

Volume 80 No. 5 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* **October 11, 2023**



UToledo BLX students

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The Subtle Dynamics of Leadership Pathways

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

The Truth Contributor

A person who chases two rabbits catches neither.

- Confucius



Author Robin Sharma was correct in talking about the power of focus. No one can successfully be everything to everyone, and the person or organization attempting to do everything accomplishes nothing. Two organizations discovered the harsh truth that their noble service to the community could result in nothing to anyone unless their strategy changed.

ProMedica's recent announcement of laying off 30 corporate staff following the earlier shedding of over 262 workers highlights the universal truth that the ability to focus on a handful of programs you can do really well and be competitive is better than attempting to be all things to all people.

The former healthcare giant was forced to face its limitations head-on after annually funding many community events and leading local economic development and downtown revitalization.

"They have faced the bleak reality of bankruptcy and have made every move one step ahead of their creditors to just financially stay alive," one economic development executive said.

A pioneer and former industry leader in the Social Determinants of Health, the "nonprofit" healthcare provider is now living month-to-month because they decided to go all in and expand with a Senior Care division to develop a "coast-to-coast" presence in every aspect of health care. The quest to become a national healthcare provider eventually forced ProMedica to make decisions on a month-to-month basis. In other words, their five-year plan became a month-to-month plan, like so many of those living in poverty.

Reading between the lines, one can conclude that ProMedica is "rightsizing" as a regional hospital chain to become just another medical organization that is an integrated regional hospital. The goal appears to stabilize itself for a couple of years, get out from under the burden of debt, and operate as a regional hospital rather than a national entity.

Like ProMedica, Pathway, formerly known as the Economic Opportunity Planning Association, also announced its intention to change leadership when it decided to not renew CEO Jay Black's contract.

The principle of "being able to focus on a handful of programs you can do really well and be competitive is better than trying to be all things to all people" conveys a similar principle for Pathway, albeit in a different context: the recognition of the limitations and the importance of focus.

In light of the emergent leadership vacuum at Pathway, Inc., it becomes pivotal to delve into overt narrations and the subtle, unspoken dynamics that

may linger beneath the surface of the organization's official communication.

The officials at the agency were notoriously tight-lipped about its motives or intentions regarding the change.

Yet, I wonder if the straightforward nature of the press release, while practical and unembellished, might be a deliberate attempt to portray control and stability amidst the underlying tumult. The simplistic narrative, free of lauding the past CEO or providing reasons for the leadership change, could indicate an intent to minimize speculation and maintain an unblemished public facade.

While publicly maintaining a poised and stable front, the Pathway board could be grappling with rectifying past leadership discrepancies and internal politics while refocusing the strategic direction, all within the privacy of the organization's internal dynamics.

The public call for applications for the CEO position might also suggest an urgency to fill the leadership void and potentially redirect Pathway's course, further accentuating the contrast against the calm, stable demeanor presented outwardly. This could be seen as a silent acknowledgment of desperation for robust leadership in navigating the organization through its present challenges and future aspirations.

Anonymous informants hint at nuances of internal politics, leadership deficits, and operational challenges within Pathways, which led to a "cool and methodical" separation between the organization and its former CEO.

Although he wasn't formally ousted, the Pathway Board reportedly chose not to renew Black's contract after an evaluation. He had been on a Personal Improvement Plan and will be paid until his contract runs out, either November 30 or the end of the year.

Another source close to the situation emphasized a need to address the urgent and underacknowledged issue of Lucas County evictions to assist affected individuals. "There's a notable need for training people to complete the necessary forms." Although initially believed to have made mistakes, staff were following leadership directives. Hence, not to be blamed, I am told. The genuine issues came to light through community feedback and complaints about lack of responsiveness and apparent apprehensiveness among the staff, prompting closer observation and engagement with the organization's operations.

... continued on page 6

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Can't Read? ...Back of the Line, Please!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Yes, for any sensitive readers of my guest opinions, this one is going to be a screed regarding the many, many dangers of kids not being able to read. What prompted my outrage was a recent article regarding the report card of the Toledo Public Schools and although they seemingly have made strides from going from a D plus to a C minus in overall academic achievement, what was a head knocker was that only one out of five kids in grades K-3 is reading at his or her grade level.

Let that sink in for a moment. Out of five kids in those grade levels, only one is making the grade regarding reading at her level; and as for the other "lost" four kids, I say that unless there is some intervention with their reading skills, "Good luck (tongue in cheek) with life!"

To me, it borders on academic malpractice that so many kids are being handed a ticket to nowhere if they cannot read and read with comprehension. Oh sure, pass them on to the next grade with such a lack of preparation; and watch them descend slower and slower in the quicksand of not liking school and the peer embarrassment of not being able to read basics 101.

I would like to think that those four kids who are not meeting basic reading levels at such a young age are targeted for intensive intervention for without which they are doomed to a life of insecurity about their confidence to successfully negotiate life and all its dead ends and detours.

Toledo Public Schools deserve no accolades for that gross and glaring debacle of so many kids being primed for failure. And, they will fail unless there is a reading program by which they are mandated to undertake before they can move on to the next grade.

If I were a family or a parent contemplating a move to Toledo or placing a kid in a K-3 grade school and read that statistic, I would run, not walk, away from such a woefully ineffective teaching program that has failed so many kids at such a critical age in their educational journey.

It is obvious that TPS needs to enrich its reading program at ALL GRADE levels so that each kid who graduates from Toledo Public is reading at his grade level, or better. No exceptions and no excuses.

If the school board and or the superintendent cannot conceptualize such a plan, my answer is simple: Fire them and hire professionals who see the same danger as I see it. Why this distressing five alarm opinion? Just read the educational levels of most people in jail or in a prison and the stats indicate that they are nigh dysfunctional in reading skills.

Proficiency in reading is also indicative of other levels of educational accomplishments and reading is the foundation, the mainstay, the prime building block of increasing one's chances to "make it" in America.

