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# The *Sojourner's* Truth

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The Dorr Street Project - Page 7

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# Beacon Place Apartments' Residents Face Deteriorating Living Conditions

By Sean Nestor

The Truth Contributor

In 2021, deplorable living conditions at the Greenbelt Place Apartments attracted the attention of U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This followed several years of unheard pleas for action from residents and advocacy groups alike pointing out severe neglect of the property by its out-of-state owner.



Gwendolyn Hunt

Still, Dallas-based Eureka Multifamily Group continues to own and profit off the complex while residents suffer in squalor.

Less than a mile north on Cherry Street, residents of the Beacon Place Apartments are sounding the alarm about similar problems. Beacon Place is a 200-unit complex on the outskirts of downtown Toledo where a large percentage of the tenants are elderly and Black. Many have rented there for 20-30 years.

Ever since an anonymous entity bought the complex in 2016 and hired Carmel, Indiana-based Denizen Management to manage the property, residents have complained of constant rent increases, deteriorating buildings and mistreatment by management.

## Rising Costs, Declining Quality

Beacon Place is home to several residents who have been long-term renters.

Without exception, each of the tenants I spoke with agreed that while past managers had their flaws, Denizen Management has engaged in unprecedented levels of negligence and abuse.

Mrs. Smith (not her true name), aged 71, noticed a change in demeanor right away. "When you'd ask them to fix something, it was always 'We're busy', or 'Do you have someone?', or 'Can your husband fix it?'" It was always about the money and never the repairs. I've lived here almost 20 years and they've never replaced the carpet, never painted the house."

Another tenant, Mrs. Jones (not her true name), aged 77, agreed. "I liked being here; it was always so well-kept [before Denizen]. Now, they aren't doing anything except taking our money." She has been renting at Beacon Place since 1980.

Issues corroborated by multiple tenants include:

- Charging several fees on top of rent, including water, sewer, trash collection, common area electricity, and an administrative fee each month;
- Denying requests for transparency regarding what the management company pays in utilities and how each renter's bill is calculated;
- Enrolling tenants who already have renter's insurance into Denizen's insurance plan without informing them;
- Pushing tenants to use an online billing system instead of allowing them to receive paper bills;
- Rude and dismissive language lobbied against tenants who ask questions
- Little to no groundskeeping resulting in trash strewn across common areas;
- Little to no landscaping resulting in overgrown bushes and tree branches obscuring windows;

## St. Paul MBC Men's Weekend!

St. Paul Missionary Baptist will hold its Annual Men Day weekend on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12, 2023. The Kickoff will be a Drive-By Breakfast on Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The breakfast donation is \$10.00. If you don't have a ticket, just drive by, you can get a full breakfast and leave your donation.

Sunday beginning at 10:45 a.m. will be our Annual Day with Rev. Mark Click, the Executive Minister for ABC/OHIO will be the speaker. The men's theme this year is "Men of God Allowing the Spirit of God to Direct their Path" from 2 Corinthians 12:9... Please come and join us in our Annual Celebration. For further information call, 419-246-2886.

- Stray animals including rats and cats loitering on the property;
- Maintenance work not being done properly;
- Maintenance work taking excessively long to complete;
- Ignoring plumbing issues, including a water main break that lasted for months despite flooding a common area;
- Not washing the building exteriors or replacing carpeting in units;
- Loose and rotting wooden steps leading to second-floor units;
- Not shoveling or salting paved walkways around the complex;
- Refusing to provide wheelchair ramps or handrails for disabled tenants unless the tenant pays for both installation and removal.

Many tenants I spoke with stated that they wouldn't mind the rent increases and extra charges if they had something to show for it.

"Every month the rent goes up. This month, it was up \$40 even though I'm using less. Every month it increases because of the sewer, trash, and water fees. I'm on a fixed income. I can't afford it. Floors are squeaky, the boards are loose - there are a lot of repairs they need to make. They keep going up on the rent but aren't fixing anything," said Mrs. Jones.

## Tenants Unite

Four years into Denizen Management's reign, tenants became frustrated enough that they began talking to each other about what could be done. During a meeting in September of 2020 of about 20 tenants on a shared lawn in front of their units, property manager Samantha Teets placed a 911 call stating that "two black men are holding down a white woman." When police arrived, they found a peaceful assembly that the tenants were within their rights to hold; however, the experience had a chilling effect on future gatherings, hampering efforts to organize.

Some tenants persisted regardless, and, with the help of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), an organizer was found to assist them. Regular meetings resumed in September of 2021, a full year later; this yielded the formation of a tenants' union, the Beacon Place Tenant Council, that November. Armed now with a formal structure, the tenant union surveyed the tenants about which issues they considered the most pressing.

At the top of the list were the water bills. Though most apartment complexes don't charge for water, Beacon Place does. The cost also tended to increase each month, and management would react with hostility when pressed why. The formula used to determine what each unit would be charged supposedly took into account square footage, the number of bedrooms, and the number of people on the lease; however, neighboring residents where all three were the same were getting billed different amounts.

## Seeking Relief

Fortunately, a remedy had just been passed into law. In September of 2021, Toledo City Council enacted an ordinance amending Toledo Municipal Code 933.06, "Resale of water", which prohibited the resale of water to tenants unless each individual unit has its own meter. This allows each tenant to know exactly how much water they consumed and, by extension, what they should be charged. At Beacon Place, all 200 units are connected to a single meter in violation of this requirement.

Partnering with ABLE, the Beacon Place Tenant Council filed suit against Denizen Management in December 2021 seeking enforcement of the new law. Denizen subsequently countersued the City of Toledo, claiming the law was unconstitutional. This put the City's law department on the same team as ABLE, and, for the first time, tenants at Beacon Place had leverage against their landlord.

Around this time, management began to acquiesce to certain demands. For the first time, the paved walkways got shoveled when it snowed; some buildings had their exterior power washed; some tenants reported finally getting worn carpeting replaced; and a new, friendlier manager was installed in the front office (although Samantha Teets remains in a supervisory role). Efforts to settle the lawsuit outside of court began, providing the tenant

council with an opportunity to negotiate for solutions to other problems not brought up in the lawsuit.

It was during a settlement discussion in late July of 2022 that matters went south. An attorney for the City of Toledo announced that the administration had no plans to enforce TMC 933.06, agreed with the lawyers representing

... continued on page 7

# Gun Violence ... It's a Family Affair?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

What more can be elucidated and articulated about the ravages of gun violence that have become an ongoing nightmare for so many communities across the country?

How many more special reports and mayors' recommendations need to be issued and analyzed before serious implementation takes place?

How many more fathers and mothers and siblings must moan and wail and grieve because someone takes out his inner rage or hostility by the use of a firearm on strangers or on family members?

America has a long-standing history of having an intense and rapturous love affair with all things that can fire a projectile and kill a person.

It is only in America that the gun has been elevated to god-like reverence by those who believe that their identities are partially entwined with a gun on their hip or a rapid fire rifle in their closet.

Americans buy millions of gun each year and there are no significant findings that this gun buying trend is fading away. Too many Americans believe that it is the gun, their gun, which saves them from unwanted governmental tyranny and unknown lurking masses who are waiting for their chance to rob, steal and slay them.

The psyche of America regarding guns was and is being fed by a pseudo propaganda machine that whispers to them that their guns are a sacred right and they should hold them close and dear to them.

Their interpretations of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution inform them that they have an unassailable right to pack a gun (not accounting for hunting purposes and gun sports).

