



## KWANZAA

**Kwanzaa is based on seven guiding principles, one for each day of the observance, and is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.**

- **Unity** stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community, which is reflected in the African saying, "I am We," or "I am because We are."
- **Self-Determination** requires that we define our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and community.
- **Collective Work and Responsibility** reminds us of our obligation to the past, present and future, and that we have a role to play in the community, society, and world.
- **Cooperative economics** emphasizes our collective economic strength and encourages us to meet common needs through mutual support.
- **Purpose** encourages us to look within ourselves and to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community.
- **Creativity** makes use of our creative energies to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community
- **Faith** focuses on honoring the best of our traditions, draws upon the best in ourselves, and helps us strive for a higher level of life for humankind, by affirming our self-worth and confidence in our ability to succeed and triumph in righteous struggle.