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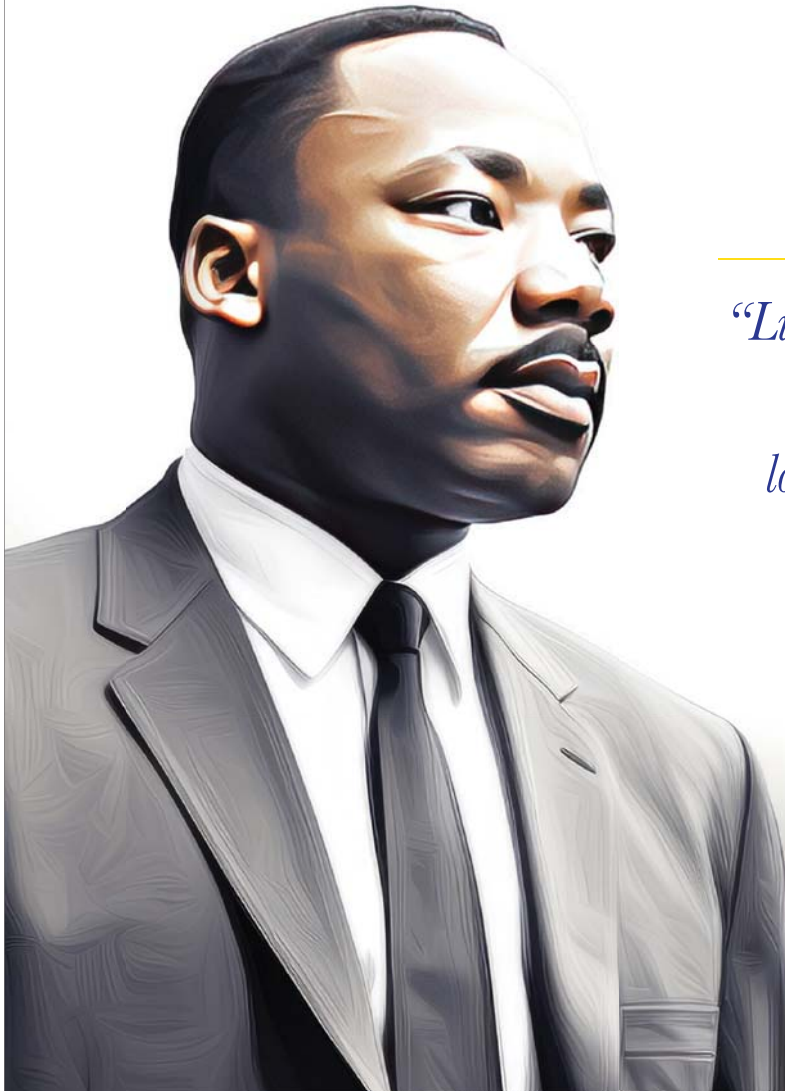
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# Clarifying the Dream: Was It Just a Mirage?

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.  
The Truth Contributor



*In 1968, my father was one of the most hated men in America, and now he's one of the most loved men in the world. So much so that people take liberties and take different quotes to fit their situation, and nothing is more frustrating for me than that.*

- Bernice King

During last week's Super Wild Card Weekend, the phrase "Be Love" was prominently displayed on every player's helmet and stenciled in the end zone as part of the NFL's tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Although most contemporary MLK celebrations emphasize King's rhetoric of love and unity, King's actual impact and focus transcends far beyond the media-generated optical illusion of his message as merely a call to reject hate or racial prejudice and replace them with love, unity, and reconciliation.

Instead, King emphasized that racism had deep-rooted economic consequences, affecting the livelihoods and wealth accumulation of Black Americans. Thus, King's advocacy for economic justice was rooted in the recognition that racism had created generational wealth for white Americans while simultaneously robbing Black Americans of economic opportunities.

His analysis of the financial impacts of white supremacy challenged the status quo, made him a controversial figure during his lifetime, and ultimately led to his martyrdom.

To fully grasp the importance of MLK's message, we must recognize wealth distribution's critical role in shaping individuals' and communities' social and economic outcomes. Lisa Camner McKay's (2022) analysis, "Why Wealth Matters," underscores the significance of wealth as a determinant of opportunities and disparities in the United States.

Wealth distribution in the United States has long been scrutinized, primarily due to its pronounced skew and its profound influence on various aspects of life. Beyond the ability to purchase material goods, wealth determines access to education, healthcare, business opportunities, safe neighborhoods and political influence.

As McKay's analysis highlights, wealthier families are better equipped to access elite education, start businesses, finance essential medical procedures and quality healthcare services, and reside in neighborhoods with higher amenities. Moreover, they possess the resources to influence politicians and political campaigns, secure top-tier legal counsel when needed, leave substantial legacies to their offspring, and weather financial emergencies.

The disparities in wealth distribution in the United States are staggering. Despite comprising only 60 percent of the population, white Americans hold a substantial 84 percent of the nation's total wealth. In contrast, Black Americans, constituting 13 percent of the population, possess a mere 4 percent of the wealth.

This discrepancy becomes even more glaring when considering that the wealth of the richest 400 Americans is roughly equivalent to the combined wealth of 43 million Black Americans.

Moreover, the most striking aspect of this economic injustice lies in the widening wealth disparities. While millions continue to struggle without jobs, living wages, secure housing, or adequate healthcare, corporations and the wealthy have thrived. Billionaire wealth surged by \$1.5 trillion between 2020

and 2022, painting a stark picture of inequality.

Updating Dr. King's Dream necessitates confronting this stark imbalance in economic fortunes. And, obviously, such disparities underscore the urgent need to address racial economic injustice in our society.

What is a solution?

