



1916

The Detroit Urban League formed

Forrester B. Washington and Henry G. Stevens opened the first Detroit Urban League office in 1916. John C. Dancy was appointed executive director after Washington and served for 42 years. The role of the league was to help members of the African American community, especially newcomers, migrating from the North. The League assisted newcomers who needed housing and jobs and created initiatives to make leisure time more enjoyable.



The first leaders of the chapter, the 25 members of the Young Negroes' Progressive Association, helped arrange dances, basketball and baseball leagues. In years to come, the Detroit Urban League would help the African American community of Detroit further develop and acclimate newly arrived African Americans to life in the city.

¹ Outside the Detroit branch of the Urban League

Detroit Urban League Records, Box 87, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

² Campers in front of cottage at Green Pastures Camp.

Greater Lansing Urban League records, Box 87, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

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Credits:

Curtis, Nancy C. *Black Heritage Sites: An African American Odyssey and Finder's Guide*.
Edwards Brothers, 1996. Print.

Moon, Elaine Latzman. *Untold Tales, Unsung Heroes: An Oral History of Detroit's African
American Community 1918-1967*. Wayne State UP, 1994. Print.

Keywords/Topics:

Entertainment and Recreation

Questions:

1. How did the Detroit Urban League help the African American community?
2. What recreational activities did the League plan?
3. Why was Green Pastures Camp created?
4. Would you have wanted to go to Green Pastures Camp?

Links to Internet Websites:

<http://www.nul.org/>

http://www.detroiturbanleague.org/index_002_002.htm

http://www.daahp.wayne.edu/1900_1949.html

<http://bentley.umich.edu/research/publications/migration/index.php>

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LEAGUE CENTER IN 1923

Detroit Urban League Records, Box 87, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

The Detroit Urban League is located at 208 Mack Avenue. Their mission is to assist African Americans and other people of color to cultivate and exercise their fullest human potential on a par with all other Americans.

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Greater Lansing Urban League records, Box 87, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan

One of the most successful of the Detroit Urban League's programs was the Green Pastures Camp. Established in 1931 with a gift from the Children's Fund of Michigan, John Dancy, the League's second director, created the first camp for African American children in Michigan. Located on Pleasant Lake near the town of Grass Lake, campers swam three times a day, slept in cottages and ate healthy meals. All the counselors were required to have completed at least one year of college. Approximately 15,000 children attended the camp during the three decades of its operation.