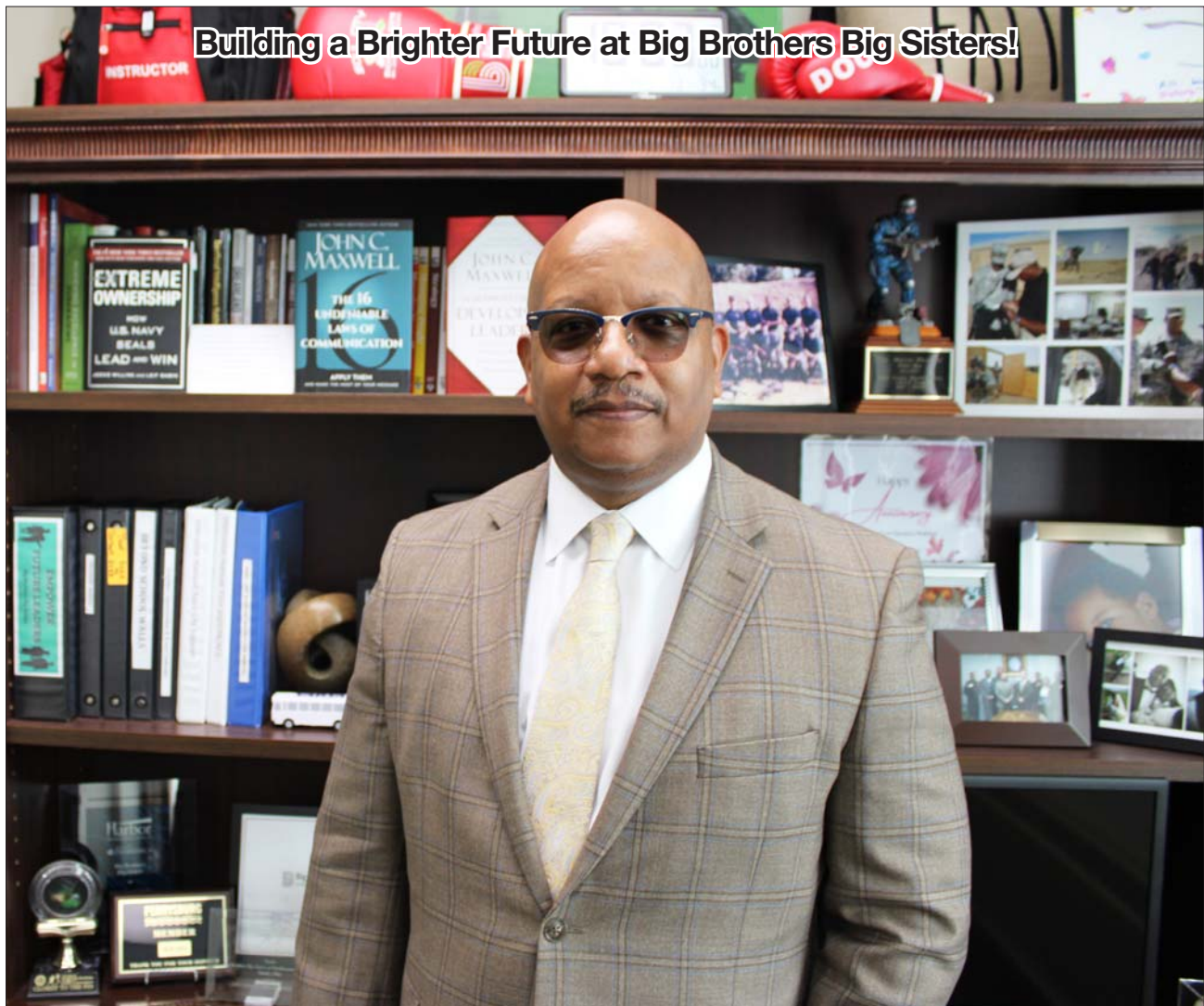


Volume 84 No. 1      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*      May 22, 2024



*Marvin Whitfield, PhD, CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio*

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Toledo Public Schools congratulates the Top 10 students from each of our high schools and extends best wishes to the entire **CLASS OF 2024** – your accomplishments stand as another shining example of why we are **TPS PROUD!**

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# Toledo Will Be Just Fine

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

*In any major dispute, when you peel back the layers of the onion, at the center lies a struggle for power.*

**- H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.**



In major disputes, whether they be political, organizational, or interpersonal, the underlying tensions typically boil down to one core issue – a struggle for power.

This struggle manifests through various avenues, such as who will have control over limited assets or resources. Sometimes, the conflict stems from a battle over influence or who has the power to make decisions that affect immediate outcomes and long-term strategies, shaping the environment according to the powerholder's interests and ideologies.

Disputes also often occur when one party feels another's exertion of control is threatening their autonomy. At other times, the underlying issue is a desire for increased status or recognition, where acknowledgment of one's role or status becomes a point of contention.

All of these potential scenarios form the backdrop for Allan Block's recent lawsuit against his brother, John Robinson Block, The Blade's publisher and editor-in-chief, and other board members.

Allan Block, the CEO and chairman of Block Communications, Inc., the parent company of The Blade, Buckeye Broadband and other companies, aims to prevent the sale of The Blade and other properties, arguing that such a sale could lead to the shutdown of The Blade and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and significant job losses in Toledo and Pittsburgh.

On the one hand, this battle does reflect broader trends of media consolidation in its resultant threat to local journalism, which is critical for the informed current media landscape. This trend has led to the emergence of "news deserts," areas with limited access to local news, which threatens democratic engagement and community awareness.

