



Volume 78 No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 31, 2023

In This Issue...

Perryman and
Perryman-Clark
On Tina Turner
Page 2

Mayors On Violence
Page 3

Hubbard on Walking
Page 4

TARTA's New Hires
Page 5

Pathway's Summer Jobs
Page 6

Judge Duhart Honored
Page 7

Cover Story
Dr. Suzette Cowell
Page 8

Eleanor Hobbs
Celebrates 75
Page 10

Book Review
Page 13

Classifieds
Page 14

Party with a Purpose
Page 16

**Toledo Urban FCU Has A New Doctor
In The House**



Dr. Suzette Cowell Receives Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from UT

Free to Be Me

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

A 'formed' personality operates like a straitjacket. We stiffen over time into our repetitive, 'regular' selves. Unless and until we make changes, we are obliged to operate from that stiff place without much room to move or breathe. Likewise, [conforming] straitjackets us.

– Eric Maisel



The first thing I thought of upon hearing of Tina Turner's death last week was the courtroom scene in "What's Love Got to Do With It."

"It means you'll walk out of here with absolutely nothing."

Angela Bassett – Tina Turner replies: "Except my name! I'll give up all that other stuff, but only if I get to keep my name. I worked too hard for it. Your Honor."

So, yes, Turner's talent, dynamic energy, resilience, strength, and ability to overcome countless challenges of adversity to rise from ashes like the legendary phoenix made her an icon and the soulful queen of rock 'n' roll.

However, Turner merely wanted to be herself in a world hell-bent on power and domination.

As a child, she got kicked out of the Black Church, "needing to experiment and take risks as part of individuality, and feeling thwarted and frustrated by the conventional universe into which she always seemed to find herself plopped."

Yet, the one dynamic we always find in heroes is the fight to keep individuality rather than conform to societal pressures or that of others.

I spoke with Staci Perryman-Clark, Ph.D., about Tina Turner's "Wild Ride of Individuality." Perryman-Clark serves as Director, Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies at Western Michigan University where she is Professor of English and African American Studies. She is also my daughter.

Here is our conversation.

Perryman: When I heard of Tina Turner's passing, I almost immediately thought about how much you fantasized as a child about Tina Turner. Can you talk about that?

Clark: Yes, I did. I used to put on Mama's wigs and high heel shoes, and I would put on a short skirt and probably with my favorite pajama top still on, and I would walk down the stairs because I thought my legs were pretty like hers. I wanted to be her.

Perryman: I'm sure of the importance of make-believe play for children, but I'm exploring your mind and thought process. How old were you, and what was going through your mind?

Clark: I Had to be about two or three years old. I liked the soulful rock 'n' roll, and I loved the video 'What's Love Got to Do With It'; that's how I got the image of her. That was the first image I had seen of her to emulate.

Perryman: So, let's talk about a two or three-year-old's mind and imagina-



Staci Perryman-Clark,
PhD

tion, which we know for Black children, play can be transformative. I remember you'd be running around trying to sing. 'We Don't Need Another Hero' in Turner's husky voice.

Clark: I remember watching the video and asking Grandma Freddie, raised in a generation in the South, taught to conform to the strict conventions of Jim Crow segregation, "Who is that?" and she said, "Some old wild woman."

But, when she called her a wild woman, that's exactly who I wanted to be; I wanted to be 'Wild Woman.' And if you think about it now, a performer, somebody with no boundaries, and someone that can just be free, that's what I wanted to be. And I thought her legs were pretty, and mine were pretty, so I thought that would be a good match.

Perryman: What did 'wild' or 'free' mean to you as a two or three-year-old?

Clark: At that time, it meant that you could do what you wanted. If I wanted to be wild and jump off dressers to the bed or jump around, I could do it, and I wouldn't have to be told to stop or to sit down. If I wanted to wander in the woods behind the house to explore, I could do it. I didn't have just to sit still.

Perryman: I see. It provided a space to just be – to make mistakes, be silly, or be messy. Or even just explore. That space is sometimes not provided for Black children. But children's play also plays a role in shaping their future adult identities. How do you think the dramatic play around Ms. Turner affects you today?

Clark: I still am a performer. I still want to be free. But, still, I don't like boundaries. I still like to do whatever I want, for sure. So please don't give me limits. And the eccentric hair, that wig also is very telling.

Perryman: You're a creative writing and English professor. So, has your early dramatic play around Ms. Turner helped to boost your creativity or enhanced your communication skills?

Clark: Let me start with grown-up first because I was looking at some edits from my manuscript from writing with some folks. The person editing it told me to watch my run-on sentences. So, I'm like, 'now I'm an English professor, I know what a run-on sentence is,' and I'm like, 'none of these are run-on sentences; they're just an appositive. So, you have a comma, the person who was the x,y,z, that's not a run-on sentence; you don't have punctuation in run-on sentences.'

And for me, it was like that's my writing style. There might be a more concise way to say it, but I don't want to be told that there are grammatical errors. I want to write how I write. I know the rules, and I'm like, 'None of these are run-on sentences, and you don't even know their definition. Some have multiple clauses, but that doesn't mean it's a run-on sentence. When you add a relative pronoun to something with commas, it's typically what they call an appositive, not a run-on sentence.' An appositive is correct, so I'm sick of people telling me the rules and don't know them, so I want to make my own rules.

Perryman: Is it possible that you become oppositional or rebellious in "doing your thing?" We still must have rules.

Clark: Obviously, there are limits; you can't break the law, but any prescription of norms I'm very skeptical about because that's somebody in a position of authority telling you what they should be, and that's based on their experiences, not mine.

Imagination should liberate you and liberate others. If it doesn't, then that's when things are bad. It should liberate others to do something good, a collective good, not give people the freedom to harm others or use violence. That's not liberation.