Some, like scholars Hamilton and Darity (2010), advocate for a shift in perspective from aiming for a race-neutral America to aspiring for a race-fair America. They assert that true progress in achieving economic justice should entail the complete cessation of the intergenerational transmission of racial economic advantages or disadvantages.

Others, like the reinstated Poor People's Campaign, whose mission seeks to resurrect King's emphasis on the interconnectedness of racial and economic injustice, are calling for reparations and embracing nonviolent civil disobedience to create a more just and inclusive society.

What is clear is that the message that Dr. King so eloquently articulated was not a mere fantasy about achieving some superficial harmony. Nor was King's vision the misappropriated, often cherry-picked quotes emphasizing the con-jured-up fictional colorblind idea of "judging individuals by the content of their character" while glossing over the Dream's radical elements, including its vehement critique of economic inequality and a call for disruptive, systemic change.

To honor MLK's true Dream of a just and equitable society, then, we must commit to implementing policies that promote both wealth redistribution and wealth accumulation within marginalized communities. Only through such holistic efforts can we hope to bridge the racial wealth gap and advance toward the society envisioned by Dr. King—one where economic justice is a reality for all.

Only then will King's Dream be a tangible reality and not the mirage created from the imagination of the media and the complicit consent of an undiscerning public.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

## Community Calendar

January 25

Wayman Palmer YMCA Vision Board Workshop: 5:30 to 7 pm; 1) Create a vision; 2) Develop a visual representation of goals; 3) Receive clarity & tools to stay accountable.

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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# A Glimpse at the New American Economy ... If We Can Seize the Moment

By Ben Jealous  
Guest Column

What if the answer to undoing the harm wrought by the demise of America's manufacturing sector was right in front of us?

An economic boom waiting to happen, to rebuild communities and revitalize our beaten-down working class...

And, this time, without the rampant industrial pollution that fuels climate change and sickens our people...

It is not too good to be true. But we must seize the moment if we do not want it to pass us by.

Last week, I visited the Qcells solar panel plant in Georgia. It is the largest facility of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. And as the world transitions away from fossil fuels and to renewable energy sources, it represents the opportunity we have in front of us.

Solar manufacturing jobs in the US are already on pace to more than triple from about 35,000 in 2023 to 120,000 by 2033. We can do even better – by expanding the energy market and domesticating the solar supply chain. The new green economy should mean an American century that rivals or even surpasses America's global success in the 20th century. The Biden-Harris administration's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) gives us the tools to turn this dream into reality. But the private sector needs to do its part, with investments that are both patriotic and profitable – not to mention planet-saving.

My visit came one day after Qcells announced a massive deal to supply Microsoft with 12 gigawatts of solar modules and Engineering, Procurement



and Construction services over eight years. That's enough energy to power more than 1.8 million homes annually. And it will help Microsoft meet its goal of being carbon negative, water positive and zero waste by 2030.

More than that, it's an investment in America.

According to the energy research firm Wood Mackenzie, China will control more than 80 percent of the world's solar manufacturing capacity through 2026. This is the future of energy. And the United States needs to catch up.

The goal should be to scale up investments like Microsoft's as rapidly as possible, and bring the entire manufacturing lifecycle for solar technology to the US. And to do it in a way that pushes the energy utilities that power the factories towards clean fuel sources.

How we power the supply chain is as important as where it lives. Manufacturing clean energy tech domestically can create a virtuous cycle in which grids are increasingly powered by clean sources. That means lower energy bills and cleaner air to breathe.

The IRA ensures it is not just corporations and utilities that are in the game. Billions of dollars are available for local community organizations, cities, schools, and homeowners to spur growth in our domestic clean energy industry.

Despite the "drill, baby, drill" political rhetoric from the oil and gas industry and the politicians in its pockets, elected representatives of both parties understand damn well what these jobs mean for their states and districts. Trust that most lawmakers from Georgia and the other states now being referred to as the "Battery Belt" are eager to reap the IRA's economic benefits when it comes to clean energy manufacturing.

New Years Day marked the 30th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which contributed to the obliteration of America's manufacturing sector throughout the '90s and early 2000s. What ensued in the wake of those lost jobs, and the devastation of the communities that relied on them, was much of the social, economic, and political strife plaguing our country today.

In this post-NAFTA moment, America can reassert its global leadership in manufacturing the technologies on which the world runs. It will mean an explosion of new American jobs and a windfall for American consumers – who will save money and get other benefits from domesticating supply chains. It will also accelerate the end of fossil fuels. And the protections and incentives in the IRA that focus on equity will help ensure this new energy economy reflects our values, and that marginalized communities do not get left behind.

Another industry that uniquely helped establish America's pride, identity, and economic might in the last century – the automobile industry – should also be paying attention. Because they have some catching up to do as well. But that is a topic for another column. Watch this space.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

## Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

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

need an agency that will be willing to work with you to find you paid assignments.

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# Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Opens Second Branch

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

On July 16, 1995, Suzette Cowell opened the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union in a small storefront. Over the years there has been steady growth – a larger building at 1339 Dorr Street, a free-standing building at the corner of Dorr and Detroit in 2015. Now, almost three decades after its humble beginnings, the credit union has opened second full-service branch.

On Friday, January 12, 2024, Cowell once again expanded the financial services she has brought to Toledo's inner-city community and guided the financial institution into yet another section of that community. An enormous crowd of supporters, city officials and interested observers joined the staff of TUFUCU for a ribbon cutting at the new Monroe Branch – across the street from Swayne Field. The new branch is a start to the revitalization of that neighborhood as the City of Toledo will be taking over a large part of the Swayne Field mall and turning it into a workforce development center.