On the other, however, John Block's significant influence in Toledo's politics, shaped through his leadership of The Blade and The Pittsburgh Gazette, highlights the strong impact of media ownership on political power.

John Block's approval was crucial for local political candidates, showcasing the significant gatekeeping power of media through the Toledo Blade. Under John's control, The Blade's support was known to make or break local political campaigns through its influential editorials and coverage.

For a long time, you didn't want to cross him, and if you were running for mayor, you drove to Pittsburgh to "kiss the ring" or pay homage. I can tell you Sandy Isenberg and many former mayors, such as Jack Ford and Carty Finkbeiner, all made that trip to Pittsburgh once John moved there.

Once, when the potential dismantling of MCO took place, John Robinson Block wanted to talk to Carty about it. He sent his private plane to pick up the Republican councilman for District 2, so that's how close they are," according to a local media analyst.

However, the rise of digital media and alternative news sources has diversified where and how people get their news, diminishing the gatekeeping role once held by major newspapers like The Blade. So that ship may have sailed, as The Blade's editorials no longer carry as much weight today as they did

... continued on page 6

# Whatever Happened to the "Melting Pot" in Schools

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

This past week marked the 70th anniversary of the famed Brown v. Board Of Education ruling which declared separate educational facilities for Black and white kids, unequal and a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



It was a mixed bag because although it was a unanimous decision of an all-white Supreme Court, it was deficient insofar as it only encouraged the affected states to proceed with all "due and deliberate speed" to end forced racial segregation in our nation's schools.

The decision was a whammy blow to Southern states who believed that sitting a Black Demarcus and a Black La'venadonna with a white Chris and a white Heather, would portend the end of civilization as they knew it and cherished it.

In the cultural calculations of many white people, having integrated schools would devalue their property and lower the educational standards for their white children who would have to occupy a desk close to someone with a nappy head.

America in the Fifties was not remotely close to the idea of "race-mixing" and for them, to integrate the schools would invariably mean that somehow their daughters would be targets for flirtations from the Black boys.

The progeny of the Brown case generated legal fights and battles and caused an outpouring of white-hot racism for those families who dared to send their kids to a neighborhood school composed mainly of white kids.

The racial topography of America spoke in the language of existing residential segregation and when it was propagated that those "others" could or would move in and attend their schools, pure mayhem brook out!

Private schools and religious charter schools sprang up like mushrooms after a spring rain when frantic white parents sought to avoid the scourge of Black kids eating in the same cafeteria as their kids or using the same bathrooms or sports equipment as their kids.

If you did not know better, you would have thought that the Black kids were bringing typhoid and malaria to the schools in their brown paper lunch bags.

The KKK and the White Citizens Council and any other right wing wacko group recruited members and told the lie that after the schools, they are coming for your neighborhood homes and then your jobs and then your daughters!

Brave Black kids with the support of local NAACP chapters faced daunting picket lines at the white schools and faced intense ostracism for the

... continued on page 6

## Community Calendar

May 23

TARTA Workshop for Small Businesses Hoping to Do Projects with TARTA: Crosby Conference Center at Toledo Botanical Gardens; 6 to 7 pm: 419-245-5213

May 27

Memorial Day

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# For an Antidote to Climate Despair, Look to the Impact of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

Did you hear the birds singing outside this morning? A lot of us take that common sound of nature for granted. Most people these days do not realize how close we came to living in a much quieter world; to the widespread destruction of entire ecosystems and some of our most iconic species.

That our springtime is not silent today is thanks to one of the original victories of the modern environmental movement – and the book that many credit for starting that movement. It is a story of hope. One that should inspire faith in those of us who care deeply about stopping the climate crisis and saving our planet.

The synthetic pesticide dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane – commonly known as DDT – came into heavy use in the 1940s. It was used in crop and livestock production, in people's home gardens, and to combat some insect-borne illnesses. Within a couple decades, it became clear that DDT made people and animals sick. It also sent certain species, like North America's great birds of prey, spiraling toward extinction.

Then in 1962, the book *Silent Spring* by author and marine biologist Rachel Carson used science to expose the "shadow of death" cast by DDT. More than 40 years before former vice president Al Gore sounded the alarm about global warming with his film *An Inconvenient Truth*, Rachel Carson focused the world's attention on the vast harm caused by humans' indiscriminate use of chemicals to tame nature.

*The New Yorker* magazine first ran excerpts of *Silent Spring* in June of 1962. When the full book was released the following September, it only took three months to sell 100,000 hardcover copies and two years to sell more than a million. It ignited a movement. Within a decade, Congress passed the landmark National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created. In 1972, DDT was banned, and one year later, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act.



That is just the beginning of the success story.

DDT did not just kill crop-killing bugs. It clung strongly to soil and ended up in the water. It remained toxic as it was passed from animal to animal all the way up the food chain. It became heavily present in the fish, rodents, and smaller birds eaten by eagles, hawks, osprey, condors, and the other great raptors.

Then the raptors started to disappear. DDT poisoning caused the shells of the birds' eggs to become so thin they broke under the weight of birds sitting on them in the nest. Between ending the use of DDT and the efforts to protect habitats and reintroduce animal populations, America's great raptors came back from the brink.

The peregrine falcon, which has the distinction of being the world's fastest animal, was close to being completely wiped out. By 1951, the last breeding pair of peregrines was documented in Illinois. Today, they are plentiful in the state, including its biggest city Chicago, where the skyscrapers mimic the peregrines' natural habitat among high cliffs. In fact, this year marks 25 years since Chicagoans voting the peregrine falcon the official City Bird of Chicago. The Chicago Ornithological Society celebrated by declaring 2024 "The Year of the Peregrine Falcon."