Now, I would be sorely remiss if I were to place all blame on urban public educational systems as the sole means of reading failure for young kids. A huge hunk of this reading dysfunctionality starts in the home. The home is the nucleus of all that creates and molds a young life. It is in the home where the impressionable child learns values, morality, respect for authority, interpersonal relationships, intellectual curiosity and a sense of belonging and of self.

Without the positive influences of a functional home, a child can be left to their own wits to figure out how this life thing works. Without positive intervention from a caring parent or parents, the child is without a rudder and reading a book is not at the top of his or her list of things to do.

For a parent or a guardian to not be engaged in the education of that child or children in their care is mental and emotional child abuse and neglect. Poor parenting skills can doom many a child to the juvenile court system or, worse yet, to a life of misery, drugs, abuse and crime.

Yes, reading can make all the difference in giving a child a vision or an imagination that shows a way out if he is in a bad situation. For a parent,

stay at home or otherwise, to not daily monitor the homework and reading skills of her child is irresponsible.

If that parent is lacking in such skills, she needs to call her local school and ask for help. Learning to read is too important to leave to chance that the local school will target that disadvantaged reader and implement a remedial reading program.

Just how important is reading? In the days of slavery, a slave caught reading or with a book would face drastic physical punishment because "Massa" knew that a slave who could read was a dangerous slave because knowledge is power, and reading is powerful.

To see grown kids stumbling over themselves to read basic fifth grade books is painful and is a stark reminder that this reading problem has been going on for decades and somehow society is at peace with it. You cannot even speak intelligently if you cannot read!

Can't read? You can't do the following: (1) fill out an application for a job, (2) read labels on dangerous products, (3) follow safety instructions on complicated machinery, (4) read ballot instructions, (5) understand the fine print in a contract to buy a car, (6) read the US Constitution, (7) fill out complicated tax forms, (8) assemble home furniture or appliances, (9) send a letter of complaint to a governmental agency....and the list goes on and on.

How many kids graduate from ill-prepared public schools and go off to college and woefully fail in their first year because they were not prepped for the rigorous reading agenda of college?



... continued on page 4

Community Calendar

October 15
Toledo NAACP Youth Council October meeting: 3 pm; Sanger Branch Library
St. Paul AME Zion Church Connectional Lay Sunday: 11 am; Speaker – Selina Miller of St. Paul; Colors – black and gold; All welcome; Masks optional

October 22
Calvary MBC 94th church anniversary: 4 pm; Guest Speaker Rev. Nathan Madison of 4th Street Baptist in Lima

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Local Government, Mercy Health Join Forces to Bring Financial Relief to Area Residents

The Truth Staff

This week 4,917 residents of Toledo and Lucas County are receiving letters informing them that their health care debts are cancelled.

"This is a great day for thousands of residents," said State Rep. Michele Grim last week at the announcement that Mercy Health and RIP Medical Debt have partnered with the City of Toledo and Lucas County to help alleviate \$7.22 million worth of medical debt for area residents.



State Rep. Michele Grim

"Mercy Health has long been supportive of programs that work to relieve community members of stresses related to medical debt and so we are pleased to be the first medical provider in northwest Ohio participating in the solutions set forth by RIP Medical Debt," said Bob Baxter, president, Mercy Health – Toledo, in a statement prior to the news conference. "With the support of our local elected officials, our patients are relieved of the financial and emotional burden related to debt and Mercy Health is able to recover a portion of that debt to ensure that we can continue to provide our community with high quality, compassionate care."

RIP is a national nonprofit that uses donated funds to purchase medical debts belonging to financially burdened individuals. To date RIP has acquired – and abolished – more than \$10 billion of medical debt, helping over seven million families and addressing a major social determinant of health.

The massive relief plan is the first an American city has undertaken, said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, and only the second time an American county has participated in such action (after Cook County, Illinois).

During a Friday press conference, speakers attributed the relief plan to the efforts of Grim, a plan she put into motion while serving on Toledo City Council before being elected to the Ohio General Assembly.

"Michele Grim is the most important figure in driving this debate," said Kapszukiewicz. "She elevated the issue in the civic discourse, she raised the issue locally and was a tenacious advocate." The mayor related that Grim



LC Commissioner Pete Gerken speaks as Kattie Bonds of LMH, Tony Totty of UAW Local 14, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Erika White of CWA and State Rep. Michele Grim look on

also sought funding through the American Recovery Act and "singlehandedly raised the funds."

He also lauded Grim's efforts in convincing her then-City Council colleagues "to do what is right."

"Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States," said Grim. "What happens in Toledo can change America. Cleveland, Cincinnati and Akron are following the lead of what's happening in Toledo."

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken also praised the work of the participants in the medical debt relief plan.

"It's a community investment – a three-legged stool with the county/city involvement, RIP and Mercy Health."

However, all the speakers noted that the current plan involving Mercy Health is only the beginning. "I'm confident others will join," said Gerken. We need more health care system partners."

Tolliver...continued from page 3

If we are losing kids who do not have the power of reading and the many benefits that come from knowing how to read, a great part of that incalculable loss can be attributed to the negative impact of cell phones and kids having unrestricted access and hours of daily use on those devices as opposed to placing those lost hours reading great literature or other books.

I shudder at the losses that too many kids will face due to not being properly challenged and directed into reading avenues that make them lifelong readers and successful adults. The two are twins joined at the hip.

TPS shame on you. Non-involved parents, shame on you.
Contact Lafe Tolliver (a lifelong reader) at tolliver@juno.com

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Antoine Rayford: Committed to Helping Others Avoid His Youthful Mistakes

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

Antoine Rayford's journey from teen drug dealer and school dropout to community activist has been an improbable but not impossible journey. It's a journey that he is dedicated to helping others make – to render it more possible for others.

Rayford, who returned to Toledo about two years ago after being away for almost two decades, is now an HVAC instructor with TTEC and a board member of Peace & Healing, a non-profit organization founded in 2021 in order "to address gun violence and the deaths" of kids in the city of Toledo, said Peace & Healing co-founder Thomas Douglas.

