

Volume 85 No. 3 *"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."* August 7, 2024



Amelia Gibbon, Reinvest Toledo Executive Director

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Getting Your Affairs in Order

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor



Given the data on this unjust relationship between Black people and health and health care, it is imperative that we create a productive dialogue on what it means to be Black and sick in America.
– Keisha Ray

Given the realities of how inequities negatively shape our overall health, Advance Care Planning (ACP) is critical. However, it remains one of the most neglected topics within the African American Community.

Retired Huntington Bank executive and now president of N-Sync, LLC, a consulting firm, Deborah Barnett vividly recalls the urgency and panic when her late mother went into cardiac arrest. Rushing to the hospital, she was overwhelmed with decisions and paperwork, realizing she couldn’t make these choices alone without consulting her siblings.

In the midst of the chaos, a medical doctor friend arrived, advising her to take her time and consult with him before making any decisions. This calm, thoughtful guidance coincided with her mother’s remarkable recovery, highlighting the crucial role of support systems and careful deliberation during critical moments.

Barnett’s experience inspired her to create the “Getting Your Affairs in Order” program, designed to educate the African American community about the need for preparedness, effective communication, and the benefits of having a clear, documented plan.

“Getting Your Affairs in Order” is an Advance Care Planning tool that helps individuals make informed medical decisions while providing emotional and psychological comfort to families during challenging times.

We spoke with Barnett to discuss the significance of “Getting Your Af-

fairs in Order” within the Black community and how the targeted program promotes awareness, education, and proactive health management.

Perryman: Please describe how the “Getting Your Affairs in Order” program came about.

Barnett: People need information about organizing their affairs. You may have even seen it with your own family and friends – their affairs are often in disarray, causing family stress and conflict. People need this information. When I worked at the bank, I often encountered customers who lacked the necessary information because their parents were the only ones on the account, leading to probate issues.

Around this time last year, I kept receiving reminders about the importance of getting affairs in order. This inspired me to discuss the idea with a few friends, who agreed it was a great initiative. I decided to invite eight-10 women from the community to a meeting where we could collaboratively discuss and learn about organizing our affairs. That’s

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Murder S(He) Wrote!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

With all apologies to the original title of the successful television series, *Murder She Wrote*, originated by Agatha Christie novels, we are faced with renaming that title, *Murder He Wrote*, which is a direct reference to the body cam of the Springfield, Illinois cop who murdered the hapless Black woman, Sonya Massey.

The chilling execution took place in the home of the mother of two when she placed a call to 911 asking for police assistance due to her belief that an intruder was about in or around her home.

Two White cops appeared and, after a series of questions and answers, the killer cop was able to maneuver the frightened woman to the kitchen area where, in a matter of moments, shot her in face, under her left eye, in a downward trajectory.

The other cop was filming this bizarre interaction with his body cam and, upon her being victimized, neither officer offered any semblance of first aid, since it was a clear, deadly head shot.

The killer cop acted as judge, jury and eager executioner since he did not offer her a smidgen of a chance to protest her execution - an execution for no other purpose than that the cop could kill her and kill her he did.

Imagine, if you will, the sheer terror and fear she must have experienced in her last few moments on earth while he looked into the face of a person, who, with a grave indifference to human life inflicted his brand of justice for her rebuking him, "in the name of Jesus!"

Such a discerning comment, obviously struck a bad nerve with the killer cop because from that point, I contend that he, with a heart and mind full of malice and evil, sought to take her life.

Ms. Sonya Massey did absolutely nothing, I repeat, she did not commit one single act that would have led anyone, without a depraved mindset, to believe that the cop was in imminent danger of bodily harm or death from Ms. Massey.

Of course, I have not heard an iota from this killer cop of any remorse or sadness from executing Ms. Massey. Silence.

For the killer cop, in his twisted mind of deviant thinking, Ms. Massey was not worthy of living another day. Whatever "ticked him off" be it her very presence as a Black woman, her rebuke of him or simply the fact that the killer cop had a bad day, and she was to be his scapegoat.