Our national symbol itself, the bald eagle, was down to only 417 nesting pairs in known existence by 1963. Now, where I live in Maryland, I see at least one bald eagle almost every day.

Also in Maryland, in the same town where I am raising my kids, is the house where Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring*. The Rachel Carson House is nestled in a wooded neighborhood. It was designed by Carson along with a local builder with large picture windows perfect for letting in light and observing the area's wildlife. It is also the headquarters of the Rachel Carson Landmark Alliance.

The president of the Alliance, Dr. Diana Post, says, "Protecting wild spaces, that was Rachel's dream." That dream is in action on Carson's former property. And Dr. Post points out there are many examples of how people today continue to reach for that same dream, like the Biden administration's "America the Beautiful: 30 by 30" initiative. That initiative aims to "connect and conserve" at least 30 percent of lands and waters by the year 2030.

In addition to Carson's mark on protecting nature and public health, we must also recognize a lesson from *Silent Spring*'s impact: that, in the fight to save our planet, we can – and, I believe, we will – win. That is an important lesson for these times.

According to a study last year by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, around seven percent of Americans are experiencing psychological distress over climate change. For the younger generations – Gen Z and

...continued on page 12



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# Building a Brighter Future: Marvin Whitfield, PhD, and the Mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the heart of Toledo, where challenges meet opportunity, one organization stands as a beacon of hope and transformation. Led by visionary Marvin Whitfield, PhD, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio (BBBSNWO) is rewriting the narrative for hundreds of local youth. With a mission to ignite potential and a commitment to innovative programming, they're not just mentoring; they're shaping the future, one person at a time.

As the Chief Executive Officer, Whitfield embodies a mission of transformation and empowerment. Under his leadership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio has expanded its impact, implementing innovative programs that address the evolving and very specific needs of our community's youth.

### A Legacy of Impact

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio began in 1937 and merged independent programs in 1980. Today, the organization serves over 1,500 children annually in Lucas and Wood counties, with a vision to match every child in need with a mentor.

### Leadership in Crisis

Whitfield joined BBBSNWO in 2019 during a tumultuous period. With a background in law enforcement and youth advocacy, he stabilized the agency and rebuilt its reputation. "I agreed to an interim position with BBBS in January of 2020 for 90 days pro bono to do an assessment to see how we could rebuild their image and improve visibility to get the organization out of debt," he recalls.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic extended his tenure, leading him to donate his salary back to the organization and spearhead a comprehensive restructuring effort.

"Both the University of Toledo and the City of Toledo did a great job collecting data regarding the needs of our city's youth. Mentoring will always be an important factor of what we do at BBBS but we found adding programming to be essential for addressing the broader needs of our youth and ensuring their comprehensive development," explains Whitfield.

### Empowering Future Leaders

After analyzing the data, Whitfield and his team developed the Empowering Future Leaders, each aspect addressing critical needs within our community. This year-round program includes after-school activities, classroom curricula, and summer programs, built around four pillars:

- 1. Life Skills:** Addressing heightened exposure to crime and violence and rising youth suicide rates, particularly in communities of color.
- 2. Cultural Competence:** Encouraging youth to embrace new cultures and environments, fostering a broader worldview.
- 3. Leadership Development:** Helping children see themselves as future leaders through tailored guidance and support.
- 4. Career Development:** Providing early career exposure and mentorship to

set youth on the path to professional success.

"I was fortunate because I knew what I wanted to do at age 12. I started working in law enforcement as a teenager and retired at 39. I want to give youth access to these types of opportunities and exposure," adds Whitfield.

### A Community Effort

BBBSNWO thrives on community support. Funded by national, regional, and local sources, including the United Way of Greater Toledo and the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, the agency relies on events like their annual national Bowl for Kids' Sake to raise crucial funds. This event exemplifies the spirit of collaboration that drives BBBS. Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Gale Nelson, Thaddeus Washington and Maya May all participated in this year's spring event, highlighting our community's commitment to one another.

"It's a two-way relationship; we grow as mentors relating to the youth we serve, and in turn, they inspire us with their resilience and potential. We learn as much from them as they do from us," says Whitfield.

### Tailored Mentorship

BBBSNWO carefully matches children with mentors who align with their interests, fostering meaningful relationships. Each match costs approximately \$1,800 per year, covering activities, safety measures, and resources to ensure success for both mentors and mentees.

### Expertise and Commitment

Whitfield's extensive educational background includes a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice, a master's in Criminal Justice Administration, and an MBA specializing in Human Resource Management. His doctorate research focused on how implicit-bias training influences an individual's awareness, knowledge and skills in cultural competency. He frequently presents at local, state and

...continued on page 13



Marvin Whitfield, PhD



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*Perryman... continued from page 3*

formerly.

Yet, as traditional media figures like John Block lose some of their clout, new voices and platforms can shape public discourse. This transition reflects the changing nature of media influence in the digital age, where power is more dispersed and the public has access to a wider range of information sources.

Does it make sense for the Block brothers to sell the businesses and cash out?

Currently, The Blade has scaled back its print operations to just two issues a week and faces the risk of extinction, similar to other traditional newspapers. Meanwhile, Block Communications Inc., with its stranglehold on the cable market in Toledo, remains profitable and has been subsidizing the financial challenges of its print media division.

"I think Allan is saying with the lawsuit, Hey, you know what? Let's give up the print media, and we'll absorb the electronic media. We'll dispatch reporters to whatever stories need to be dispatched. They print the story, send it to us, and then we make sure it gets out electronically. Done!" the analyst speculated.

While financial concerns are not an issue for either brother, John Block seeks more influence and power, while Allan is focused on building a lasting legacy.

