

WIDENING THE PATH OF HOPE



Henry and Robbie Dillner were among the first Black families to relocate to Appleton in the 1970s.
 Appleton Times



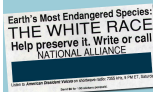
In 2011, Tony Awofeso was elected to represent District 11 of the Outagamie Board. Awofeso has worked to strengthen services for all. In 2016, Governor Evers named the first Black elected official to Appleton.
 Appleton Times

Advocating for Change

Further inspiring growth through inclusion were new cultural and anti-discrimination organizations. In 1981, a diverse coalition of activists formed **Toward Community**, an organization to promote acceptance and rights to all. Their educational efforts included a public library to make Appleton a more diverse town. Black leaders in Appleton and the business sector signed the Chicago Urban 50% commitment and 12 straight refused to consent to any discriminatory terms.

In 1984, Black scientists, professors, business leaders, and community advocates formed **Black History Month**. The organization encourages educational and cultural exchange, their relationship with governmental agencies and private cultural institutions in the Fox Cities. Their efforts brought the first ever community-wide Black History Month events that spotlight the history, contributions and experiences of Blacks.

Organizations currently working to encourage diversity and equality at Appleton include All About Empowering Young Women of Color and the Black Student Union.



Even with recent problems of racism, hope is still alive. From 1980 to 2010, Appleton's Black population has grown from 31 to 1,179 people.

What brought Blacks back to Appleton?

By the 1960s, Blacks slowly began relocating to the Fox Cities again. High school and college students were the first to relocate to Appleton. Individuals, including **Joe Haddad**, recalled feeling isolated when whites stared and pointed at her.

Some corporations embraced change and recruited Black professionals. By 1973, Kimberly-Clark began donating to minority education funds and hiring employees of color. The company further helped Black workers feel welcome through their African American Employee Network in 1990.

Among the new families were Henry and Robbie Dillner, who moved from Texas to work for the Farmers Home Administration in 1974. Job opportunities improved as positions in all levels of employment began opening to some Blacks and other people of color.

Hope for a Better Future

Despite progress toward equality, many challenges still linger for Blacks in the Fox Cities. Blacks continue to face racism in the areas of employment, housing, and education. There is still a smaller Black workforce and racial ethnic divide in the government. Advancement opportunities, which foster long term access to higher paying jobs.

Wisconsin's discrimination rate for Blacks is double the national average. About 15% of Wisconsin's Black men are working for or unemployed. **Appleton's Police Department**, which is a minority police, in 1976, the Police and Appleton Area School District created staff positions to promote diversity, inclusion, and to recruit minority students, but there is a need for wider support.

City of Appleton officials once encouraged diversity. Today, they continue to encourage diversity and inclusion. Appleton workers had to create the through debt and call free education, policy work, for housing, and inclusion.



Appleton's community is proud to be a 100% inclusive Black culture and the end of slavery in the United States. This event is proudly sponsored by Appleton's Black History Museum.
 See Page: Appleton's Black History Museum

Throughout local history, individuals have made personal choices to be either welcoming or exclusionary.

How will you keep hope for equality alive in the Fox Cities?