The heinous murder of Sonya Massey ranks with the public execution of the late George Floyd. Two Black people whose lives were cavalierly snuffed out because cops vented their animus on people of color.

No reason. Just pure hatred. Hatred of sufficient inner rage and bitterness that the taking of their lives was justified in their alternative world of who should live and who should die.

What is it about the mere presence of people of color that can trigger in some White cops a visceral response that is so deviant and vile that they will engage in acts of gross human violations, including death, to appease their demons within?

There will be no police reports or medical reports that will be generated about this "bad" shoot that will remotely justify such a murder.



Sonya Massey

Dogs get better treatment than what was meted out to Sonya Massey. She will simply be noted as another statistic regarding police brutality. Another Black woman blown into eternity because a morally corrupt cop, in a matter of a few moments, decided to take life... and not to protect and serve.

Sonya Massey did not resist arrest. She did not obstruct official business. She did not have a weapon on her person or in close range to her. She unknowingly made the mistake of calling 911 and the cops who responded were, as it latter turned out, on a death mission unbeknownst to Sonya Massey.

From the video, the other "non-shooting" cop did not offer any opposition to his shooting partner. On the video, you did not hear from the other cop any outrage or anger about seeing this murder play out. None.

If was as if, "Okay, you are about to shoot an unarmed victim, but I will not stop you or rage against your conduct."

Matter of fact, if you listen to the two cops speak before, during and after this murder, there is no alarm of any sort. Their tone is as if they are discussing what is the best place to have a late-night snack.

No angst. No outrage. No sorrow. No remorse. No sadness. No compassion

No second guessing. No contriteness.

Nothing. That is what the life of Sonya Massey meant to the shooter and his partner.

Sonya Massey's life was of no consequence to them. It was meaningless. It had no value. She was a mere trifle. A bug to be swatted away.

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The Climate Crisis Is Devastating Black Communities. Public Transit Is a Solution.

By Kim Smith

As the world grapples with the ever-intensifying impacts of the climate crisis, a stark and troubling reality has emerged: Black communities are bearing a disproportionate burden of environmental degradation. This inequity is not merely a matter of statistics or abstract concepts; it translates into real, tangible hardships that exacerbate existing social and economic disparities.

Historically, Black communities have been subjected to systemic neglect and discrimination, and climate change is amplifying these injustices. From heatwaves to hurricanes, the effects of climate change are not felt equally across all demographics. Research shows that Black neighborhoods often experience higher temperatures than their wealthier, predominantly white counterparts due to a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. This occurs when cities' infrastructures—often designed without considering the needs of marginalized populations—trap heat, leading to dangerously high temperatures.

This discrepancy is more than an inconvenience; it has serious health implications. Extreme heat can exacerbate conditions such as asthma, which disproportionately affects Black children, and contribute to higher mortality rates.

Moreover, climate change amplifies the risk of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods. Communities that are already marginalized face the brunt of these disasters, not only due to their location in more vulnerable areas but also because of limited resources to prepare for or recover from such events. The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 underscored this grim reality, with Black communities in New Orleans suffering disproportionately due to inadequate evacuation plans, delayed relief efforts, and systemic inequalities in housing and infrastructure.

The reality is the climate crisis is not coming, it is here now. And it is deadly



and devastating. Particularly for Black communities across this country. And it is a crisis that demands swift and decisive action, and bolstering public transit represents a necessary step forward.

The dirty secret is that the transportation sector is the largest source of U.S. climate pollution — and 80% of transportation emissions come from the cars and trucks on our roads. It's one of the only major sectors where emissions are still rising.

It is because of this, that investing in public transit is one of the most sensible and impactful things we can do to address the climate crisis on the scale that is needed.

First and foremost, public transit offers a direct solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Unlike personal vehicles, which contribute significantly to carbon dioxide and other pollutants, public transit systems can transport large numbers of people efficiently and with reduced environmental impact per capita. A robust public transit network decreases the overall reliance on fossil fuels, thus curbing emissions that drive climate change.