Perryman: Yes, it's domination and imposing someone else's narrow pref-

...continued on page 3



Tina Turner



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To: Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Members, Toledo City Council

May 26, 2023

On Tuesday of this upcoming week, we are told that you will be voting to hire a firm from Louisville to give you a plan to make safe Toledo's neighborhoods and families.

Over three months ago, Saturday, February 18, the Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods, 300 members strong, announced and presented to each of you our 12-point plan to reduce the violence and make safe Toledoans and the neighborhoods in which we live.

Our plan came to each of you after hosting eight "Town Hall" meetings, which produced hundreds of suggestions. In addition, we former mayors, with 28 years of mayoral leadership experience, have had to address some of these same public safety challenges during our terms in office. We should remind you that eight suburban mayors presently serving their respective cities have also endorsed our 12-point plan. We have presented our plan to our city fathers without cost to the taxpayers of Toledo.

It is our understanding that the firm from Louisville will be paid \$180,000 annually for their yet-to-be-received plan.

Louisville is a very troubled city, according to a 12-page article recently highlighted in the New York Times. Racism is rampant and police-community relations are very bad, confirms the Attorney General of the United States. Why would you seek counsel from those headquartered in such a troubled city? And, why would you think those folks are better qualified than Toledoans who know our city much better than the folks from Kentucky – and they have a track record, which by their own admission has but three of nearly 150 cities they claim as clients, that have reduced violence by 25 percent. That data was provided to City Council this past week.

Perryman... continued from page 2

periences or perspectives upon you, which is the opposite of freedom.

Clark: Right. This way, you stay out of my way and stop stifling my creativity, and I'll leave you alone. Then, we can coexist.

Perryman: So, back to Tina. When you heard the news of her passing, how did that affect you?

Clark: I went immediately back to that little girl who, the first time I saw on TV, my grandma said, "Wild Woman." I wanted to be her. I don't know; I still do.

She did a lot of things on her own terms, especially when she got away from Ike, and that's something that resonates. Also, there's something about the little girl imagining herself on a stage performing like her, being eccentric, and being okay. I don't know; I still feel like I want to be her.

Perryman: You felt she was eccentric?

Clark: I did, in some ways, especially her videos and all the wigs. You've got to be eccentric. Even just the soul singing style with the kind of rock edge, she had an edginess, and I liked that too. But I wanted to be her; I just wanted to be free. I want to be free.

Perryman: I hear you saying, possibly, that women and people of color need "safe environments to carve out radical spaces for themselves due to fears, anxieties, and biases associated with living in an anti-black society." On her discography, any favorite songs?

Clark: So 'Proud Mary' is always one of my favorite songs, but also the one I think she did in '93, 'I Don't Wanna Cry No More,' so 'I Don't Wanna Fight' is what it was called.

Perryman: How does that touch you?

Clark: It is a way for me to disengage from conflict. It doesn't matter who's wrong or right sometimes. The older I get, the more I become attuned to figuring out this is not the hill I want to die on and just letting it go, especially at work. In some ways, I want to return to not taking myself too seriously, especially at work. Some of these things aren't worth it, so I'm involved in less conflict.

Perryman: What will the world miss with Ms. Turner gone, and what will they remember?

Clark: We will remember her taking back her womanhood and fleeing an abusive domestic violence situation. I think what we can take from that is very feminist-centric. I don't think she gets the credit that perhaps she should. Still, there's something about her reclaiming her life, being an icon, and even moving to Switzerland, doing things on her own terms, and making those decisions for herself. I think that's something that should resonate with all women. She



Former Mayors Paula Hicks-Hudson, Carty Finkbeiner, Mike Bell, Donna Owens

We believe wisdom and experience and love for our home city should place the responsibility for a safer, less violent city in the hands of Toledo's Mayor, City Council and a coalition of Toledo citizens all working together. We believe most Toledo and suburban residents would agree.

Please act to keep Toledoans responsible for bringing safer streets and neighborhoods back to the city we all love.

Sincerely,

Mike Bell Carty Finkbeiner Paula Hicks-Hudson Donna Owens
and The Coalition for Peaceful Toledo Neighborhoods

had to start over in her late 40s, and that kind of triumph, I think, is something the world should remember.

Perryman: I asked your mother what she remembers most about you and your Tina Turner fantasy. She recalls that you would get up as a toddler and attempt to dress yourself. Your mom would dress you like a little girl. Before noon you'd removed all your clothes and replaced them with high heels and an old skirt, writing on your leg, trying to make tattoos.



"Do you think I wanted to see her day in and day out walking around the house in a ratty wig, a pink pajama top, a skirt, and heels? And people would come over and see her like that," she says. Then, finally, your Aunt Jean asked, "Aren't you afraid she will fall down the steps?" Your mom replied, "She goes up and down those steps all day long. She's fine. And even now, Staci marches to the beat of her own drum. So, we allowed her to do that. I didn't care if people thought she was strange. I just was not inter-

... continued on page 4

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³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

The Benefits of Walking

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

Walking is good exercise for senior citizens and especially for African American seniors. Research and studies, including ones by Harvard University and AARP, indicate walking is powerful medicine for our brains.

Akilah Johnson writes in the Washington Post that in the last two decades African American health in general has declined in comparison to our White counterparts. Walking will help us grow new brain cells. Moderately paced walks stimulate the release of a protein called neurotrophic according to Patrick Smith professor of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina.

Walking can also increase the flow of oxygen and nutrients to the brain which can boost creativity. Creativity is a cognitive skill that is part of problem-solving according to a Stanford University study. Walking may enhance our mood according to Maie Pasinski, MD, of Harvard University.