Peace & Healing is in the process of transforming Toledo Spain Plaza into a meeting and activity spot for families who are recovering from such losses.

Rayford is also the founder of Tighten Up 419, a non-profit mentoring group that is being sponsored by both Peace & Healing and Phillips Ministries (formerly Grace Temple). The purpose of Tighten Up 419 is "mentoring to build up a brotherhood," says Rayford. "The goal is to take my generation to mentor teens and early 20s in a 13-to-16-week period – and make it personal be mentoring brothers, neighbors."

The mentors of Tighten Up 419 will be seeking to bring at-risk boys and young men into the fold.

Rayford knows something about at-risk youth. His own youth was more than just "at-risk;" it was risk itself. From the age of 13, he was living his life on the streets, drinking, taking drugs and, ultimately, selling drugs. He had dropped out of school after the eighth grade, barely able to read and write.

However, he was a natural leader, he says now, and he managed to get his brothers, uncles and friends involved with the group he co-founded – the Bee Hive Gang – affiliated with the Crips. He spent four years on the streets, leading his gang in criminal activities and rarely being influenced by positive messages or messengers.

"We never had a positive male figure around us, everything around us was always negative," he says now of the influences he and his three brothers faced as they grew during their adolescent years.

After four years in the streets, he did begin to have doubts about his choices but he also was hooked on the lifestyle and his ability to influence his friends.

"I was doing what I thought I had to do – helping my friends," he recalls. However, he was also, as the years went on, questioning his choices. "I started thinking, is this it?" He began to daydream: "is this what we are going to do all day?"

On February 1, 2004, everything collapsed for Rayford, his two friends and the customer they ended up shooting to death.

"I talked my friends into running the guy who'd been buying drugs, I had a gun on me; through the loyalty and love we were raised on, I convinced them. I was a coward in that moment. I didn't have the courage to say I'm just playing."

Rayford handed the weapon to his friends, the trio assaulted the customer, the weapon was drawn and when the customer lunged at them, it was fired



accidentally, twice, killing the buyer.

Days later, Rayford was sitting alone, full of despair and remorse in the juvenile detention center. "I felt condemned, like I was going to hell." Fate had other plans for him. "A sheriff's deputy, an older white lady, came into my cell and said, 'can I pray for you,' it was like she was an angel."

She cried and prayed with Rayford, held him and told him, "if you want to believe in God, believe in God." She sparked a flame in the 17-year-old youngster. "I made a promise to God, I felt healed and made a vow to him, 'no more drugs, no more selling drugs; from that point forward, I wanted to better myself.'"

Rayford did pay a price for the violence he had unleashed. He spent the next 14 years incarcerated in various Ohio penal institutions, on a manslaughter charge. But he spent his time wisely. He learned to read and write, obtained his GED and took various college courses. He took HVAC courses along with general maintenance, along with Toastmaster (public speaking) classes.

As the years passed in prison, he also mentored younger inmates, participating in established programs but also helping to organize a program at North Central Correctional that had the direct impact of reducing prisoner-prisoner confrontations. The "Christian Rap" gang intervention program brought in "lots of guys causing problems on the compound" and helped curb violence in what was once the most violent prison in Ohio, he says.

Upon his release, Rayford settled in Columbus, married a childhood friend from Toledo, became a father - twice over - and eventually relocated to his home town. And, true to the vow he made two days after he was arrested in early 2004, he has not given in to the temptations of his teen years. He has been active in helping others avoid or leave a life in the streets, in helping other avoid the mistakes of his own youth.

He has also been blessed by the positive influences he has found since, such as Stephanie Boutte of Ternion Training and Education Center (TTEC). "A blessing and a positive impact on the community," he says of Boutte.

All these positive influences in his hometown – Peace & Healing, Phillips Ministries, TTEC – have helped Rayford continue the promise he made to God and maintain the drive he found while imprisoned to help others, to bring a change to a community, to build a brotherhood, to ensure that the lure of the streets does not negatively impact hundreds and thousands more area youngsters.

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Wayman Palmer YMCA Will Enhance the Warren Sherman Neighborhood

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

By the end of October, construction will begin on the new and improved Wayman Palmer YMCA in the space currently occupied by the Inez Nash Park on Bancroft Street. By the beginning of 2025, the new Wayman Palmer will open, offering area residents an opportunity to sample and enjoy a wide range of programs and amenities such as an indoor pool, climber/slide for kids, outdoor splash pool, larger group exercise space, larger fitness center, KidZone free babysitting, private locker rooms and computer lab in a facility about 30 to 40 percent larger than the current structure.

The impact on the neighborhood, and the city at large, will be considerable says Eric Williams, executive director of the Wayman Palmer. He anticipates that membership will increase from its current 500 level to upwards of 2200 after construction is completed.

Williams anticipates that the new Wayman Palmer Y will be an attractive option for those working in nearby building and offices. The swimming pool and the enhanced exercise and workout facilities will bring in new members from the downtown area workforce much as the recently added Peloton fitness equipment did.

However, the surrounding community will benefit greatly as well. Financial assistance will be offered for memberships in the Y on an even more generous scale than is now offered. "There will be two tiers of financial assistance to make sure that no one gets turned away," says Williams.

The original announcement of the plans to build a new Wayman Player Y was made two years ago and, at that time, the cost estimate for the facility was \$21. That would have been financed by a combination of sources – Community Development Block Grant funds, American Rescue Plan Act funds, the YMCA capital campaign and private sector donations.

In the past two years, the price tag has gone up dramatically – to the current \$28.7 million total – but the project is still on course. The American Rescue Plan funds, grants and private investment monies have made up the shortfall.

According to Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's office, \$19 million will come from federal funds, \$3 million from the YMCA capital campaign and \$6.7 from CDBG funds.

The new Y will also include several partners who will provide services to the neighborhood. Toledo Public Schools will have a Head Start program; a behavioral health agency will provide services and there will be a food bank in the building as well.

The \$28 Million dollar project, which is a combination of government funding including the Biden American Rescue Plan, grants and private investment is a commitment to improvements to Wayman Palmer Y that was built almost 50 years ago.