In addition, investing in public transit promotes sustainable development. By prioritizing accessible, reliable transit options, cities can mitigate urban sprawl and reduce the need for expansive road networks and parking infrastructure.

Despite this, for far too long, policymakers in Washington have prioritized highways and cars over public transit.

Luckily there is new legislation in Congress to fix this. Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to increase transit budgets through operations funding. These bills, the "Stronger Communities through Better Transit Act" in the House and the "Moving Transit Forward Act" in the Senate, would provide more money to states and local municipalities to increase transit options. Congress should pass them without delay.

The climate crisis necessitates bold and proactive measures. Investing in public transit is not merely an option but a moral imperative and a practical solution to combat climate change while fostering equitable and sustainable urban development. By prioritizing public transit, policymakers can chart a course towards a more resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable future for all.

The climate crisis is devastating Black communities and public transit offers a real and viable solution. We just need Washington to act, and soon. Because time is running out.

Kim Smith is a city council member in Rochester, New York.



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Building Bridges: How Reinvest Toledo is Transforming Communities

By Asia Nail
The Truth Reporter

Sure, urban revitalization initiatives often sound like bureaucratic jargon. But when you meet **Amelia Gibbon**, executive director of **Reinvest Toledo**, you quickly realize this one is different. They are shaking things up in underserved neighborhoods, turning conventional approaches to urban renewal on its head. With a blend of fierce advocacy, innovative leadership development, and grassroots collaboration, Reinvest Toledo is rewriting the story of community transformation, making real, impactful change that all can see and feel.

"We are a community coalition dedicated to empowering residents in Toledo's low and moderate-income neighborhoods," shares Gibbon.

"We work tirelessly to ensure every voice is heard and every community member has the tools and resources needed to thrive."

Since its 2015 founding in partnership with the Lucas County Land Bank and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), Reinvest Toledo's mission was clear: to advocate, educate and connect.

"We are more than just ac; we are a family," says Gibbon. "Our under-resourced neighborhoods are not just a branded perception of people who are disenfranchised or waiting for assistance. Community is me, community is you."

The Mission and Its Impact

Reinvest Toledo operates on three main fronts: **advocacy, education** and serving as a **community connector**. They collaborate with neighborhood groups and institutional partners to address community challenges and drive positive change. The coalition's work is grassroots, meaning it starts with listening to residents, understanding their needs and working alongside them to find solutions.

Executive Director Gibbons emphasizes, "Our Reinvest Toledo Coalition consists of representatives from eight low- and moderate-income communities and four system partners who are stakeholders in the work of driving positive change in these neighborhoods. Our tagline says it all: 'We are changing the narrative.'"

Reinvest Toledo also serves as a catalyst for neighborhood organizing, led by residents. They advocate for neighborhood investment from banks and community developers and provide a forum for community leaders to meet, plan, and strategize. By building capacity across low and moderate-income working-class communities, Reinvest Toledo informs national-level work while strengthening our local fabric.

"Our work is only successful when the communities we partner with are successful," explains Gibbon. "We connect with neighborhood groups, learn their story, identify assets and challenges within their community, and then we act! True change cannot happen without the input of community residents from the onset of the planning and implementation process."

The Power Tour: A Call to Action

"One of our most exciting initiatives is our upcoming **Power Tour**," explains Gibbon. "It's a multimedia production designed to inspire civic engage-

ment for all age groups. This tour is more than just an event; it's an invitation to activism. Featuring a 20-minute documentary scored by 15-year-old Englewood community leader Zaniel Williams, the Power Tour aims to educate residents about the "power" of their vote while encouraging participation in the democratic process.

"Civic engagement is also about the promotion of quality of life in a community," says Gibbon. "It is 'us' trying to make 'it' better. Art is often used as a deeply human response to the chaos that happens when the quality of life in a community is threatened or harmed. We believe art can be an invitation to activism."

The Power Tour is an invitation extended to those living in Toledo communities with the lowest voter turnout. This call to action is a powerful response to barriers that impact quality of life for many, not just a few. This dynamic 1.5-hour production centers on voter education, offering an engaging and interactive experience.

