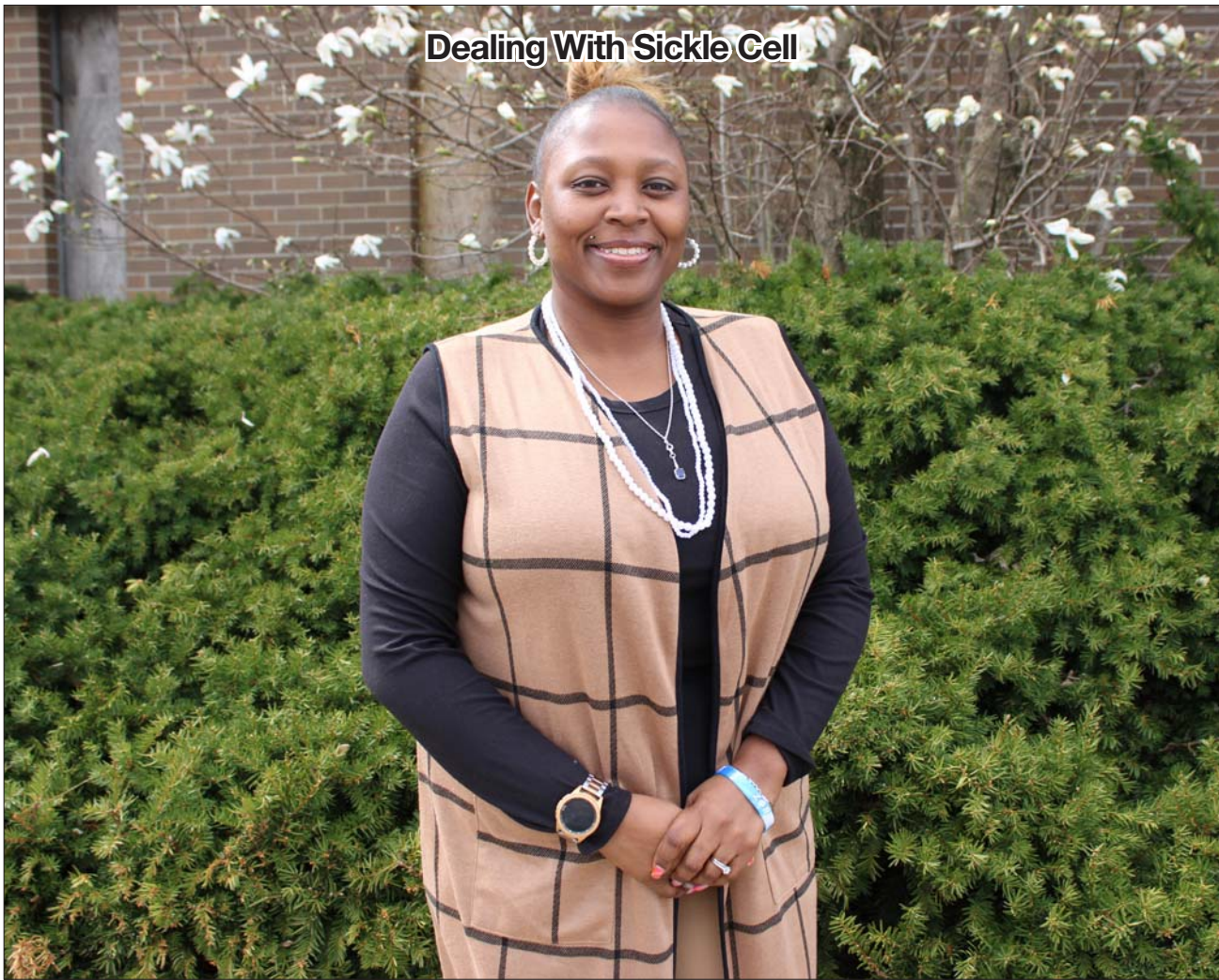


Volume 77 No. 9 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* April 19, 2023



SCOTT President La'Shardae Scott

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WANTED: Supreme Court Justice for Sale

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Here we go again about Clarence (Uncle Tom) Thomas who is in hot water and rightfully so. Because the latest allegations that he sold his grandma's house to his GOP billionaire benefactor for a large amount of money.

What makes this new story so appealing is that the GOP money bags Harlan Crow said that he would turn the property (among others next to the house) into a museum. Only problem is, there has not been any action taken for a museum on that lot for the past nine years!

Let's call it for what it looks like: Good ol' Clarence found a sweet spot to make some fast cash and, lo and behold, somehow his gregarious billionaire benefactor heard of the scheme and wadded in chest high deep and forked over the bucks for the property. Only problem is, there has been no reporting of this real estate transaction by Uncle Tom to the proper legal (IRS) and ethics authorities.

As more and more dirt comes out about the machinations of Uncle Tom, it is becoming apparent to many legal scholars and those who specialize in legal ethics that the irregular acts of Uncle Tom and his massa' have the appearance of rancid evil.

Evil in the sense that whenever the public's perception that a judge has been compromised by financial transactions that are not transparent and above board, Lady Justice suffers a bruising gut punch.

Clarence Thomas knows better. But for his lame defense he issued a "blah blah" statement that he checked with certain colleagues and others in the know that his prior acts of taking lavish trips on yachts of this donor were deemed "personal hospitality" and thus not subject to reporting.

Hogwash! Clarence Thomas has yet to identify those reliable colleagues and ethical sources that gave him a green light to pocket monetary benefits, among other gifts, and still act as if he was above the fray of mortal man.

Clarence Thomas is exhibiting total disdain for regulatory and ethical standards for a judge and quite frankly, from his persona and statements, he could not give a "tinker's dam" about it. What makes this farce of Clarence Thomas being beyond reproach is his public statements that he and his Q Anon-driven wife are of the Wal-Mart and RV'ing type of common folk!