The final pieces of the TUFUCU effort to obtain the building from Fifth Third Bank fell into place last September when the Lucas County Commissioners during their 11 a.m. meeting and the Toledo City Council members during their 4:00 p.m. meeting both unanimously voted to grant TUFUCU \$75,000 in order to close the deal with Fifth Third. The government bodies' funds of a combined \$150,000, along with a matching amount from a donor, enabled the credit union to open its new branch in early 2024.

The newly obtained building on Monroe enables the credit union to expand its services to residents who are in the Englewood neighborhood, which borders the Junction neighborhood where the Dorr Street facility rests.

According to Cowell, many of the TUFUCU clients are residents who walk to the building and many such clients will be more easily served by this second location. "They won't have to get on a bus line," she said later.

The Toledo Urban journey began in a small brown box almost 29 years ago – a brown box that had been dropped off at the Friendship Baptist Church by the National Credit Union Administration – the federal government body which oversees and insures credit unions. "Inside was a charter with no instructions," said Cowell. "And we had 30 days to set up shop."

Cowell had applied for a charter for the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union with the urging of the Rev. Duane C. Tisdale, pastor of Friendship, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, both of whom wanted to see a strong Black-operated credit union in Toledo.

For its part, the NCUA had been less than cooperative. "They said we are people who don't follow through," says Cowell.

She did indeed follow through. Even without the assistance of NCUA. "Nobody came in from NCUA to set it up, so we did the best we could. No one among us has ever said we had run a credit union. Their giving us a brown box was trying to set us up for failure," says Cowell.

Nevertheless, TUFUCU opened its doors for business under the watchful eye of the NCUA. "There were all those audits," says Cowell. "We didn't



The Toledo Urban FCU Staff



Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson and Suzette Cowell



Councilman John Hobbs, Juanita Greene, Bishop Robert Culp



Suzette Cowell and Sr. Virginia Welsh

have a lot of capital and what we did have was going for outside auditors and outside attorneys."

So TUFUCU went to the community and managed to raise \$184,000 between November 30, 1999 and June 25, 2000.

"People started sending money," she recalls. "Three banks stepped up and made deposits. And with the help of an anonymous donor, we made it. We received a clean bill of health."

Entities such as the Navy Federal Credit Union headquartered in Virginia, the largest in the country, stepped up and made a deposit. The Ohio Credit Union League, the former Mid-Am Bank and the former Capital Bank all lent a hand. Eventually Fannie Mae called Cowell to talk about doing business together – and TUFUCU was off and running.

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# Children are Not a Zero-Sum Game

By Aaron Lusk, Superintendent, The Maritime Academy

Guest Column

When Shamyra came to The Maritime Academy of Toledo in seventh grade, she had been expelled from multiple schools. Upon enrollment, she had little confidence in her academic abilities and felt lost in a system designed for failure. Her performance on state tests included limited and basic scores which negatively affected the school's state report card. Her behavior continued to deteriorate as she violated many requirements of the code of conduct. By the end of her seventh grade year, based on the politics of our public education system, she was possibly facing the end of her educational experience.

In March 2020 no one could have predicted the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our most vulnerable children. Evidence of this damage manifests itself in chronic absenteeism, teenage crime, poverty, and an even larger gap between the "haves" and "have-nots."

In Toledo, three out of the five most violent years in our history were 2020, 2021, 2022. In 2023, 10 out of the 41 homicides were juveniles aged 14-17 with 16 being the average age of homicide victims or those committing homicide. Teenagers who had never been in trouble now overcrowd the Lucas County Juvenile Justice Center facing years or even life in prison for murder. Beyond the most extreme examples, teenage pregnancy, vaping, drug use, gang membership, stealing cars and carrying weapons have become commonplace in and out of school.

The pandemic did offer encouraging conversations that current juvenile justice and public education systems would change to meet the needs of children. Scores of books and articles discussed how schools should transition to mastery learning and embrace the uniqueness of students to create an environment where all students can succeed. These arguments gained traction because the current public education system does not value the unique needs of students but instead sorts them into groups designed for competition as opposed to growth or engagement.

The public school system originated to create a literate and educated populace necessary for democratic political systems. What has resulted, however, is a winner takes all approach where schools compete for more funding, better test scores, and an increasingly shrinking pool of teachers. This creates an



environment called a zero-sum game.

Zero-Sum game is a mindset or environment where benefit or gain is zero because if one person or group gains something then another person or group must lose something. This is unavoidable when competing for awards, money, or other competitive activities with specific outcomes. It should not be the norm for education, however, nor should children be used as game pieces.

Every year the Ohio Department of Education and multiple websites release school rankings based upon state test scores. There are many other indicators that also get ranked but the "best schools" are mainly ranked by these scores. Of the top 10 schools only one had a population of African American students higher than the state average. The other nine schools had a 6.5 percent population of African American students (roughly 650 students) out of a total of more than 10,000 students. Three of the top 10 schools had a population of 98 percent and 99 percent Caucasian/white while six others had a minimum of 90 percent or higher with the highest minority group being Latinx/Hispanic. In addition, these schools have the benefit of a high tax base with homogeneous populations which help them fit perfectly into our current public education system.

Our public school system, with its zero-sum game approach, creates an environment where good or bad schools are ranked not by their willingness to help all students, especially those with the most needs, but one that promotes the exclusion of students who may not score well on a test. Many students at The Maritime Academy did not or could not succeed at traditional schools and in a small school one student can impact a school's data significantly. This is not the definition of failure but a reality that cannot be measured and displayed in graphs.

I became a special education teacher to be the voice for kids who continue to be left behind. While teaching students with autism, among other disabilities, I had encountered significant resistance in deciding what constituted fairness in the distribution of resources in the educational environment. Many arguments were made that diverting resources to these students took resources away from other students. Although not true, this argument continues to permeate in America's educational system as our country drifts further from civility and compromise.