"Our cast members are all residents or individuals with roots in each neighborhood," explains Gibbon. "The Power Tour is intergenerational and will feature artists with talents that span music, spoken word and film."

Dates of the Tour are: September 22, 28 and October 6 and 12, 2024, at *Collingwood Arts Theatre* from 2 to 4 p.m.

Partnerships and Projects

Reinvest Toledo has also partnered with Premier Bank, which has a branch inside the Seaway grocery store in central-city Toledo. "We partnered with Premier Bank because they have a branch inside the Seaway Marketplace."

...continued on page 7



Amelia Gibbon

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Local Sonya Massey Protest Touches All Bases

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

A number of concerned citizens gathered on Saturday, August 3, at Junction Park to voice their concern and anger over the police shooting of Sonya Massey in Illinois. However, while the Massey homicide was the catalyst for the protest, the event also brought to the attendees' awareness events in Toledo of police violence as well as current international events in Gaza that have resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinians.

Organized by Washington Muhammad of the Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN), a number of other local organizations joined the protest against police and government-led violent oppressive tactics.

CSRN was joined by representatives of Parents of Murdered Children of Northwest Ohio, New Order National Human Rights Organization, the Media Decompression Collective and the American Muslims for Palestine to speak about.

"It is our duty to fight for our freedom," said Muhammad during his opening remarks. "We have nothing to lose but our chains. Muhammad noted that the Massey homicide in Illinois (Sonya Massey was shot in the face by an officer while she was standing in her kitchen over a pot of boiling water after she has called to complain about a possible intruder) was not unlike confrontations that have occurred here in Toledo.

He referenced the case of Brandon Upchurch who was stopped for driving a stolen car – incorrectly as it turned out – then assaulted by a police dog. He has been charged with resisting arrest. He also spoke of the young woman who was cited for walking in the street in her neighborhood. The sidewalks as it happened were so covered with trash that she was unable to walk along that pathway.

"When we talk about defunding the police, what we want to do is reduce the missed training that they have, save our dollars from being spent on things that are only going to be used on things to suppress us. We have no problem working with law enforcement that respects us and honors us... We want to have a zero tolerance for their mistreatment of us."

Aviance Hill, founder of the resurgent Parents of Murdered Children of Northwest Ohio, also took the podium. Hill founded the Parents group in the fall of 2022, months after her son, Isaac Carpenter was murdered on July 2, 2022.

"There was no support or resources," said Hill of the situation she and her family faced after the murder. Since then, her Parents group has given families some options. "We give hope, we give help, we give resources."



Amjad Doumani



Aviance Hill



Washington Muhammad

However, Hill also remarked that the loss of one individual does not just impact his or her immediate family – as in the case of Massey of Illinois.

"We lost Isaac, we lost Sonya. Every time we lose someone, we all lose that someone," she said. "We are here to ensure that the next generation will not have to endure what we have endured."

Hill spoke of her goal for those of the next generation and the type of world they should live in and the types of worries they should have

"The biggest worry you should have is: 'what's for dinner?' The only thing our children and grandchildren should have to worry about is: 'what's for dinner?'"

Siti Dotson-Chambers, representing Toledo's New Order chapter spoke. She addressed the problem of police brutality "that we see day in and day out – people attacked by dogs or for walking in the street – we have Toledo police officers that have taken advantage of the community ... they don't protect and defend us, they harass us."

Dotson-Chambers told the attendees that in her neighborhood she, like any number of her neighbors, would be reluctant to call on the police if a situation requiring their attention might arise because they could tend to make the situation worse not better.

"I don't feel comfortable calling the police," she said.

She urged those present to speak out about police misconduct.

"Silence is violence," she said. "We stand in solidarity with those around the nation. We have to fight together – together we are better."

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Building Bridges... continued from page 5

Gibbon explains.

“There are bankers that community members can talk to instead of only having access to an ATM machine.”

“We are also focusing on investments in housing, parks and *Swayne Field* as part of our neighborhood revitalization strategy for the Englewood area. “This is a new era for Englewood,” Gibbon says excitedly.