And if any government agency or court says otherwise, the cry goes up that the Deep State is trying to take away their guns and submit them to authoritarian rule. Thus, they believe that any gun regulation has the seed to result in them being forced to turn in all of their guns and the manufacturing of more guns will be strictly regulated by the federal government.

It seems that every sociologist, psychologist and politico has the answer for the gun problem which has resulted in America being one of the most dangerous countries on the globe to live in with so many unregulated guns in the hands of suspect and dubious people.

I say it is morally and mentally unstable people who are engaged in such mass carnage who do not value other human beings as worthy of living; and those who are not morally compromised would not engage in the absolute senseless violence we see practically every day in this shooting gallery called America.

American history is fat and greasy with documented histories of brutal slaughters of Indigenous persons, people of color and those who are deemed expendable by means of gunfire.

American history has repeatedly shown that from the time of the founding of this now troubled land, that the gun was the deciding factor as to who lived or died and who ate or who starved, regardless of merit.

Even our cartoons indoctrinate young kids to pick up a gun and shoot someone, all in jest of course (?) and currently, the most popular video games involve wreaking havoc by blistering gunfire on those others or the "enemy."

The West was won by the glories of cowboys and gun toting heroes who won the argument or settled the score by being a crackerjack shooter. I am surprised that there is not a grand and gigantic monument, bigger than the Statute of Liberty, to pay homage to the glories of the six shooter!

Legislation seemingly cannot be passed fast enough across many states that are nullifying any laws that would restrict the issuance of gun permits, background checks, red flag laws and the licensing of automatic weapons.

My riff on the gun violence? Simple. Unless there is continuous intervention with dysfunctional households using social services, educational services, peer and mentor counseling, the continuing gun violence will go unabated.

Early determinations and interventions are needed by family members, juvenile courts, pastors, social agencies, and peer groups who have observed anti-social behavior in a person, to identify and refer that person to an advocacy agency or nothing will materially change.

The family is still the nucleus of a society and if its member parts are out of kilter; and if an identified anti-social person is not given a forced

"time out" to determine their social health and how to curtail their negative social behavior, all is lost.

Until the greater society determines that human life is more valuable than selling a few more violent video games and the need to take steps to eliminate anti-social postings on social media, all is lost.

Until we adjudged poverty and ignorance as public enemies number one and two and seek ways to strangle their hold over too many lives that need to be fortified with a positive message, all is lost.

Until we tame the powerful gun lobby and support legislation that curtails the easy availability of guns and invest in mental health programs for the distressed, all is lost.

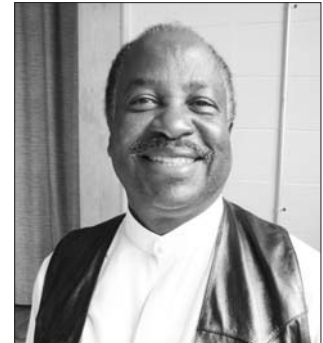
Until we vigorously support families and give them a clear path for assistance by giving them a firm support platform by which to successfully economically manage their family members and deter them from a life of crime or the use of a gun, all is lost.

If we as a collective society are not willing to put in the money and resources and change our way of thinking about the proliferation of guns and how to identify troublesome personalities, all is lost.

The above can be done but unless there is a national collective willingness to do so, all is lost.

Such a national resolve should have been initiated in the 1950s and 1960s but entities that exploit people and causes for the sake of the sale of guns, lobbied against such measures because too many unstable people have been inculcated with the erroneous belief that their life is better with a gun.

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# Greater Toledo Community Foundation Offers \$50,000 in Support of TARTA's Youth Summer Blast Pass Program

*Special to The Truth*

A partnership between the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) and Greater Toledo Community Foundation will increase mobility, employment and recreation options for Toledo-area youth this summer by providing free rides on TARTA.

TARTA's Youth Summer Blast Pass Program has received a \$50,000 donation from Greater Toledo Community Foundation to fund 2,000 passes that youth ages 6-19 can use to ride TARTA's fixed-route system for free in June, July and August.

"For five decades, the focus of this organization has been making things better for our community," said Greater Toledo Community Foundation President Keith Burwell. "Working with TARTA on this program, we will be able to provide transportation for those who need it the most and help our youth take advantage of everything northwest Ohio has to offer in the summer months."

"Our young people face so many challenges on a daily basis," Burwell continued. "Removing the barrier of cost of transportation for those who don't have access to a car is going to make a difference in what their options are for the summer months in terms of work or recreation. This is something we're very happy to be a part of."

Burwell was joined by TARTA CEO Laura Koprowski, Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, and Washington Local Schools Superintendent Kadee Anstadt, EdD, for Wednesday's press conference at Whitmer Field House in Toledo.

TARTA's Board of Trustees approved the Youth Summer Blast Pass Program last week. For \$25, this program will offer riders ages 6-19 unlimited rides on all three TARTA services – fixed route, TARTA Flex microtransit, and TARPS – for the summer months.

Under the agreement announced Wednesday, the GTCF grant will cover the cost of the first 2,000 passes. The process for applying for and receiving one of the passes will be announced by TARTA in the next few weeks. The grant is part of GTCF's 50th anniversary and the "Fifty Years of Funding Futures" campaign, which is highlighting a donation of \$50,000 or more to a community organization each month throughout 2023.

"Our students often don't have transportation during the summer," said Anstadt. "This is a grant that bridges the gaps. This is really going to make a difference."

"We appreciate the Foundation's support," said Durant. "The Foundation is removing those barriers that keep many of our kids from reaching the resources in the community."

"We are proud of the many exciting partnerships we have been able to develop with community organizations in this area, and of the benefits those partnerships have delivered to the people who depend on public transportation," Koprowski said. "Greater Toledo Community Foundation has been the standard for philanthropy in northwest Ohio for 50 years. I want to thank Keith Burwell and his team for their hard work on this and so many other



*Laura Koprowski, TARTA CEO*



*TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD; WLSD Superintendent Kadee Anstadt, EdD; Keith Burwell, GTCF President; Mary Morrison, TARTA Board President*



projects, and for valuing the youth of our community by helping them get to jobs, athletic fields, medical appointments and other essential destinations.

"Getting the young people of Lucas County and Rossford where they need to go safely is something TARTA takes very seriously. We are thrilled about the possibilities of this program and look forward to it becoming a staple of our services for years to come."

"Fifty Years of Funding Futures" is the 50th-anniversary campaign for Greater Toledo Community Foundation (GTCF). Through its five decades of service, GTCF has been entrusted to distribute more than \$290 million in grants to Toledo area nonprofits and beyond. GTCF now holds more than 900 funds and approximately \$435 million in assets with the goal of creating a better community for generations to come.

Through a yearlong campaign, GTCF's "Fifty Years of Funding Futures" will deliver meaningful communications, events and programs centering on honoring the past, celebrating the present and equipping future generations for continued community impact. For more information, visit [50YearsForToledo.com](http://50YearsForToledo.com).

TARTA provides a vital link in the Toledo metro area to jobs, education, health care and other destinations. It enables everyone in our community to have access to transportation regardless of their age, race, physical ability or economic background. TARTA is underway with exploring and introducing new initiatives and service options that will enhance convenience and customer experience while moving our region into the future of public transit.

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# Toledo African American Chamber Hosts Black Business Mixer

By *Tricia Hall*  
The Truth Reporter

Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC) held a Business Mixer at TolHouse Social Club on Friday, February 17. The mixer opened and closed with networking opportunities where members were encouraged to bring digital and physical business cards to participate in network enrichment, camaraderie, and build connections.

