



Volume 83 No. 9 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* May 15, 2024



Sena Mourad Friedman and Theresa M. Gabriel at the Pathway 60th Anniversary Celebration

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Home Energy
Assistance Program



Stay Warm During The Cold Winter Months!

Heating Assistance Still Available!

The Ohio Department of Development and the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio (AOoA) want to remind Ohioans assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills.

Ohioans can visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online, download a copy of the application, or find contact information for a local Energy Assistance Provider. Senior citizens may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.



Applicants **must have** the following **documents** when applying:

- Most recent utility bills
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers)
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (*12 months for certain income types*)
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members
- Proof of disability (*if applicable*)

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after January 1st. If you need immediate assistance with your energy bills, please contact your local Energy Assistance Provider. A list of providers can be found at energyhelp.ohio.gov.

The last day to apply for the regular HEAP benefit is May 31, 2024.

A R E A O F F I C E O N A G I N G O F N O R T H W E S T E R N O H I O

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Authentic Connections: Guiding LMH's Leadership Selection

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



Understanding comes from immersion, not just observation.

- Unknown

Those who grew up in the distant past and resided in the Port Lawrence, Albertus Brown, or Brand Whitlock Homes still affectionately call them the "Asphalt Jungle." However, despite this nickname, these low to moderate-income housing projects were anything but wild, unruly or unmanaged communities.

Under LMH's administrative oversight, the Asphalt Jungle was, more accurately, a place that provided very decent housing for people needing a hand-up. LMH leadership ensured that the properties were well-maintained and that children were consistently busy by facilitating countless activities and programs at the community centers management provided, effectively deterring crime.

Referred to as "The Housing Authority" at the time, LMH also fostered resident pride by organizing beautification contests and supplying flowers and other supplies for the residents.

Consequently, the Asphalt Jungle was a place of camaraderie and genuine community among families. Parents looked after each other's children, and LMH adeptly mediated and resolved conflicts between the residents.

Perhaps more notably, both residents and management alike held great respect for one another, as leadership stemmed from individuals actively involved in the community. Management walked through projects such as the Brand Whitlock or McClinton Nunn homes, and personally knew residents by name, and their children's names. As a result, LMH leaders were familiar faces to residents.

However, a dramatic shift occurred when LMH began to overemphasize regulations, particularly after hiring a succession of leaders who were bureaucratic outsiders with no connection to the residents.

Here is a concrete example illustrating the consequences of this disconnect:

In the lobby of the new LMH building last week, Tina Butts and her client urgently sought emergency assistance with a housing voucher and information on housing programs. However, an employee met them with a cold response: "We don't have any paper forms here for you to fill out or submit, nor can we provide them. All our communications and applications are electronic."

The client expressed bewilderment because he lacked a phone or internet connection. He was matter-of-factly told, "That's just the world we live in right now. If you don't have an internet connection or a computer, I guess it's hard to get our stuff."

While it's true that we live in an electronic society where it's easier to process clients if they're in the system, imagine how much better it would be if there was a sense of community. Then, an LMH employee could say, "Let me walk you over there or go see that person in the community resource room.

There are two computers right there, and somebody will sit down and help you go through it," instead of very bluntly stating, "Well, sorry, that's just the way of the world, you have to go figure it out on your own."

In essence, LMH's current approach has devolved to perpetuate a cycle of exclusion and marginalization. This not only contradicts LMH's mission of providing affordable housing and support services but also undermines the trust and confidence of the community it purportedly serves.

However, if LMH is to truly serve the community's needs, it must prioritize connection to the client and respect for them rather than focus on the bureaucracy. Otherwise, the people will be left behind by a large but impotent federal agency that's supposed to help low to moderate-income individuals rise.

Thus, only by bridging the gap between bureaucracy and authentic connection - actively engaging with residents to understand and address their needs - can LMH fulfill its mandate to uplift and empower the community it serves.

Enter Rachel Gagnon, who serves as LMH's interim executive director following the short tenure and departure of Joaquin Cintron Vega, who recently left to lead the Denver Housing Authority.

As someone who has risen through the ranks, from the Sunshine Communities and the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board to LMH, Gagnon embodies a deep understanding of the issues facing impoverished communities.

Her direct life experiences, including her tenure in the United States Peace Corps in Morocco, North Africa, have shaped her perspective and instilled a profound empathy for those in need.

Unlike many past LMH executive directors, who may bring bureaucratic prowess but lack a nuanced understanding of local dynamics, Gagnon is deeply connected to Toledo's people and challenges. Her grassroots approach to leadership prioritizes building relationships and fostering trust within the community—a stark contrast to the detached and bureaucratic mindset that

... continued on page 6



Rachel Gagnon

Community Calendar

May 17

A Taste of Toledo: Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church; 7 pm; The Toledo Inter-faith Mass Choir, The Fellowship Community Choir, The Brian Thomas Chorus, The Mime Ministry, The Renewed Sons; 419-350-2124 or 419-350-9289

May 18

St. Paul MBC Health and Wellness Event: 9 am to noon; Information available on many illnesses that are hard to detect: 419-246-2886

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 31

Application Deadline for UToledo Math Corps: A free four weeks summer camp for students – middle and high school – from underserved Toledo area communities: 419-530-2996, 419-530-2568, 567-343-3883



Honoring
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Everybody can be great...because anyone can serve." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

State Bank GIVES

State Bank GIVES (Gathering Individuals to Volunteer, Empower and Serve) is a Volunteer program created to provide local nonprofit organizations access to State Bank employees who volunteer their time to make a difference in the lives of the people and communities where we live, work, and play.

Request volunteers at YourStateBank.com/GIVES



Subject to credit approval.



1900 Monroe Street, Suite 108
Toledo, OH 43604

Palestinian Children Are Suffering Disproportionately. Why Not Talk About it?