Join the Movement

Reinvest Toledo is calling on residents to join their efforts. Registration is now open for the Raised Voices Advocacy Project, a year-long program starting in July 2024 equipping participants with the skills needed to advocate for change in their communities. Through a mix of classroom and experiential learning, participants will gain vital knowledge in advocacy and community organizing, ultimately volunteering their time to address important local issues.

“The Raised Voices Advocacy Project is crafted for individuals committed to understanding and mastering the tools necessary for advocating change and mobilizing communities,” explains Gibbon. “Participants will learn essential skills and knowledge to implement advocacy strategies that affect positive changes in targeted neighborhoods.”

The program includes six months of classroom and experiential learning. From January to June 2025, graduates will volunteer ten hours monthly to work with neighborhood leadership, addressing community-identified issues that require their advocacy skill set. Graduates will receive a certificate upon completion, recognizing their commitment and contribution to the community.

“Neighborhoods make up cities,” Gibbon emphasizes. “We appreciate investors who believe in this important work. Together, we can change the narrative. This is our revitalization process: all residents, regardless of their socioeconomic status, are entitled to be involved in decision-making from the start, rather than being consulted midway through or only after decisions have been made that may affect their livelihoods.”

Weaving a Brighter Future Together

Reinvest Toledo is more than a non-profit organization; it’s a movement.

As a fully realized re-investment coalition, their work is only successful when the communities they partner with are successful.

The coalition invites everyone to join their efforts in truly driving change within our communities. “We are changing the narrative,” Gibbon says. “And we cannot do this without you.”

Through initiatives like the *Power Tour* and the *Raised Voices Advocacy Project*, *Reinvest Toledo* is making a real impact in the lives of many. These efforts exemplify what it means to bridge neighborhoods with resources—driven by the community, for the community.

By empowering residents to shape their own futures, *Reinvest Toledo* is fostering a stronger, more connected community.

“We invite you to join our efforts in truly driving change,” Gibbon concludes. “Together, we can make a lasting impact and a brighter future for all.”

Join in this journey and be part of the change Toledo needs.

For updates visit reinvest-toledo.org



(L to R): Michele Williams, Lincoln School Coalition-Englewood Neighborhood ; Joe Sparks, spoken word artist; Latoya Williams, singer; Sharda Moss, creative producer, Power Tour Production ; Charlotte Lawson, One Street at a Time Neighborhood Association; Audrey Johnson, Exec Director, Unbounded Artist Community Development Corporation; Nathan Staples, DJ for the Power Tour Production



Sandra Rivers Gill, spoken word artist, and Zaniel Williams, composer



Lucas County Board of Elections

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 5, 2024

Media Contact

LaVera Scott; Timothy Monaco | 419-213-4001

The Board of Elections is in need of Precinct Election Officials (PEOs), Election Day workers and seasonal workers, for the November 5, 2024, General Election.

Precinct Election Officials (PEOs) begin Election Day at 5:30 a.m., continue through the close of polls at 7:30 p.m., and are released once all post-election duties are completed that evening. PEOs are paid \$20 to attend a two-hour training class, \$50 for Monday night set-up/training and \$133 base pay for working Election Day, for a total of \$203. Positions are also available within our tabulation area and within any of our seven county substations, where shifts generally begin at 7:30 p.m.

Election Day Work Schedule and hours worked are dependent upon job specifications. Shifts available are between two and 15 hours, and Election Day workers are paid between \$15.00 and \$21.00 per hour. Some jobs require mandatory training, which is paid at \$20.00 to \$25.00 per class. Examples of Election Day workers are rovers, riders, and hospital workers.

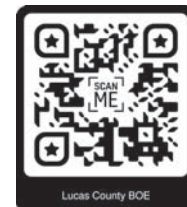
Seasonal workers work assignments may begin on Monday, September 9th, 2024, through Election Day, dependent upon work assignment. Starting pay is \$15.25 an hour, increasing to \$16.00 an hour after working 140 hours.