"Our mission is to accelerate economic development and entrepreneurship within African American communities of Toledo Northwest Ohio. That's the bottom line," said Roy Hodge, TAACC President.

A portion of the mixer was dedicated to sharing and announcing information about the Small Business Growth Collaborative Model (BGC), resources available to members and explain two standing programs. TAACC Stand-

... continued on page 8



# Confidence in a Cup Holds Third Annual Business Brunch Vision Board Social Event

By *Fletcher Word*  
The Truth Editor

The third annual Business Brunch Vision Board Social Event, held by TaShara Brown's Confidence in a Cup, was held on Saturday, February 25 at The Bay, a gathering spot at The Docks.

"I got a vision to do an event to bring others together and manifest their dreams," said Brown as she opened the speaking and fashion portion of the afternoon's brunch. "The business brunch vision board social event was created. I began to invest into small business owners who wanted the confidence and resources to excel. Over the past three years we have helped hundreds of business owners with resources and development in every area of entrepreneurship – from financial literacy, business funding to mentorship."

Saturday's event at The Bay began with a brunch buffet, once again prepared by Chef Michael Gaston. The chef had prepared a buffet that included shrimp & grits, assorted Danish, bagels and spreads, assorted fruit, a salad bar, fresh vegetables, sesame cilantro ginger rice, teriyaki glazed chicken breast, honey garlic salmon, vegetable medley stir fry along with an assortment of cupcakes, cheesecake and cookies.

During the course of the event, vendors offered their products and

... continued on page 9



The Brunch Buffet



Chef Michael Gaston



TaShara Brown



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# Congressional Black Caucus Praises Biden Administration for Racial Justice Agenda

Special to The Truth

The Congressional Black Caucus applauded President Biden on Thursday for policies that it said have helped address systemic racial inequities.

In a press call with members of the administration's Building Back Together initiative, CBC Chairman Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) discussed how policies like the Inflation Reduction Act and the bipartisan infrastructure law have been overwhelmingly positive for Black Americans.

"This is all about jobs, small businesses and community impact in all of America's communities, but especially Black and other marginalized communities," Horsford said. "We have been intentional to address racial equity in a way that really does ensure that communities that have historically been left out or left behind are prioritized in the funding that Congress passed and that the president has signed."

The IRA, Horsford said, has lowered health care costs and expanded the Affordable Care Act, which lowered health care premiums and benefitted nearly 360,000 Black Americans. It's also helped Black families save hundreds on energy bills — a major success for Black families, who on average face 64 percent higher energy burden than white families.

The infrastructure act, Horsford added, has been critical in cleaning Superfund sites, or areas that have been contaminated by hazardous material. More than 25 percent of Black Americans live within three miles of a Superfund site.

That act has also expanded access to high speed internet services for Black families who are less likely to have access to high speed internet than white families, he touted.

Still, despite these success, Horsford explained that the CBC is working closely with the White House to ensure all these services are not only implemented, but also shared with communities to ensure maximum benefit.

"We don't want people to have to come to a governmental agency to get

these benefits. We need to be able to take that information directly to them," Horsford said. "That's what we've told the administration quite honestly, is use the Congressional Black Caucus and our relationships in our communities to promote the benefits from this legislation so that people can really see this is what happens when we put people over politics."

On the campaign trail in 2020, Biden promised to prioritize racial justice if he was elected. On his first day in office, he signed an executive order to advance his racial justice agenda.

Then, just this month, Biden signed a second executive order meant to expand upon the first.

That order — titled Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government — is designed to address systemic barriers that hold communities of color back from prospering. It included addressing civil rights discrimination in technologies, pushing agencies to improve community engagement and working with rural communities to build community wealth.

[...]

"We've got a lot more work ahead. But we're proud of the progress that we're making and we want all of our constituents to know that this is what we do when we put people over politics," Horsford told reporters on Thursday.

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# The Dorr Street Project -- "History the Perfect Gift"

By Robert Smith, President, African American Legacy Project

Guest Column

"Walk like you have 3000 ancestors behind you." -- African Proverb

It was always a sense of community, a sense of pride and a sense of purpose. Losing the Dorr Street Corridor in the "1970's" sometimes feels like ...we lost the biggest part of us" The Dorr Street Corridor was after all the central thesis for African American life in this community.

The Dorr Street Corridor was... the very best of us. Most of our primary businesses, organizations and institutions were located on, near or ... adjacent to Dorr Street. Clearly, the Dorr Street Corridor served as the pulse/hub/nerve center connecting neighborhoods who were dependent upon the area [the corridor] for their primary "goods and services."

In reality, the Dorr Street Corridor also served smaller towns like Fremont, Fostoria, Port Clinton, Gibsonburg and other regional communities with smaller African American populations like Monroe, MI.

Fifty plus years later Toledo's African American community is still reeling from the dissolution of Dorr Street. The complete loss of its economic vitality and to date limited opportunities to develop jobs and create and/or pursue generational wealth are footnotes to what some may view as historical apathy.

On Monday, February 6, 2023 residents and former residents of the Dorr Street Corridor gathered to share their memoirs, commitment and excitement as The African American Legacy Project unveiled its Dorr Street Project. The Dorr Street Project - quoting legendary jazz pianist Horace Silver - is a Song to Our Fathers. The Dorr Street Project is also a collection of love letters to future generations.

The Dorr Street Project is a volunteer-driven effort designed with the expressed intent of telling the story of how this community evolved. The Dorr Street Project celebrates those who came before us with the hope of stimulating both young and old to search for the intersect where investment meets opportunity.

We want to ensure future generations understand the possibilities. We want them to walk with a confidence, work with pride and purpose as they begin to imagine what their futures could be. We want them to "walk like they have 3,000 ancestors behind them - to be inspired by the past and not fear the future. We believe - through their own history - these young people will understand success is inside of them and not necessarily in another zip code.

For far too long a young person's success has been measured by how far they move away from home. Good or bad, we've actually promoted that kind of thinking for a while now.

Sadly, there are several generations of young men and women who can't imagine rows and city blocks of African American businesses, organizations and cultural symbols who directly catered to, influenced or stimulated the residents of this community. While there has been some recent activity, decades have passed since opportunities have presented themselves to create - have access to the tools to create - or consider creating generational wealth.

Just as importantly, more than 50 years have passed since there was any substantive which would point to the existence of a once vibrant community. Today, the corridor is a vacuum -- a shell of itself. Our goal is to collect, develop and share information regarding Toledo's African American community - most specifically - the Dorr Street Corridor to help future generations understand the possibilities. We want them to walk with a confidence work with a pride and purpose as they begin to imagine what their futures could be. We want them to "walk like they have 3,000 ancestors behind them - to be inspired by the past and not fear the future.

We want them to know the story of Mr. James Billups who owned an operated his own full line appliance center both servicing and selling new and used equipment. We want them to know Mr. Billups Fix-All Appliance aka Black Giant Appliance contributed to the economic vitality of the community while growing and sustaining his family. We want them to know about Mr. Jim Cobham the owner of multiple McDonalds restaurants and how used his platform McDonalds who used his platform to give jobs and take on a serious leadership role in the community

It is incumbent upon us to leave a legacy for [inspire] succeeding generations. It is important to tell our story, lest we forget. We are interviewing residents and past residents recording their stories to share with the community. In April, we will unveil a 10' by 10' map [permanent display] where residents will be able to visit the Legacy Project to register and record their first family



Stewart Pharmacy staff

home. During our Juneteenth celebration we will host the Gunckel/Washington/Roosevelt reunion honoring and celebrating those students and educators who whose lives were very much intertwined in the Dorr Street Legacy.