Yeah. Sure. Clarence Thomas and his wife Gini spend their vacation days doing RV travelling and maybe parking their vehicle in Wal-Mart parking lots. Where do I go to gag!

Maybe with this new revelation, there will be a serious investigation of these financial dealings done in the dark and Uncle Tom will be severely censured for such brazen conduct thinking he was immune from scrutiny.

Now, remember, these allegations and proofs of same have been going on for decades and Thomas's white benefactor is nigh mournful that the media is portraying his favorite Tom as less than honorable.

By some estimates, the total value of these gifts and travel and lodge stays and yacht tours are over one million dollars in value. And yet Clarence Thomas would defy reporting obligations of those gifts in the hopes that the pending scandal would blow away.

If asked for an advertisement that would best sum up this fiasco regarding Thomas having both hands and feet in the proverbial cookie jar, the following ad is probably what Thomas responded to:

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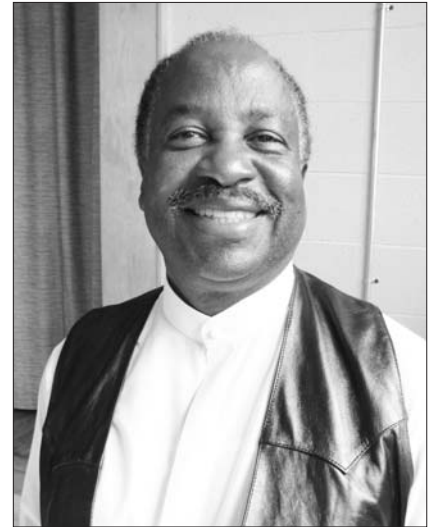
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Well, there you have it. Stay tuned to see what the Chief Justice of the court does and see how Clarence Thomas will couch himself in scarlet robes righteous indignation at the mere thought that he has tarnished the credibility of the high court by his money-grubbing tactics.

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Greater Toledo Community Foundation's Equity and Access Initiative

The Truth Staff

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation is preparing to open its application process for the fourth round of its Equity and Access Initiative Fund during which all new and experienced Toledo-area non-profit organizations, regardless of size, are encouraged to apply for funding to support projects that align with the focus of the fund.

Those focus areas – advocacy, economic development, employment and non-profit capacity – are the “concerns raised by the community,” said Keith Burwell during a conversation with The Truth earlier this year.

“We looked at lack of access and we took up the challenge and put together a fund. We created an independent committee comprised of some current board members but also community members and gave them the authority to see how we could tackle [diversity, equity and inclusion] issues in our community,” he said.

“Those grants by that committee were pushed forward with the understanding that they would know best what was needed in the community. So, we created a fund - \$600,000 over five years. Not to say it stops there but we had to start with a numerical amount.”

The GTCF, which has over three dozen established funds but recognized the need for education and access to the availability to those funds, established the Equity and Access Initiative in August 2020 and in the first round set up a two-step process, says Artisha Lawson, GTCF program officer. Applicants then needed to file a letter of intent and then a full application.

With the third round of the fund, the letter of intent was not necessary,

only the application, says Lawson. That process remains intact for the fourth round which begins on May 2 and extends through July 2.

To date, the Equity and Access fund has benefitted 26 different organizations, all local. Most are single organizations but there have been collaborations as well, seven collaborations in fact.

And while it is still early in the process to have an accurate assessment of all the benefits of the fund, already “a few have done great work,” says Lawson. She cites two recipients in particular: Wilber A. Williams Community Life and Technology Center and GreaterGenerations.

Wilber A. Williams has undertaken a focus on board development training “which we felt was very critical ... and necessary,” says Lawson.

GreaterGenerations has formed a collaborative with City Park League. Both organizations focus on different aspects of work with the city's youth. “We could foster a year-round experience [for youth],” says Lawson. The City Park League and GreaterGenerations combined programs offer athletics, community service, financial education and family planning counseling.

The GTCF grant enabled GreaterGenerations to maintain services throughout the year, says Ebony Robinson, executive director of the six-year-old organization. “We were able to provide work experience for participants,” she says. “I am very happy that I was able to work a complete year and have the kids around me all year.”

The fourth round of funding will provide \$100,000 in grants. “WE need more applicants from minority-led organizations,” says Lawson, “especially from those who have never applied or haven't applied recently. I hope this will lead to more opportunities and more philanthropy.”

In addition, notes Lawson, the hope is that this Equity and Access process will open up the conversation among those not aware of what GTCF has to offer- the other funds such organizations might be eligible for.

“We need to increase awareness and encourage community leaders to tap them on the shoulder and ask them ‘have you looked at this?’”

There will be a community conversation about the next round of funding that will take place at the Mott Branch Library on Thursday, April 27 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The funding opportunity will open on May 2 and extend through July 2.

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The YWCA's Racial Justice Challenge

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The YWCA is gearing up for its annual event, the **Racial Justice Challenge**, an innovative online program aimed at fostering constructive social justice habits with a specific focus on race, equity, and leadership. With 21 days of engaging challenges, participants will be presented with tasks that uncover the impact of racial and social injustice on our communities, while connecting with one another, and finding ways to dismantle all forms of discrimination. Best of all, participation is completely free!

It's said that it takes 21 days to make or break a habit. Throughout the Racial Justice Challenge, the YWCA provides a dedicated opportunity to explore how race, gender and class intersect in our society, shaping structures that privilege some while excluding others.

"We believe that it is critical to have open, honest conversations about race and racism if we are going to create a more just and equitable society," said Alexii Collins, Racial Justice director at the YWCA of Northwest Ohio.