Walking may also decrease brain-damage stress. Repeated exposure to stressful situations impairs memory, attention and cognitive flexibility. Walking in nature has been shown to be particular effective at reducing stress levels according to Andrew Huberman, a neuroscientist at Stanford Medicine.

Walking should also reduce the risk of cognitive decline. Participants in a study who walked more than 4000 steps per day had healthier brain tissues in the area responsible for memory, learning and cognitive function than those that did not as one AARP study showed.

If you want a fast work out at home the YMCA in Washington DC and Mayo Clinic recommends the chest press, bicep curl, military press, chair squat and dumbbell rows. These five home exercises can be found online.



Paul Hubbard

Let's get our brains and bodies in shape spring and summer 2023.

Paul L. Hubbard MSW, President Comfort Day Care. "A Senior Moment".

Perryman...continued from page 3

ested in changing her. I said no, you don't dare change her, so let her be. That's who God created her to be. She's just different."

We didn't know a lot about successful parenting. We just attempted to allow you to celebrate your beauty, brilliance, creativity, and individuality. That decision has been transformative as you have channeled them into your writing and teaching.

So, I think we both learned that it is necessary for all children – safe, liberatory spaces for them to play.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org



Staci Perryman-Clark



Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

If you are seriously thinking about getting into acting or modeling you are going to

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TARTA Hosts a Graduation Ceremony for 22 New Drivers

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

On May 25, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority hosted a graduation ceremony to support and recognize those who completed the operations and safety training process. TARTA continues to grow and expand the services for the community, so new operators are needed and appreciated by TARTA.

"This is a good day for TARTA. To acknowledge and celebrate our training," said Steve Wise, Safety, Security and Training manager.

"I'm thrilled to be here, to welcome everyone for this graduation ceremony. Our largest class! How we meet the needs of our community, above all else we needed a larger work force. Excited to have this new class. The drivers are so important; and you have an amazing opportunity to impact those who need TARTA. You are needed, valued and welcomed to TEAM TARTA," said Laura Koprowski, CEO.

The introduction to the graduation ceremony provided details that the operators have to offer the community and acknowledged the process and successful completion of all the training and educational requirements. Many details were provided and recognition of the successful completion of the training process by the graduates.

"I think in a very real way, the graduates today: operators working for TARTA, are providing service...a quality service. It's public service. There is something special about people who work in fields, helping others. You are helping, serving the community! In our community, public transportation is so important. What you are doing, what you will be doing, benefits the community, benefits the economy. So, on behalf of the city of Toledo, congratulations and thank you for what you do and what you have done," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

"I just want to say to our new operators, welcome! I want to thank you as well as commend you for being the largest class of operators that here at TARTA have employed. Your commitment of eight weeks of extensive driving and safety training, believe me, has not gone unnoticed. Just think, you're part of a family that will assist our efforts to expand our service area to all of Lucas County and provide a valuable service of destination and locations. You have become our family and has brought light, life, love and even luxury. With your commitment, you enable everyone in our community to have access to transportation," said Reverend Willie Perryman, TARTA board member and president of the Toledo Branch NAACP.

"The vision to remove or reduce risks, we have some values," added Wise. "Our values pertain to safety! Let's talk a bit about the mission: do it right the first time, every time! To this, I would say bring your 'A game' every time'. Bring your 'A game' every day! We have to be alert as operators; we have to be on our toes. We are responsible for keeping ourselves, our passengers, and the public safe. That's our responsibility! The vision is to remove or reduce risks."

"Charles talked a lot of what you get out of your job," said Carly Allen, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 697. "This is not an easy job, but it is for a person with a servant's heart. So, you make your day. And you make your passenger's day. So that's the biggest thing I want you to remem-



ber. I am thankful that TARTA incorporates me in this graduation. We don't always see eye to eye in how to get places, but 99 percent of the time we want to get to the same place. So that's kind of our relationship here, we have a good relationship I think. I am proud of you guys."

"Graduates, immediately quite frankly we put you to work. So, we definitely got to know you and definitely got to appreciate what you did. And your skills, practice and policies, practice and knowledge of TARTA," said Jim Fight, director Human Resources.

Details provided from the CEO, to acknowledge and support the new team: "On behalf of everyone at TARTA, I want to say how thrilled we are to welcome these 21 new operators," said Koprowski. "These graduates have made it through a rigorous training and safety curriculum and are more ready to help TARTA fulfill its mission of empowering people to make connections. To our new operators: You are needed and valued. One team, one TARTA"

The following individuals are the class graduates:

Kendra Anderson, Anthony Ballard, Bobbi Corleone, Jampson Derus, Adam Dosch, Gary Edwards Jr., Helen Fitzgerald, Brittani Hamilton, Aimee Jackson, Davida James, Floyd Mack, Dionsha McCall, Lakisha Merriweather, Shirreatha Porter, Tracey Powell, Dominick Smith, Brandon Turner, Jamee Wells, Raaheem Wilkerson, Deborah Willis, Janissa Willis

TARTA currently covers more than 300 square miles in the atmosphere. This graduate class is the largest class that has ever graduated from TARTA. After receiving recognition and graduation certificate, TARTA provided a reception for all the graduates! All staff clearly expressed and displayed their excitement and appreciation for the new operators, to support and meet the needs of the community.

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Lucas County Commissioners and Pathway, Inc. Officials Announce Registration for Summer Youth Employment Program

Special to The Truth

The Lucas County Commissioners last week joined Pathway, Inc., to kick off the application process for Lucas County teens to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program. With funding from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Family program, the Summer Youth Employment program will provide valuable work experience to approximately 60 income eligible Lucas County in school youths aged 14 to 18 over an eight-week period.

Youths will gain on-the-job work experience earning \$13 per hour and includes one week of training and development on work readiness skills and workplace etiquette.

