



*For Immediate Release*

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## Real Men Cook®, S. D. Proctor Conference Confront “New Jim Crow”

MAY 24, 2011, CHICAGO—Real Men Charities, Inc. the nonprofit sponsor of the Real Men Cook® Father's Day celebrations, ([www.realmencook.com](http://www.realmencook.com)) today announced its solidarity with the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC), in its quest to upend the “New Jim Crow”—federal drug policies that have incarcerated a disproportionate number of black men, and robbed too many children of their fathers.

This year, Father’s Day falls on June 19, known as “Juneteenth,” the day in 1865 when many slaves in Texas learned that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed them nearly 30 months earlier. One hundred six years later, almost to the day, then-President Richard Nixon declared the War on Drugs. According to a new book by Attorney Michelle Alexander, Nixon’s war created the “New Jim Crow.”

“It was this War on Drugs and the ‘get tough movement’ that Alexander brilliantly documents in her book, which succeeded in turning back the clock on racial progress and creating a vast, new racial undercaste in the United States,” said SDPC General Secretary Dr. Iva Carruthers.

On Juneteenth, SDPC is launching a multi-city campaign against the New Jim Crow. The organization will have a tent at Real Men Cook’s Father’s Day events in several cities. In Chicago, Attorney Alexander’s book and study guide will be on sale in the event’s Real Men Read pavilion at Chicago State University, 9501 S. King Drive.

“The War on Drugs has almost erased black men from our society and blocked their re-entry,” said Real Men Charities Board Chairman Byron Garrett. “This is not a personal problem; it’s everyone’s problem—and together, we can be the solution.”

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, June 1—\$20 for adults, \$10 for children (\$5 additional at the event)—online at [www.realmencook.com](http://www.realmencook.com), the Southside YMCA, 6330 S. Stony Island and the Community Mental Health Council, 8704 S. Constance Avenue.

Proceeds from the event are presented to select non-profit partners. In Chicago, this year’s event will benefit the South Side YMCA and the Community Mental Health Council. To date, more than \$1 million has been raised through Real Men Cook events nationwide.

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