"The Racial Justice Challenge is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to engage in this work and to deepen their understanding of the issues at hand. We hope that this initiative will spark meaningful change in our community and beyond."

At its core, the YWCA is a multi-issue, social change organization committed to improving the multi-racial lives of those it serves. As a community, they firmly believe that change can begin today, with each of us choosing to be a catalyst for reconciliation.

The Racial Justice Challenge starts on April 17. Join thousands of people across the country and ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE! Since they launched in 2019, the YWCA has had over 50,000 participants across the country take the challenge, reaching 2,600 unique ZIP codes.

Download the YWCA's Racial Justice Challenge App or log on via your web browser to complete learning modules and connect with other participants.

The weekly topics that will be explored during the 2023 YWCA Racial Justice Challenge are:

- **Disability:** Tracing the Roots of Eugenics, the Disability Rights Movement, examining the intersections of race, gender, and disability, and analyzing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on differently-abled individuals.
- **Housing Equity:** Uncovering the lingering effects of redlining, examining housing accessibility, and identifying how racism, homophobia, and transphobia have become drivers of homelessness and its criminalization.
- **Mental Health:** Exploring the use of psychology as a tool of marginalization, analyzing access to mental healthcare, and examining the impact of discrimination on mental health.
- **Music:** Exploring the legacy of activist musicians, unpacking racism in the music industry, examining cultural appropriation, challenging gender stereotypes, and analyzing access to music education.

The content is intended to encourage participants to reflect on their own experiences and biases, and to engage in discussions with others in the

community about these important issues.

"There are daily challenges you can complete around each topic if you'd like," explains Collins. "You can start where you want and you as the participant have the power to choose what you consume. Most materials are from five to 30 minutes a day, so there is something for everyone."

As part of this year's new programming, weekly virtual discussions will be available to participants. In addition, organizations, companies, and groups that take part will receive the YWCA NWO 2023 Challenge Discussion Guide, filled with thought-provoking discussion questions, practical action steps and valuable self-care recommendations.

For 21 days you will receive in your inbox an opportunity to either read an article, listen to a podcast, watch a video, and/or reflect on your own experiences all with the goal of inspiring you to be open to positive changes you can implement today.

This Challenge is so important within today's landscape because the real work of racial equality starts within. "This journey has to begin with knowledge," notes Alexii. "We must all understand the current and historic issues that surround systematic injustice. The companies who believe in education and awareness will be stronger and more inclusive businesses, they will be the organizations that benefit the most from this opportunity."

As different communities learn to become true allies and advocates in social justice, the YWCA recommends colleagues help each other find actionable ways to make positive change.

"We are so pleased that so many of our partners accepted the challenge this year," shares Collins. "Last year over 1,750 people signed up, and nearly 100 companies and organizations participated."

Participants are also encouraged to join the YWCA's Racial Justice Facebook Group for ongoing discussion.

"It's important for leaders in our communities to understand that almost all organizations in our country are led by white males," states CEO of JumpStart Inc. Ray Leach in a YWCA Challenge Accepted interview. "If we don't have a deeper collective understanding of these issues and challenges there's no way we can help transform our own organizations' understandings and actions around equity."

JumpStart Inc., a Cleveland, Ohio-based non-profit venture development organization has gained a national best-in-class reputation for its state-of-the-art economic development models. Their Toledo Business Growth Collaborative leverages their experience and expertise across a network of small business assistance organizations, all here within the Glass City.

"Each of us show up as either part of the solution or part of the problem," says Collins. "Our silence means we are complicit in the continuation of social injustice. This challenge, on the other hand, collectively creates both change and positive habits."

The Racial Justice Challenge provides a unique opportunity to engage with issues of social justice, particularly those related to race, equity, and leadership. By participating in this program, individuals and organizations

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La'Shardae Scott: Mother of Two Warrior Children

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In recent years, there is a growing movement to raise awareness and advocate for those living with sickle cell disease, a genetic blood disorder that affects millions of people worldwide. With increasing recognition of the unique challenges faced by individuals and families impacted by this condition, The SCOTT Center has been working tirelessly to improve care, advance research and empower those living with Sickle Cell Disease right here in Toledo.

La'Shardae Scott is the CEO/president of SCOTT, which stands for:

Scott Center for Observation Treatment & Transition, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sickle cell awareness, education and research. "We specialize in facilitating the transition from pediatric to adult treatment," explains Scott.

La'Shardae Scott, is also a mother of four who found herself thrust into the world of sickle cell disease when her two youngest children were diagnosed with the condition.

"I had to educate myself on the disease to help my boys manage their illness," she shares. "I had to navigate the complexities of sickle cell disease head on. So that's what my husband and I did."

She began to research sickle cell disease, poring over medical journals and books, attending conferences and meeting with doctors and other advocates. "I called a doctor in my hometown of Detroit and was able to set up an internship with him," shares Scott. "I learned so much, I knew I had to share my knowledge with others."

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a genetic condition that affects millions of people around the world. For parents of children with sickle cell, the challenges can be overwhelming. The constant hospital visits, the medication schedules, and the uncertainty of the disease can take a toll on families, both emotionally and financially.

This genetic blood disorder affects the structure and function of red blood cells, causing a mutation in the HBB gene, which provides instructions for making a protein called hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body. In sickle cell disease, the mutation in the HBB gene causes hemoglobin to form into a sickle shape when oxygen levels are low. These sickle-shaped cells can stick together and block small blood vessels, leading to reduced blood flow and oxygen to organs and tissues.



"In layman's terms the sickle-shaped cells in the bloodstream are like tiny saboteurs, wreaking havoc on the body's delicate balance. They cling to blood vessels restricting the flow of oxygen and causing excruciating pain," says Scott.