Four and a half years later Shamyra is now a junior at The Maritime Academy of Toledo. The journey had often been marked by frustration and sadness, but those times have lessened significantly. In all state measurements, Shamyra continues to grow but this progress does not equate to success on the school's report card.

The truth is, however, that Shamyra is likely to finish most of her required classes at the end of the 2023-2024 school year to take college classes her senior year. In addition, she is on track to graduate and plans to attend either Owens Community College or Lourdes University, for nursing, after her 2025 graduation.

As a school, excluding Shamyra from our test scores and other state measurements would have created the image of a more successful school: her loss would have been the school system's gain. Instead, because of our partnership with Lourdes University, she received a personalized tour of the campus and has met the university president on multiple occasions. She now has a positive outlook, continually plans future steps of her life, and has not earned a suspension or intent for expulsion in almost two years.

Toledo schools are filled with students similar to Shamyra but our system of zero-sum game encourages our schools to compete for the best students rather than the most vulnerable. If this continues to be the case, however, we all lose.

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# United Pastors for Social Empowerment Host Social Impact Awards Banquet

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

On Tuesday January 9, United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE) hosted their annual Social Impact Awards at Georgio's Café. 2024 Award Recipients included Rev. Floyd Rose, faith leader and activist; Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner; Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo mayor; Eric Walker, retired, Lucas County Children Services and Amerah Archer, PhD, of Toledo Public Schools. The keynote speaker was author and motivational speaker Lucas Daniel Boyce.

The United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE) is a coalition of pastors committed to using their collective power to effectively empower communities of color and marginalized populations economically, socially, politically and spiritually.

Founded in 2008 by Rev. Donald L. Perryman, PhD, the independent ecumenical group of senior pastors works in collaboration with community leaders and institutions with the mission to challenge the crises and disparities affecting the poor, marginalized and communities of color through public policy, advocacy, community development and through political empowerment and coalition building.

"Tonight, we gather in this grand setting not only to acknowledge the remarkable dedication demonstrated by our award recipients but also to reflect on the powerful impact our collective actions can have on creating a more just society," said Perryman, president of UPSE, "Through unwavering commitment, these remarkable individuals and organizations have worked tirelessly to champion and defend the principles that UPSE holds dear."

The Welcome & Invocation for the celebration was given by Fr. Geoff Rose, president of St. Francis de Sales School. Felica Clark, MBA, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, provided The Year in Review of UPSE's 2023

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Honoree Amerah Archer, Ph.D and husband Joshua Archer



Gerald Rose represents his father honoree Rev. Floyd Rose



Rev. Donald L. Perryman, president of UPSE, and keynote speaker Lucas Boyce



Honorees Mayor Kapszukiewicz, Commissioner Pete Gerken, Amerah Archer, Ph.D; Eric Walker - seated - and Rev. Donald L. Perryman



Honoree Eric Walker of Lucas County Child Services Board



Father Anthony Gallagher and Mayor Kapszukiewicz

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# YWCA Announces 29th Annual Milestones Awards Event Honorees

*Special to The Truth*

Last week, Lisa McDuffie, president and CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio, announced the 2024 honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women Annual Awards Event.

This year's honorees are: Ann Heckler, Arts; Dr. Eleanore Awadalla, DDS, Business; Marie Bush, EdD; Education; Catherine Hoolahan, Government; Dawn Buskey, Sciences; Tracee Perryman, PhD, Social Services and Bishop Pat McKinstry, Volunteerism.

This marks the 29th year that the YWCA of Northwest Ohio has recognized extraordinary women in the community who have demonstrated leadership qualities and contributed to the empowerment of women.

"The members of the YWCA and I was honored to recognize these outstanding women with this prestigious award," said McDuffie. "We invite the community to join us and help pay tribute to this year's Milestones Honorees."

The Milestones Awards was established in 1996 to recognize women of northwest Ohio for outstanding accomplishments in the following areas: Arts, Business, Education, Government, Sciences, Social Services and Volunteerism.

The YWCA 29th Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards will be held at the Glass City Center on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 12:00 p.m.



2024 Milestones Honorees - Tracee Perryman, Bishop Pat McKinstry, Dawn Buskey, Catherine Hoolahan, Marie Bush, Eleanore Awadalla, Ann Heckler



YWCA CEO Lisa McDuffie, Milestone honoree Marie Bush, Lisa Dubose



Lisa McDuffie, YWCA CEO



Milestones honoree Bishop Pat McKinstry - in yellow - and her supporters Toledo Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English, Toledo Urban FCU CEO Suzette Cowell, Quality Time CEO Aletha



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# Glenwood Lutheran Church's MLK Celebration

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Glenwood Lutheran Church hosted a celebration to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration was hosted at their church, located on Monroe Avenue in Toledo on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Pastor Chris Hanley, Mark Hill and Bishop Daniel Beaudoin each delivered warm greetings to the congregation and guests in attendance. "Thank you for joining us this afternoon," shared Bishop Beaudoin.

Several individuals led scriptural and spoken words during the serving including: Pastor Brenda Penconge, Ruth Whittle and Raiden Browning, and Pastor Rebecca West-Estell.

The Toledo Symphony Orchestra's String Quartet members: Antonin Dvorak, John Dowland, George Walker, Jennifer Higdon, and Robert Schumann supported several congregational and community hymns that were sung and played throughout the program. This included "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "Talk About a Child that Do Love Jesus," "Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet," "We Shall Overcome," "Let There Be Peace on Earth," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "Climb Every Mountain" and "Shine Jesus Shine."