One cannot underestimate the impact the new facility will have upon a neighborhood that is badly in need of new resources, new residents and more residential structures. Close to downtown, the Warren Sherman area has been plagued by a fleeing population, dwindling resources and lack of recreation and entertainment activity for years.

The new Wayman Palmer Y will be a highlight for Bancroft between Franklin and Cherry, add value to the properties and dramatically increase opportunities for area residents.



Eric Williams



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Perryman...continued from page 2

Other complaints conveyed frustration toward Black's leadership style and financial commitment to the organization. Enhanced collaboration among the staff was noticed after the change in leadership was announced.

Lastly, a decision-making and strategic planning issue with Jay's leadership arose when he renewed a five-year lease on existing office space, which was perceived as substandard compared to the availability of alternative locations. Furthermore, Black reportedly declined a \$100,000 per year opportunity for the organization to be part of a development project despite the fact that it would provide a chance to diversify funding and expand the agency's conventional focus from poverty alleviation to development initiatives.

These and other decisions were all seen as a pattern of missteps, needing more foresight and possibly inhibiting organizational evolution and opportunity maximization.

Where does Pathway go from here?

One of the subtle dangers of running an agency devoted to relieving policy is that leaders can become so pressed by agency responsibilities that they forget about the people we serve, those we lead, and those for whom we labor. In other words, our agency priorities get out of whack, causing us to lose focus.

Thus, pursuing new leadership, in the light of all the silent undertones in its press release, becomes a pivotal juncture for Pathway to realign with its mission, vision, and values. The forthcoming CEO should be adept not only in navigating the overt challenges but also perceptive of the subtle, perhaps unspoken, dynamics that permeate the organizational culture and strategies.

A Community Action Agency like Pathway is tasked with managing a pro-

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Toledo Museum of Art: A Treasure Trove of Culture and Community

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Nestled in the heart of Toledo, Ohio's art district, our Museum of Art stands as a testament to the enduring power of culture and community. Ranked among the country's top 15 art museums, it has pleasantly surprised countless visitors with its astonishing array of treasures from across the ages.

"Museums are sanctuaries of knowledge, offering us insight into the human experience in all its complexity," says Rhonda Sewell, TMA's director of Belonging and Community Engagement.

Sewell brought a wealth of talent and experience to the Toledo Museum of Art and has been making a profound impact on everyone's understanding of the museum's role within the community.

Cultural Enrichment

Arts and culture are vital components of a society's identity and heritage. They enrich our lives and communities by providing opportunities for artistic expression, creativity, and the celebration of diverse traditions. "Advocating for the arts ensures that these essential aspects of our culture are nurtured and preserved for future generations," explains Sewell.

Museums are, in essence, time machines, transporting us to eras long gone, allowing us to bear witness to the wonders and tragedies of our shared history.

Yet, the importance of museums extends far beyond the mere preservation of heirlooms. For the African diaspora specifically, these institutions become bridges connecting generations, weaving a narrative thread that binds the struggles and triumphs of the past to the aspirations and hope for the present.

Education and Lifelong Learning

"Our museum is not just a repository of artifacts; it's a living, breathing testimony to resilience and cultural identity," shares Sewell.

Our Toledo Museum of Art is a beacon of hope, charged with a profound mission: to define, interpret, preserve, retain and refine the values and visions that have sustained our Toledo community through centuries of adversity, from the darkest days of slavery to the struggles of segregation and now, equality.

It stands as an important keeper of our global heritage, embodying the collective memory of all people who have endured and triumphed.

In the vast tapestry of Toledo history, our museum and its galleries serve as portals to our shared past. While no museum can claim to provide a complete picture, our very own offers invaluable lessons from the archives of time—lessons that resonate with people of all backgrounds.

Adam Levine, the Museum's Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey Director and CEO,

expressed his enthusiasm for Rhonda Sewell's director appointment, highlighting her leadership and unwavering commitment to community causes.

"Mr. Levine told me the museum board

took notice of my dedication to diversity, equity and accessibility," says Sewell. "The moment I began my new role at the museum I knew my career path had not only prepared me for this posi-

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Rhonda Sewell, Alan Bannister, Jonathan Bridges, Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce at CBC Foundation Annual Legislative Conference



Rhonda Sewell and Congresswoman Emilia Sykes



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Rhonda Sewell

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Elgin Rogers Jr. Moving Forward Fundraiser

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Supporters of Ohio State Representative Elgin Rogers' Jr filled Hannon's Block, located in downtown Toledo on Thursday, October 5 starting at 4:30 p.m. The Moving Forward Fundraiser was hosted by Johnny Hutton, Stephen Kemp and Mick Murnen.

"I've just completed my first year in office and have gotten some powerful things done, including a bipartisan legislation with Representative Haraz Ghanbari to address critical staffing issues that impact Ohio nurses. The legislation prioritizes training and staff, a focus on expertise and a focus on resources. I plan to honor my commitments, protect our seniors, prioritize safe conditions for workers, prioritize benefits and wages, and protect our children," explained Ohio Rep. Rogers Jr.

The weather didn't keep supporters from joining the Elgin Rogers'

Jr campaign for a late afternoon of fundraising and networking. Rogers' is the current State of Ohio representative for District 44.

"I heard Elgin speak about one year ago on a panel with other politicians. I knew he was the real deal. He's kind, passionate and eloquent, someone that we need in government. I've taken him to several events and he is always willing to help anyone that he can," shared Susan Mulligan of Ottawa County.

"Elgin is willing to stop and listen. I was working on a program and he asked if he could come by and learn about our program. We're a program that is rooted in farming and he kept his word and came by. He really wants to learn about his constituents," shared Michelle Miller of Ottawa County.

The district includes parts of various cities including from Toledo to Williston, Curtice to Elmore, and Genoa to Walbridge.



