

We've Come A Long Way!

When we talk about transformational leadership, we should make sure that we are clear about what we mean. Mary McLeod Bethune was a transformational leader.

She took the typical paradigm of individual organizations operating completely autonomously (and, let's be honest, often competitively) from others despite their having similar goals and objectives—and turned it on its head.

Founding NCNW, she insisted that Black women could do more together than a part...and she was right.

The model is unique in that NCNW is both a national “organization of organizations” and a network of community and campus-based sections and guilds. Beyond those organizational structures, it is a vast network of women from all walks of life who, if properly mobilized, would be unstoppable!

Our beloved President Emerita, Dorothy Irene Height, was a transformational leader. Building on the legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune, her ability to bring us together for one purpose or aim remains legendary. Her insistence that justice was only won when we stood together and spoke together made NCNW (and Dr. Height) a force to be reckoned with.

Sadly, as our nation becomes more diverse, it is also more divided. The divide between the “haves” and the “have nots” continues to grow. We must face the reality that we have a long way to go towards creating a true just and equitable society. For NCNW, that means measurably improving the quality of life for African American women, their families and communities.

