

Atum Azzahir, Elder

- In ceremonies that were held in 1989, 1990 through 1992 Atum Azzahir received titles of Elder, Shemsu and Mother from the Communities of African People in America, the Caribbean and the African continent, to whom she has dedicated her life's work.
- Elder Atum is a teacher and a practitioner of African Thought & Spirituality.
- Received her D-Litt Kemii Doctor of Literature from the International Khepran Institute in 2007. This honor acknowledges Elder Atum's work in building sustainable, cultural institutions in African communities. She has developed and managed organizations, written and produced other materials on African intellectual heritage. She has designed Rites of Passages Programs, Initiations, and Ceremonies for Healing. The institutions she founded have created community models for Workforce Redevelopment, Entrepreneurship and Mediation practices in order for the African in America to interface in mainstream communities. People who have studied with Elder Atum are in key leadership positions across the country in various institutions and many have consistently returned for coaching and connecting for over 23 years.
- From 1987 to 2011 Elder Atum founded and co-founded the following organizations; the widely acclaimed Cultural Wellness Centers in Minneapolis and St. Paul where she serves as President and Executive Director.
 - 2008 The Cultural Wellness & African American Economic Development Center St. Paul, Minnesota
 - 1996 Cultural Wellness Center Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - 1992 Elders Other Mothers and Daughters of Africa
 - 1989 Way to Grow a city-wide school readiness program in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - 1987 The Asili Institute for Women of African Descent

Employment/Consultancy

- 1984-1989 Executive Director of Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter for families experiencing violence & abuse in their homes.
- 1989-1994 Executive Director and Program Developer of city-wide Way to Grow
- 1978-1984 Licensed Vocational Educational Advisor, Minneapolis Technical Institute.
- 1968-1978 Nursing Assistant, Home Health Aide Ward Clerk in Milwaukee County Hospitals & Nursing Homes.

The 30 year Institution building work by Atum has generated over \$30 million dollars within the African American Community. Over 1,000 people have received womanhood and manhood

training, marriage ceremonies, naming ceremonies; birth labor coaching, conflict resolution & mediation, dialogue & effective communications and jobs/business development training.

Atum received the Leadership in Neighborhood's Award in 1997. She traveled and studied with Elders in West African Countries: Ghana, Senegal, Benin Republic and Caribbean Countries: Bahamas, Jamaica, Grenada and many states in the United States. She took what she describes as an Intellectual Pilgrimage with her teacher and husband Ahmad Azzahir to Egypt.

In 1994 Elder Atum was awarded the McKnight Foundation Fellowship to serve as a Salzburg Fellow in Salzburg Austria. She later served as an advisor and was instrumental in selecting nine other local residents for this international recognition in Salzburg Austria.

In 1997 she received the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership award of \$100,000 for the innovative approach to health in the Powderhorn community. The Healthy Powderhorn initiative resulted in the cultural approaches to health and wellness which is now a field of study called "Cultural Wellness." This approach is integrated in the work of the Cultural Wellness Centers' in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

In 2008 Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation acknowledged Atum for the Cultural Wellness Centers' "People's Theory of Sickness" with their prestigious leadership in Health Award and invested \$15,000 in the work of Elder Atum.

Other Acknowledgments

Race Unity Award-Minneapolis Baha'i Community (2000)

100 Most Influential Health Leaders Physicians Monthly Magazine

Organizational Boards 1989-2011

- The National Network of Women's Funds
- The Minnesota Women's Funds
- The Salzburg Fellows Advisory Committee
- Medica Health Plans
- The Allina Health Systems
- Hope Communities Inc.
- University of Minnesota Medical Foundation
- Hennepin County Medical Center
- Community Campus Partnerships for Health

Publications

- The People's Journal
- Affirmations for Cultural Wellness
- 21 Standards for a Healthy African Community
- The New Way of Life Manual
- Journal for Self Study