As the print medium declines, John faces losing his influence over local politics and civic leaders, potentially marginalizing him. Meanwhile, Allan Block is comfortable transitioning away from unprofitable print to focus on a digital legacy. While both brothers aim to leave a legacy, the media analyst surmised that John clings to his past influence in Toledo, which is fading, while Allan embraces digital evolution.

The building on Superior Street is projected to close eventually, and a few local reporters will cover stories remotely from their homes as technology allows for this setup.

In brief, aligning with the notion that major disputes often stem from a fundamental struggle for power, the clash over the direction of Block Communications is a vivid example. The battle reveals deep-rooted power dynamics that are characteristic not only of family-owned businesses but also reflective of broader societal and organizational conflict.

This rivalry not only affects the stakeholders within the company but also

has broader implications for employees, the local news landscape, and the communities they serve.

The good news is that the transition could also provide significant opportunities for the Black press and platforms like Black Twitter to expand their roles in local journalism. These platforms have historically thrived by filling gaps left by mainstream media, particularly in covering news and stories relevant to African American communities, often overlooked by mainstream media.

With the restructuring, then, outlets like our own Sojourner's Truth have the potential to increase their local presence, offering targeted news and continuing to engage our community in meaningful ways often overlooked by traditional powerhouses like The Blade.

In any event, Toledo will be just fine.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org)

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

mere fact and right of trying to learn their A B C's.

America was having none of it and it has taken decades and decades for any semblance of racial integration to be palatable to some white folks.

And yet a recent report indicated what many knew to be true then and now that school segregation has surged in the past 70 years, not dissipated.

A report in AXIOS indicates jarring statistics that evidence America has profoundly regressed to a society that school segregation is nearly as solidified as ever.

The AXIOS reported racial segregation across the country has dramatically increased over the last three decades with fewer and fewer students of different ethnic backgrounds being bound together in a local school.

One of the main driving forces behind this seemingly return of separate but unequal schools is residential housing segregation. If parents engage in "white flight" and go to the suburbs, they have a good chance of having their kids attend a school in which their peer group all look alike.

With the differential in wages and salaries between white and Black workers growing large and widening, that is the main factor as to what determine who lives where.

If white society can maintain a gulf of a ratio of 12:1 regarding wealth and income between the "races", it is no wonder that suburbia remains practically all vanilla and "inner cities" are chocolate.

The racial friction in this country since 1619 and onward does not lend itself to racial harmony because of the artifices used by white society to project Black people as those who do not value green lawns and having a junk car parked in the back yard.

If after 70 years, America cannot lower the draw bridge of reconciliation, fair pay and equal protection, schools and colleges will give perfunctory lip service to equality but knowing fully well that when it is time for graduation ceremonies at their kid's school, they are quite satisfied with seeing only themselves and not worrying whether their civil rights caps are in place.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)

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# The DEAI ALLiance of Northwest Ohio Hosts Connect 2024

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

On Tuesday, May 14, the DEAI Alliance of Northwest Ohio hosted its Connect 2024, a networking event for minority-owned businesses, from 6-8 p.m. at the Glass City Enrichment Center, 815 Front St. The full event offered an evening of networking for minority businesses to connect with larger corporations.

Hundreds attended the event Tuesday for a dynamic and exclusive networking opportunity. Attendees enjoyed food catered by Tastefully Two and drinks provided by Poco Piatti. This is the second 'Connect' event hosted by the DEAI ALLiance.

"The ALLiance is made up of organizations within the region and we use our influence to make connections," said Felica Clark, president of DEAI

... continued on page 11



Attendees enjoying an evening of networking at the Glass City Enrichment Center



DEAI ALLiance - (L-R) Milton McIntyre, Lenora McIntyre, Calvin Brown, Ebony Carter, Zach Morrison, Crystal Harris Darnell, Rev. Willie Perryman, Felica Clark, Rhonda Sewell



DJ Mpress



Crystal Harris Darnell, Minority Suppliers Chair and Felica Clark, Board President of DEAI Alliance of Northwest Ohio



Over 100 people attended DEAI ALLiance Connect 2024

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# MLK Academy for Boys Annual Mother Son Dance

By Sheila Cook

Special to The Truth

Dj Big Lou -The Mayor provided the music while J Mae's provided the food. It was, as usual, a beautiful affair. This started with a dream that began in our cafeteria and now we're in the MLK Gymnasium.

Our boys escort their mothers to their seats and spend time bonding with them in an environment outside of the home. The theme being "Denim and Diamonds, many came with their "A" game dressed to impress. Toward the end of the dance we always pay tribute to the mothers with "Momma" by Boys II Men. There wasn't a dry eye in the place. The words alone from that song will cause anyone to cry.

Looking forward to next year!



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# Living With Lupus Weekend – Four Events to Help Lupus Survivors

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Rachelle Roy, lupus survivor and warrior, hosted a Living with Lupus Weekend May 17-19. The four-part event kicked off with bowling Friday night at the Black-owned All Strike Bowling Alley, continued with a free wig give away at 1001 Dorr St. Saturday afternoon and karaoke night at The Trunk Club and ended with her annual Walk for Lupus at Ottawa Park Sunday morning. All proceeds from the events supported the Lupus Foundation.

Lupus is a chronic (long-term) disease that can cause inflammation and pain in any part of your body. It's an autoimmune disease, which means that your immune system — the body system that usually fights infections — attacks healthy tissue instead. (source: lupus.org)

**Anyone can develop lupus.** But certain people are at higher risk for lupus, including:

- Women ages 15 to 44

... continued on page 11



Carly Ross, Rachelle Roy and Carlos Stallworth



Supporters at 'Strike Out For Lupus'.