Commissioner Pete Gerken said: "We are thrilled to partner with Pathway, Inc. and other local employers to offer this program to our community's youth. This initiative not only provides income for families in need, but also helps our young people develop important work skills and prepares them for their future careers."

"We are committed to investing in our community's youth to ensure a productive and successful workforce in the years to come," Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak said. "The participating youths will have the opportunity to work with professionals on real projects, gaining real-world experience and learning the realities of work."

The program began May 1 and will run through September 30, 2023.

"This will not only help teenagers earn a paycheck for the summer, but also provide them with a constructive outlet while they are out of school,



Tomeka Rushing, Director of Employment and Career Services

thus strengthening the communities where they live," Commissioner Lisa A. Sobecki said. "The program benefits the participating families economically and contributes to a productive and positive community."

"Pathway is honored to be partnering with Lucas County Commissioners and employers to offer a "real work" experience to young people. Our goal is to provide youth with a positive outlook on what it is like to become gainfully employed and how important accountability is in their

...continued on page 11

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The 2023 Access to Justice Awards Dinner Honors Judge Myron Duhart

Special to The Truth

The 2023 Access to Justice Awards Dinner was held on May 25 at The Pinnacle in Maumee. The annual event is led by the northwest Ohio legal community with the proceeds used to support the legal services provided by the Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Legal Aid of Western Ohio and the Toledo Bar Association's Pro Bono Legal Services Program.

ABLE, LAWO and the Toledo Bar Association recognized three members of the community for supporting equal access to justice: Public Interest Law Award to Eugenio Mollo, Jr; Community Advocacy Award to Ramon Perez; Distinguished Service Award to Judge Myron C. Duhart.

Judge Duhart was recognized for his "consistent support of the firms' events and fundraising campaigns, his service on the Awards Selection Committee for the Access to Justice Awards Dinner and his longstanding, often quiet, encouragement and support of the fight for equal justice."

Duhart earned a B.A. from Wright State University and a law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. He also earned an L.L.M. in judicial studies from Duke University School of Law.

Duhart began his law career as a clerk for Judge Robert W. Penn and as public defender in Lucas and Wood counties. He practiced law for 15 years specializing in personal injury and criminal defense cases as one of the few attorneys certified to litigate death penalty cases in Ohio.

In 2011, he became a trial judge in the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas and in 2020 was elected to the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals. Judge Duhart serves as an adjunct professor at the UToledo College of Law. He's a member of the Toledo Bar Association, The Lucas County Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association and the National Bar Association. He is a past president of the Toledo Bar Association, the Thurgood Marshall Law Association, the University of Toledo College of Law Alumni Board of Governors.

Judge Duhart also had a career in the Army serving as a first lieutenant in the JAG Corps and as a second lieutenant with Army Transportation.



Eugenio Mollo, Judge Myron Duhart, Ramon Perez

He has served with numerous community associations and been honored on a number of occasions including the 20 Under 40 Leadership Award, the NAACP Community Service Legal Award, the Frederick Douglass Alumni Hall of Fame Award, the UAW Civil and Human Rights Award.

On September 10, 2022, Boss Park, on the corner of Hawley and Avondale, was renamed the "Honorable Judge Myron Duhart Park."



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Suzette Cowell, Doctor of Public Service

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

There was laughter aplenty, and more than a few tears, at the University of Toledo's Carlson Library on Tuesday, May 23, as Suzette Cowell, founder and CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, received her honorary doctorate of public service from UT President Dr. Gregory Postel during a ceremony in which the three dozen guests heard and shared so many stories and memories describing why Cowell, a pillar of the Toledo community, is so deserving of such recognition.

"She's helped people in the community with financial literacy, been an advocate for foster children, founded a credit union for the underserved, is on countless boards and has been appointed to the advisory council for the Federal Reserve office in Cleveland," said Dr. Postel as he presented her with the doctorate for public service. "We are recognizing her superior efforts in our community."



Dr. Suzette Cowell and Dr. Gregory Postel

Valerie Simmons-Walston, the UToledo special assistant to the president for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, who organized the event, spoke of the help Cowell has provided in that position connecting her with the community. She also explained the process the university undertook to bestow the honorary doctorate on Cowell.

Cowell, who had not completed her undergraduate degree, approached the university with her intent to finish those studies. However, said Simmons-Walston, when the institution reviewed Cowell's accomplishments and what she had meant to the community during all those year

... continued on page 9



Valerie Simmons-Walston

Photos courtesy Christopher Hibbett



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Suzette Cowell... continued from page 8

after leaving college, it was decided that an honorary doctorate made all the sense in the world. They approached her with that possibility, said Simmons-Walston.

After the presentation to the new doctor, a number of speakers expressed their many interactions with Cowell over the years and what they have witnessed her doing for the community. John Szuch, a long-time banker with Capital Bank, Fifth Third and Signature, was there during the planning stages of the credit union, as was Jim Weber, CPA. Both provided guidance for Cowell and the fledgling TUFUCU as the process was starting almost 30 years ago.

The credit union was suggested to Cowell by Bishop Duane Tisdale of Friendship Baptist Church. Tisdale was one of the guest speakers during the breakfast event last week.

What Tisdale had in mind was a credit union that would service the members of his congregation. That was the plan until Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur learned of the venture and informed Cowell that the vision for a church financial institution was too small a vision.

You need to start one for the whole community, she told Cowell.

The most emotional moments of the morning's event were provided by Fran Smith, the longtime board chair of TUFUCU, who was part of that start-up process. As Smith revealed when Cowell told her "we're going to start a credit union," Smith was initially less than impressed with that vision. However, Cowell's passion and dedication won her over and Smith labored with her, and prayed, during those stressful times.