There are several types of sickle cell disease, including sickle cell anemia (SS), sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease (SC), sickle beta-plus thalassemia (Sβ+), and sickle beta-zero thalassemia (Sβ0). Sickle cell anemia is the most common and severe form of the disease and is caused by inheriting two copies of the mutated HBB gene (one from each parent).

Sickle cell disease affects both children and adults. In children, the disease can cause pain crises, anemia, and delayed growth and development. Pain crises occur when sickle-shaped cells block blood flow to organs and tissues, causing severe pain. Anemia occurs when there aren't enough healthy red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body. In adults, sickle cell disease can cause chronic pain, organ damage and an increased risk of infections and strokes.

"I educate individuals, families and administrators and give them the power to make informed decisions around a little-known illness," says Scott.

In doing so, Scott and her husband Eric fight tirelessly ensuring that every child with the disease now has access to the education and resources they need to succeed. "Back then, there weren't many resources, so we became the resource —and wrote a book."

What Dr. Shurney Taught Me explores the life of Emory, a little boy living with sickle cell disease. "It's a great story and a simple way to help first time people who live with or care for someone with the disease," says Scott.

Scott's passion and dedication certainly paid off. Currently she is a student at the University of Kentucky's Doctor of Social Work Administration and Leadership program, developing new exciting research around the disease.

"I knew back in 2015 when the boys were diagnosed that I would need to be their biggest advocate," she explains. "As the mother of two warrior children I decided to change my educational path from secondary education to social work. Best decision I've ever made. Now that I'm working on my doctorate my ultimate goal is to continue focusing on my research while creating funding and changing the narrative that sickle cell patients are warriors."

Scott calls sickle cell patients "warriors" because living with sickle cell disease requires immense strength and resilience. Living with sickle cell can often feel like a constant battle. Patients have to manage their symptoms and treatments, navigate healthcare systems and advocate for themselves in a society that often does not understand their condition. "It takes a great deal of courage and perseverance to live with sickle cell disease," says Scott. "These patients are real life warriors."

... continued on page 7

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La'Shardae Scott... continued from page 6

By referring to sickle cell patients as "warriors," Scott hopes to highlight the strength and resilience of this community and inspire others to support them. She believes that recognizing the challenges faced by sickle cell patients and honoring their courage can help to reduce stigma and improve the lives of those living with this condition.

Scott is now a top leader in the sickle cell community, advocating for better care and increased awareness. "I create programs and initiatives that provide resources and support to families and children living with the disease," she says. "I feel a deep responsibility to help not only my own children, but all who need the tools to navigate this chronic illness."

Scott also recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to care, including emotional support, nutrition, exercise, and stress management. "I incorporate these principles into my training sessions," she shares. "We also have a support group so everyone feels they have a safe and supportive environment available to them when they need one."

The Sickle Cell Awareness Toledo or (SCAT) group will meet at the Mott Library on April 20 from 7-8 p.m.

"It's important for family members to get tested for the sickle cell trait," explains Scott. "This means they have one copy of the mutated gene but don't have the disease. People with the sickle cell trait are generally healthy and don't experience symptoms of sickle cell disease, but they can pass the trait on to their children." If two people with the sickle cell trait have a child, there's a 25 percent chance the child will inherit two copies of the mutated gene and develop sickle cell disease.

Family members of a person with sickle cell disease should also be aware of the symptoms and complications of the disease. Sickle cell disease can cause acute and chronic pain, as well as damage to organs such as the spleen, kidneys, and lungs. People with sickle cell disease require ongoing medical care, including regular monitoring, preventive measures, and treatment of complications. It's important for family members to be supportive and understanding of the challenges faced by their loved one, and to encourage them to seek appropriate medical care and emotional support.

With her extensive educational background and years of experience as an



Eric and La'Shardae Scott with sons Emory, Evan and Eric, Jr.

advocate, President Scott is well-equipped for her role and will soon open a physical location. "I've been consulting for the past several years and now it's time to expand," she shares.

Scott's journey as a parent of two children with sickle cell disease has not been easy, but she has persevered with unwavering love and determination. Through her own research, advocacy, and support of her children, she has become a beacon of hope for other families dealing with this disease. Her story is a testament to the power of education, resilience, and community in the face of adversity.

You can contact The SCOTT Center on Facebook and by email at LScott@ScottCenterOH.org

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Community Partners Announce Greenbelt Place Apartment Upgrades

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Lucas County Commissioners, in partnership with The Movement, held a press conference at Greenbelt Place Apartments on April 13 to deliver a message to the community about recent events at the complex.

“We’re here to give the community an update, first and foremost, and to also celebrate the victories that have been achieved here. This is a national model of cooperation that we want our community to know about,” explained Pete Gerken, Lucas County commissioner.

“Let’s go back a few years, this place was a mess and had a reputation of the worse of the worst. The outside didn’t look good and the insides were worse. The residents were scared and had little hope and at some point the property owner, Rene, was close to losing designations with HUD, who helps to pay and subsidized the housing. We had a meeting at Congresswoman’s Marcy Kaptur’s office and everyone came together and realized that this was a crisis and had to bring the community together. This is one of the largest housing projects in the city and with respect to all the residents that live here, we had to do better,” said Gerken.

“There are other places in Toledo that aren’t owned by Rene, that don’t look as great as this place does today. There’s a lot of stuff going on in those places. I’m going to challenge those out-of-town landlords that have those places you need to step up and be like Rene and step up and be like Tina Butts. You have a responsibility in our neighborhoods to our residents,” said Lisa Sobecki, Lucas County commissioner.

Commissioner Gerken explained the collaboration and insisted that it could be replicated in other parts of the city and nation. The collaboration included the Council Commissioners, City of Toledo, The Movement Team and Greenbelt Place Apartments property owner.