Two lupus warriors - Rachelle Roy and Tymeeka Gipson



Supporter Acida Miller tries on a new wig



Sheilda Lewis, who has had lupus for almost 40 years, is fitted with a new wig



Greater Toledo Community Foundation created a specific fund to support the removal of barriers to equity and access for all in our community. If you are a nonprofit organization in the Greater Toledo Region that has a program that supports this mission, you are encouraged to apply for funding by July 2nd.



For more information, contact Artisha Lawson at 419.241.5049 or visit [toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative](https://toledocf.org/equity-access-initiative)

# The Lupus Awareness Walk 2024

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The fourth annual Living with Lupus Walk was held on Sunday, May 18, 2024 at Ottawa Park. The walk focuses on raising awareness about lupus while creating a sense of community for those living with lupus. The walk was held on a bright sunny morning as community organizations, people of faith and supporters gathered to support a worthy cause.

"We want to give people with lupus an outlet where they can reach other people," began awareness campaign organizer Rachelle Roy. "New people join us at the walk or bowling each year. 160 wigs were collected and Councilwoman McPherson presented us with a proclamation."

According to the event organizer and the Lupus Foundation of America, May is Lupus Awareness Month. Also, according to the foundation, lupus is a chronic, long-term disease that causes inflammation and pain in many parts of the body. Lupus is an autoimmune disease that causes the body to attach healthy tissue instead of fighting infections.

"The Top Ladies of Distinction Toledo Chapter are here to support this cause," said Lady Dianne Johnson. "This is one of our thrusts as an organization, to support this community partnership."

"Father bless you on this day," said Pastor Jon Talbert of Church Without Walls Ministries. The church closed its doors on Sunday to support the walk. "Thank you for every individual. Thank you for the passion of our sister. Thank you for the medical break-throughs. Thank you, Lord."

In order to raise awareness, in addition to the walk, donated wigs were available for women who are losing or have lost their hair to lupus. There was also lupus information and resources available. The walk served as the conclusion of a three-day awareness campaign that began with bowling at the All Strikes Bowling Lanes on Friday night.

"I want to thank DJ Cheryl, Church without Walls Ministries, Top Ladies of Distinction Toledo Church, Friendship Baptist Church, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Councilwoman McPherson, Felissa Parker and All Strikes Bowling Lane. Even if we don't draw large crowds, I am here to impact one person at a time. We started this 13 years ago on my birthday and look where we are today. I appreciate everyone who came out today," said Roy.

For additional information about Lupus, visit the Lupus Foundation of America Greater Ohio chapter website or the Lupus Foundation of America national website <https://lupusgreaterohio.org/> or <https://www.lupus.org/>



Registration



The wig bank



Walkers



Toledo Ladies of Distinction



Church without Walls ministries

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*Kathy Gregory... continued from page 16*

tribute to Gregory, "Your unwavering dedication to academic excellence, your calm and confident demeanor, and your impeccable sense of style have all set you apart as a true role model for so many of us in the education field."

"Your leadership has helped to shape the careers of countless educators who now follow in your footsteps, and your kind and supportive nature has made you a friend, confidant, and mentor to so many," he added.

Kathy Gregory began her educational career nearly 44 years ago as a teacher at Spencer Sharples School, where she taught various grade levels. Ten years later, she assumed the role of assistant principal at Glenwood Elementary School and remained in that position for a year and a half before she was named the principal of Cherry Elementary School, which is currently known as Rosa Parks Elementary.

"I enjoyed Cherry Elementary and planned to stay until my retirement," Gregory wrote in her autobiographical sketch. "However, after 12 years there, I was asked to apply to Old West End Academy, a newly formed elementary school."

"With mixed emotions, I accepted the challenge and with a team of teachers and administrators, developed its policies and procedures," she wrote.

During her time at Old West End Academy, Kathy Gregory received the "Principal of the Year Award from JP Associates for her leadership in Direct Instruction. -- Currently, OWEA is the only school within the Scott High School feeder system that still uses Direct Instruction to teach all students in grades K-5. Gregory credits OWEA's high OST scores to using this form of teaching reading to its students. "It has made a remarkable difference in

*Living With Lupus... continued from page 9*

- Certain racial or ethnic groups — including people who are African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Pacific Islander
- People who have a family member with lupus or another autoimmune disease (source: lupus.org)

Lupus has various symptoms and can affect individuals in different ways. Those who suffer from lupus can have issues with fatigue, damage to organs including kidneys and may develop skin problems.

Lupus can also cause hair loss due to the autoimmune disease itself or due to the medications prescribed to help battle symptoms from the disease.

Saturday morning a wig give away was held at 1001 Dorr St. This was the second annual wig give away that Roy has hosted. "I have a new wig section and a used wig section," stated Roy, all the wigs in the used section have been washed... if [the wigs] aren't looking right we're not bringing them out! We're trying to make sure everyone walks out a beautiful butterfly."

Friendship Baptist Church, where Roy is a member, donated over 60 wigs. Her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. donated about 25 wigs. "As well as

*DEAI...continued from page 7*

ALLiance. "Our mission is to promote access, inclusion [and] diversity not only in the workplace but with minority businesses also."

"This event is intended to use our influence and our connections to link minority marginalized businesses to corporations who have a goal to increase their spending with minority vendors," stated Clark.

Businesses and supporters present included the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Minority Business Assistance Center, Ivy Development Agency, Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council, Lucas County, Metroparks Toledo, City of Toledo, TARTA, Key Bank, Huntington National Bank and more.

"These businesses have come to showcase the business opportunities that they have available and to start networking and collaborating with minority businesses," she said. "Relationships increase through collaboration. This is what that is meant to create."