Get involved our journey would be incomplete without your footprint. We want to paint a complete picture of our wins and losses, joys and sorrows and in the interim, we want to utilize our history so our community can begin to think differently about its future. We want use our history to teach our kids the importance of developing a spirit of cooperation across community. We want to use our history to begin to reimagine what our community's future can be? What want to use our history to remind us of what can be. What want to use our history as the NorthStar to guide subsequent generations. It is -after all - the perfect gift to the future,

For more information on how to get involved in the Dorr Street Project call 419-720-4369

## Beacon Place Apartments... continued from page 2

Denizen that the law was "confusing," and stated that they hoped to repeal the law in its entirety, or at least significantly rewrite it. When those words were uttered, all leverage the tenant council had dissipated.

Attempts to settle stalled, and in November of 2022, Toledo Municipal Housing and Environmental Court Judge Joseph J. Howe dismissed the case. He cited the city's affirmation that they had no intention to enforce the law as grounds to render the lawsuit moot.

### Justice Delayed

Many tenants were upset when they heard that the city had killed their lawsuit. "We are taxpayers. If the City can go against their own law, what does that mean to the citizens of Toledo? That you can just do what you want to do and take our tax money?" said Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Smith agreed, stating "I really couldn't understand why they would dismiss it unless they were in cahoots with Denizen."

The City of Toledo promotes itself as looking out for the interests of renters, who now comprise nearly half of the city's population according to the 2020 census. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has created the Emergency Rental Assistance Program in collaboration with Lucas County, hired a Manager of Tenant and Landlord Services, and committed \$250,000 annually to provide legal representation to low-income residents facing eviction.

Still, it would seem the city has no appetite for holding negligent landlords accountable - even when those landlords are based outside of Toledo (even Ohio) and are actively harming the city's waning housing stock. Hundreds of residents remain in precarious positions and feel left behind by their own government. Requests to meet with elected officials have so far yielded no responses.

Gwendolyn Hunt (her true name), the 71-year-old president of the Beacon Place Tenant Council, still holds faith that better days are ahead. "My hopes are that one day, Beacon Place and Denizen Management can come together with our council in an open format where we can sit down and solve any problems we have here in the Beacon Community."

African American Chamber...continued from page 5

ing Programs are Northwest Ohio Mentoring Program held in partnership with Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Women of Toledo and the second is the TAACC Tech Program connects with African American entrepreneurs and tech professionals.

"We have been a part of the BGC for four years. We know that women can do every thing but we know that women don't have to do every thing," shared Nina Corder, managing & program director of Women of Toledo.

According to a visual provided during the mixer. The BGC includes Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, LISC Toledo, Economic Community Development Institute, TAACC, Women of Toledo, ASSETS Toledo, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Center for Innovative Food Technology, University of Toledo Minority Business Development Center, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Toledo Lucas County Public Library. The BGC works as a collective to address the individualized needs of a small business owner.

One resource that was highlighted, Toledo Ramp, is a one-site resource to build a business network, find solutions to scale up the business and seek out knowledgeable experts. For additional information about Toledo Ramp, visit <https://tolramp.biz/>. For additional information about TAACC visit their Facebook page or email [info@toledoaacc.org](mailto:info@toledoaacc.org)



James Mann, Mann Insurance; Vince and Pathy Davis, State Farm Insurance; Vanessa Avery, Kendall Harvey, A Better Life 2 Embrace



Nina Corder, Women of Toledo; Montalena Allen, TAAC; Monique Ward, TAACC; Courtney Howard, Relax and Enjoy Therapy; Carla Thomas, CYTImages

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EUGENE F KRANZ  
**TOLEDOEXPRESS**  
AIRPORT

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*Perryman... continued from page 3*

information on the upper level of the meeting place.

After the brunch, the program opened with Brown's address, followed by a fashion show organized by ReAnna Stevenson, a stylist and owner/operator of ReStylz. Stevenson and her models offered a glimpse of a half dozen outfits for the guest to enjoy.

The followed speeches by Mohamed Awad, owner of Innomark Group and Wayne Whitmore, entrepreneur. Awad spoke on the subject of marketing and Whitmore on the topic of sales.

The keynote speakers for the afternoon were Todd Simon of Legacy Home Loans and Sandy Spang, City of Toledo Deputy Director for Economic Development. Spang brought a message of the numerous types of services the city offers for small business owners

Spang was also the recipient of the Legacy Award while Chef Gaston was honored with the 2023 Community Leadership Award.

The highlight of the afternoon was the naming of the 2023 Who's Who of Toledo Award Winner. This year's nominees were Kathryn Tucker, senior vice president, regional manager at PNC; Doug Keetion, master stylist and co-owner of Studio-3 2 Nine Salon Suites and Spa and Zia Cooke, a graduate of Rogers High School and currently a star on the University of South Carolina Woman's Basketball Team, the defending NCAA champions and undefeated so far this year.

This year's honoree was Cooke. She was unable to attend and accept her award in person but she sent a video and a relative accepted the award for her.

The afternoon concluded with a Vision Board/Network Social Hour.



ReAnna Stevenson (center) and her models



Doug Keetion, Sandy Spang, Brian Byrd



De'Lisa Moore of Frogtown Financial



Carla Thomas and Monique Ward



DJ Knots



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## A Mental Health Moment

# Attachment Styles

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC, Licensed Mental Health Therapist

The Truth Contributor

From the womb to the tomb is a quote that can be very fitting in many cases. When a child is growing in a mother's womb, the baby becomes a sponge soaking up noise, vibrations, emotions the mother elicits and of course the food that enters the body. There are now countless stories of how reading and singing and even talking to your child while you are pregnant plays a big difference in their own little demeanors and attitudes once they enter into this world. Then the real, and I will say that again, the real begins.

We all know children need a lot of care, formula or breast milk, diapers, several visits to the pediatrician to ensure the baby is meeting certain markers of growth. It does not stop there; children need attention, they need time, they need energy (your energy), they need to feel safe and, yes, it is exhausting. What the baby does not need is inappropriate language or music being blasted in their ears, arguments, the feeling of being alone and not feeling safe in their environment or any environment.

Many individuals believe "oh, it's just a baby he/she won't remember none of this."

No, they won't. As the late great Dr. Maya Angelou said, "people may not remember what you said but they will always remember how you made them feel." Children are quite resilient. They grieve differently, they repress feelings, they utilize play as their way of not thinking about how they feel and during all this time these feelings are being pushed farther and farther into their subconscious and other areas of their brain that will lay dormant until one day those doors unlock usually when they are in their own adult relationship and depending on how they were treated as a baby, toddler and child they are going to display those same traits unto their partners.

Now if the individual had a great childhood and was attended to and had more than enough attention and felt safe they will have a secure attachment style with their partners. The difficult part is if their partner is not also secure, there will be no love in any paradise.

The theory of attachments was developed by a man named John Bowlby, who was a British psychoanalyst who later teamed up with Mary Ainsworth, another colleague (circa 1960s), and began to formulate the tenets of this theory. There are four attachment styles: secure, anxious, avoidant and anxious avoidant. Recently, fearful has been added by continued research.

So how do you know where you fall? There are several quizzes well researched. If you should decide to take an attachment quiz you may want to already be in therapy/counseling and talk with him/her about this quiz. The good news is your attachment style if not secure can change but on a slow and sometimes a difficult road. It's very important to know your attachment style if thinking about marriage and or having children or just having a partner in a committed relationship. You should both know where you are and get help if needed. Take a mental health moment and reflect back on your childhood and how your adult relationships are presently working. If happiness is where you want to be and stay, reach out to a trained professional and begin the conversation. It's never too late.