"We prayed so much, I think Jesus got tired," said Smith.

Particularly stressful were the attempts by the federal governing body – National Credit Union Association – to prevent the Black-owned and operated credit union from getting off the ground. "They tried to shut us down and close us," recalled Smith "It was a journey." But Smith was always sustained by Cowell's vision. "I'm doing this for the bigger picture." Cowell would repeatedly tell her.

Sister Carol Gregory is a nun with the Sisters of Notre Dame order. That order has been particularly critical to the success of TUFUCU over the years through their connections with influential decision makers in the area. Sister Gregory, and several others in the order, attended the ceremony last week.

"She is filled with goodness," said Sister Gregory of Cowell. "And she is a woman of vision; she saw a need and responded to that need. She is a great woman called by God to the Toledo area to make a difference."

After the comments and expressions of gratitude from those present, Cowell spoke of her own thanks for her many admirers and what has inspired her to work so tirelessly over the years to aid the community.

"One day there has to be an institution where people don't get turned down [for loans and assistance] because of their zip codes," she said explaining her rationale for founding the credit union.

"This was God's journey for me. God kept sending people; God kept showing up," she said of the faith that has kept her going through some very difficult times.

Cowell made it clear, however, that the success that has been achieved with the credit union has not been solely her accomplishment.

"If it takes a village," she said pointing to the three dozen in attendance, "you guys are my village."

Photos courtesy Albert Earl



Eric Cowell, Suzette Cowell, George Cowell



Cowell and attendees



Cowell and the Sisters of Notre Dame



Want to become a nurse? There's never been a better time.

The University of Toledo, Owens Community College and ProMedica have come together to diversify the nursing profession through QUEST for Success.

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Scan the QR code with your smart device or visit utoledo.edu/nursing/partnerships/quest.html to learn more!



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A NURSING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Eleanor Hobbs Celebrates 75th Birthday with Family and Friends

The Truth Staff

Surrounded by family and friends, Eleanor Hobbs celebrated her 75th birthday on Saturday, May 27 at the Eleanor Kahle Senior Center. In the room decorated in pink and blue, Hobbs and her guests enjoyed a luncheon and shared memories of a life well lived.

Hobbs, the mother of Toledo City Councilman John Hobbs III, was born on June 1, 1948 in Toledo, the youngest of 15 children. She attended Irwin Schools and graduated from Springfield High School, graduating first in her class for Medical Assistance. She then had a career as a private caregiver and nurse's assistant. She retired in 2007 from the Medical College of Ohio

where she was a union steward.

Eleanor married Johnny Hobbs, Jr in 1968; they had been dating since they were in the fourth grade. The couple have four children: Councilman Hobbs, Ella Rose May Hobbs, Dexter Hobbs and Lamont Hobbs. They have 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Eleanor is the mother of Greater St. John Church of God in Christ and has been active in organizing and structuring the church since its beginnings – she leads new member classes for the church.



Eleanor and John Hobbs, Jr - front - with Councilman John Hobbs, III - standing



Councilman John Hobbs and former Councilwoman Yvonne Harper



Lisa Sahadi-Davis and Kelly Williams



Pastor Eugene and First Lady Colia Harris of Rock of Praise Church



Lisa Sahadi-Davis and Kelly Hobbs



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Social Security Column

Slam The Scam With Social Security

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, Toledo, OH

The Social Security Administration and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) continued to raise public awareness about Social Security imposter scams during the fourth annual "Slam the Scam" Day held in March. Social Security scams — where fraudsters pressure victims into making cash or gift card payments to fix alleged Social Security number problems or to avoid arrest — are an ongoing government imposter fraud scheme. For several years, Social Security impersonation scams have been one of the most common government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission. We've made concerted efforts to address this issue, through extensive outreach and investigative initiatives. These efforts have made a significant impact, reducing money reported lost to Social Security scams by 30 percent from 2021 to 2022.

"I am proud of the work we have done to combat Social Security imposter scams and raise public awareness," said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect the public and their critical benefits. We urge Americans to remain vigilant, do not give out personal information or money, and report any scam attempts."

Scammers use sophisticated tactics to trick potential victims into disclosing personal and financial information. Typically, they use the five P's — Pretend, Prize or Problem, Pressure, and Payment. For example, scammers pretend they are from Social Security in phone calls or emails and claim there is a problem with the person's Social Security number. The scammer's caller ID may be spoofed to look like a legitimate government number. Scammers may also send fake documents to pressure people into complying with demands for information or money. Other common tactics include citing "badge numbers" and using fraudulent

Social Security letterhead to target individuals for payment or personal information.

We will never:

- Tell you that your Social Security number is suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Threaten you with arrest.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Request gift cards or cash.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

Our employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, we call people who recently applied for benefits, are already receiving payments and require updates to their record or requested a phone call from us. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, we will mail a letter.

"Working with our law enforcement and private sector partners to inform consumers about scammers and their deceptive practices remains a priority for my office. We will continue promoting National Slam the Scam Day to help protect consumers from these predators. Slamming the scam begins with consumers quickly taking a step to hang up the phone, or delete suspicious texts and emails, without responding to the scammers," said Gail S. Ennis, Inspector General for the Social Security Administration. "That remains the easiest and most effective method to avoid falling prey to these vicious scams."

To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts.

Make a Splash: Toledo's Summer Pool Season Starts Saturday and Swimming Lessons Registration Opens May 30

The City of Toledo is thrilled to announce the opening of its summer pool season, starting Saturday, May 27. Dive in, cool off, and create lasting memories at one of our six public pools or fantastic splash pad. Whether you're a kid or an adult, Toledo's pools offer endless hours of enjoyment for residents of all ages at an affordable price.