The DEAI ALLiance of Northwest Ohio was formed in May 2022 after To-

teaching our babies to read," she said.

Gregory also received a recognition certificate and plaque from the Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club, as well as, a recognition award and plaque from Jack and Jill, Incorporated, for her leadership and service to children. Recently, she received a Legacy Award from TutorSmart, our newest tutoring program.

After four years at Old West End Academy, Gregory embarked upon another journey in her quest to serve young people. She took a position as an Instructional Planning Consultant at the Board of Education for eight years. This position taught her a lot about the Effective School Movement and the Ohio Improvement Process which is a process to improve school performance.

Gregory retired her first time from TPS in 2011, but she returned to TPS as an assistant principal at Harvard School for one year and a few long term subbing positions.

In 2015, when she received a phone call from the Superintendent of TPS, Romulus Durant, EdD, to return to OWEA, she said, "it was truly a dream come true." Nine years later, Gregory is leaving her beloved school for the final time.

Last year, under Gregory's leadership, OWEA received four stars for its 23.79 percent growth in improvement on the Ohio State Tests, which was the highest in the district. For this growth, OWEA also received a "Momentum Award 2023" from The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for achieving "significant improvement in growth and achievement on the Ohio School Report Cards for the 2022-2023 school year," the award certificate states.

various people— one day I walked out the house and had a wig on porch. There has been a lot of feedback from a lot of women," she shared. Roy received close to a hundred wigs to give away for free.

Adida Miller is a supporter who has friends and family that suffer from the disease. She came to learn more about lupus and share the information with her family. "I didn't expect to come out with a wig," she said. She tried on a new wig Saturday and loved her new look.

Sheilda Lewis was diagnosed with lupus when she was 36. "I was working two jobs, raising two kids by myself and my hair started coming out, my ankles swelled up [so much] that I couldn't wear regular shoes."

"I was in Mercy Hospital that whole January. They were trying to figure out what was going on because it mimics other stuff," she recalled. Now 74, Lewis has had many trials in her almost 40-year battle with lupus, even receiving a kidney transplant from her son. She has been doing well but now believes that lupus may be affecting her hair again. The donations, support and advocacy from the community can help continue to help fight lupus.

To learn more about Living with Lupus events contact Rachelle Roy on Facebook or email royachelle@aol.com.

ledo's first annual Diversity Employment Career Fair. The event was largely successful, but the organizers agreed that it was clear that more work was necessary to make Toledo a better, more inclusive place to work and do business.

A committee was created, and meetings were held monthly throughout the year. In 2023, the committee formally named itself the DEAI ALLiance of Northwest Ohio and held its second annual event alongside the Ohio Minority Supplier Diversity Conference. This two-day event included a Supplier Diversity Conference, a career fair, a panel discussion aimed at educating local CEOs on the importance of DEAI initiatives, and breakout sessions for regional DEAI and HR professionals.

After the second annual event, The ALLiance continued meeting, sought formal 501(c)3 status and continued efforts to plan a third annual summit. The summit was held in April 2024.

The DEAI ALLiance of Northwest Ohio is made up of DEAI professionals from the region. (source: www.deainwo.org/)

To learn more about the DEAI Alliance of Northwest Ohio visit www.deainwo.org/.

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# Is This Common Myth Preventing You From Buying a Home?

*Special to The Truth*

If you think saving for a down payment is your number one barrier to homeownership, it's important to understand how down payments work, how much is necessary and what programs can help you secure the funds you need.

To get you started, Freddie Mac is answering some frequently asked questions:

1. What is a down payment and how does it affect my mortgage? A down payment is the amount of money you pay up front when purchasing a home, and it's generally calculated as a percentage of the total home price. When you put more money down at the outset, the amount you need to borrow from your lender decreases, and so do your monthly mortgage payments. Although a larger down payment can be beneficial for this reason, it may not be in your best interest if it would leave you in a compromised financial position with no cushion.

However, a smaller down payment can help you become a homeowner faster and begin building equity sooner.

2. How large should my down payment be? A Freddie Mac survey found that nearly one-third of prospective homebuyers believe you need to make a down payment of at least 20% to buy a home. This myth remains one of the largest perceived barriers to homeownership.

The truth is that the typical down payment is between five percent and 20 percent, and some mortgage programs make it possible to put down as little as three percent. Your down payment size will depend on your financial situation, your lender and your eligibility for different types of mortgages.

Bear in mind that if you put down less than 20 percent and have a conventional loan, you'll need to budget for private mortgage insurance (PMI), an added insurance policy that protects the lender if you're unable to pay your mortgage. This monthly fee is rolled into your mortgage payment. Expect to pay approximately \$30 to \$70 per month for every \$100,000 you borrow.

The good news? Many types of loans allow you to cancel your PMI once you've built 20 percent equity in your home.

You can use Freddie Mac's down payment calculator at [myhome.freddiemac.com/resources/calculators/down-payment](http://myhome.freddiemac.com/resources/calculators/down-payment) to explore how different down payment amounts affect how much you pay each month and over the life of your loan.

3. Where can I turn for help? Struggling to save for a down payment? There are many forms of down payment assistance, including grants, mortgage credit certificates, individual development accounts, down payment assistance loans and even monetary gifts from family members. For those earning 50 percent or less than their area's median income, Freddie Mac offers a \$2,500 credit to qualified individuals to assist with down payment and other closing costs.

A housing counselor or lender can explain the ins and outs of each of these options, and help you determine which make sense for your situation. Ask your lender about DPA One, a free tool from Freddie Mac that lenders can use to help connect you with down payment assistance programs available in your area.