*Bernadette Graham is a Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor, and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist. She is also a Certified*



*Clinical Hypnotherapist assisting with weight loss, smoking and other behavior changes. Provide feedback or reach out at [graham.bernadette@gmail.com](mailto:graham.bernadette@gmail.com) For appointment information please call 419.409.4929 (Telehealth is available for ongoing and new clients at this time as well as in person appointments available on Tuesdays and Fridays only). Office location is 2525 W. Bancroft St. Toledo, OH 43607 [www.bjgrahamcounseling.org](http://www.bjgrahamcounseling.org)*

## Toledo City Council Funds \$50k Program to Train, Accredit, and Promote LGBTQ+ Affirming Health Care Providers

Special to The Truth

Toledo City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, to fund the three-year Affirmative and Inclusive LGBTQ+ Action Plan created by Equality Toledo and Solace Health & Wellness with a special assist from members of the Equality Toledo NWO LGBTQ+ Coalition.

LGBTQ+ community members and leaders began meeting in October 2021 and over the following year developed an action plan based on community members' lived experiences, concerns, and the lack of accessible and affirming healthcare resources.

We are excited to see this important step in the right direction as these funds will help Equality Toledo and Solace Health & Wellness perform the first-ever health community needs assessment for LGBTQ+ people seeking health care in Toledo.

"Similar to other marginalized communities, LGBTQ+ individuals are at risk for disparate health outcomes, experience discrimination, and are stigmatized when seeking health care services. All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect within our healthcare system. This initiative will train providers on evolving language and established standards of care and then provide a clear road map for access to affirming providers for our LGBTQ+ residents and families," says Erin Marten, Executive Director of Solace Health and Wellness and also a midwife and public health professional.

"We look forward to these designated funds being utilized to not only uplift the LGBTQ+ community but also begin to break down barriers that so many LGBTQ+ people experience" according to Brent Rabie, Deputy Director of Equality Toledo.

More information on the action plan and this initiative will be available at a later date. Please look out for this information on the Equality Toledo website at [EqualityToledo.org](http://EqualityToledo.org)



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# Fuel for the Future

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County  
The Truth Contributor

“Fuel for the Future.” is the theme of National Nutrition Month. It’s the time when we are encouraged to learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. This year’s theme includes eating with sustainability in mind to nourish ourselves during every phase of life and protect the environment.

This article will share nutrition tips as well as list some free classes that will be offered in Lucas County this springtime and early summer.

**Eat well and save money.** This recommendation takes a little bit of thinking ahead. We all know that we have to eat but if we wait until we’re hungry to make those decisions, it could cost us more than if we plan some meals and snacks. Stock up on easy, healthy, portable snacks to have on hand. Use a grocery list when purchasing food. Learn about community resources such as SNAP, WIC and local food banks.

Although you might not need additional support, there are many people in the community who do qualify for food benefits. If someone is in need, 211 is a good place to ask questions and get the best resources for each individual situation. If you have questions about SNAP-Ed or EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) classes in Lucas County, check out [lucas.osu.edu](http://lucas.osu.edu)

The “Fuel for the Future” theme highlights **eating with the environment in mind**. Buy foods in season and shop locally when possible. Purchase foods with minimal packaging and bring your own bags to the store or farmers’ market. Enjoy more plant-based meals and snacks. Start a container or backyard garden or join a community garden to grow food close to home. OSU Extension, Lucas County is offering a series of free classes called “From Plant to Plate” at the ProMedica Ebeid Institute (1806 Madison Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 2nd floor above the Market on the Green grocery store).

**From Plant to Plate** features information on easy-to-grow, economical, and edible plants for the gardener, no matter the space – containers, raised beds, or in the ground. From Plant to Plate is a series of different classes – you can attend one lesson or all four. Each class will be digging into different seasonal topics, but all will be connected to gardening and how to make simple recipes with the produce that you have grown.

The four community classes will be on the first Friday of the Month (March through June) from 12pm – 1pm. The first one is Friday, March 3, 12-1pm. The others: Friday, April 7, 12-1pm, From Plant to Plate II, Friday, May 5, 12-1pm, From Plant to Plate III, and Friday June 2, 12-1pm, From Plant to Plate IV ([lucas.osu.edu](http://lucas.osu.edu))

Use the expertise of a **Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)**. RDN’s are trained to help with choices in different situations. For instance, nutrient needs may change some over age. Food choices can help specific health conditions such as diabetes or heart disease as well as many others. Just as we use doctors and health care professionals for testing, diagnosis, and recommendations, they can also refer to an RDN as part of the healthcare team. As good as it is to keep updated with general healthy eating recommendations, an RDN can share personalized nutrition information to meet your health goals.

**Eat a variety of foods from all food groups.** There is not one single “right” diet. Avoid fad diets that promote unnecessary restrictions. Eat foods in various forms including fresh, frozen, canned and dried. Enjoy your favorite cultural foods and traditions. Practice gratitude for your body by giving it the fuel it needs.

**Make tasty foods at home.** Learn cooking and meal preparation skills. Try new flavors and foods from around the world. It’s also good for your wallet as well as the environment to find creative ways to use leftovers rather than tossing them. Think about making easy dishes such as sandwiches, soups, or salads. Create happy memories by eating with friends and family when possible.

One concept that has been mentioned is **Mindful Eating**. As noted above,

you are encouraged to practice gratitude – gratitude for your body as well as gratitude for the food that gives it fuel. The act of enjoying a meal either alone or by creating memories with loved ones can all be parts of mindful eating. If you would like to learn more about mindfulness in general, the same Introduction to Mindfulness class is going to be offered at local Toledo Lucas County Public Libraries this summer. Wednesday, June 14, 10-11am, at Kent Library, Wednesday, July 12, 6:30-7:30pm, at Oregon Library, Tuesday, July 18, 6:30-7:30pm, at Holland Library, and Thursday, August 3, 6:30-7:30pm, at King Road Library

Cheers to fueling your future with healthy choices! Information from [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

# Fast Facts to Stay Healthy This Flu Season

Special to The Truth

December through March is peak influenza (flu) season. While common, flu is a potentially serious and highly contagious respiratory illness.

This winter, a new American Lung Association campaign funded by CLS Seqirus aims to educate Americans about the flu and steps they can take to protect themselves and others from severe flu illness. Here’s what to know:

- Who is impacted by flu? Flu can affect anyone, however, certain communities are at higher risk of severe illness and complications, such as those living with chronic medical conditions including chronic lung disease, heart disease and diabetes. During past flu seasons, approximately 90% of flu-related hospitalizations were among adults with at least one underlying medical condition. During the 2021-22 flu season, approximately 30% of hospitalizations were among adults with chronic lung disease. People from certain racial and ethnic minority groups are also at higher risk for being hospitalized with flu compared to non-Hispanic white adults.

- What will this year’s flu season look like? Flu activity was relatively low the last two flu seasons, but it causes a significant burden every winter. Seasonal influenza activity is already elevated and continues to increase across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as of early January, there have been at least 22 million illnesses and 230,000 hospitalizations.

- How can I protect myself? While covering your cough, washing your hands frequently and staying home when you’re sick can help stop the spread of flu, the very best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community is with vaccination. The flu shot is recommended on an annual basis for everyone 6 months of age and older and can be given at the same time as COVID-19 vaccination. Flu vaccination is especially important for people with chronic lung disease and other chronic health conditions. Speak with your healthcare provider to learn more about influenza and annual vaccination.