In addition to the Quartet, Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir presented several selections. "Thank you for inviting us again for the second year," began Director Brian Thomas. "When I say 'praise the Lord,' I want you say 'Praise the Lord,' back to me. The Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir has been around for 35 years and thank you for inviting us."

Pastor Rebecca West-Estell delivered the introduction of the guest speaker Ohio Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson. "It's a pleasure to introduce a phenomenal woman," began Pastor West-Estell. "I found her bio on Wikipedia. When you have Wikipedia page, believe me, you have arrived."

Hicks-Hudson spoke about the fact that Dr King's legacy was more than just a dream. "Thank you for inviting me to speak today," she began. "I must admit, when I first got this title, I had a negative reaction to it. Dr. King wasn't just a dreamer. We do him a disservice. We do a disservice to the people who marched with him, sang with him, fought with him and died with him. He was more than just a dreamer. Just one of his many contributions. He fought against the war before there was federal protections, before cell phones were used to capture police brutality."

Hicks-Hudson received a standing ovation from the congregation and guests in attendance.

The 2024 Celebration was organized by Glenwood Lutheran Church, Olivet Lutheran Church, Memorial Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Ascension Lutheran Church, First Saint John Lutheran Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church and many other faith and community partners.

The Steering Committee included: Ruth Whittle, Chair, Pastor Chris Hanley and Dorothy Harris of Glenwood; Mike Linehan and Amy Dixon of Olivet; Pastor Brenda Peconge of Grace; Pastor Rebecca West-Estell of Memorial; and Anthony Pattin, DMin, of First Saint John.

The celebration concluded with a reception in the lower level of the church.



State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson speaks



The Interfaith Mass Choir



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**United Pastors... continued from page 7**

Achievements, highlighting their efforts in promoting food justice particularly in the Black community.

"UPSE has embraced the values of food as a basic human right," stated Clark. "Intersectional collaboration is the key to achieving food equity. Our project is rooted in the idea that the Black church... is called to eliminate food deserts... UPSE has embarked on the journey to bring about positive change." The group, along with its many efforts, launched Equitable Access Alliance of Toledo (EATS) creating healthy food initiatives and justice in underserved neighborhoods.

The introduction of the keynote speaker was given by Daniel Pearlman, vice president, Community & Government Relations, Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.

Lucas Daniel Boyce, author and motivational speaker, gave a compelling testimony of his life. Boyce is the author of *Living Proof: From Foster Care to the White House and the NBA*. Prior to publishing his book, he served at the White House in the offices of Political Affairs, Public Liaison, and the office of the Vice President. Today he is the director of Business Development and Legislative Affairs for one of the NBAs elite sports franchises, the Orlando Magic.

Sponsor Recognition was provided by Candace Buckley, vice president of Program & Services, Cherry Street Mission Ministries and the Benediction was given by Father Geoff Rose, president of St. Francis de Sales School

**2024 Social Impact Award Recipients**

**Rev. Floyd Rose, Faith Leader and Activist**

The influential leader, activist, pastor and author commitment to justice and equality is evident throughout his life. In 1978 along with his wife Ann, Rose founded Save Our Children, Inc., a community-based organization dedicated to building survival skills and ensuring opportunities for children which led to the establishment of the Save Our Children Trust Fund in 1986.

Among his many leadership roles, Rose served as the President of the NAACP in 1982. During his tenure, the NAACP signed significant "Fair Share" agreements, representing millions of dollars in sales and services for African-American businesses. Additionally, he organized the Central Committee of Black Organizations and Churches, giving rise to the impactful "I Can Succeed" program, featuring successful African-American leaders as role models for elementary school students.

In 1979, Reverend Rose founded the Family Baptist Church, which rapidly became Toledo's fastest-growing church, growing from three to over 500 members in just one year.

As a true heir to the tradition of passionate social activism, Reverend Rose stands tall among the great activists in history, embodying the spirit of Thomas Paine, Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony, Eugene Debs, and Martin Luther King Jr. His tireless efforts may not always be recognized with plaques and statues, but his legacy is etched in the fabric of a better Toledo - a city that he passionately dedicated his life to shaping.

**Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner**

Pete's mother instilled in him a sense of social and political justice, and as a student and young adult, he was active in promoting social and political change. While attending University of Detroit Mercy, he marched in Washington DC and participated in a hunger strike in opposition to the Vietnam War. During the 1980's he stood on the picket lines in solidarity for major UAW and Teamster labor strikes.

He became a union rep for UAW Local 12 in 1985 and worked his way up through union Leadership during his 30 years at Jeep. As a union leader, Pete's early interest in politics grew. He was appointed to an at large seat on Toledo City Council in 1996. Pete served on Toledo City Council for 8 years and chaired the Environment, Utilities, and Public Service Committee. He was also strongly involved in both Toledo Loves Jeep campaigns. Pete helped the City of Toledo become a leader in the state by passing the first domestic partnership ordinance in the state, the first living wage ordinance in the state, and the first smoking ban in the state. Pete worked with Mayor Jack Ford to create CareNet. He was also a catalyst in the formation of the Toledo and Lucas County stormwater utilities and the Northwest

Ohio Electric Aggregation Coalition.

Pete Gerken was elected as Lucas County Commissioner in 2005. Commissioner Gerken has since been re-elected to office and was recently reelected to a fifth four-year term in 2020. Pete is currently serving as President of the Board of Lucas County Commissioners.

**Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo Mayor**

Wade Kapszukiewicz was elected the 58th mayor of Toledo, Ohio on November 7, 2017

and re-elected for a second term on November 2, 2021. As mayor, Mr. Kapszukiewicz has maintained focus on key issues including public safety, economic development, community engagement, and infrastructure improvements.

