
121 N. Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14614

Registration @ Eventbrite.com
General , student, and VIP
reception tickets available for
virtual or in-person attendance.
+585-200-0922



Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson
Keynote Speaker

President & CEO of the Children's
Defense Fund

All proceeds to support the
Franklin D. Florence Civil Rights Park and
community work of BCFF