Lucas County Commissioners and The Movement

“We have some very dedicated on-site staff, which has been a tremendous help. We appreciate Tina and The Movement, even though we initially got off to a rocky start. Fortunately, we had partnerships with Commissioner Gerken and The Movement. We are committed to putting forth our best efforts. We’re going to continue to do our best and we’re excited to see the continued improvements,” shared Rene Campos of Eureka, Greenbelt Place Apartments owner.

The Movement Team served as the linchpin and community organizer which

... continued on page 10



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HUD Secretary Fudge Visits the Glass City, Vows to Change Lives

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was created during the Johnson administration almost 60 years ago and, for the first time ever, a HUD Secretary visited Toledo, Ohio last week.

Urged on by Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and her close friend and former colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Secretary Marcia Fudge visited the Glass City and heard city leaders and elected officials praise her leadership and tout the gains the City has made in the short time that Fudge, a fellow Ohioan, has headed the department.

Fudge is a Cleveland, Ohio native and a graduate of Shaker Heights High School. She earned an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and her law degree from Cleveland State University.

Fudge entered politics in 1999 as the chief of staff for Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and in 2001 ran for and won the office of mayor of Warrensville Heights. In 2008 upon the death of Tubbs, Fudge became the congresswoman representing the 11th District of Ohio and continued to win elections until she was appointed to the position of HUD Secretary by President Joe Biden in 2021.

Fudge and Kaptur stopped by the Toledo Urban Credit Union during the morning to hold a meeting with several community leaders including: TUFUCU CEO Suzette Cowell, TUFUCU Board President Bishop Pat McKinstry, TUFUCU Board member Rev. Tim Pettaway, Nueva Esperanza Community Credit Union CEO Sue Cuevas, NECCU Board Chairman Adam Martinez, Pathway, Inc CEO Jay Black and Lucas Metropolitan President Joaquin Cintron Vega and Bishop Duane Tisdale of Friendship Baptist Church.

Kaptur introduced Fudge by describing her as a "dogged advocate for American cities" while also praising TUFUCU for its 26 year success in spite of tremendous obstacles presented in part by federal governing agencies.

"This is the first fair credit institution in the history of Toledo in the Black community," said Kaptur of TUFUCU.

Cowell noted that she founded the credit union at the behest of Bishop Tisdale but broadened the concept into a community-wide institution at the urging of Congresswoman Kaptur.

The attendees spoke of the experiences of their organizations, along with the



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Secretary Marcia Fudge, Housing Director Rosalyn Clemens, LMH CEO Joaquin Cintron Vega

difficulties of trying to obtain assistance in many cases from government entities. Those who had experienced contact with the U.S. Department of HUD since Fudge's arrival in her post also noted her for the positive changes she has implemented at the department.

"We are trying to do a lot of things," said Fudge. "For example, with rental assistance ... what we have now is a crisis of housing and a crisis of homelessness." Fudge spoke of her department's interest in working with community development financial institutions to help solve some of the crises that have

... continued on page 10



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A NURSING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Community Partners... continued from page 8

connected residents to requested local services and programs. The Movement Team has worked with the residents and brought in Getting Ahead program, that aims to get people out of poverty. The program has enrolled and graduated two classes.

The Movement Team also brought in partners like Lucas County Children Services every Monday, they also brought in prenatal care, personal wellness and voter education program. The Movement connects residents to resources in real time instead of delivering a list of referrals, they assist to make the real-time connection.

"We saw some of the living conditions when we were signing people up for vaccinations, and we voiced our opinion then it snowballed. We had no idea who the owner was. We also didn't know that the owner was told by employees that everything was okay. When we finally sat down and met, I learned that he had a heart of gold and wanted to do whatever it took to get things right. We have built a friendship. I agree with him because it was rocky at first, but he was willing to do whatever it took to make the living conditions for the people that live here a better place to live. I want to thank you for keeping your commitment to us, we couldn't do this alone. We were able to break that wall because some people didn't understand why were here," shared Tina Butts, executive director of The Movement Team.

"I was a tenant and one of the people causing problems. I got connected with Ms. Tina and her program changed my life around. I'm truly blessed to have her in my life, she is my personal guardian angel who gave me a second chance at life. I stand here today sober, because I suffered from addiction. The addiction led me to do some bad things and I got involved with the wrong people. She believed in me and I thank her for that, coming up on three months sober. I encourage anyone who wants to get clean to get involved," shared Terrance John, former tenant of Greenbelt Place Apartments and The Movement Team member.

Immediately following the press conference, attendees were invited to tour the property which had some recent updates. The updates included new playground equipment, renovated residential units and visible property maintenance. The property also passed the recent HUD inspection and plans to complete additional upgrades in the future.

HUD... continued from page 9

resulted from a nationwide shortage of housing. "We want to do more," she added of that effort.

It is estimated that Americans suffer from a shortage of about 1.5 million housing units.

In the afternoon, Fudge and Kaptur held a press conference at the Toledo Lucas County Main Branch Library attended by dozens of Toledoans.

The mayor opened the press conference by welcoming the secretary of Toledo and introduced the City of Toledo Department of Housing and Community Development Director Rosalyn Clemens who spoke of the positive changes at HUD since Fudge's appointment as secretary.

"HUD is more customer friendly," said Clemens. "She is making sure we can access programs more efficiently. She has helped Toledo turn the corner."

Cintron Vega added his thanks for the improvement at the department. "Her leadership has been phenomenal and we see the changes."

Fudge spoke briefly at the library event mentioning the amount of money that will be flowing into the Dorr and Detroit corner for the expansion of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and the billions that HUD has spent and will be spending to deal with the housing crisis.

The housing crisis, she noted, has three issues that contribute to the difficulty in overcoming it. "Housing isn't affordable, there is not enough housing and people don't want to build housing for low income people," she said.