Prior to his time as mayor, Kapszukiewicz served as Lucas County Treasurer from 2005 until 2018, where he founded the Lucas County Land Bank. Kapszukiewicz served one term on the Lucas County Board of Education and was later a Toledo City Councilman for nearly seven years.

Kapszukiewicz received a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Marquette University in 1994 and was named the valedictorian of the College of Communication, Journalism, and Performing Arts. He received a master's degree in public policy from University of Michigan in 1996.

**Eric Walker, Retired, Lucas County Children Services**

Eric J. Walker, the only son of Clarence and Shirley J. Walker, is a fifth generation native Toledoan who graduated from St. Frances De Sales High School, Hampton University, and University of Michigan - Management Program.

Walker credits God and The Holy Spirit with saving his life in the fall of 1990 in Alfred Street Baptist Church. Walker's thirty plus year job, education and training began at the Private Industry Council (PIC) where he attended school and worked as a coordinator under Director Flute Rice. Walker was then hired by the Board of Lucas County Commissioners (BCC) as the first workforce director responsible for the implementation of the Effective Management Federal Employment training program at The Source, supervising 25 employees while administering a \$20 million dollar budget (2003-2017).

**Amerah Archer, PhD, Toledo Public Schools**

Amera Archer is an educator who has been a tireless advocate for equity driven education.

For ten years she served as a teacher, mentor and advisor at Scott High School. She earned her doctorate in May 2022. Her dissertation was titled "Dismantling the Panopticon of Education: Toward Preparing Social Justice leachers of Subject Matter."

In January 2023, she was named the Acting Executive Director of the Department of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for Toledo Public Schools.

Her work has inspired educational research scholars, public school teachers, and high school students alike. She can most commonly be found working with teachers to provide culturally responsive practices that they can implement so students have an engaging learning experience and affirm who they are. Her experiences and research have led her to speak around the nation and she has published papers in leading peer-reviewed journals.

An example of this work was a Judith Herb Endowed Project. Archer worked with a team of researchers over the course of several years to develop a partnership with our local school district to identify the specific needs of the students in our immediate community in an effort to re-design the curriculum and better prepare teachers to meet the needs of all students in each content area.

She completed the Advanced Leaders Academy for University of Toledo

...continued on page 13



Donnetta Carter, Deborah Barnett and Felica Clark attend USPE Social Impact Awards

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*Alpha Phi Alpha... continued from page 16*

delivered his speech via video message.

The program concluded with closing remarks.

"I want to thank the sponsors, we're grateful for the sponsors. We couldn't do what we do without the sponsors," said Rev. Jones. "Thank you to our elected officials, from the state, city and county. The work that they do isn't easy. Like Dr. Moss said we need to hold them accountable, but we also need to support them. I also appreciate the prayers that we receive from this community, we wouldn't have made it this far without them. I also want to have all the members of the Divine Nine, thank you for our collective works."

The presenting sponsor was Huntington Bank, and the additional sponsors and partners: Books 4 Buddies, Castillo Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Erie Home Roofing Solutions, HOPE Toledo, LiUNA! Local 500, Mann Insurance, Mercy Health, Ohio Council of Community Schools, Owens Community College, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., SSOE, The Andersons, The University of Toledo, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo Zoo, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, United Way of Greater Toledo, Washtenaw Community College, and 13 Action News.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was founded on December 4, 1906 at Cornell University in New York. The Toledo chapter known as Alpha Xi



*Bishop McKinstry (seated),  
Pastor Brock, Pastor Harris III,  
Pastor Boose and Pastor  
Pettaway Sr.*



*Avis Files of Pathway, Inc. and Zahra  
Collins Reynolds Elementary Hub Director*

Lambda was established on November 3, 1928. The fraternity has many local and national renown members including Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The fraternity is also a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, also known as the Divine Nine, with eight other organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

*Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union... continued from page 5*

By 2015, TUFUCU had finally achieved the goal of raising enough funds to start construction on its own free-standing building. On May 3, 2015 hundreds of credit union members, neighbors, elected officials and supporters gathered to place shovels in the ground and turn a dream into reality.

And on December 20, 2015, the new building at 1441 Dorr Street opened for business. "This is the beginning of a new day," said Bishop Edward Cook, pastor of New Life C.O.G.I.C. and one of the founding fathers of the Credit Union back then, as he opened the dedication ceremony for the new 4,200 square-foot facility that offered members three times the space of the old building along with drive through service and ATMS.

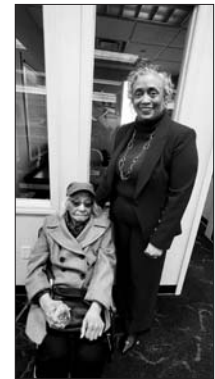
However, that new building was quickly found to be not nearly spacious enough. Expanded services to an expanded membership meant that more staff was needed. More staff meant that more space was needed. A lot more space.

Finally, the acquisition of the much larger former Fifth Third branch has meant that the staff will no longer be cramped. At least for a while.

The first 28 and a half years of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union have meant more than simply a 9 to 5 business operation. Membership, services, assets are growing rapidly, especially in recent years. A TUFUCU resource center will be opening on Dorr Street within a year or two. Is a third branch a possibility in the not-too-distant future?



*Vince Davis and Lucas  
County Commissioner  
Pete Gerken*



*Suzette Cowell and her  
100 year old mother in  
law, Ruth Cowell*

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## Glass City Federal Credit Union Offers Scholarships

Glass City Federal Credit Union is pleased to offer five scholarship awards, one in the amount of \$2,500 and four in the amount of \$1,000, to area students who meet the following criteria:

- The student will be attending a 2- or 4-year accredited post-secondary institution during the 2024-25 school year.
- The student is a member of Glass City Federal; or a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is a member of Glass City.
- The student completes and submits the required application and essay by the deadline of March 31, 2024.