- When should I see a doctor? If you do get sick, call your doctor as soon as possible for diagnosis and treatment -- especially if you’re at high risk for complications. You should also consult your doctor if you have complications such as difficulty breathing, chest pains or a cough persisting for weeks or months after other symptoms go away.

To learn more, visit [Lung.org/prevent-flu](http://Lung.org/prevent-flu).

Take steps to protect yourself, your family and your community flu. Practice good health habits and get your annual vaccination as early as possible.

Courtesy StatePoint



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## Board of Health Announces New Board Members

The Lucas County Regional Board of Health welcomed two new members during the February meeting, Cheryl Crowder and Sonia Flunder-McNair.

Cheryl Crowder, RN, BSN, currently serves as the Director of Social Determinants of Health Clinical Applications at ProMedica. Cheryl also spent a significant amount of time in obstetrical Nursing, education, supervision, in addition to diversity and inclusion.

Sonia Flunder-McNair, an urban farmer, is the founder and CEO of Urban Wholistics, a non-profit aiming to beautify and enrich neighborhoods. Furthermore, Sonia's organization hopes to plant gardens in city lots and teach youth the joys of growing fruits and vegetables.

Crowder and Flunder-McNair were appointed by the city of Toledo to fill the vacancies for Richard Fernandez and Jared Wilson, and will serve the remainder of their terms.



Cheryl Crowder



Sonia Flunder-McNair

## Mercy Health's Mobile Mammography Van visits area locations

As Mercy Health continues to evolve to better meet the needs of our patients and community, we are pleased to announce the region's first mobile mammography unit has visits scheduled throughout the region.

The mobile mammography unit is customized for patient convenience and will deliver 3D mammograms to women age 40 and older. It is equipped with the newest 3D technology and offers patients the option of self-compression, meaning the patient will have the ability to control the compression once they are in position.

The unit will make access to mammography services easier as well as increase capacity. It will offer safe and easy screenings at convenient locations throughout the 21 counties in northwest Ohio and early diagnosis of breast cancer has proven better outcomes.

Wednesday, March 1  
Mercy Health - Point Shoreland Family Medicine  
2755 Shoreland Avenue, Toledo, OH 43611

Thursday, March 2  
Mercy Health - Perrysburg Primary Care & Walk-in  
1103 Village Square, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

Friday, March 3  
Tiffin Community Health Center  
1344 West Seneca Avenue, Tiffin, Ohio 44883

Monday, March 6  
Progressive Wellness Medical Office Building  
7640 West Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560

Wednesday, March 8  
Old West End Community Health Center  
2244 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo, Ohio 43620

Thursday, March 9  
Swanton Primary Care  
22 Turtle Creek Drive, Swanton, Ohio 43558

Friday, March 10  
Jefferson Family Medicine  
2200 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604

Monday, March 13  
Progressive Wellness Medical Office Building  
7640 West Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560

Tuesday, March 14  
Franklin Medical Center

2213 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43620

Thursday, March 16  
Mercy Health - Perrysburg Primary Care & Walk-in  
1103 Village Square, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

Friday, March 17  
Mercy Health - Waterville Primary Care  
1222 Pray Boulevard, Waterville, OH 43566

Monday, March 20  
Progressive Wellness Medical Office Building  
7640 West Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560

Tuesday, March 21  
Bryan Community Health Center  
228 South Main Street, Bryan, Ohio 43506

Wednesday, March 22  
Mercy Health - Starbright Primary Care  
28555 Starbright Boulevard, Perrysburg, OH 43551

Thursday, March 23  
Mercy Health - Swanton Primary Care  
22 Turtle Creek Drive, Swanton, Ohio 43558

Friday, March 24  
Oak Street Health - Toledo Northside Clinic  
553 East Manhattan Boulevard, Toledo, Ohio 43608

Monday, March 27  
Progressive Wellness Medical Of-

... continued on page 13



Dear Community Partner,

The Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is pleased to present our Second Annual "Strike Out with the Ques Bowl-A-Thon." Strike Out is a family-oriented afternoon of fun aimed at benefiting the students of Rosa Parks Elementary School. The event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Timbers Bowling Lanes from 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career-ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grades levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity. At Rosa Parks Elementary, the students learn to show respect for everyone, accept responsibilities and develop positive relationships. With continued community support, these young men and women will be the leaders of tomorrow.

We invite you to help us support our youth by sponsoring at one of the below levels. With your enthusiastic support, you will assist us in reaching our goal of raising \$6,000.

- As a \$500 **Presenting Sponsor**, your donation includes a 5-person bowling team and recognition on signage throughout the event.
- As a \$300 **Strike Sponsor**, your organization's name will appear on event signage throughout the event.
- As a \$100 **Spare Sponsor**, donors will appear on event welcome signage at the entrance.

If you cannot participate as a sponsor, please consider supporting a team of bowlers for \$125 or making a donation of any amount.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the great work being done at Rosa Parks Elementary, please visit <https://rossparkselementary.tps.org/>. You can also call (419) 671-4350.

Yours in Service,

Christopher McClendon  
Chair



# Hands by Torrey Maldonado

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Hey, pick that up, would you?

You don't want to leave a mess; that's just rude and disrespectful. Get your hands dirty, clean up after yourself, pick up your things and put them away. Those are lessons you learned almost as soon as you could walk. Put your things up, pick up your fists, and in the new book **Hands by Torrey Maldonado**, make an impact.

At 12 years old, Trev carries a lot on his shoulders.

Ever since his stepfather was jailed for hitting Trev's mother, Trev's been the man of the house and he feels responsible for protecting his older sisters and his mother, who "shielded" him from the family's problems. The other thing Trev carries is a lot of anger.

He used to think highly of his stepfather but after that one night? Not anymore. He hates now when people say he looks like that guy because Trev knows he favors his real dad, who died five years ago. He knows that his father would've never hit his mother.

The posters in his bedroom give Trev an idea. He could be like Creed. Like Tyson. Like Ali or Mayweather, so he and his best friend, P, start working out near their home before they take things to a gymnasium where some of the guys in the neighborhood practice boxing. When they ask to train with a guy who seems to know what he's doing, Trev and P are told "no."

Turns out the trainer knew Trev's uncle way back, and Uncle Lou made his friends promise not to let Trev do anything dumb.

Stay in school, the trainer said. Do good.

And there's that word, "promise." Trev's teacher says he's got some. His mother knows he has it, too. People tell him that they promise him this or that, but Trv knows promises break. He feels like a fidget-spinner, never going anywhere, spinning in place until the right kind of promise comes along...

Many hands, they say, makes light work. Give someone a hand and they appreciate your support or your help. In this *Hands*, though, despite a

c.2023  
Nancy Paulsen Books  
\$16.99  
138 pages

somewhat misleading cover, your youngster will learn about the importance of family – not just the one you get at birth but also the one that gets created along the way.

But that's not all: the subtler, softer lesson for your boy is one of self-control, a message that author Torrey Maldonado doesn't make much fuss about. It's just part of the story, a small part that, in retrospect, feels like a heartbeat. The lesson's there but, absent all preachiness or ill-placed nagging, it's possible that your young reader might learn about self-discipline and misplaced responsibility without any awareness that he's done so. That makes this an easy book for a parent to say yes to, and for a kid to enjoy.

There's absolutely no reason that a pugilistic girl can't read *Hands*, but it's really meant for boys ages none-to-14. If yours wants a good, decent story then, yeah, pick this up.