By Khadijah Cunningham

Guest Column

In the last three months, I have heard so many stories of Palestinian children being killed either by bombardment or by gunshot and it feels eerily familiar. As a Black person living in America, we see how Black children are treated.

While white children get the talk about the birds and the bees, Black children get the talk about how the world around us treats and looks at black people. On numerous occasions, I have had this talk with my parents about how when I go into a predominantly white institution not to act up to not give these white folks a reason to do something. Why is that?

It's because it could be the end of our lives. I'm 22 years old and I have seen multiple instances of Black children being gunned down by the police for simply being children. I learned of the Emmett Till story when I was like eight years old and how he was killed because of a lie. I remember being a little kid and hearing of the story of George Stinney who was 14 when he was executed for a rape and murder that he did not commit.

I am seeing so many instances like this when it comes to Palestinian children. I have seen Palestinian children be gunned down for throwing rocks

at Israeli tanks. I have seen children get arrested and come out tortured and traumatized. I have seen so many dead children that came from rubble and yet I don't see any sympathy for them? This is because of the adultification of children of color.

Children of color are not given grace to be children. This is another tactic of dehumanization suggesting that a black child or a Palestinian child is a grown adult capable of being a threat. Meanwhile, an actual grown white adult can go into public places shoot it up and have the excuse of "well he's a young man." We know that the 10,000+ children that have died in this 'war' most likely had nothing to do with Hamas.

These children are innocent yet the news media treat them as adults stripping them of their innocence, childhood, and humanity more than they already have. We've seen so much sympathy for innocents in the Ukraine but none for Palestinians because they are not white. This adultification of Palestinian children and dehumanization of Palestinians as a whole needs to stop and should be a reason to vote yes on the ceasefire resolution.

Hicks-Hudson Announces Town Hall Series

Last week, state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) announced a series of town halls in Ohio's 11th Senate District to connect with constituents, hear their concerns, and discuss state-house updates. Town halls will be held from Monday, May 13 to Tuesday, July 2.

"These meetings will be a great opportunity to share information with District 11 neighbors so they can learn about the state legislature and for me to hear from them," said Hicks-Hudson.

A full schedule of the town halls can be found here:

Sylvania



Monday, May 13 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sylvania Library

Community Room A & B
7649 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH
Waterville

Tuesday, May 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Waterville Library Community Room A

800 Michigan Avenue, Waterville, OH
Point Place

Tuesday, May 28 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Point Place Library Community Room
2727 117th Street, Toledo, OH

Oregon

Monday, June 17 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Oregon Library

3340 Dustin Road, Oregon, OH
Washington

Monday, June 3 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Washington Branch Library
Community Room A & B
5560 Harvest Lane, Toledo, OH

Holland

Tuesday, June 18 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Holland Branch Library
Community Room A & B
1032 S. McCord Road, Holland, OH

Maumee

Tuesday, July 2 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Maumee Branch Library Auditorium

501 River Road, Maumee, OH

If you'd like to share your thoughts on topics of discussion, please take the survey at this link. (<https://forms.gle/2Vf4q5U2vbMHPvZ7>)



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Black Americans in Washington DC and Toledo at Opposite Ends of Financial Spectrum

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

LendingTree researchers did an in-depth study of where and how Black Americans fare economically in the 100 largest metropolitan areas. The good news for Washington, DC area residents is that Black families are faring relatively well. Black families in the nation's capital area see the greatest economic prosperity and top the list of the 100 cities.

The bad news for Toledoans is that Black families here fare the worst economically – dead last.

LendingTree examined the Black households in the 100 largest metro areas and analyzed U.S. Census Bureau 2021 American Community Survey data with five-year estimates and used five financial metrics to determine where Black Americans are thriving the most and least. Those five metrics were: median household income; the percentage of African American households with more than \$100,000 income; the percentage of Black individuals, 25 years and older, with college degrees; the homeownership rate and the unemployment rates among those 16 years and older.

Black families in the Washington area were found to be in the top three of five metrics – education, median income and percentage of households earning more than \$100,000.

The median household income in the D.C. area is \$85,045 – 18.9 percent higher than the national median household income of \$69,021. In addition, 40.5 percent of the Black households earn more than \$100,000 and 37.2 percent of Black adults 25 and older have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. As one would expect, given those numbers, the D.C. area Black residents also have a top-10 ranking in homeownership – 51.3 percent of D.C. area black families own their homes.

Significantly, the nation's capital has one of the largest Black populations in the United States at 28 percent and one of the highest percentages of Black-owned business at seven percent.

On the other hand, there is nothing but bad news about Toledo in the LendingTree research.

Black households in the Toledo metro area rank near the bottom in four of the five economic metrics. Black Toledoans are last in household income at \$31,106 annually; third worst in education with only 14.8 percent of individuals 25 years and older possessing a bachelor's degree or better; third worst in percentage of households earning \$100,000 at 8.6 percent and the fourth worst unemployment rate in the nation at 13.6 percent.

The other cities in the bottom three are Syracuse, New York and Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Ohio Black residents in general did not fare well as Cleveland and Akron are both in the bottom 10 of Black households' economic prosperity. In fact, the overall rankings for Ohio cities were: Columbus Black residents' economic prosperity was ranked 63rd out of 100 metro areas; Cincinnati at 77th; Dayton at 85th; Akron at 93rd ; Cleveland at 97th and Toledo at 100th.

At the top of the list, following Washington, D.C. were Black residents in Austin, TX in second place and those in Provo, UT in third place.

In the various five categories, San Jose and Oxnard, CA, stand out with the highest median incomes for Black households at \$85,979 and \$83,873 respec-

tively, compared to the overall national median of \$69,021.

The top five homeownership rates are all Southern cities – Palm Bay, FL; Charleston, SC; Baton Rouge, LA; Jackson, MS and Augusta, GA. The homeownership rates for Black families in those areas ranges from 62.4 to 52.8 percent.