Nevertheless, Fudge noted that her department is focused on just that issue, increasing the housing stock in the USA and fulfilling her obligation as an elected official.

"We only have one job – to take care of the people we serve," she said. "I want people to know we have made it better when I leave office; we are going to change lives."



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge



Celebrating the Fair Housing Act

Join us for
The Fair Housing Summit
 on the State of Fair Housing in Lucas & Wood Counties

Friday, April 28, 2023
9 - 11:30 a.m.

at the McMasters Center at the Main Library –
 Toledo Lucas County Public Library
 325 N. Michigan St. Toledo, OH 43604

Please RSVP at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

For more info, please contact Logyn Taylor-Thompson at
 The Fair Housing Center 419-243-6163 ext. 133



A New President for Wilberforce University

Special to The Truth

The Wilberforce University Board of Trustees announced the selection of Vann R. Newkirk, PhD, as the university's 23rd president. Newkirk will assume the presidency in July of this year, succeeding Alfred Anthony Pinkard, PhD, who announced his retirement as president in March of 2022.



Vann Newkirk, PhD

The Wilberforce Family expressed heartfelt appreciation for Pinkard's dedicated service to the university. His sound leadership during a global health crisis is one of his many contributions that will not be forgotten, and his legacy will continue to inspire and influence the future of this great institution for generations to come.

Newkirk brings a wealth of experience and has a sterling reputation in higher education, having served in various leadership roles at several institutions. He presently serves as an interim associate vice president at Alabama A & M University in Huntsville, and he is a former president of the historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to his presidential appointment at Fisk, Newkirk also served as that university's provost and vice president of academic affairs.

"I am honored and excited to be joining the Wilberforce University community," Newkirk said. "As an HBCU graduate, I also understand the transformative power of these institutions and I look forward to working with the talented faculty, staff and students at Wilberforce to continue the university's legacy of excellence." He continued, "Our students are young people who have dreams and aspirations when they come to us. We have to guide them to the right kind of career paths."

Throughout his career, the Elizabethtown, North Carolina native has built and managed off-campus degree programs, and he has enhanced the administration of institutional research. His first priority for Wilberforce

he says is to engage community supporters who can assist in the university's fund-raising efforts. This, he says, will facilitate premium academic programs and add value to the university's distinction among nationally ranked liberal arts colleges.

Currently, Dr. Newkirk is writing a history of African Americans in Alabama. In one of his works, "New Life for Historically Black Colleges and Universities" (HBCUs), he writes to improve the long term viability of HBCUs by identifying their challenges and models of success and exploring their management systems. A noted historian, he has written extensively on crime and punishment in North Carolina. He has also authored the 2008 seminal work, "Lynching in North Carolina", which won the 2009 Willie Parker History Award for the best non-fiction study of North Carolina.

"We are thrilled to welcome Newkirk to Wilberforce University," said Board of Trustees Chair Mark Wilson. "His experience, vision, and commitment to educating our students make him the ideal choice to lead our university into the future."

Newkirk attended North Carolina A & T University and received his undergraduate degree in sociology from Barber-Scotia College. He holds a Master of Arts degree in history from Winthrop University, a Master of Science degree from North Carolina Central University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in history from Howard University.

Newkirk has three adult children, Vann R. Newkirk, II (Kerone), Dr. Cassandra Newkirk, and Richard Newkirk.

Founded in 1856, Wilberforce University is the nation's first, private, historically Black college/university (HBCU). Located in southwest Ohio, 20 miles from Dayton, it is a member of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the Ohio Library Link Consortium, and the Mid-South Conference. According to HBCU.com, Wilberforce is among the top five HBCUs in the Midwest.

Rising Inflation is Impacting Mental Health. How the Country is Coping

Special to The Truth

It's no secret that the country is feeling the pinch from inflation and the rising costs of goods and services, with 48% of Americans struggling to make ends meet financially, according to the latest data from Dynata's Global Consumer Trends survey. That's up from 34% in August of last year.

These circumstances are having a significant impact on wellness, with 53% of respondents attributing financial difficulties as being an extremely or very important contributing factor to their worsening mental health since before the pandemic. Women are feeling the impacts most. Nearly six in 10 women – 57 percent – say financial difficulties are the largest contributor to a decline in their mental health vs. 44% of men who say the same.

Many Americans however are finding new ways to ease the burden on their mental health. Here are a few of the habits and attitudes that have

YWCA... continued from page 5

will gain a better understanding of the systemic issues that underpin most injustices, while identifying tangible steps you can take to create a more equitable and just society. As they strive to build a better future for all, the YWCA's annual event serves as a powerful reminder that change is possible, and that each and every one of us has a role to play in creating a more just and equitable world.

The YWCA thanks and acknowledges Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., Debby Irving, and Dr. Marguerite Penick for their leadership in the interest of racial equity as exhibited in their 21-Day Racial Equity and Habit Building Challenge and the movement they helped to initiate. YWCA's content is independently designed, written, and curated by YWCA staff as part of racial equity and social justice programs offered to the community

YWCA 21 Day RACIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGE:

APRIL 17, 2023 – MAY 15, 2023. Sign up to participate anytime throughout the Challenge. You will have access to all the previous materials on the website or app. Register at ywcanwo.org.

helped those who report having better mental health now than they did pre-pandemic:

- Exercise. Getting more exercise has helped 78% of respondents achieve better mental health during this time of financial uncertainty.
- Spending more time with hobbies and interests. Seventy-four percent of respondents have seen an improvement in their mental health by spend-

...continued on page 12

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Black Leaders in Banking: Q & A with Wells Fargo's Ahtis Davis

By Word In Black

Special to The Truth

Ahtis Davis, leader of business development for diverse customers in the Consumer and Small Business Bank at Wells Fargo, says "the most important lesson about finances is understanding that it is a tool."