Toledo's pools will be open daily from 12-6 p.m. from May 27th to August 19th. Admission costs \$1 for ages 12 and under, and \$2 for ages 13 and older. Everyone is welcome!

For pool locations, closures and updates, please visit: <https://toledo.oh.gov/pools> But that's not all!

The City of Toledo is also delighted to offer swimming lessons at our pools this summer. Our certified instructors are dedicated to guiding beginners and experienced swimmers alike, helping them gain confidence and refine their skills in the water.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to enhance your swimming abilities and have a blast! Swim lessons will be offered during the month of July, for kids aged 3 to 15. Registration opens on May 30 at 12 p.m.,

and spots are limited! Secure your spot by visiting: <http://toledo.oh.gov/swim-lessons>.

Lucas County... continued from page 6

employment success," Tomeka Rushing, Director of Employment and Career Services said. "We are missioned to prepare them for the workforce and place them on a path to self-sufficiency prior to graduating from high school."

The Commissioners extended their sincere gratitude to the local employers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors within Lucas County for their participation in the program. Without their support, this initiative would not be possible. The Commissioners hope that the youths make the best of their opportunities to realize their fullest potential. Applications for the summer youth work program and information for employers interested in hiring teens can be found at Summer Youth Employment Program — Pathway Toledo



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Mayor Kapszukiewicz Launches Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement to Foster Community Partnership in Public Safety Efforts

Special to The Truth

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announced last week the creation of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), a pivotal step towards building stronger partnerships between the community and local government to enhance public safety and the well-being of residents.

The new office will play a critical role in developing and implementing a comprehensive public safety plan, with a focus on community engagement and building capacity and connectivity within the existing safety ecosystem.

Mayor Kapszukiewicz expressed his enthusiasm for the establishment of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, stating, "Creating this office is an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and build stronger, more connected neighborhoods. By engaging with community members, partner organizations, and even other city departments, we can better coordinate our efforts to continue building upon the positive momentum we've seen."

Leading this new initiative as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement is Malcolm Cunningham, a seasoned professional with a strong background in community en-

agement, program design, and public health.

Cunningham's extensive experience, including his previous roles at ProMedica Health System and the Zepf Center, makes him an ideal candidate to guide this vital office. "I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and to engage with the partners who have been doing this work for so long," said Malcolm Cunningham. "Public health isn't just intervening downstream, it's about going further upstream and seeing where the issues begin."

The newly formed Action Table and Executive Table, comprising community members, will provide guidance, oversight, and input on the comprehensive public safety plan. The first meeting of the Action Table took place last night at the Glass City Pavilion and was the first community meeting following the series of public input sessions conducted in late February.

"There was a sentiment among the grassroots activists that things are getting better, particularly our youth programs," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said, reflecting on the meeting. "This announcement comes at a time when we're not responding to a negative trend, but trying to build upon some positive momentum we've seen."

Toledo is receiving technical assistance from Cities United, a non-profit organization that provides support to cities engaged in public safety initiatives. Anthony Smith, a representative from Cities United, arrived on Monday, May 22, and will be in Toledo through Wednesday, May 24, to assist in getting the new office up and running.

Smith's expertise and guidance will further strengthen Toledo's commitment to effective community engagement and collaborative public safety strategies. Toledo Police Chief Mike Troendle expressed his support for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, recognizing the significance of community involvement in ensuring public safety.

Chief Troendle stated, "Any time we can get someone to help us engage the community, I'm on board. I applaud Mayor Kapszukiewicz's initiative and I'm looking forward to working with Malcolm. By working together and engaging community members, I believe we can foster trust, strengthen partnerships, and create safer neighborhoods for all Toledo residents."

The City of Toledo recently received a grant from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) to support the expansion of the violence interruption program, Save Our Community, into local high schools. This grant will further the intervention work being done to reach those most at risk and continue the investment in initiatives that address the root causes of violence and create a safer environment for its youth.

"As a council, we have been clear that public safety is a number one priority," Councilwoman Dr. Tiffany Preston Whitman shared. "It's important that we be organized internally, so we can work better with our community partners. This office and Malcolm's position is another step in the right direction to continue making progress."

Residents who wish to be involved in shaping the future of public safety in Toledo are encouraged to participate in two key actions. First, they can take the survey, which will provide valuable insights into the specific safety concerns and priorities of each neighborhood. Second, residents are urged to subscribe to email updates to stay informed about upcoming opportunities and meetings.

You can do both of these things at: toledo.oh.gov/citiesunited Mayor Kapszukiewicz's commitment to enhancing public safety in Toledo is reinforced by the establishment of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement. By engaging community members, collaborating with stakeholders, and implementing effective strategies, the city aims to create a safer, more vibrant Toledo for all its residents.

The Soundtrack to Summer

In honor of our 50th anniversary, Greater Toledo Community Foundation is sponsoring the following concerts as a gift to our community. Here's to good vibes, great gigs and glorious summer nights.

SATURDAY
JULY
01

The Commonheart

(Roots/Blues/Soul)

7:30pm • Glass City Metropark

THURSDAY
JULY
06

Jazz in the Garden

(Toledo Jazz Orchestra)

6:30-8:30pm • Toledo Botanical Garden

SATURDAY
JULY
15

The Grape Smugglers

(Contemporary Rock/Motown)

6:00-8:00pm • Ottawa Park

FRIDAY
JULY
21

ProMedica Concert Series

with Chris Janson (Country)

Entertainment begins at 5 p.m. • Promenade Park

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Crowned: Magical Folk and Fairy Tales from the Diaspora by Kahran and Regis Bethencourt

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Once upon a time, fairy tales were full of dragons and ogres and sprites.

c.2023
St. Martin's Press
\$35.00
260 pages

There were magic mice and talking frogs. There were wondrous spells. And there were kings and queens, princes, princesses, lords and ladies, all of them white. But in *Crowned* by Kahran and Regis Bethencourt, it's time for a new kind of magic.