Michelle Miller and Susan Mulligan



State Rep. Elgin Rogers (white shirt) with supporters



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Jones Leadership Academy and NHA Provide Hygiene Products to School's Students

The Truth Staff

All the students of Jones Leadership Academy are now able to acquire bags of hygiene products due to a collaboration of Toledo Public Schools, Neighborhood Health Association, school parents, the University of Toledo staff and students and assorted volunteers from the community.

For several years now the school's hygiene drive has brought together people to pack bags with products donated by NHA and companies such as Aunt Flow and Luster Hair products to fill the school's hygiene pantry.

The school set up the hygiene pantry so that students can visit and take the product home with them to overcome period poverty and hygiene poverty.

The hygiene drive started, said former the president of the school's Parent Tears Organization, Joanna White, when she and other parents began to realize that so many girls were missing days of school on a regular monthly basis. Thus began the desire and a drive to end period poverty at the school.

However, they also began to realize that many students suffered not only from hygiene poverty, but also from the subsequent taunting that they encountered from their fellow students, said White.

Soon NHA became involved with the project to help the students, in part because the school is next door to the Cordelia Martin Center and the stu-

dents come from so many families that the Center serves, said Monica Morales, NHA program coordinator.

"We have had a relationship with Jones Leadership Academy and want to develop a closer relationship by supporting our families," said Morales. "Girls were missing school during the same week of the month," she said repeating White's observation of the issues the students faced.

UToledo also has become involved, particularly bringing assistance from the school's AFSCME chapter, the Eberly Center and the BLX (Black and Latinx students).

Last week's drive also included presentations to seventh and eighth grade students on matters of proper hygiene – sessions separated into boys groups and girls groups.

This year's hygiene drive began on September 5 and as a result of the program the hygiene pantry is now fully stocked and Joanna White is in discussions to organize the program at other TPS schools.



Joanna White and UT AFSCME's Lee Grinnon



NHA's Jerome Graham and Derricka Cunningham



UToledo BLX students



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ACES Foreign Exchange Students – A New Cohort Arrives

The Truth Staff

A new group of high school foreign exchange students have arrived in Toledo courtesy of the American Cultural Exchange Service (ACES) program and most of them have expressed a desire to not only learn about a new culture but also to impart to Americans an understanding of the culture of their home countries.

Tracee Ellis, regional director of the local ACES program, held the academic year's first group discussion with the young students on Sunday, October 8, at the Grace Community Center to explain some of the activities they will be participating in and to encourage them to spend their short time in America to their best advantage.

"This is a discussion about our world, what you can learn and how you can be change agents," she told the group of 19. "You are here because you are leaders, representing your countries."

This year's group includes a number of students who are here on merit-based scholarships, courtesy of the State Department's YES (Youth Exchange Study) program and the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) program. Both programs are quite selective in the applicants they grant such scholarships to. YES is geared towards students from primarily Muslim countries and FLEX toward Eastern Europe/Central Asia (the former Soviet bloc) students.

This year's Toledo cohort includes students from Mali, Senegal, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Thailand, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Palestine, Tanzania and Germany. This 19 student cohort is part of a national contingent of almost 2,000 students in 17 states.

A very interesting group at that.

The Palestinian student actually lives in an Arab community in Israel and asked the State Department if he could affiliate with Palestine as his country of representation – ACES granted permission. The students from Cameroon and Sierra Leone had never lived with indoor plumbing before arriving in the U.S. and arrived with hardly any clothes.

The Mongolian student is recognized as an outstanding pianist. The student from Germany is biracial – German and West African – reflecting a diversity that is increasingly becoming more commonplace around the world.

"You guys are the present and the future," said Charles Stocking, representing the Rotary Club, told the assembled students. "You cannot underestimate the value of the time you have here."

This first gathering was part of an effort to impress upon the students the urgency

of using their time wisely here, given that these nine months will move rapidly.

Participate in activities, limit your time on the phone calling home, don't be overwhelmed by the experience, they were told.

"There are expectations for you to do everything you can to make your experience here productive and fun," said Ellis.



Tracee Ellis explains the ACES program to the new cohort



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Three Central State University Students Selected As 2023 USDA/1890 National Scholars

Special to The Truth

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Partnerships and Engagement has chosen three Central State University students as part of its 2023 USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. Freshmen Shemaiah Butler, Michael Frazier, and Nasaan Jackson are among the 97 high school seniors and college freshmen and sophomores chosen from the countrywide pool of applicants to be so honored.

This specialized initiative partners the USDA with 1890 Land-Grant universities such as Central State to provide scholarship recipients with full tuition, fees, books, and room and board for up to four years of college enrollment. The program also provides professional and extracurricular training opportunities, including work experience at the USDA through summer internships.

Established in 1992, the highly competitive and prestigious scholarship program's mission is to raise the number of students at 1890 Land-Grant universities studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines, with a focus on those who exhibit exemplary academic achievement, leadership traits, and provided community service.

The scholarship additionally provides scholars with a sponsoring agency coordinator who works closely with those selected. The agency coordinator grants ongoing support to scholars and ensures they stay on track with degree requirements.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is implemented under the USDA Fellows Experience Program (FEP). Scholars accepted into the program will be appointed using the Schedule A(r) authority (5 CFR 213.3202) and are eligible for noncompetitive conversion to full-time employment upon graduation.

If selected, scholars may renew their grant each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and adequate progress toward a bachelor's degree. Upon graduation, they must commit to at least one year of service to USDA for each year of financial assistance provided or they will be subject to reimbursing funds received.

"We're proud to work with Central State University to support this important pathway for students pursuing careers in agriculture, nutrition, and food development," said Melissa Blair, Public Affairs specialist at the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.

"We're really looking to give underserved communities an opportunity to get out of poverty, to get a meaningful career, and to get into a cutting-edge career," Isabel Brumley, USDA liaison for the state of Ohio, said. "The goal is to ensure that by the time our scholars graduate, they can automatically qualify for a good-paying job on an excellent career path."

Brumley, who has a social work educational background and has been with the USDA for the past 15 years, added through the program, students are exposed to leadership and engagement opportunities that will help them to one day "make their mark in the [agriculture] industry."