The cities with the lowest unemployment rates are Provo, UT, Ogden, UT, Deltona, FL; Madison, WI and Palm Bay, FL.

Notably the most distressed economically-distressed cities for Black Americans form a cluster in mainly the upper Midwest from Milwaukee to the western counties of Pennsylvania and New York state. The most prosperous cities are on the coasts and in Sunbelt areas such as Texas.

However, the picture is nowhere rosy. Even in the cities where Black Americans fare relatively well, the LendingTree study notes that Black citizens there encounter the same issues as in less well-off cities.

The reasons for that overall lack of prosperity are part of the American historical practices and policies. Recent studies have found that the average household wealth of White families is eight to 10 times more than that of Black Americans.

Black families, in particular, experience lower homeownership rates; less generational wealth and lower educational achievement than their white counterparts.

Homeownership is a primary path to accumulating generational wealth but Black Americans have been historically stymied from buying property due, in large part, to restrictions placed on banks and real estate developers by the federal government. Such practices began in earnest in 1934 by the Federal Housing Administration. The FHA, well into the 1960s, discouraged the banks from lending to prospective Black families.

Such long-term practices limited homeownership and generational wealth among Black families and less wealth meant that for years Black Americans were less able to be in positions to access quality education, even after the Supreme Court opened up equality in public education for all Americans in 1954.

Even recent years have not brought about any significant closing of the prosperity gap. A previous study by LendingTree in 2020 found that after the Great Recession of 2008-09, the American economy saw a period of recovery and growth. Black Americans, however, while buoyed by that post-recession growth, captured a much smaller share of economic gains between 2013 and 2018 than did Americans in general.

"Add it all up, along with myriad other factors, and it becomes clear that Black Americans face a far windier, rockier and more uncertain path toward prosperity than many other Americans," said LendingTree chief credit analyst Matt Schulz.

Ed. Note: This article was originally published in The Truth in a September 2023 issue

Bottom 5: Median household income

Rank	Metro	Median household income among Black residents
1	Toledo, OH	\$31,106
2	Scranton, PA	\$33,342
3	Milwaukee, WI	\$33,720
4	Syracuse, NY	\$34,120
5	Cleveland, OH	\$34,238

Source: LendingTree analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.

Women Business Owners Lead with Passion and Optimism for Success

Special to The Truth

Passion, collaboration and community are keys to running a successful business. That's according to a recent survey of women business leaders as part of PNC's bi-annual Economic Outlook Survey.

Passion and personal satisfaction for their business or industry is a top factor women business leaders cited for starting and staying in business, with 43% of respondents choosing that over financial success (35%) – the next most common factor. This passion was one key differentiator between women and men business leaders, with only 28% of men reporting personal satisfaction as a primary driver of staying in business.

"For many women business owners, starting and running a business is born out of a personal interest or an opportunity to make a difference in the community," said Shana Peterson-Sheptak, head of Business Banking at PNC. "That's not at the expense of profitability, but it shows the power of being passionate or satisfied with what you do."

Positive Outlook

Respondents noted more than just passion for their businesses, though; they also reported optimism about the next six months, both for the economy and the success of their ventures. Women leaders were more likely than men to expect increases in demand (51% to 49%), sales (51% to 49%), prices of their goods and services (49% to 40%), and profits (52% to 43%) in the coming months. They also were more likely to expect their own compensation and retirement savings to increase – a significant change since PNC's Fall 2022 survey when women leaders were less likely than men to expect increases in those two metrics.

While both women and men leaders were highly optimistic about their near-term prospects for their business, women were significantly more likely to express confidence in the national and local economies than men, 64% to 51% and 72% to 60% respectively. Of those who expressed greater optimism for their business prospects than the national economy as a whole, nearly 80% of women leaders attributed their optimism to confidence in their own abilities.

"Better than expected economic performance in the first part of 2024 is creating optimism for many business leaders as a whole," Peterson-Sheptak said. "But women are especially confident that both their businesses will be successful in the coming months and their abilities as leaders will

help make them so."

Providing Support

There are significant differences between men and women in terms of what they feel they need to succeed and how they prefer to receive support, according to the latest survey results. While peers in the field are the most popular form of support for both women and men business leaders (64% to 69%, respectively), women indicate they are more likely to consider support from community, friends and family vital to their business success than men (62% to 41%).

That support extends to banking relationships. PNC survey feedback has shown that women financial decision makers seek out relationships that extend beyond banking products and services to include financial education and community connections.

PNC cultivates relationships with women financial decision makers in many ways, including through the local cross line of business market teams led by PNC's more than 50 regional presidents coast to coast. Central to this year-round engagement is the company's network of more than 5,000 PNC-certified Women's Business Advocates who share a passion for helping women financial decision makers achieve their financial goals.

To learn more about PNC and how it supports women financial decision makers, visit www.pnc.com/women.

"Women entrepreneurs are leading with passion for their business, confidence, and optimism for the future," Peterson-Sheptak said. "We need to make sure we have the resources and people to support their success."

Courtesy StatePoint



Terrie Cook of Simply D'Vine



LIVING WITH LUPUS WALK WEEKEND

NEW WIG DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED AT ALL EVENTS

MAY 17

STRIKE OUT FOR LUPUS
ALL STRIKES LAMES (5133 TELEGRAPH RD)
7PM-11PM ADMIN: \$15

MAY 18

WIG GIVEAWAY
FREE to Lupus Warriors with hair loss
1010 Dorr Street
1PM-4PM

MAY 18

KARAOKE NIGHT WITH DJ CHERYL
THE THINK (3353 FRANKLIN AVE)
\$5 ENTRY
7PM-11PM
A NEW WIG DONATION GETS YOU A MEAL TICKET TO FOOD TRUCK

MAY 19

WALK FOR LUPUS
OTTAWA PARK
9-11AM
\$5 REGISTRATION
NEW/USED WIGS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN OUT DURING THE WALK

PROCEEDS GO TO LUPUS FOUNDATION OF GREATER OHIO

Perryman... continued from page 3

often plagues social service agencies.