Ask any kid about their favorite storybook character, and they'll have a quick answer. They want to be like this princess or that king. They want to dress the part, too.

The thing is that "the images that surround us on a daily basis" are what we ultimately come to consider as normal – and if those "normal" characters don't look like the child who loves them, the child is "often left with unrealistic standards of beauty" and power.

To change the atmosphere and set things right, authors Bethencourt "wanted to reimagine some of our favorite childhood stories with our idea of what could be."

Here, *The Little Mermaid* is Aliya, and selflessness in the face of a mean girl saves the day. *Snow White* becomes *Ebony Black*, and Goldilocks learns to appreciate what she has instead of searching for perfection. *Rapunzel* learns that her hair is not her strength. *Asha* meets a young prince at a dance, but without pumpkins or white horses. And a child named *Red* meets a big bad wolf, and it's all good.

In the middle section of this volume are classic folktales: the story of



Crowned authors, courtesy D. Finney Photography

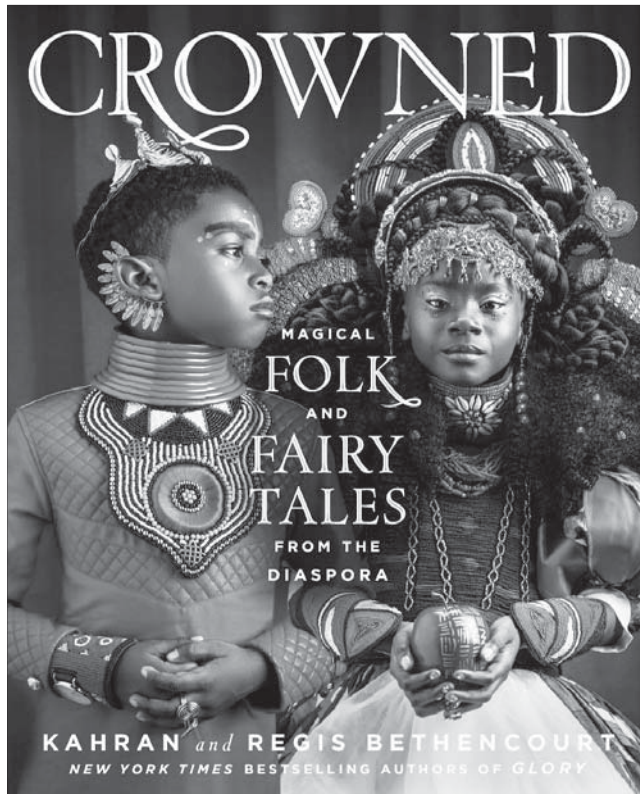
Anansi the spider is told, with patience as a lesson. There's a tale of a king with a magical ring in this book, a story about how the zebra got his stripes and the baboon got a red butt, a tale of a princess who wanted a life "of adventure and fun," and stories of a "Lion's Gifts."

Even if authors Kahran and Regis Bethencourt stopped here, adult readers could sit back and relax, satisfied that they're holding one of the most majestic, most creative storybooks money can buy – but the last section of *Crowned* changes everything once again. That last segment is filled with modern classics, complete with skateboards, candy, cowboys, lessons on personal beauty, and an invitation to believe in "fairy folk." That addition gives this book a nice twist for today's kid, who'll certainly want to spend a lot of time immersed in these pages.

The tales are only part of this book, however. Richly illustrated with colorful costumes and backdrops, the rest is a feast for the imagination.

Readers of all ages will be awed and amazed by the dozens of photos accompanying the stories, each featuring Black and Brown children dressed in wondrous finery, in settings that follow the story and enhance the sense of magic.

It's the photos that will pull a young reader in. It's the stories that will keep them returning, whether they do it themselves or with you, together. *Crowned* is a book you'll proudly display on a shelf or coffee table, and it'll make your child happily ever after.



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CLASSIFIEDS

May 31, 2023

Page 14

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LUCAS COUNTY CANINE CARE & CONTROL (LC4) – BID PACKAGE 3

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Lucas County Canine Care & Control (LC4) – Bid Package 3. This Bid Package involves procurement of mechanical equipment, electrical equipment, and furnish/install of building structural steel.

Bids are due May 23, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Bidding documents are available online at BuildingConnected. To receive an invitation to access these documents, contact Andy Wren at (419) 725-3291.

One (1) set of bidding documents will be available to review at no charge, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., at 6494 Latcha Road, Walbridge, OH.

This project has MBE/WBE requirements.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS BOILER REPLACEMENT

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) seeks bids from qualified contractors to provide a replacement Boiler for the TARTA Transit Hub located at 612 N. Huron Street in Toledo.

The scope of work for this project includes but is not limited to: removal of old boiler system and piping and the installation of two new boilers and all applicable piping. For a complete scope of work, visit tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business/open-procurements.

TARTA has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project of 11.65%.

A pre-bid meeting and tour will be held at the site at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Sealed bids must be received by TARTA on or before Tuesday, June 20, 2022 at 2 p.m., via sealed envelope or email. Mailed bid packages should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bidder's full name, address and telephone number and "TARTA BOILER REPLACEMENT," and sent to:

John Jones
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
1127 W. Central Avenue
PO Box 792
Toledo, OH 43697-0792

Email submissions should be marked with the same information and sent to jojones@tarta.com. Questions about this project should be directed to John Jones, Director of Maintenance, at 419-245- 5234.