It is Brumley's determination that, since many members of underserved communities are victims of discrimination, "correcting of wrongs," as she put it, is greatly needed throughout the agriculture field. Equal opportunity to engage in the field is the overall goal of the USDA's implementation of the scholarship.



Shemaiah Butler



Nasaan Jackson



Michael Frazier

To qualify for the program, students must:

Be a U.S. citizen; have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale); have been accepted for admission or currently attending one of the 19 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities; study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related academic disciplines; demonstrate leadership and community service; submit an official transcript with the school seal and an authorized official's signature; submit a signed application (original signature only); and, achieve 21 ACT, 1080 SAT scores.

"I've always been told that when you have a vision you can turn it into reality," Westerville, Ohio-born Frazier said. "I began to really try to see myself and what I would be doing in order to be successful in the future."

"I feel that this is where the USDA and the scholarship could help me," Frazier continued. "With the contribution of this scholarship, I could be one great step closer to achieving my goals and working to make a better community."

As a high school senior, Butler discovered an interest in rural business and cooperative service after reading materials he received through USDA's outreach push.

"Having the ability to assist and create wealth and support rural America is huge," Butler said.

"I want to help focus on a future where the lives, leadership, dreams, and brilliance of Black, Indigenous, and all people of color (BIPOC) are supported and enhanced by an economic system that is democratic, just, and adaptive. Working for the USDA would be an opportunity that would help me to become a better version of myself and help others like me."

Over the span of his youth, Jackson learned, "Food is an important part of our daily life. I grew interested in understanding how food gives us nutrition and health."

After researching the USDA, he found that it conducts critical analysis of not only food and nutrition but also health and safety, urban agriculture, conservation, farming, and much more.

"I know the USDA staff take their job seriously and I would love to be a part of their team," Jackson said.

"With the scholarship, I am able to dedicate most of my time to my school-work instead of worrying about financial problems that I would have had to handle without the scholarship. Also, receiving the scholarship helped me make my decision on doing agricultural business in the future."

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The New Brownies' Book by Dr. Karida L. Brown and Charly Palmer

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

The kids are back in school now and already, your family's going in six different directions.

You're busy, between sports, extracurricular activities, work commitments, family gatherings, and community activity. If there was a meaningful way to get everybody together at once, you'd be all over that so grab *The New Brownies' Book* by Dr.

Karida L. Brown and Charly Palmer and take a hint from Grandma's time.

Ten years after the launching of the "infamous *The Crisis* magazine," W.E.B. Du Bois, Augustus Granville Dill and Jessie Redmon Fauset had another idea: they called it *The Brownies' Book*, though it was really a magazine that sold for less than two dollars for six issues, or 15 cents for a single issue. It was 1920, Jim Crow laws were in effect, and their intention was that the publication would "serve as a much-needed medium for Black and brown children," by showing them what people of color had contributed to the world. It was also something white families could use and learn from, too.

"... it was," say Brown and Palmer, "a crown jewel of African American children's literature."

This book, meant to "evoke the spirit of... [the] original *Brownies' Book*," pulls together dozens of original stories, poems, plays, essays, lessons, and artwork that mirrors what Du Bois had initially intended more than a century ago.

Here, you'll find tales of ancestors and why it's important to know yours. You'll find games for the whole family to play, including even the littlest kids. You'll find photos and reproductions of *Brownies' Book* pages from the 1920s and new artwork from a variety of Black artists. There's humor in some of these stories, and one is a fun challenge for pre-teens. There are tales for older kids here, pages that help teach morality and empathy, stories to read aloud to a grade-schooler, stories that seem to end abruptly but that beg for meaningful discussion, and biographies of "she-roes" and other giants in Black history...

c.2023
Chronicle Books
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208 pages



Absolutely, *The New Brownies' Book* lives up to its subtitle: it is, indeed, "a love letter to Black families." It's also pretty sweet on art and poetry, too.

Many of the essays and stories, though, may confound readers who are not prepared for their abrupt endings. It's as if the pages have run out and that's that – but look again. Those ends-too-quickly tales invite a child to imagine what happened next or to think of a better storyline. They are ready-

made to teach a child to be a storyteller, and for families to discuss.

Don't think that this book is only for small children, though. This is the kind of reading that you can leave around for a teenager to find and browse, to provoke thoughts and spark ideas. There are inspirations inside here, as well as subtle lessons.

You can feel comfortable giving this to a family, new, old, or blended. It would be a great gift for your favorite babysitter or a grandparent, too. For your household, *The New Brownies' Book* is a great direction.

Toledo Museum of Art... continued from page 7

tion, but it also perfectly aligned with the museum's strategic vision."

In her own words, Rhonda Sewell describes her role at the Toledo Museum of Art as a "career capstone position" that embodies her beliefs and values. She sees this role as an opportunity to foster transformational change and impactful growth, ensuring that the museum embraces everyone related to it and the broader community.

Education and Lifelong Learning

Arts and culture play a pivotal role in education. They foster critical thinking, creativity, and imagination in students of all ages.

Sewell's educational background is as diverse as her career, with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Michigan State University and graduate studies in International Journalism at the City University of London in England.

Rhonda Sewell's role as director of Belonging has been instrumental in reimagining TMA's approach to community outreach. Her career journey is impressive, reflecting her unwavering commitment to community betterment. Previously serving as director of Governmental and External Affairs for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Sewell tirelessly engaged with legislators and community stakeholders, advocating for library funding and systems change.

Prior to that, she had a remarkable 18-year career as an award-winning journalist for *The Blade* newspaper, with assignments spanning six countries. Her contributions also extend to academia, where she served as an adjunct instructor in ethnic studies and mass communications at Bowling Green State University.

Democracy and Civic Engagement

Arts and culture can be vehicles for exploring social and political issues, encouraging civic engagement, and promoting dialogue. They provide a platform for individuals to express their views and contribute to a vibrant democracy.

"Experiences, like my recent attendance at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference (CBCFALC), reflect my multi-faceted role at the museum," Sewell explains.