Moreover, Rachel Gagnon's vision for LMH extends beyond addressing immediate challenges; it encompasses a broader agenda of community empowerment and systemic reform. Her recent advocacy for establishing a client resource center within LMH's premises reflects a proactive approach to bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to services. By investing in resources and support systems for clients, she aims to empower individuals to navigate the complexities of social services and break the cycle of poverty.

The path forward for Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) 's quest for a new leader must center on authenticity, community connectivity, and resident empowerment.

Therefore, it is imperative to prioritize candidates who are deeply rooted in the realities of our community, understand and address residents' needs, and foster trust and collaboration among all stakeholders as LMH navigates the pivotal decision of selecting its next leader.

It's time to embrace a leader like Rachel Gagnon, who understands the community and champions its rights and aspirations.

Her grassroots perspective, empathy, and commitment to systemic change make her the ideal candidate to restore the organization's approach while leading LMH into a new era of responsiveness and empowerment.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Local Fraternity's Successful Bowl-A-Thon Event Raises Funds for School

Special to The Truth

On March 25, the Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated hosted its Second Annual "Strike Out With The Ques" Bowl-A-Thon event, with a portion of the proceeds going to uplift Rosa Parks Elementary School. The event, held at Timbers Bowling Lanes, was attended by over 100 participants who bowled and raised funds for the cause.

Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grade levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity. The funds donated from the Bowl-A-Thon event will go directly to supporting Rosa Parks' ongoing programs and initiatives to meet this mission.

"We are thrilled with the success of our Bowl-A-Thon event," said Chris

... continued on page 11



Homeownership.

Make it Part of Your Future.



The Ohio Housing Finance Agency provides down payment and closing costs assistance for eligible homebuyers as well as affordable loan options.

Find out if you qualify at myohiohome.org.



Lupus Survivors Honored for Raising Awareness

The Truth Staff

Roy Rachelle, a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier, discovered she had lupus, discoid lupus, well into adulthood. The lupus scarred her face, causing her to continually have visits with a dermatologist, a rheumatologist and a family doctor to control her symptoms.

At the time she thought her postal service career was finished since her form of lupus meant she should avoid the sunlight.

"But then I found out that God gave me a voice ... he gave me a voice for the disease," she said last week when Toledo City Council honored her for using that voice over the past few years to bring awareness of the disease and raise funds for research here in the Toledo area.

Four years ago, Roy organized the first Living With Lupus Walk, a walk that has grown into a weekend of activities to benefit those with the disease that disproportionately affects Black woman.

Councilwoman Cerssandra McPherson's house lies along Roy's mail route and the councilwoman was thus incentivized to press her colleagues to honor Roy for her work.

This year's Walk weekend includes: a bowling night at All Strikes Lane on Friday night from 7 to 11 p.m.; a wig giveaway on Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. at 1010 Dorr Street; a karaoke event at The Trunk on Saturday night from 7 to 11 p.m.; the Walk at Ottawa Park on Sunday morning starting at 9 a.m.



Lupus activists honored by Toledo City Council - photo courtesy Amy Voigt

Rachelle Roy opens the Lupus Awareness Walk in May, 2023

TIRED OF DRIVING THE KIDS AROUND?

THIS SUMMER:
AGES 6-19 RIDE TARTA FOR FREE WITH A PASS

The Youth Summer Blast Pass (YSBP) is intended to help passholders, ages 6-19, find independence while learning more about how to use public transit.

From June 1st - August 31st, the YSBP provides unlimited rides on all TARTA services:

- Fixed Route
- TARTA Flex
- TARTA Paratransit

Get started today at TARTA.com/blast.

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FIFTY YEARS OF FUNDING FUTURES.

Greater Toledo Community Foundation

MLK Kitchen for the Poor's 55th Anniversary Celebration

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Kitchen for The Poor held a Spring Gala event on May 4, 2024, at The Pinnacle in Maumee. The MLK Kitchen for The Poor was founded and established by Reverend H.V. and Martha Savage and continues today under the leadership of Harvey Savage, Jr. The mission is: We offer hope and acceptance to those in need, keeping in mind the dignity of all persons.

The event was for the celebration of their 55 years of supporting the Toledo community. MLK Kitchen For The Poor has been feeding hungry people in the inner city with love, compassion and respect since 1969.

The beginning of the fun time event was hosted by Alexis Means of abc13. A singer and the music filled the dining room. The following activities and events were a great time, for all participants and attendees present for the celebration time for MLK Kitchen for The Poor.

A very informational and supportive "welcome" discussion was the first step of the evening activities. The next steps provided a clear understanding of the benefits of MLK Kitchen for The Poor and a clear understanding of the potential of the attendees to offer support to the organization.

The evening's Meet and Greet was followed by an acknowledgement of the dignitaries present and the opening prayer, after which dinner was served. Specific details and acknowledgement of the positive impact of MLK Kitchen for The Poor was provided for all attendees to understand the activities and the contribution to the community.

In addition to information about the history of the organization, a 5-year plan was also unveiled. A silent auction, dancing and socializing provided attendees an opportunity to enjoy themselves during the anniversary celebration.

Attendees earned that during the year of 2023, MLK Kitchen for The Poor served 30,078 meals and also provided 3,026 food boxes to those in need.

"In 1969, a man was eating out of the garbage can in the back of our house, and that's when



John Chapman, Harvey Savage, Jr, David Fleetwood



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Harvey Savage, Jr.