BUILDING SERVICEPERSON

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for an individual to serve as a Building Serviceperson to perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial and basic maintenance functions to help maintain the Wildwood Manor House and provide a clean, safe environment for volunteers, park visitors, and staff. This position is located within Wildwood Metropark. High School Diploma or equivalent required, \$15.00/hr, up to 35 hrs per week. To review complete job description and apply, go to www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers>> EOE"

INVITATION FOR BIDS DEMOLITION SERVICES (PARK HOTEL) IFB23-B008

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Demolition Services of the Park Hotel in accordance with IFB23-B008**. Received in accordance with law until **June 20, 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.



FACILITY OPERATOR

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Facility Operator for the Treehouse Village at Oak Openings Preserve. The person in this position will perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial and basic maintenance. HS diploma or equivalent required as well as a valid driver's license. Some experience in janitorial and minor building maintenance is preferred. Full time position with benefits, \$15.00 an hour. Go to www.MetroparkToledo.com/careers to view the entire job description and to apply. EOE

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Position Available

Assistant Program Director- Ombudsman Program



Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high quality legal assistance to people living in poverty in western Ohio, seeks an Assistant Program Director for ABLE's Ombudsman program. The position will be based out of ABLE's Toledo office.

Please visit ABLE's website at <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able/> 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.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL COLLINGWOOD GREEN PHASE V

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Collingwood Green Phase V, a 75 unit, 4 story, wood framed senior housing project. Located at 400 Nebraska, Toledo, OH.

Bids are due June 1, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Documents and additional information is available on Builders Exchange.com

This project has MBE/WBE requirements and is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. HUD Number 042-EE276

For more information on this project, please contact Scott Gross at 419-725-3176.

Party with a Purpose... continued from page 16

the foster care system. I got tired of OUR kids being emancipated on their 18th birthday without viable resources, social support, vocational skills, untreated trauma, and so many other issues," said Royster. "Eighty percent of homeless young people come from the foster care system. I believe we are either a solution to a problem or an "added problem" to a problem. And when we sit and do nothing to help OUR community, we are an "added problem" to a societal problem."

Youth homelessness is a pervasive problem that often goes unnoticed or unaddressed. The event served as a platform to raise awareness about the pressing issue and garner support from compassionate individuals who are dedicated to making a difference.

Royster said, "There are approximately 2,000 homeless youth in Lucas County. By homeless youth, I mean teenagers without an accompanied adult." OATL, through its relentless efforts, aims to combat this crisis by providing a safe haven for vulnerable young individuals, offering them not only the necessities of life but also the emotional support they desperately need.

"Our OVERALL goal," said Royster, "is to obtain a debt-free space where we will be able to provide a loving nurturing environment for these teenagers. Currently, OATL operates mobile. We go out in the community providing food, clothing, hygiene products, and a nonjudgmental ear to the vulnerable population we serve." She added: "The youth we serve are in survival mode. We want to assist them to shift to THRIVING mode. At OATL'S housing, youth will have access to not only housing, but also in-house access to mental health treatment, basic life skills, vocational training, and so much more. Consequently, these young people will transition from being negative statistics to positive productive members of society."

As the evening drew to a close, the resonating message was clear: united, we have the power to effect change. By supporting organizations like Open Arms Transformational Living and their tireless efforts to uplift homeless youth, we can create a community where every young person feels seen, heard, and valued. The gathering at The Truth Colours Gallery served as a catalyst for change, igniting hope and inspiring others to join the fight against youth homelessness in Toledo and beyond.

For those interested in providing support to OATL, you can contribute to their mission by reaching out to Open Arms Transformational Living. Donations can be sent to their mailing address at PO Box 140921, Toledo, 43614.

Additionally, you can contact them directly at 419.269.7995. For convenient electronic contributions, OATL accepts donations via Cash App using the handle \$oatltledo. Your support will make a meaningful impact in their efforts to assist and empower homeless, runaway, and exploited youth in the Toledo community.



OATL Board member Sandy Fox with husband Joe Fox



Heather Fournier and Fonda Royster



Stephanie Potter-Flint

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Applicants **MUST** provide a valid email address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.

EOE/M/F/D/V

Party with a Purpose: Helping Open Arms Transformational Living Combat Youth Homelessness

Carla Thomas

The Truth Contributor

Demonstrating an inspiring show of unity and support, individuals from the Toledo community gathered on May 25 at The Truth Colours Gallery to show support for Open Arms Transformational Living (OATL). This Toledo-based nonprofit organization is dedicated to serving homeless, runaway and exploited youth aged between 16 and 20, by meeting their essential needs for food, hygiene items, clothing and, most importantly, providing them with support and a compassionate ear.

The event proved to be an unforgettable evening, with attendees being treated to the incredible talents of Ramona Collins, a beloved and long-standing entertainer in Toledo, Ohio. Collins mesmerized the crowd with an eclectic mix of music that resonated with guests across various genres.

While enjoying delectable lite bites, attendees had the chance to participate in an exciting raffle featuring gift baskets generously donated by Creative Gift Baskets. The atmosphere was energized as guests mingled, danced and even flaunted their own vocal skills.

However, the party had a deeper purpose. executive director and founder of OATL, Fonda Royster, emphasized that beyond raising funds and collecting donations, the event aimed to shed light on the urgent crisis of youth homelessness in our community.

"I have been in social services two decades, most years working in

... continued on page 15



Executive Director Fonda Royster with Robin Green, OATL Board President, LaDonna Knabbs and Regina Kynard



Denise Jamila Davis, raffle winner



Ramona Collins, MC and entertainer for the evening



OATL supporters enjoying the evening



Joanna White, supporter of OATL



Joanna White, raffle winner



Aaron and Michael Pidsosny

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Open for wellness

OPEN FOR YOU

From preventative health and wellness to management of chronic conditions, we are open to care for our community.

Tanya, UTMC primary care patient

utmc.utoledo.edu