*Mercy Health... continued from page 12*

Office Building  
7640 West Sylvania Avenue, Sylvania, Ohio 43560

Wednesday, March 29  
Mercy Health – Starbright Primary Care  
28555 Starbright Boulevard, Perrysburg, OH 43551

Friday, March 31  
Mercy Health – St. Vincent Medical Center, Heart & Vascular Institute  
2222 Cherry Street, Toledo, Ohio 43608

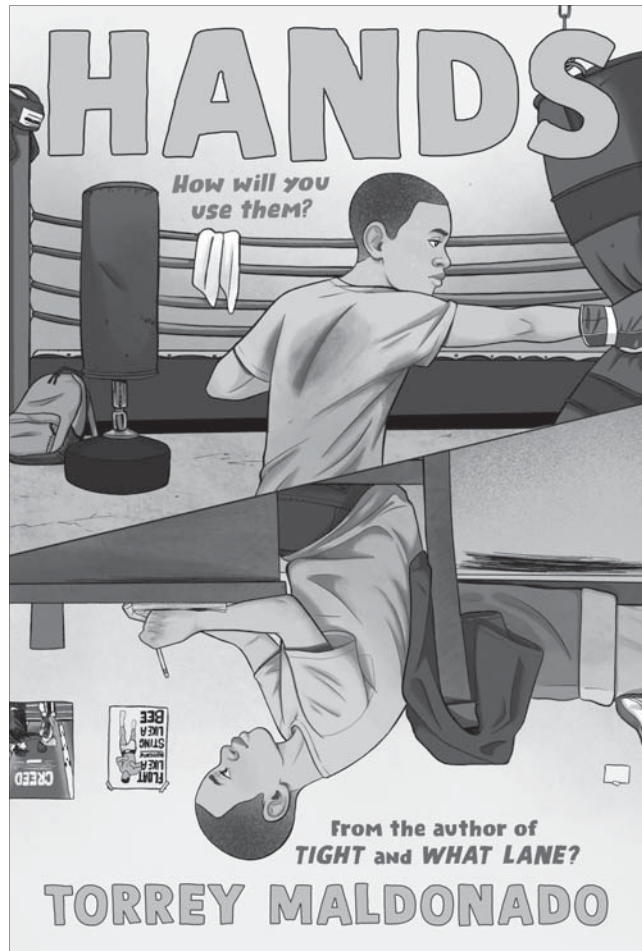
Please note, while mammogram screenings may be covered by insurance, for best coverage, please verify if Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital is an in-network provider with your insurance carrier. If you are uninsured or underinsured (have high deductibles), we have financial need-based assistance programs available to help you. If eligible, you may qualify for a no-cost mammogram. Call 419-696-5839 for more information.

Screenings at the Mercy Health Mobile Mammography unit are by appointment only - call 833-MAMM-VAN to schedule your screening on the mobile unit.

To view the full list of dates and locations, visit [mercy.com/toledomobilemamm](https://www.mercy.com/toledomobilemamm) <<https://www.mercy.com/news-events/events?UseUserLocation=true&Location=43608&CategoryName=Mammography+Screenings&IntervalInDays=90>>

Talk with your doctor about when you should have a screening mammogram. Screening mammograms are usually a covered benefit with most insurance carriers.

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# Why Dr. King Would Not Be Happy On His Day

By Dr. Margorie Holt

January 16, 2023

- He would not be able to recognize progress that he worked so hard for and to look at the missteps that have set AA back and not forward would be demoralizing to him, IJS
- He would not respond to the violence with means and measures that are ineffective because people do not prepare and plan for strategies that will work with preventive approaches and futuristic methods, that the engagement being seen appears to only lead to documented dismay, apathy, and failure (#Violence Stats)
- He would ask “what do you seek to do to a people who have contributed to a society that has only benefitted from their gifts, talents, and resources and equity is absent from their daily existence?” i.e. NBA, NFL, NCAA, Reality shows, etc.
- He would remind America of the promises that have been *made* but not *kept* regarding Freedom for his people who are obviously still judged by the color of their skin and not the content of their character. i.e. police brutality at an all time high
- He would ask what happened to the Republican Party who seeks to be committed to an individual and not the people who elected them
- He would ask the Democrats: do you not understand that Leadership Matters and you are minimizing your responsibility by the division that separates you, not unify you. That your time in office was for differences to make a difference in the quality of lives for the people who entrusted that you would make a difference in their quality of life; Suit up and gain steps that will take you to the right place and not just a place. *Time is not on your side*
- He would seek to engage all people in a movement that solidifies equality and not one that seeks to take it away, especially as it relates to people of color, the voting rights act, and those programs that are and have been directly impactful in marginalized and at-risk communities, especially the Black and Brown people of this nation
- He would not be excited about the change in moral behaviors that seem to occupy the minds of the YOUNG, GIFTED, AND BLACK, those who have been encapsulated with contracts that make their bank accounts *hefty* but snatches their *integrity*

# Seeking Nominations for the Inaugural of the Women's Entrepreneurial Distinction Ovation

The Women's Business Council (WBC) is seeking nominations. The Women's Entrepreneurial Distinction Ovation Award (WEDO Award) commences this Spring in May, in conjunction with National Small Business Month. There are five categories for the WE-DO award: Rising Star, Legend, Second Act, Trailblazer, and Thriver.

The award criteria are that you are women that owned at least 50 percent of the business in this Northwest Ohio's counties, Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardon, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Ottawa, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, Wyandot. WE-DO Award panel of judges includes a United Nations representative of the International Alliance of Women, a business owner of prestige national marketing consulting and branding agency, a DEI Director, a Business Incubator Manager, and a community leader. You can read more about our judges here <https://www.nwowbc.com/judges>

In January, the Northwest Ohio Women's Business Council (WBC) announced its inaugural program to promote, support, and celebrate women's entrepreneurship in our community. Through these awards, we hope to achieve these three goals – 1) recognize excellence, 2) provide a better narrative on the identity and storytelling of diverse women-owned businesses within our ecosystem, and 3) increase visibility and opportunity to close the area's economic inequality (network gap). It is WBC's mission to recognize a diverse group of female entrepreneurs whose women-owned businesses have succeeded and contributed to our community's economic well-being.

With a vision that every Entrepreneur has an equitable opportunity and access to develop, launch, and grow a business that creates wealth for themselves, their families, and/or their community; one of the ways for improvement is to develop an award and/or recognition of excellence for diverse entrepreneurs and ecosystem leaders. For our Media Partner, we welcome your support with media coverage to create awareness of the WEDO Award program and a call for applications. <https://www.nwowbc.com>.

Established in 2014, Inclusive for Women Inc. - Women of Toledo (WOT) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving the Greater Toledo community that advocates for diversity and inclusion with a focus on economic empowerment. The organization offers programs and services that help tackle issues critical to women's economic advancement and interrupt various biases in the workplace, marketplace, community, and family. We have a remarkably diverse group of women leaders committed to bringing together youth and women to learn from and support each other. For more information on WOT and other initiatives, please visit [www.womenoftoledo.org](http://www.womenoftoledo.org)

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**Sunday, March 12**

**Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church**

**The Pastoral Installation of Rev. Williams Foster, Sr.**

**10:30 AM Morning Service Guest Speaker: Rev. James Morgan, Jr., New Zion MBC, West Memphis, AR**

**3:00 PM Afternoon Service Guest Speaker: Rev. Lonnie Anderson, Jr., Mt. Pisgah MBC, Kokomo, IN**



# CLASSIFIEDS

March 1, 2023

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## LEGAL NOTICE

Proposals will be received by Pathway, Inc. until **4:00 p.m., April 7, 2023** for the selection of Provider(s) to implement IT Managed Services. Submitted proposals must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period will be from approximately **May 1, 2023** through **May 31, 2024**.