Paul J Gibbs, Jeff Lydy, Fred LeFebvre, Lorinda McCaleb, Earl Mack



the city would come down the alley to get the garbage," said John Savage, board member. "It disturbed my father, to see someone eating out of the garbage can. He didn't know Toledo had a hunger problem. But that was God's vision, so God gave him the vision from that moment, to start the kitchen... MLK Center! Martin Luther King Center became a huge community blessing!"

State Representative Elgin Rogers was present and active in the celebration of the MLK Kitchen For The Poor and made the following statement: "When you feed people, you know it's love. Celebration for the Kitchen's 55th anniversary, Indeed this is impressive and outstanding for Ohio. We are here to celebrate, but we are here to donate! I'm grateful for what they do for the neighborhoods. God Bless You All!"

The following information and details of the MLK Kitchen for The Poor community pillars was provided to all in at-

...continued on page 12

The Great Lakes Jazz Society presents...

JAZZ on the Terrace

CHRIS STANDRING 9 pm

LIN ROUNTREE 7:30 pm

LATIN JAZZ PLAYERS 6 pm

~ Doors open at 5:00pm ~

SATURDAY JUNE 8 • 6PM

CENTENNIAL TERRACE

5773 Centennial Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560

centennialterrace.org



General Admission (bring lawn chair)
Advanced - \$20 | Day of - \$30

Individual Reserved Seating - \$35
Reserved Table (\$350 - table for 8) • (\$175 - table for 4)
Every reserved seat includes one drink ticket

"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"

First Annual Feed the Veterans Barbecue!

SPONSORED BY GOLD STAR

VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES

VETERANS BBQ

3 E. BANCROFT ST.
TOLEDO, OHIO
MAY 25 | STARTS 1PM

COME JOIN US AS WE BRING THE HOLIDAY IN WITH A SPECIAL BARBECUE DEDICATED TO FEEDING OUR VETERANS! AT GOLD STAR VETERANS LIFE ENRICHMENT SERVICES, WE'RE PROUD TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY.

Everybody is welcome to join us for this meaningful event.
Let's come together as a community to show our appreciation and support for our veterans.

DONATIONS WELCOME

Mom's House and The Pregnancy Center Announce Partnership to Nurture Change

A combined press conference and groundbreaking ceremony unveils plans for a second Mom's House location and new collaborative space.

Special to The Truth

Last week, Mom's House and The Pregnancy Center hosted a combined press conference and groundbreaking ceremony to announce a new partnership aimed at fostering positive change within the Toledo community. The organizations unveiled their plans for a second Mom's House location and a collaborative new space.

Mom's House has been a steadfast supporter of single parents for three decades, offering essential services such as free early childhood education, academic support, and life skills training. Similarly, The Pregnancy Center has been a beacon of hope for Toledo for 40 years, providing crucial educational support to women and families during the most pivotal moments of their pregnancy and parenting journey.

In 2024, these two esteemed organizations are collaborating to create an even greater impact by breaking down barriers for young families. Today, they proudly unveil the launch of their capital campaign, "Rattle the Stars," which aims to establish a second Mom's House location and expand The Pregnancy Center's reach through a collaborative new space. This expansion will enable them to extend their services to more families in need throughout the Toledo area.

During the press conference, Mom's House and The Pregnancy Center announced two major donations to their campaign. The first was an anchor gift of \$1 million from Bob Moore, presented to the organizations on September 14, 2022, in honor of Bob's late wife, Laurie. She and Bob adopted three children, were guardians for two others, and fostered many more.

"Like Mom's House and The Pregnancy Center, Laurie had a burning passion for raising, caring for, and giving children a better life. And because of that, we couldn't think of a better name for this project than Laurie's Place," said Savannah Marten, executive director of The Pregnancy Center.

Mom's House and The Pregnancy Center set a goal of reaching 65% of their fundraising goal (\$12.1 million) by March 31, 2024. They were just shy of achieving that goal when Janet Olczak Lanterman presented a transformative gift of \$5 million in honor of her late husband, Kirk. The playground at the new location will be named in his remembrance.

"This incredible contribution will catapult us to dream bigger and enable



Christina Rodriguez and a young admirer



us to make a more significant impact on families in Toledo," said Christina Rodriguez, executive director of Mom's House. "Janet, you stepped forward when it mattered. Your generosity is not just a gift to us but a beacon of hope for the entire community. Your legacy will resonate through the lives of countless families right here in our community."

The crowning achievement of this collaboration is the creation of the "TOGETHER space," a revolutionary concept that will offer a hub for various community agencies to bring their services under one roof, effectively eliminating barriers and streamlining access to support for Toledo's families.

Rodriguez expressed her excitement about the partnership, stating, "We are thrilled to collaborate with The Pregnancy Center to expand our reach and impact in the Toledo community. Together, we will be able to provide even more comprehensive support to single parents and families, empowering them to build brighter futures for themselves and their children."

Marten echoed Rodriguez's sentiments, adding, "This partnership represents a new chapter in our commitment to serving Toledo's families. By combining our resources and expertise, we can better address the needs of expectant mothers and families, ensuring that they have the support and resources necessary to thrive."

Many attended the press conference and groundbreaking ceremony, including government and local officials, community leaders, and donors. They came together to show their unwavering support for the partnership between Mom's House and The Pregnancy Center, underscoring the significance of the collaboration and its potential to make a lasting impact on the lives of Toledo's families.

For more information about the "Rattle the Stars" campaign, please visit rattlethestarstoledo.org.

Bowl-A-Thon...continued from page 7

McClendon who served as Chair of the event. "We could not have achieved this without the support of our generous sponsors and participants who contributed to the event's success. The funds raised will make a meaningful impact on Rosa Parks' efforts to serve our community."