Interested scholarship applicants are encouraged to obtain a scholarship application at any Glass City Federal branch or online at [glasscityfcu.com](http://glasscityfcu.com).

Glass City Federal Credit Union has been providing financial services to the northwest Ohio community since 1947. With five area branch locations, Glass City offices are in Maumee, Toledo, and Bowling Green. Glass City Federal provides a variety of deposit and loan products tailored to the needs of its over 26,000 members. To qualify for Glass City Federal membership, one must live, work, attend school, or worship in the northwest Ohio counties of Lucas, Wood, Fulton, or Ottawa. For more information, please visit the Glass City website at [glasscityfcu.com](http://glasscityfcu.com).



# What Really Happens in Vegas: True Stories of the People Who Make Vegas, Vegas by James Patterson and Mark Seal

Special to The Truth

Hit that "spin" button.

Hit it again, one more time, move onto the next "one-armed bandit," take in a show, watch water dance, gawk all you want. A lot of people work hard to make your Las Vegas experience one you'll never forget. As you'll see in the new book *What Really Happens in Vegas* by James Patterson and Mark Seal, it takes a village to keep a city going.

c.2023  
Little, Brown  
\$30.00  
358 pages

It's 5:30 in the morning, Las Vegas time, and people are up and moving.

Some have been awake since the night before, sitting in front of a slot machine or at a card table with a pile of chips. Others, like the elite crew of divers who keep the Fountains of Bellagio running, are ready to go to work.

Vegas, as Patterson and Seal show, is not just glitz and glamour and lights and sounds. Las Vegas is also where some 52 million people arrive at the local airport to start their vacation – and, in some cases, they jump-start their bank accounts at the airport's slot machines.

Speaking of money – if you have it, you can get almost anything you want, as long as it's legal, just by asking. Want a private flight in? Your own limo? Big shopping? Before you drop the expected Big Bucks in a casino, want to relax in a secret suite that few are allowed to see? Or maybe you want to hear stories of "Sin City" legends, mostly men, but for one fierce woman

who revolutionized the Strip.

You can see a circus in Vegas, one that was originally Canadian. Visit a downtown museum that tells the tale of this desert city. If you win big, meet the people whose job it is to get your money to you at all costs. See how fine dining came to Las Vegas and who keeps it there. And find out how a famous slogan for this dazzling city came to be...

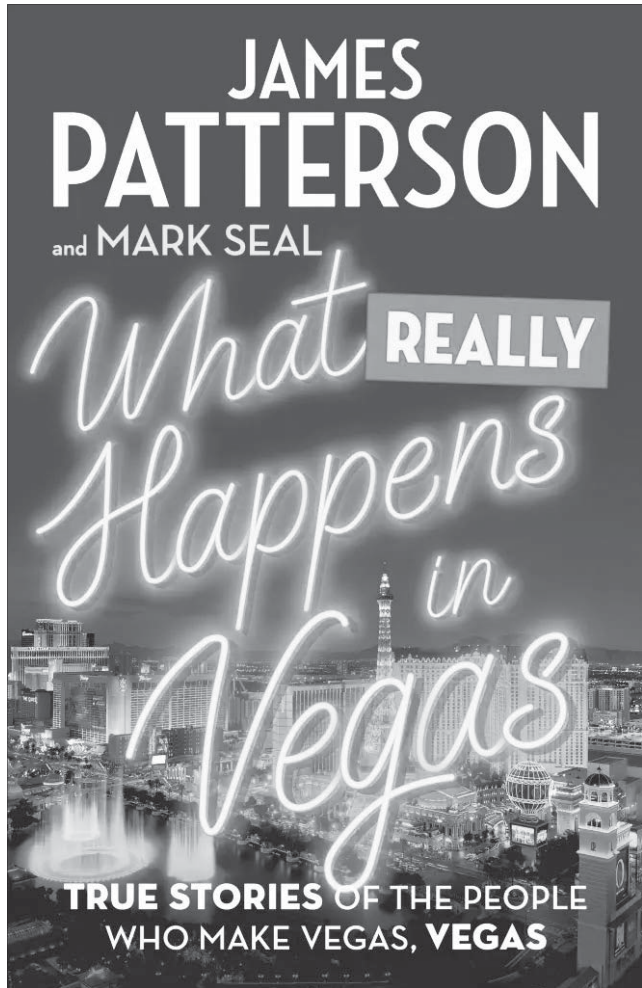
Pick up *What Really Happens in Vegas*, read two pages, and you'll know one thing for sure: You've hit the jackpot.

In every city, there are stories and behind-the-scenes characters who keep the place lubricated but in Las Vegas, even those folks assume a certain (and deserved) mantle of glitter. Authors James Patterson and Mark Seal let readers in on secrets and into secret places, sharing out-loud stories of everyday folks, just doing their jobs.

Then there are the tales that feel like they should be told in whispers.

Sure, there are comments from comfort-makers who talk about the wealthy, and anecdotes of singers, stars, and mobsters in this book, just as you'd expect. But readers also become privy to the things nobody back home wants to talk about, the jobs that don't make your alumni profile, and the parties that... well, that *stay in Vegas*.

And that's what you'll want to do, once you start this fascinating behind-the-scenes peek. *What Really Happens in Vegas* is a book with a thousand stories and for fans, it'll be a hit.



*United Pastors... continued from page 11*

Graduate Students and was a Woodrow Wilson National Teaching Fellow.