Saving for a down payment can sound daunting, but you may be overestimating the up-front cost. The truth is that homeownership may be a practical and affordable option for you now.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

## *Climate Despair... continued from page 4*

millennials – that number goes up to 10 percent.

Climate anxiety and despair are understandable. But while last year was the hottest year on record and severe weather events are increasing, cause of hope is all around us. Solar and wind power are now less expensive than dirty fossil fuels and getting more affordable by the day. And a new green manufacturing sector is taking root that is creating good jobs and will help the lives of working people, in addition to protecting our health and our environment. The movement launched by Silent Spring and our success in bringing back species that were all but extinct prove we are capable of great things.

So, as we celebrate what would be Rachel Carson's 117th birthday, let the fact that today our spring is not silent be a reminder that we can be our own salvation.

*Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, former President and CEO of the NAACP and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.*

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# 2024

2ND ANNUAL JUNETEENTH BY TOLEDO PRESENTS

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# Ella: A Novel by Diane Richards

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

c. 2024  
Amistad  
\$28.00  
384 pages

Beyonce does it. So does Misty Copeland, Drake, Alicia Keyes and Chaka Khan. You'd do it, too, if you thought you could sing and dance and make a living at it. Alas, not everyone can be a paid performer on a big stage, but Whitney Houston was. So was Ray Charles and Michael Jackson. Katherine Dunham did it and as you'll see in the new novel **Ella** by **Diane Richards**, so did a little girl from Yonkers.

You can do anything. That's what Ella's mother, Tempie, always said, and Ella took that to heart. She decided that she was going to make a living with her feet by dancing at the clubs in her neighborhood. Ella loved to dance, and she was good at it.

But everything changed in the winter of 1932. Times were hard and Tempie had to tell Ella that she couldn't dance at the clubs anymore. Doing laundry brought in more cash, so Ella had to help Tempie with white folks' wash.

The two clashed. They yelled and screamed at one another. Ella couldn't have regretted her words more when Tempie died and everything changed.

Dancing? No more, said Ella's stepfather, and he followed it up with punches. You need an education, said Aunt Virginia, who took Ella in when she ran away from that man. Here's where real money is, said the man in charge of numbers running, just before Ella skipped school to break the law. Get to work, snarled the supervisor at the New York State Training School for Girls, a sort of juvenile hall where Ella was sent for truancy.

Get outta here, said the bouncer at a club, after Ella escaped the School and made her way to Harlem.

One day, she'd have lunch with Marilyn Monroe. She'd perform with Duke Ellington and she'd appear on TV and in movies. But when she fi-

nally landed a spot on Amateur Night at the Apollo, she didn't dance.

No, Ella Fitzgerald opened her mouth and sang...

Based on a few years in the life of the real singer, *Ella* is great for readers who like a deep dive into historical fiction. Author Diane Richards says in her Author's Notes that she holds a long-time fascination for the singer, and it shows in Richards' detailed retelling.

Covering about 22 important months of Fitzgerald's life (with book ending set in 1948), Richards gives readers a subtle sense of the tough times that surrounded her subject. With the Great Depression as a back-drop, we get to know a determined Fitzgerald, a teenager who'd do anything to follow her dreams, but who needed to make money first – and we meet the women who launched her. It's a story you'll like, with highs and lows that will make you happy and make your heart pound.

Don't be surprised if you forget that this book is a novel; if it turns you into a fan, check out the resources near the back cover for more. For you, *Ella* is a book that'll make you sing.

**Brighter Future... continued from page 5**

national conferences and continues to publish articles on cultural competency and leadership development.

Beyond his role at BBBSNWO, Whitfield serves his community in various capacities, including as a member of the Rotary Club of Toledo, the Exchange Club of Toledo, the Toledo Opera Board of Directors, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northwest Ohio. He also holds a position as a Special Deputy with the Wood County Sheriff's Office and sits on several coalitions promoting social equality, trauma-informed care, and youth resilience.

**A Vision for the Future**

Under Whitfield's leadership, BBBSNWO continues evolving to meet the unique needs of Toledo's youth while maintaining timeless values of mentorship and support.

"The trend I've seen is generally once a child is 12 to 13, they are in an early stage of adulthood in their own minds and they don't always revere mentors as role models like children in past generations. Instead, today's youth is much more self-initiative based," he observes.

This insight drives the Empower Teacher Leaders program, blending mentorship and self-driven experiences to prepare youth for a successful future. By bringing in special guests and offering diverse experiences, BBBSNWO ensures every child has the opportunity to thrive.

As Whitfield and his team continue their vital work, the future of northwest Ohio's youth looks brighter than ever. Their unwavering dedication and innovative approaches to mentorship and youth development are shaping a generation of confident, resilient leaders who will undoubtedly make a positive impact on our communities and beyond. Marvin Whitfield and the entire team at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio are diligently using their efforts to build a brighter future for this area's youth.

Follow [bbbswo.org](http://bbbswo.org) for more info & volunteer opportunities



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR REMEDIAL PLANNING, ENGINEERING, PERMITTING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT AT TWO LOWER MAUMEE RIVER SITES WITHIN THE MAUMEE AREA OF CONCERN (AOC)

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority in partnership with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The City of Toledo, and the US Army Core of Engineers is requesting qualification statements from professional full-service consulting engineer firms to provide planning, engineering, permitting, design services and construction management in connection with the subject project that includes two lower Maumee River sites within the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC).

- Site 1: Sway Bridge
- Site 2: Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP)

The required format for the proposal to be submitted to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is described in detail in the full copy of the Request for Qualifications, and is available by either (1) emailing Tina Perkins at [Tperkins@Toledoport.org](mailto:Tperkins@Toledoport.org) or (2) visiting the Port Authority's website at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notices>. Proposals are due no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time), Monday, June 3, 2024.