The Bowl-A-Thon event was made possible through the support of numerous sponsors, including Toledo Urban FCU, A Better Life 2 Embrace, Melanie Johnson with Key Realty, University of Toledo Division of Student Affairs, Premier Bank, Center of Hope Family Services, ARK Restoration and Construction, SSOE, DJ Chris Hollywood, The ONYX Café, The Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Hobbs For Council D1, Milton Carswell, Jr. Golf, The Toledo Chapter of The Girlfriends, Inc, Janice Carson-Hearn, and The Greeno Family.

The Bowl-A-Thon event not only raised funds for a worthy cause, but it was also an opportunity for members of the community to come together and have fun while supporting a good cause. Participants enjoyed an afternoon of glow bowling, food, music, and prizes, all while knowing that their con-

tributions were making a difference in the community.

The Xi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated would like to thank everyone who participated, sponsored, or supported the event in any way. The success of the Bowl-A-Thon event is a testament to the power of community and the generosity of individuals who want to make a difference.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a historically black college.

On the evening of November 17, 1911, Omega Psi Phi was founded inside the Science Building (later renamed Thirkield Hall) at Howard University located in Washington, D.C. The founders were three undergraduates — Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman. Joining them was their faculty adviser, Ernest Everett Just.

From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, "friendship is essential to the soul", the name Omega Psi Phi was derived. That phrase was selected as the motto.

Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift were adopted as Cardinal Principles.

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Auditor Katie Moline To Appear On November Ballot

Special to The Truth

This week, Lucas County Auditor Katie Moline was confirmed as the Democratic Candidate on the November Ballot by the Lucas County Democratic Party Central Committee. Moline was appointed as Lucas County Auditor on January 30th of this year. "I'm honored to receive this vote of confidence from the Party. Since January, I have hit the ground running as Auditor. Ultimately, this decision will be left to the voters of Lucas County, and I'm excited to be on the ballot so they can make their voices heard," said Moline.

While on Toledo City Council, Auditor Moline was an advocate for fiscal responsibility and accountability. Moline created an accountability system to ensure ARPA funds were spent wisely and produced results. Moline sponsored legislation to formally recognize the Toledo Film Commission by the State of Ohio Film Commission, leading to more creative jobs right here in Toledo.

As Auditor, Moline has already created an online rental property database to easily locate rental property information that landlords, renters, and public safety officers can use in the event of an emergency.

Before serving in public office, Moline used her CPA to audit corporate,

nonprofit, and government budgets, making sure funds are spent responsibly. "I'm ready to blend my experience in the private sector and as a public servant to work for the residents, consumers, and business owners of Lucas County. It's not simply managing budgets and watching accounts. The Auditor is trusted to be a watchdog for economic fairness. From protecting your purchases at the pump and grocery store to assessing the fair value of your home, County Auditors impact so much of our lives," said Moline.



Lucas County Auditor Katie Moline

Lucas County Voters will have the opportunity to vote to retain Auditor Katie Moline on the November 5, 2024 general election.

Do Not Sic Those Dogs ...

By June Boyd

Guest Commentary

The recent controversy relative to police dogs being sent to attack African American men must stop.

History tells us that dogs were used to catch and attack run-away slaves. Many of us remember Bull Connor, the white supremacist who used dogs to attack Blacks during the civil rights movement. The tone of that era has cast a shadow over the police departments that are using dogs in fight-

ing crime.

My concern is that I have yet to see a Caucasian male attacked by a police dog. Someone please tell me if I am wrong.

Personally, I believe police dogs should be used for sniffing for drugs in a search; perhaps finding a corpse or trained to find missing persons. They should not be used to attack African American men because it is too much like a scene from a dark past that is still haunting us as African American citizens.

The entire community should be outraged by the attacks because it appears the police officers involved are deliberately ordering the dogs to attack. It is a gross injustice; more so when the individual has not been convicted of a crime.



... continued on page 13

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ACES Students... continued from page 8

This year's group included, as Ellis noted, a student from war-torn Ukraine, one representing ravaged Palestine and one from Armenia which has been overwhelmed by homeless people fleeing the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh which is controlled by Armenia's traditional adversary, Azerbaijan.

Whatever troubles await them upon their return, they have had a respite for a year, experiencing quiet lives with their host families, traveling as an ACES group to places such as Chicago and Niagara Falls and, for some, other trips with their hosts.

"Thank you all, our wonderful host families, our high schools, our educators, mentors and volunteers," Ellis said to the community at large.

MLK Kitchen...continued from page 10

tendance, in written statements:

"We are Welcoming to anyone who walks through our doors. We serve over 200 people each day and always ready to lend a hand, listen and serve."

"We are Respectful and know the people we serve have dignity and pride. We honor them, and we are honored to serve them. If they want to talk, we listen."

"We are Community and proud to know that people consider us a part of their extended families. The kitchen is a family whose members watch out for one another."

"We are Necessary, and we'd like to believe a day will come when there would be no need for us. Until that day, we do what we feel called to do, and that is to feed the hungry."

The Jazzmen: How Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie Transformed America by Larry Tye

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Your toes didn't wait long before they started tapping.

They knew what was coming, almost as soon as the band was seated. They knew before the first notes were played and the hep cats and jazz babies hit the floor to cut a rug. Daddy, it was the bee's knees but in the new book *The Jazzmen* by Larry Tye, if you were the Sheik on the stage, makin' cabbage wasn't all that swank.

Louis Armstrong was born in 1900 or thereabouts in a "four-room frame house on an unpaved lane" in a section of New Orleans called "Back o' Town... the Blackest, swampiest, and most impoverished" area of the city. His mother was a "chippie" and the boy grew up running barefoot and wild, the latter of which led to trouble. At age 12, Armstrong was sent to the Colored Waif's Home for recalcitrant Black boys, and that changed his life. At the "home," he found mentors, father-figures and love, and he discovered music.