The Financial Journey is a unique series focused on financial education and opportunities. These stories have been created through a strategic partnership between Wells Fargo and Word In Black.



Ahtis Davis

WIB: Can you describe your role at Wells Fargo?

Davis: I develop and execute strategies that help diverse customers acquire and build wealth. While my focus is consumer banking, I work across the entire organization to serve the full spectrum of diverse customers' financial needs.

WIB: What would you say is the best part of the work you get to do?

Davis: The work we do is about promoting financial inclusion and growth for diverse communities that have been historically overlooked and underserved. Having a platform that allows me to build and execute strategies that serve those communities – and the people in them – is incredibly rewarding. It's the best part of my work and I look forward to getting to do it every day.

WIB: What does diversity and Inclusion mean for you?

Davis: Diversity and inclusion means that everyone has a fair and equitable opportunity to fully participate in society. Regardless of the framework – political, financial, educational, etc. – everyone should have the opportunity to design and build the life that they want for themselves and their families.

WIB: What is one piece of career advice you can give to our readers?

Davis: Say YES! Often women and people of color are more risk averse and because of that, they may miss out on opportunities that they are qualified for and would excel in. So, say yes to the opportunity and to yourself! Once you start, everything can be figured out.

WIB: Having a role in banking can seem daunting at times, what do you enjoy most outside of work?

Davis: I love to travel, especially with my children. They often take me outside of my comfort zone and keep me in touch with my playful side.

WIB: Describe your proudest moment to date.

Davis: My proudest moment has been raising two amazing humans that call me mom. Raising children as a full-time executive has its challenges but navigating them has made me a better

mother and a more effective leader.

WIB: What would you say is the most important lesson about finances?

Davis: The most important lesson about finances is understanding that it is a tool. Once you shift your mindset to understand how to leverage it as a tool, you can focus on how to earn, invest, and grow it to achieve your financial goals.

WIB: Can you describe a pivotal moment in your career?

Davis: A pivotal moment in my career happened almost 10 years ago when I moved my family to London for four years. Not only did it help me pivot from a career in Corporate Investment Banking to Diverse Customer Strategies, but it also provided an amazing opportunity for my family to travel extensively and embrace global citizenship.

WIB: What does having an "authentic voice" mean for you?

Davis: It might sound cliché, but having an authentic voice means representing what you believe to be true which frees you to express your full creativity.

Ahtis Davis joined Wells Fargo & Co in 2021 to lead business development for diverse customers in the Consumer and Small Business Bank. She leverages her global leadership experience to develop, lead and activate the bank's strategy to drive customer growth and brand reputation.

Prior to joining Wells Fargo & Co, Ahtis has enjoyed a 20+ year career in financial services at JPMorgan Chase in the Corporate Investment Bank in New York and London and most notably, established Advancing Black Pathways as the Program Manager, leading their strategy to help more Black Americans achieve economic success.

Ahtis is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics with a double minor in Business and Spanish.

Rising Inflation...continued from page 11

ing more time and focus on their hobbies and industries. Whether it's knitting, playing a sport or bird-watching, taking on a new hobby can be an effective way to better your mental health.

- Spending time with loved ones. The pandemic was a long period of separation for many, but with life back to normal, spending time with loved ones has been a proven way to boost mental health, with 74% of respondents seeing an improvement.

- Rest. Now is a great time to sit back and take some time to relax, as 73% reported an improvement in their mental health from just taking time to rest.

- Cooking and healthy eating. The pandemic gave many a chance to spend more time in the kitchen cooking their favorite meals. Seventy-two percent of respondents attribute cooking and healthy eating to helping improve their mental health. During these difficult financial times, spending more time in the kitchen can be a great way to help ease stress, save money on meals and of course, reap the physical and mental benefits of a good, balanced meal.

- Work-life balance. This has been a stressful time for employees, with news of layoffs coming almost daily, on top of the already existing financial stressors. However, 72 percent of respondents attribute achieving a better work-life balance to lowering stress levels and improving their mental health.

For full survey results, visit <https://www.dynata.com>.

While many Americans are feeling the pinch right now, the good news is that proven coping strategies can help lighten the mental load.

Courtesy StatePoint

The Celebration of
BLACK KINGS

Monday, June 19, 2023
Black Kings Dinner

5pm - 9 pm EST
The Toledo Club 235 - 14th Street,
Toledo, Ohio

NOMINATE A KING
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: APRIL 30, 2023
Honorees will be notified by May 1, 2023

A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan

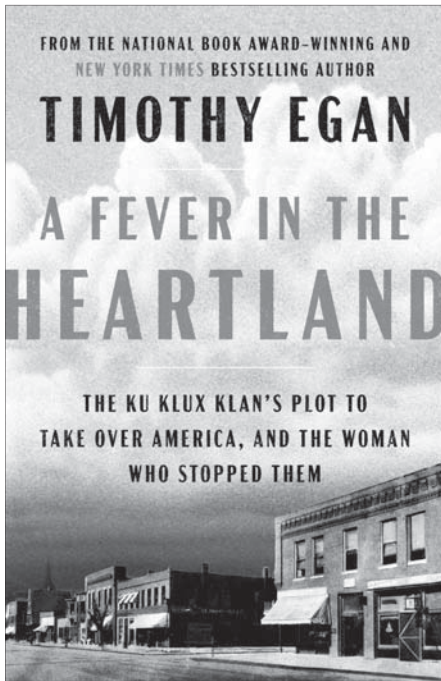
By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Who's in charge around here?