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

## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS AFFORDABLE HOUSING MASTER WAITING LIST

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## TOLEDO LEGAL AID SOCIETY

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## SCOTT HS CLASS OF '69 REUNION

Calling all SCOTT HIGH CLASS OF "69" CLASSMATES. We are currently updating all addresses and phone #'s for our 55th reunion. Please contact Evelyn Wilson at 419-490-6851 or Tommy Johnson at 419-704-1835 for details. See you all soon. The Class of "69" Reunion Committee

## Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

1130-23-302 REBID  
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Alt. 4 – Accent Strip Lighting .....	\$35,000.00
Alt. 5 – Synth. Slate Roof. Mat. ....	\$45,000.00

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

**More Info:** DGL Consulting Engineers, Inc., Joshua J. O'Neil, 419-535-1015, [JONeil@dgl-ltd.com](mailto:JONeil@dgl-ltd.com)

## INVITATION FOR BIDS RICHMAR MANOR SITE RENOVATIONS IFB24-B008

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Richmar Manor Site Renovations in accordance with IFB24-B008**. Received in accordance with law until **May 27, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://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.



## LAWNCARE SERVICES 2024 FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals from qualified, licensed, and bonded entities to provide professional lawn care services for their properties; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Contractors will submit proposals to enter into a one-year contractual agreement with P2 with an option made by P2 to extend the contract for two subsequent, one-year agreements.

Please submit a request for the proposal packet via [p2financeportal@preferred-properties.org](mailto:p2financeportal@preferred-properties.org).

# Albert Earl and the FDCA Present "The Culture They Hate"

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The Frederick Douglass Community Association hosted a presentation "The Culture They Hate," Wednesday, May 15 at the Doug. The event, presented by Albert Earl, board chair of the FDCA, highlighted the origins and dissemination of negative Black stereotypes in popular culture.

"A lot of young people believe in a lot of things that we call a part of "our" culture— some of that stuff wasn't invented by us... a lot of time we participate in things that speak to our demise," Earl noted.

"So, I wanted to give them the history on it... We didn't invent the strip culture and violent culture; this was a carefully orchestrated plan, and we need to be mindful of it."

"The Culture They Hate" is an interactive presentation that explores the history of how propaganda was weaponized and used to justify the treatment and dehumanization of certain groups and how these same tools are being used today to influence violence, hypersexuality, and drug addictive behavior. It also reveals the negative impact on how groups are viewed, policed, educated and what we must do immediately to have any impact on progressive change.

Youth from the Fredrick Douglass Community Association's programs, adults, and members from the NAACP were present for the engaging presentation that covered topics from Jim Crow to urban renewal, the drug war, the prison industrial complex and more.

The conclusion presented included:

1. Protect our children from the influences;
2. Take education back;
3. Commit to collective work;
4. Stop allowing other groups to infiltrate and hijack our movements;
5. Don't assist in your own oppression.

"We've got to take education back for our children. What we know that they're not teaching them— we need to teach them," stated Earl.

Earl, has been giving a similar talk for over 20 years. "Somethings have changed and somethings are progressively getting worse," he stated.

"It's because we're not doing things like this enough. That's what inspired having these conversations. We have to steady be in our kids' faces because the devil is not taking a day off."

"[The aim is that ] our kids learn, the community embraces some of the con-

versations and we begin to do some more collective work together," said Earl.

The previous week, Maurice Morris, held a 'Home Safe' presentation at The Doug teaching how to interact with the police to make sure you get home safe. His talk was the first talk of the series that will be held at the Doug.

Future speakers and presentations will be announced in an ongoing series at the Frederick Douglass Community Association located at 1001 Indiana Ave. Visit [thedoug419.org](http://thedoug419.org) or Facebook for more information.

'The Culture They Hate' presentation can be viewed on the Frederick Douglass Community Association's Facebook livestream.



Board President of the FDCA, Albert Earl, presents 'The Culture They Hate'



Earl speaks to youth and adults about negative propaganda and imagery about Blacks in popular culture



The Doug will be hosting an ongoing series of presentations for the community



Youth from the FDCA and adults listen to the presentation

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# Kathy Gregory Retires After an Outstanding Career as a TPS Educator

Special to The Truth

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, an educational legend received a formal send-off for her role as the beloved principal of the Old West End Academy (OWEA), a TPS magnet school that offers K-8 Spanish and has been a leader within the district for its high achievements on the Ohio state achievement tests for many years.

On May 16, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., the OWEA family hosted a community open house for Kathy Gregory in its school cafeteria where well-wishers, such as former adult graduates, retired and current administrators, educators and employees, as well as her friends and family came to celebrate and say goodbye to this proven leader of excellence. Gregory will be relocating out of Toledo once she formally retires in June.

"She's the best principal I've ever worked under," said Donna Reamey, OWEA Spanish teacher. "I'm truly going to miss her."

The principal of Glenwood Elementary, Michael Carr, EdD, wrote in a

...continued on page 11



Kathy Gregory and family



Kathy Gregory, Donna Reamey, Hugh Smith, Elberta Smith



Gregory with her former Cherry Elementary colleagues



TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, and Kathy Gregory



Kathy Gregory and a number of admirers



Former Principal Deborah Washington shares thoughts about her long-time friend

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Tanya, UTMC primary care patient

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**LIN ROUNTREE** 7:30 pm

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"The Great Lakes Jazz Society is supported in part by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated by the City of Toledo and the Lucas County Commissioners and administered by The Arts Commission"