For years, Bill "Count" Basie insisted that he'd grown up with "no-drama, no-mystery, and nobody's business but his," but the truth was "sanitized." He hated school and dropped out in junior high, hoping to join the circus. Instead, he landed a job working in a "moving-picture theater" as a general worker. When the theater's piano player didn't come to work one day, Basie volunteered to sit in. He ultimately realized that "I had to get out... of Red Bank [New Jersey], and music was my ticket."

c. 2024
Mariner Books
\$32.50
395 pages

Even as a young teenager, Edward Ellington insisted that he be treated like a superstar. By then, his friends had nicknamed him "Duke," for his insistence on dressing elegantly and acting like he was royalty. And he surely was – to his mother, and to millions of swooning female fans later in his life.

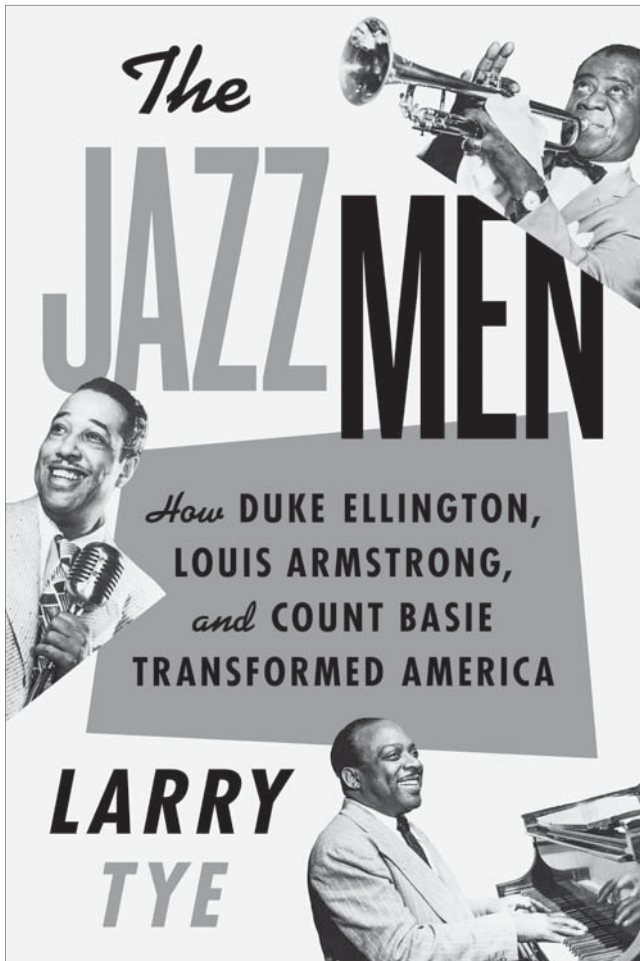
Three men, born at roughly the same time, had more in common than their basic ages. Two of them had "a mother who doted on... him." All three were perform-aholics. And for all three, "Race... fell away as America listened."

Feel up to a time-trip back a century or more? You won't even have to leave your seat, just grab *The Jazzmen* and hang on.

In his introduction, author Larry Tye explains why he so badly wanted to tell the story of these three giants of music and how Basie's, Ellington's, and Armstrong's lives intersected and diverged as all three were near-simultaneously performing for audiences world-wide. Their stories fascinated him, and his excitement runs strong in this book. Among other allures, readers used to today's star-powered gossip will enjoy learning about an almost-forgotten time when performers took the country by storm by bootstrapping without a retinue of dozens.

And as for the racism the three performers encountered? It disappeared like magic sometimes, and that's a good tale all by itself here.

This is a musician's dream book, but it's also a must-read story if you've never heard of Basie, Ellington, or Armstrong. *The Jazzmen* may send you searching your music library, so make note.



June Boyd... continued from page 12

The ugly history of slavery, the civil rights struggle, water hoses, people being beaten, attacking dogs – many times for just attempting to register to vote. The only sure way to keep from reminding us is to stop using the police dogs to attack African American men.

As a member of the race amity group through the Bahai faith, we constantly celebrate those who have made every effort to promote racial equality.

Today, we need that more than ever. We should begin to recognize the abuse from those who have racist tendencies and come together as a people and object to hate and discrimination against someone because he or she is of a different color; a different ancestry or religion or disabled; a different sex gender or sexual orientation. God loves us all.

June Boyd 419-984-0318

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR REMEDIATION 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 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

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; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS HCVP – HQS INSPECTION SERVICES RFP24-R003

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **HCVP – HQS Inspections Services in accordance with RFP24-R003**. Received in accordance with law until **May 9, 2024 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL MOVING SERVICES RFP24-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Residential & Commercial Moving Services in accordance with RFP24-R004**. Received in accordance with law until **May 17, 2024 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



PUBLIC NOTICE

HOME-ARP AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUNDS HOME-ARP SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FUNDS

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo has been allocated \$7,900,932 in HOME-ARP Funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD), pursuant to CPD Notice 21-10. The allocation of HOME-ARP Funds and prioritization of affordable rental housing development and supportive services was informed by stakeholder engagement during the development of the City of Toledo's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, approved by HUD as a Substantial Amendment to the City of Toledo 2022 Annual Action Plan.

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft HOME-ARP Affordable Rental Housing Development Funds Administrative Plan/Policies and Procedures** and its **Draft HOME-ARP Supportive Services Funds Administrative Plan/Policies and Procedures**. Both Drafts, when finalized, will provide the framework for implementation of funding priorities in the City of Toledo HUD-approved HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and framework for regulatory compliance with the HOME-ARP Program regulations.

The HOME-ARP Affordable Rental Housing Development Funds Administrative Plan/Policies and Procedures and the HOME-ARP Supportive Services Funds Administrative Plan/Policies and Procedures includes the amount of HOME-ARP funds allocated to affordable rental housing development and supportive services; information on eligible activities and applicants; descriptions of the application process and submittal requirements; and operating and compliance requirements for affordable rental housing development and supportive services.