No proposals will be accepted after **4:00 p.m., April 7, 2023**; proposals that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on **February 17, 2023**.

It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: [www.pathwaytoledo.org](http://www.pathwaytoledo.org)

The right is reserved to reject any and all proposals.

## POSITION AVAILABLE ACCOUNTANT

**Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high-quality civil legal assistance to people living in poverty, seeks an Accountant to provide services for ABLE and its partner, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO). This position will be based out of ABLE's Toledo office.**

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/to> to review full details for the position and apply.

*ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator at [ablejobs@freelawyers.org](mailto:ablejobs@freelawyers.org).*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2023-2024 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 One-Year Action Plan** to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before **May 17, 2023**. The One-Year Action Plan is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2023-2024 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance including Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs), special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2023 49<sup>th</sup> Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 37<sup>th</sup> Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 32<sup>nd</sup> Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) (if applicable), and the 2020 Lead-Based Paint and Healthy Homes Grant. In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft One-Year Action Plan** will be available for review beginning **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Housing and Community Development  
One Government Center, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/housing-community-development>

Lucas Metropolitan Housing  
424 Jackson Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.lucasmlha.org](http://www.lucasmlha.org)

Office of the Mayor  
One Government Center, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayor>

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board  
1220 Madison Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.endinghomelessnessstoleo.org](http://www.endinghomelessnessstoleo.org)

Clerk of Council  
One Government Center, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets  
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
325 Michigan Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.toledolibrary.org](http://www.toledolibrary.org)

The Fair Housing Center  
326 N. Erie Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
website: [www.toledofhc.org](http://www.toledofhc.org)

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities  
1154 Larc Lane  
Toledo, Ohio 43614  
website: [www.lucasdd.info](http://www.lucasdd.info)

Public Hearings on the **Draft One-Year Action Plan** are scheduled as follows:

#### Thursday, March 23, 2023, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing:

Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/85826018584>

Passcode: 530143

Or one tap mobile:

US: +1408-961-3927,,85826018584#,,,530143# or 1855-758-1310,,85826018584#,,,530143# (Toll Free)

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 408-961-3927 or 1 855-758-1310 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 858 2601 8584

Passcode: 530143

International numbers available: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/kcb6CLkrBi>

#### Thursday, March 30, 2023, 5:30 p.m. by Virtual Hearing:

Virtual Link: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/82912448121>

Passcode: 844885

Or one tap mobile:

US: +1408-961-3927,,82912448121#,,,844885# or 1855-758-1310,,82912448121#,,,844885# (Toll Free)

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 408-961-3927 or 1 855-758-1310 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 829 1244 8121

Passcode: 844885

International numbers available: <https://toledo-oh-gov.zoom.us/j/kdEz48X4uU>

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning **Wednesday, March 22, 2023** through **Thursday, April 20, 2023**, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
2023-2024 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN  
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

The City of Toledo supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion ADA coordinator at (419) 245-1198 or submit a request online at [toledo.oh.gov/ada](http://toledo.oh.gov/ada).

## INVITATION AND INSTRUCTION TO INTERESTED LEGAL FIRMS

**Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)** is now accepting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) for a Legal Consultant to provide Legal Services.

Please read the entire package before bidding, available at [tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business/open-procurements](http://tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business/open-procurements). Interested firms shall make the necessary entry in all blanks provided for the responses.

SOQs submitted for evaluation by interested firms shall be evaluated according to the following criteria: a) Qualifications; b) Ability of professional personnel; c) Past record and experience; d) Performance data on file; e) Willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and f) Workload. Proposed costs shall not be considered in the evaluation of proposals unless and until contract negotiations commence.

Interested firms must respond completely and in the same numerical order in which the RFQ is issued. An interested firm's notes, exceptions, and comments may be rendered on an attachment, provided the same format of the SOQ text is followed. All notes, exceptions, and comments shall be made in ink or be typewritten. Mistakes may be crossed out and corrections typed or written in ink adjacent thereto and must be initialed in ink by the person signing the bid. All SOQs shall be returned in a sealed envelope with SOQ number and opening date stated on the outside of the envelope.

Sealed SOQs must be received at TARTA's offices located at 1127 West Central Avenue, or by mail to the above address and clearly marked with Legal Consultant's full name and address, telephone number and TARTA Legal Services SOQ, and sent to:

**Sophie Giviyan**  
**Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority**  
**1127 W. Central Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 792**  
**Toledo 43697-0792**

SOQs received after the 4 p.m. **deadline on March 7, 2023**, will not be opened.

Questions from interested firms and inquiries on the specifications of this SOQ shall be directed to: **Sophie Giviyan, [sgiviyan@tarta.com](mailto:sgiviyan@tarta.com)**

# True Vine Missionary Baptist Church Welcomes New Pastor

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, located on Russell Street, held the worship and installation service of Rev. Wilbur Lewis, Sr, the new pastor, on Sunday, February 19, 2023.

The full-day celebration began with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., morning service at 10:45 a.m. and evening service at 4:00 p.m.

The morning service opened with spiritual devotion led by the church deacons, responsive reading inspired by scripture, and inspired selections from Voices of True Vine.

Jamila Scott Coleman of True Vine, introduced the morning guest preacher, Rev. Benny Henry, the pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Milport, Alabama. The evening worship and installation service began with a praise and worship devotion, and also musical selections from Voices of True Vine and Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Coleman introduced the evening service guest preacher, Rev. Derek Arnold, DMin, the pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Toledo. Rev. Arnold also facilitated the installation service and presentation of gifts. Deaconess Baker served as the mistress of ceremonies and the service concluded with remarks and benediction from the newly installed pastor of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Lewis.

In speaking about Rev. Lewis prior to the installation, Rev. Arnold shared words of encouragement with the congregation and guests in attendance.

“Rev. Lewis comes from good stock. His mother and his father were good people. Plus Rev. Lewis is born again. I expect nothing less from him, because he is born again.”

Rev. Lewis was baptized and joined Toledo’s Bethlehem Baptist Church at the age of nine, and while attending Bethlehem, he received the call



Devotion Service



Pastor Lewis with Deaconesses



Rev. Lewis and Trustees

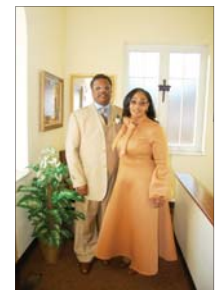


Rev. Clarence Gardner, Rev. Benny Henry, Rev. Wilbur Lewis and Rev. Derek Arnold

to preach under the leadership of Rev. Fred Blanton. Rev. Lewis’ trial sermon was in October 1989, he preached from the Biblical scripture of 1 King 18:21. He later earned a major in Pastoral Care and minor in Christian Education from Selma University under the Theology program.

“We’re excited to start an outreach program for the community. It will serve as a safe space for activity, study and mentoring by trusted adults,” shared Rev. Lewis.

True Vine Missionary Baptist Church is located at 739 Russell Street in Toledo, Ohio near Stickney Ave. Sunday school traditionally begins at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:45 a.m. For additional information contact the church at 419-726-8148.



Rev. Wilbur Lewis and wife Ingrid Lewis



Rev. Lewis with Deacons

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