In her capacity as Director of Belonging, Sewell ardently immerses herself in governmental affairs, fervently advocating for the continued vitality and support of arts and culture.

"During the CBCFALC Conference, I met with northwest Ohio members of Congress and their aides to discuss funding in addition to the museum's objectives," says Sewell.

"I have a sincere appreciation for the arts and culture's role in shaping public policy."

In her thankfulness, Sewell acknowledges the pivotal role played by her colleague Alan Bannister, who possesses many personal relationships within the political arena. As former Toledo mayoral executive assistant, Alan Bannister has an extensive background in civic engagement and diversity and inclusivity outreach.

...continued on page 16

Perryman... continued from page 6

cess of systematic poverty. They must help provide ways to lead people out of poverty so that there are fewer people in poverty and not just continuously manage the same process by doling out meager services to people needing significant impact and outcomes.

Undeniably, the perceived shortcomings of Black-owned entities include:

- Self-induced chaos.
- Lack of strategic planning.
- Excessive top-down control.
- An inability to foster growth and development within the organization.

Despite having a mission "for us, by us," these entities also often struggle with limited resources and potentially unrealistic aspirations, attempting to be everything for everyone and consequently excelling at nothing.

Furthermore, a noticeable lack of collaboration and a prevalent competition among Black entities, possibly rooted in historical socio-cultural disruptions, inhibit collective advancement and mutual support, even amidst leadership in our contemporary context.

However, the same is also true for many predominately white-led organizations.

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

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Job Overview

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Ideal candidate will work in Confidentiality, have excellent organizational skills, honest, detailed oriented, professional, and analytical. Candidates should have excellent customer relation skills, the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, and presentation skills with the ability to communicate complex quantitative, data to decision makers. Ideal candidates are skilled multi-taskers, reliable and committed to consistently meeting deadlines.

Responsibilities of Accountant Position

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- Assist in the preparations of financial reports such as financial statements and budget performance
- Prepare prepaid and depreciation schedules,
- Assist in securing grants for the credit union
- Complete CRA reporting
- Prepare quarterly Call Reports.
- Ensure compliance with applicable standards (i.e GAAP, FASB), rules, regulations, and system of internal control
- Provide accurate, timely and relevant recording, reporting and analysis of financial information
- Identify areas for improvement and implement improvements to processes
- Assist with and act as the primary point-of-contact for auditor request
- Handle sensitive information in a confidential manner
- Must be a team player

Qualification for Accountant Position

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field or an equivalent combination of education training and experience
- 2-5 Years of accounting/ finance experience
- Demonstrate intermediate to advance skills and knowledge of Excel as well as other Microsoft Office applications
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills to communicate effectively across the organization
- Thorough knowledge of general ledger accounting and account reconciliation
- Highly detailed oriented

Job Type: Full-time

Starting Salary: \$25.00 per hour

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Walkthrough: Immediately following Pre-bid.

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

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St. Hedwig Senior Apartments (419) 481-9016
Douglas Square (419) 472-6087
Hampton Court (419) 536-1714
Vistula Heritage Village II (419) 246-0832
Applications accepted by appointment only from October 16, 2023, through December 16, 2023. Please call the community directly to schedule an appointment.

INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 122 COMMUNITIES IFB23-B012

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Snow Removal Services for AMP 122 Communities in accordance with IFB23-B012**. Received in accordance with law until **October 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.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PRINTING SERVICES RFP23-R010

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Printing Services in accordance with RFP23-R010**. Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 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.



PUBLIC NOTICE PATHWAYS TO REMOVING OBSTACLES TO HOUSING GRANT APPLICATION

To address the need for affordable, accessible, and available housing, approximately \$85,000,000.00 in funding through the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Grant Program will be administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The City of Toledo will be eligible to receive up to \$10,000,000.00 in federal funding from HUD through the PRO Housing Grant Program. The purpose of the PRO Housing Grant funds is to identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. These funds can be used to remove barriers caused by zoning decisions; land-use policies or regulations; inefficient procedures; gaps in available resources for development; deteriorating or inadequate infrastructure; lack of neighborhood amenities; or challenges to preserving existing housing stock, such as increasing threats from natural hazards, redevelopment that reduces the number of affordable units, or expiration of affordability requirements.

The City of Toledo's PRO Housing Grant Application provides details on the proposed allocation of funds and the activities to be undertaken.

The PRO Housing Grant Application will be available for review beginning **Friday, October 13, 2023**, on the website of the following entities:

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

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

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

The Fair Housing Center
326 N. Erie Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commission
One Government Center, 16th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/plan-commission>

Lucas Metropolitan Housing
424 Jackson Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasmha.org

Toledo Lucas County Homeless Board
1220 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelesnesstoledo.org

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

Lucas County Land Bank
One Government Center, 5th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://lucascountylandbank.org>

A public hearing on the City of Toledo's PRO Housing Grant Application is scheduled as follows:

**Friday, October 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers
One Government Center, 1st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets**

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning **Friday, October 13, 2023**, through **Friday, October 27, 2023**, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PRO HOUSING GRANT APPLICATION
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

Public comments may also be submitted online at <https://toledo.oh.gov/pro>.

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

Interpreters will be made available for non-English speaking citizens at the public hearing if requested at least 72 hours in advance. Inquiries for translated summary copies of the PRO Housing Grant Application can be obtained by contacting the Department of Housing and Community Development at least three weeks in advance.

THE ARTS COMMISSION IS NOW HIRING for a full time Marketing & Communications Manager. Deadline to apply is November 3, 2023. The Arts Commission is committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process and is an equal opportunity employer. For position details and how to apply, please visit TheArtsCommission.org/About/Employment

INVITATION FOR BIDS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AMP 131 COMMUNITIES IFB23-B013

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Snow Removal Services for AMP 131 Communities in accordance with IFB23-B013**. Received in accordance with law until **October 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.



Celebrating 100 Years of a Life Well Lived!

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

It was a pink and white affair for Ovella Kelley's 100th birthday celebration at Heather Downs Country Club Saturday September 30. The centenarian celebrated the milestone in style with family and friends from Toledo, Tennessee, Chicago and Florida.