Both **Drafts** will be available for a 30-day review period beginning **Wednesday, May 20, 2024**, on the website of the following entities:

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

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

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

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1220 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness.toledo.org

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

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

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

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

Please note that these Drafts are not Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) or funding applications. NOFAs will be issued after the 30-day comment period when both Drafts are finalized.

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning **Monday, May 20, 2024 through Wednesday, June 19, 2024**, at juenethia.fisher@toledo.oh.gov or the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
HOME-ARP AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
HOME-ARP SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FUNDS
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

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

United Missionary Baptist Church Pastoral Anniversary

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Congregation members, guests, and friends gathered to celebrate the 21st pastoral anniversary of Pastor Rev. Robert Bass and First Lady Rev. Anita Bass. The celebration was held on Sunday, May 5, 2024, the theme was, "My Living Is Not In Vain," from I Corinthians 15:58.

Church deacons opened the service with devotion and scripture reading. Rev. Barbie Harrison served as the worship leader and led the responsive reading, hymn and introduced the honorees during the processional.

"Hope you didn't come here to be a spectator," said Rev. Harrison. "Come in here and worship our God. God has been good."

The service continued with a welcome delivered by Willie Ward, musical selection by Arthur Johnson, and solo by Rev. Jenai Hicklin of New Leaf Group Ministries.

"Welcome to the family of United Missionary Baptist Church," said Ward. "Today is the pastoral anniversary, celebrating 21 years of delivering the word and transforming lives. Pastor Bass and First Lady Bass, I want to say thank you."

Special remarks were shared by Deacon John Hawkins, the chairman of the church board of deacons; Deaconess Mary Hawkins, president of Missionary Society and Trustee Julia Holt, the chairman of Board of Trustees.

"Pastor Bass has stood in truth," said Deacon Hawkins. "I know nothing about him that is negative. Pastor, continue to preach the word."

"I want to tell Pastor Bass that I love him and I want to encourage him," stated Deaconess Hawkins. "We can always depend on Pastor to preach the word. I also want to say a few words about First Lady Bass, the pastor's wife. Sometimes women in general, specifically the pastor's wives don't receive their deserved recognition."

Pastor Robert Bass introduced the speaker, Rev. Draper, DMin, of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Marion, Ohio. Draper has earned several degrees, including Wilberforce University and University of Dayton.

The United Missionary Baptist Church is a body of baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ whose mission is to witness to the unsaved, build up our community, and empower and equip our members to live holy as commanded in I Peter 1:15. This ministry seeks to reach the local Toledo, Ohio community and the world through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

United Baptist Church has served the community for decades. Rev. Paul Broadus, Rev. James Green and Rev. Rudolph McKissick, Jr., were the first three church pastors.

"I am grateful for your presence here today," began Pastor Bass. "I view this gathering as a celebration and partnership, not just for Rev. Anita Bass and I or even the Bass family, but about United Missionary Baptist Church. I say this because, this wouldn't take place without each of you."



Rev. Robert Bass, First Lady Anita Bass, Madison McCain, and Shiloh Bass



Rev. Gregory Draper



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Pathway, Inc. Celebrates 60 years of Local Impact

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Community members, friends and supporters joined the Pathway, Inc. board and staff on Thursday, May 9, to celebrate 60 years of local impact in the areas of guidance, support and assistance.

The program mistress of ceremonies, Artisha Lawson, welcomed all guests, shared agency highlights and facilitated the presentation of gratitude proclamations from across Ohio.

“Welcome everyone, Pathway, Inc., is an institute that elevates people from just living to existing with love and dignity,” began Lawson. “Pathway, Inc., formally EOPA kicks off an 18-month celebration to mark 60 years of service. EOPA’s emerged during President Johnson’s war on poverty and is committed to uplifting marginalized communities through holistic intervention strategies.”

Proclamations from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, President of the Lucas County Board of Commissioners Pete Gerkin, Judge Joe McNamara from Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Mayor of Whitehouse Richard Bingham,

Mayor of Toledo Wade Kapszukiewicz, Toledo City Council members Carrie Hartman; Brittany Jones, PhD and Cerssandra McPherson, along with a personal letter of gratitude from Councilwoman McPherson were presented to celebrate the agency’s 60 years of service and express community-wide gratitude.

The celebration then welcomed Board Chair Theresa Gabriel to give remarks.

“We are a family, there is a family in this room. We accomplished so much last year,” said Gabriel. “Last year, when we presented our first annual community meeting, we shared with you that we were about to embark on a new beginning. In 2023, we answered over 110,000 calls that’s an increase of 32 percent last year. We assisted over 28,800 individuals and families with housing and utilities, that’s an increase of two percent from last year.”

Immediately following Gabriel’s remarks and words of gratitude to the Pathway, Inc., board and staff. Current Pathway, Inc., Board Member Gerkin delivered a special presentation to recognize Gabriel. “This is to honor someone here who is doing the work,” said Gerkin. “This award and challenge coin is to acknowledge your work, tireless work in the community.”

“Our vision for the future is to increase our outreach throughout Lucas County and serve as a light, helping those who need assistance out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. With faith and hope, it is possible to further reduce the number of people living in poverty and create a more just and equitable community for all,” shared Gabriel.



William Barrow of Pathway, Inc., Claudia Rodriguez-Salazar of Pathway, Inc., and Joe Habib, Pathway, Inc. Board Member



Toledo City Council member Brittany Jones, PhD., United Way of Greater Labor Engagement Michael Alexander



Councilman John Hobbs III and Rev. C. Jerome Graham



Calvin Brown and Judge Joe McNamara



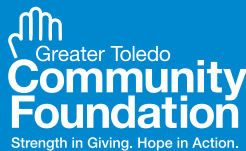
Sena Mourad Friedman and Theresa M. Gabriel



Pathway Inc



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