That would be you, the person at the top of the chain, the head honcho, the Fearless Leader. Your desk is where the buck stops in your organization. Everything is in your hands and you're in charge – but, as in the new book *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan, don't get too comfortable on that throne.

c.2023
Viking
\$30.00
432 pages

When the Ku Klux Klan first appeared, they came in the night and people thought they were ghosts – which was the point. None of the six original founders, nor any of their subsequent followers wanted to be known



as a member of the Klan in those post-Civil War years, and being ghost-like kept their secrets. Then, the Klan was mostly in the South, although filmmaker D.W Griffith and Washington politics weren't against its spread. But by 1922, the Klan had slowly crept northward.

Up north, in Indiana, D.C. Stephenson, who went by the name "Steve," was a "young man on the make," just starting a new life in Evansville, and he noticed what was happening. He knew the Klan had vowed to keep Evansville mostly white and Protestant,

and that made him almost giddy. This was something Steve could sink his teeth into.

That spring, he ran for Congress on a platform that promised to fight for the Klan on behalf of every white person in Indiana. In short order, he'd worked his way up and was the leader of the nation's fastest-growing KKK chapter in the north.

One year later, though a handful of people quietly fought against what Steve was doing, he was a powerful man who did whatever he wanted to do, bragging that he was the law in Indiana. But his swagger hid something that few knew: Steve was a predator and an alcoholic, and before the spring of 1925 was out, he was also a murderer with a corpse as a witness.

That was when those against him knew it was time to take the Klan down...

For readers who have no patience for laying out the long facts, *A Fever in the Heartland* can be a bit of frustration.

It starts off with a meeting that, despite good intentions, is clearly not going to end well at all. Author Timothy Egan then switches to a history of the Klan, which is informative and necessary and slides into a long, long horror story of the terrorism of an entire state by a man who gained power with frightening speed. The length of it may numb you to the terror, and getting to the meat of the story – the subtitle's promise – feels like forever.

The good news is that when it does, the frustration dissipates immediately and you'll be turning pages like they're on fire. Things happen quickly here, as you begin to see how *A Fever in the Heartland* might resonate for modern readers. If you relish that kind of historical crime drama, look hard at your to-be-read pile and put this one on the top.

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CLASSIFIEDS

April 19, 2023

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GEOTECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION TESTING & REPORTING SERVICES RFP23-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Geotechnical Construction Testing & Reporting Services in accordance with RFP#23-R004**. Received in accordance with law until **May 2, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS COMPENSATION CONSULTING SERVICES RFP23-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Compensation Consulting Services in accordance with RFP23-R005**. Received in accordance with law until **April 27, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 5101:2-25-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) will hold a virtual public hearing prior to the submission of the County's Final 2023-24 Title XX County Profile to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

PURPOSE:

1. To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed 2023-24 county profile.
2. To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed 2023-24 county profile.

DATE: April 26, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Meeting Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_NjQ0ZWZhMzYtM2Y3Zi00ZDRmLTk5YmUtN2lwMGnKOWE1YTk0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22id%22%3A%2250f8cc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2%22%2C%22oid%22%3A%22c63c31a5-7691-4e94-8d41-9fcb85529582%22%2C%22lsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%27D&type=a&role=a

Microsoft Teams meeting link for this 2023-24 Title XX Lucas County Profile public hearing can also be accessed on the Quick Links Tab at <https://www.co.lucas.oh.us/858/Job-and-Family-Services>

Entities wishing to have their points of view captured in the County's submission to the State must email proposals (not to exceed two pages) to Lucas_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by 4:00 p.m. on April 20, 2023. If individuals would like to present their proposals virtually at the hearing as well, they must indicate that at the bottom of their proposal. This should include the speaker's name and contact information. Those wishing to speak must notify LCDJFS at Lucas_Contracts@jfs.ohio.gov by April 20, 2023 and all efforts will be made to accommodate everyone who would like to speak. If time constraints don't allow for that to happen, individuals will still have their written proposals reviewed and included in the LCDJFS summary report to the State.

PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT (ELECTRONIC BIDDING) STATE OF OHIO STANDARD FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Project # 1130-23-301
Underground Utility Infrastructure
Improvements – Ph2
The University of Toledo
Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, May 09, 2023; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal/Diverse Supplier Goal: 5% of contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$400,000
Alternates	\$270,000
Pre-bid Meeting: Tuesday, April 25th, 10:00am – Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606	

Walkthrough: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th, immediately following Pre-bid.

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

More Info: Submit questions electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

Project contact: Osborn Engineering, Kurt Lohrmann, 614-556-4272 ext. 5021, klohmann@osborn-eng.com

ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$27,250.00 for one person or \$31,150.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all resident to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at abundantlifeperrysburg.org.

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Publication Date 04/23

Church of the Living God Annual Women's Day Service

Special to The Truth



The congregation of the Church of the Living God hosted their annual Women's Day Service on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 3220 Meadowbrook in Toledo, Ohio, 43606. This local church is under the leadership of General Chief Overseer and Senior Bishop Calvin Worthem, DMin. We are the Church of the Living God Jewell Dominion. Our Senior Pastor is Elder Linda Warren and Associate Pastor is Rev. Eric Russell.

We have been having Women's Day programs about 12 years now.

together as women of God to thank God, for all that he has brought us through, and to be united as one in love. We have not had a women's day program since Covid-19, so we are ready to have our day. The women have been working hard for this program. The goal is to see every woman participate, and have our guest leave with a lifted spirit. Also, to be encouraged to continue to work for the Lord, and he will give us strength. We know the importance of loving one another. Down here there is the audition room, because in heaven, there is nothing but love. God bless you."

Rhythms & Poetry Entertainment

The events will be formal

Dining Dinner
Wines cocktails, RumPunch

Live Music
Live Performances

Nat Hick Singers
song write on
Guitar

Dianne E'laine
Singer Performer

Eddie White Poet

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