**Sponsors for the 2024 USPE Social Impact Awards include: Gold Sponsor:** Lucas County; **Silver Sponsor:** The City of Toledo; **Bronze Sponsor:** The Maritime Academy; **Keynote Speaker Sponsor:** Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board; **Friend Sponsors:** Lucas County Children Services, Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, SSOE, Toledo Building Services; **Supporters:** Area Office of Ageing of Northwestern, Ohio, TARTA, Father Tony Gallagher.

The planning committee included Jacqueline Banks, Beatrice Daniels, Debbie Barnett and Sena Mourad-Friedman

For more information on USPE visit [unitedpastors.org](http://unitedpastors.org)

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### FACILITY OPERATOR:

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Facility Operator for Glass City Metropark. 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. EOE

Go to [www.MetroparkToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparkToledo.com/careers) to view the entire job description and to apply.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LUCAS COUNTY CANINE CARE & CONTROL (LC4)

Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Bid Package #5 on the LC4 project, a 42,000sf single-story canine welfare facility, located at 1301 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH.

Bids are due January 19, 2024 at 3:00 pm.

Documents and additional information is available upon request from [BuildingConnected.com](http://BuildingConnected.com)

This project has MBE/WBE requirements.

For more information on this project, please contact Andy Wren at 419-725-3291.

### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Plaza Repairs Phase 2 project at One Government Center, Toledo, Ohio 43604, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The One Government Center Plaza Repairs Phase 2 project consists of waterproofing replacement and structural concrete repairs at the One Government Center. Demolition includes the removal and storage of existing granite pavers and removal of existing concrete fill slab, insulation, and waterproofing system in designated areas. A new waterproofing and drainage system will be installed on top of the existing structural slab with a new concrete fill slab and reinstallation of existing stored granite pavers on new mortar setting bed. Structural concrete repairs include delamination and crack repairs to the existing structural slab at the plaza and basement levels. The project also includes carpentry, joint sealant, flashing, plumbing, electrical, and landscaping work. Phase 1 repairs were completed in 2023. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$564,000.00. Bids that are in excess of 10% above the engineer's estimate would be considered non-responsive. This project may be awarded by the ToledoLucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system until Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bid-express.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website ([www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com)). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline. Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 1:30 PM, at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at [www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notices/](http://www.toledoport.org/projects/public-notices/)

Thomas J. Winston  
President and CEO  
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority



### LUCAS COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

Manager of Prevention and Recovery  
Services

#### SUMMARY

The Manager of Prevention and Recovery Services is responsible to facilitate the development, management, and monitoring of substance use and gambling prevention, mental health promotion, and recovery related services and activities. The position reports to the Senior Manager of Programs and Services.

#### EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

The Manager of Prevention and Recovery Services will have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of study and appropriate licensure (RN, OCPs, LSW, LPC and/or LCDC.) Requirements also include a minimum of 5 years' experience in developing, implementing, and administering prevention and recovery support services for the mentally ill and addicted populations. Individuals with a Master's degree, independent licensure, advanced mediation and facilitation skills, systems planning experience, and excellent communication skills are preferred.

**Starting Salary Range is up to \$58,125  
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### OUTDOOR SKILLS INTERPRETER:

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to be our Outdoor Skills Interpreter at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The person in this position will connect people to parks through the development, production, and presentation of high quality park programs, special events, and experiences. Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and work experience. Moderate experience in educational and public program development, production, and evaluation and presenting public or educational programs. Some outdoor skills-specific experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Full time position with benefits. \$19.943/hr. EOE

Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>>/careers to view the job description, position requirements and apply online.



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Keynote Speaker: Roland Martin



Toledo Excel

Local Alpha Phi Alpha Chapter Honors Dr. King

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Toledo, has honored the legacy of Dr. King for over 30 years by hosting the chapter's annual breakfast. The 2024 scholarship breakfast was held on Saturday, January 13 at the Pinnacle. The 32nd annual event incorporated the theme, "Called to Be a Voice to the Voiceless, in a World of Selective Silence," and was once again sold out.

During the annual breakfast the chapter awards scholarships to high school seniors, acknowledges a community changemaker known as the Drum Major for Justice Award and receives inspiration from a notable speaker. The 2024 breakfast awarded nine scholarships for a cumulative total of \$18,000 to the following local high school seniors: Ward Barnett Jr., Isaiah Breneman, Jaden Bridgett, Lathan Fitzpatrick, Jamon Green, Aiden Owens, Brandon Payne, Alexander Syeh and Joseph Taylor. Since conception, the breakfast has awarded \$56,000 in scholarships.

"Nine scholarships were awarded this year. These scholarships each say that there is more work that needs to be done and that we all play a

role to make this happen." said Calvin Burney Jr. EdD. "We are also proud that we will begin to offer a renewable scholarship named in honor of our brother who recently passed away, Brother Joseph Sansbury. The recipient will receive a renewable scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 for the next four years."

The Drum Major for Justice Award recipient has demonstrated a long history of service to the Toledo community. "This person has a deep passion for people, justice and this community. This person utilizes their platform to address challenge," shared Rev. John Jones, Alpha Xi Lambda president during the introduction.

The 2024 recipient of the Drum Major for Justice Award is 13abc anchor and annual scholarship breakfast mistress of ceremonies Kristian Brown. "It is truly an honor to do what I love, in my hometown. I know practically everyone in this room. It is an honor to do this event because I believe in education. Thank you. I appreciate this award," shared Brown.

The 2024 keynote speaker was Rev. Otis Moss III, DMin, who was unable to attend in person but

... continued on page 12



John Jones, Kristian Brown and Calvin Burney Jr



Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.



Men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



Men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity



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Richard Brown and Ohio State Senator Paula Hicks Hudson



Scholarship winners