Ovella Kelley was born October 2, 1923 in Somerville, Tennessee to Prince Albert Williams and Laura Williams. She had three sisters and two brothers, now deceased. Ovella moved to Toledo in the late 1940s where she met her husband Tom Kelley and they wed in 1949. The pair had two children, Gene Kelley and the late Kathryn L. Kelley. She worked at the Toledo State Hospital until she retired in 1977 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. At 100, she has now been a breast cancer survivor of more than 45 years.

"She is a great example to all of us", commented granddaughter Tami Harris (Sylvania Township) in the welcome. "I believe she lived this long [because of her faith in Christ], she lived in contentment, whether she was sick with breast cancer, her husband being ill, getting older and going through the trials and tribulations of life. She was able to live her life with contentment and without complaining. She is a great example to all of us."

Mrs. Kelley was an avid traveler, traveling to many places in the United States including Alaska and Hawaii. She also traveled the Caribbean and voyaged on many cruises in her lifetime with friends, family, and church groups. The centenarian also took great pride in her gardening.

She was a dedicated member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church where she was a part of numerous auxiliaries including the women's auxiliary, the senior usher board and travel group until her mobility declined. Mr. Kelley passed away in 1997. The two shared 48 years of marriage and have two children (one deceased), four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

"My grandmother is the best, she has had a hand in raising me as the Christian woman I am. ", said granddaughter Nicole Garner (Bradenton, Florida) who organized the event. "I always look to her for guidance because she always said, 'Put the Lord first and let the Lord fight your battles and everything else will be ok.'"

Guests enjoyed music from DJ Keith Success, refreshments, gift bags and special presentations.

Ovella Kelley celebrated her 100th birthday officially on Monday, October 2, 2023. Happy Birthday Mrs. Kelley!



Mrs. Ovella Kelley, the celebrated centenarian



Granddaughter Nicole Garner (Bradenton, Florida), son Gene Kelley (Toledo, Ohio) and grandson Christopher Garner (Nashville, Tennessee) pose with Mrs. Kelley



Rev. Floyd Smith Jr. head pastor of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church poses with Calvary member Mrs. Kelley and granddaughter Nicole Garner (Bradenton, Florida)



Mrs. Kelley's family from Florida and Chicago visit for the special occasion.



Friends and family enjoy Mrs. Ovella's pink and white Celebration

AGELESS & ACTIVE SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

October 12, 2023
11:00AM - 2:00PM

The Indiana Avenue Baptist Church
Stephenson Roberts Fellowship Hall
640 Indiana Avenue
Toledo Ohio 43604



MADAOP
Lucas County
2447 Nebraska Ave
Toledo, OH 43607
(419) 255-4444



OHIO
MENTAL HEALTH &
ADDICTION SERVICES

A variety of area organizations with products and services geared towards seniors will be on hand with resource information and giveaways. Don't miss the chance to ask one-on-one questions directly to the people who can answer them! Bring your friends, neighbors, and anyone else you

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"Having access to my colleagues and decision-makers both really amplified the impact of my advocacy efforts," explains Sewell. "I appreciate all involved and the hospitality that was shown to me."

Health and Well-being

Championing the cause of arts and culture directly with legislators, policymakers, and influencers, effectively conveys the importance of funding and the policies that support the arts. In this context, Sewell's experience becomes emblematic of how personal connections and strategic networking can be powerful tools in advancing any cause.

Engagement with the arts has also been shown to have positive effects on mental health and well-being. Arts programs can be therapeutic and healing, making them a valuable resource for addressing public health challenges.

Economic Impact

Under Sewell's advocacy, the museum's collection is both flourishing and diversified.

"We are engaging the community in an array of meaningful experiences as well," explains Sewell. "This year's block party is a great example. It was the largest and most diverse it's ever been; a testament to our commitment to community engagement."

The arts and cultural sector is a significant contributor to the economy. Museums, theaters, galleries, and cultural events generate jobs, attract tourism, and stimulate local businesses. Supporting the arts is not just a cultural investment but also an economic one, driving economic growth and sustainability.

The Toledo Museum of Art continues to evolve with a focus on quality art acquisitions and nurturing cultural partnerships, too. Music has also found its place within the museum's walls, with a peristyle auditorium hosting musical programs, including performances by the Toledo Symphony.

Preservation of Heritage

The museum's dedication to art education has remained steadfast. Since 1919, TMA has housed an art school, collaborating closely with the University of Toledo. The university's Center for the Visual Arts was built adjacent to the museum, fostering a vibrant hub of artistic learning and creativity.

Over the past two decades, the museum's collections have been meticulously cataloged and shared with the world through scholarly publications, ensuring that the wealth of knowledge and culture within its walls is accessible to all.

The Toledo Museum of Art is more than just a repository of art; it is a living testament to the power of community, culture, and the enduring legacy of those who believe that art belongs to everyone. We thank you, Rhonda Sewell, for the work you are doing and for the positive impact you're making on our community at large. As visitors walk through the TMA halls, they are not only greeted by masterpieces from across the ages but also by the spirit of inclusivity and the celebration of human creativity.

A visit to the Toledo Museum of Art reveals a treasure—a beacon of culture, art, and the indomitable spirit of community.

Follow Rhonda Sewell and the Toledo Museum of Art on social media to get involved and for event updates.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: ***OCTOBER 16th, 2023***

2023 Forfeited Land Sale

2023 Forfeited Land Sale Thursday October 26th
9AM One Government Center downtown Toledo.

NO walk-in registrations permitted. You **MUST PRE-REGISTER** to attend the sale at the following link no later than **October 16th, 2023**:
<http://lcapps.co.lucas.oh.us/ForfeitedLandSale/>

We encourage you to read all instructions on your responsibilities if you participate:
<https://co.lucas.oh.us/2949/Forfeited-Land-Sale>

Please contact our office if you have questions - 8AM to 4:30PM M-F **419.213.4335** or email: outreach@co.lucas.oh.us

Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor