

Black Panther

and tissue donor program, Aaron paved the way. Moving Aaron as a board member gives us great credibility and instant recognition in the community."

Sitting in his kitchen, cradling his 5-year-old daughter, Asha, in his lap, Dixon looks every part the doting dad. He can't resist bragging about his two grown kids and the three youngest, who live with him part-time. Asha plays soccer, swims and sings. Venishia, 15, is a freshman at West Seattle High School. She has a brown belt in karate, runs track and has composed some 30 pieces of music. Aziza, 12, is a scholarship student at St. Therese School in Madrona, a blue belt in karate and a dancer. Dixon says, "I want to provide them with every opportunity to take their interests and abilities as far as they can."

Dixon says he feels the weight of everything he's done and lived through. That's why he's laying it all out in a memoir titled *A Time to Remember*. He's now halfway through the third draft, and the William Morris Agency in New York wants to take a look when it's ready, Dixon says.

He also hopes to write a script for a film concept tentatively titled *Maorona Park*. It would be about growing up in Madrona in the '60s, and how the tranquillity of an interracial neighborhood gave way to discord in the wake of Vietnam and the civil rights movement.

One thing is clear. Aaron Dixon is far from done. "In my work with young people who've been affiliated with gangs, I stress that they have to take responsibility for all their actions and their selves. It's the same for the African-American community on the whole. We can change everything." **L&P**

-Matt Rosenberg is a Seattle writer. He is a regular contributor to the Seattle Times op-ed page and has written for the Puget Sound Business Journal, The Chicago Tribune, The Denver Post and The Weekly Standard.