Qualifications: You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age and a registered voter in Lucas County. You must not have been convicted of a felony and you cannot be a candidate for an office in the election for which you would be working. You must have reliable transportation.

If you are interested in becoming a PEO, please contact: Robert Royster at 419.213.2043 RJRoyster@lucascountyoh.gov or Veronica Hill at 419.213.2034 Vrhill@lucascountyoh.gov

If you are interested in any Election Day positions, please contact: Pamela Wilson at 419.213.2644 prwilson@lucascountyoh.gov or Patricia Smith at 419.213.2045 pasmith@lucascountyoh.gov

For employment applications, go to Lucas County Board of Elections website: https://www.lucascountyohiovotes.gov/job_postings/index.php



The Community Discusses the Decision at UT to Dissolve DEI Position

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Pastor Brandon A.A. J. Davis, the newly appointed senior pastor at Warren AME Church, held a meeting at Warren July 30, 2024 to address the dissolution of the vice president of DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) position at the University of Toledo. The position was terminated in July at the university and the DEI department has been realigned under the office of the interim provost.

The University of Toledo issued a news story July 18 summarizing the changes this fall:

"...The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is being incorporated across the Division of Academic Affairs and will no longer be a separate team led by a vice president. Instead, the student focused initiatives, like the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program and the Catharine Eberly Center for Women, will be aligned with student affairs operations. And the faculty and staff support services, such as trainings and campus resources, will be aligned with the academic operations and institutional effectiveness area of the Provost's Office.

"...We are still finalizing components of the organizational chart this summer, but we are already finding alignments that we're excited to have ready to go when students and faculty return in the fall," [Scott] Molitor said.

(Source: news.utoledo.edu)

To those present in the community meeting there was outrage at the changes at the University.

"The way it sounds to the members of Warren and other people in the community is as if the department was gutted..." said Pastor Davis. "And within an infrastructure reorganized."

As of July 26, there is currently no vice president of DEI at the University of Toledo. Those present raised concerns that the work of DEI cannot be ad-

equately and effectively be continued under the new structure. They voiced that the changes are in light of the recent Supreme Court hearings that have removed race as a factor in academic admissions and are now being applied further.

"As a Methodist pastor we have a responsibility... we emphasize the mission of our church which is to engage the community and to meet people where they are. This is a serious issue not only in Toledo and Lucas County but across the country," stated Davis.

"Millions of dollars that have been allocated for Diversity Equity and Inclusion has been redirected to other programing particularly at major nationally recognized institutions of higher education," he added.

Speakers voiced that this indicates a snowball effect of state funded institutions applying Supreme Court case beyond its limits with no clear statement

... continued on page 15



Standing (L-R): Bretton Langster, UT parent; Attorney Jesus Salas; Attorney Phyllis D. Flowers; Rev. James H. Willis Sr. (St. Paul MBC)

Seated (L-R): Attorney Raina C. Dawson; Pastor Brandon A.A.J. Davis (Warren AME); Darlene Sweetney Newbern (NAACP)

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First Day of School for Elementary Schools

Monday, August 19

First Day of School for Kindergarten Schools

Wednesday, August 28

First Day of School for Pre-K Schools

Wednesday, August 28

HIGH SCHOOL

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- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students attend state-of-the-art schools and have access to the latest technology and online classes
- TPS offers free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school
- With more than 30 career technology programs, students can begin preparing for a career path
- TPS offers music, art and gym classes, along with numerous extra-curricular activities and sports



First Day of School for Freshmen
Monday, August 19

First Day of School for Sophomores
Tuesday, August 20

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Wednesday, August 21



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The Truth HEALTH



Sneak a Zucchini Day

By Patrice Powers-Barker, Ohio State University Extension, Lucas County
The Truth Contributor

Sneak some squash in your menu this month. The most common types of summer squash are scallop (or patty pan), yellow crookneck, yellow straight-neck, and zucchini. Summer squash is very versatile vegetable and is often used raw, sauteed, grilled or baked. Summer squash is high in vitamin C, vitamin A and fiber. Summer squash is usually available at the grocery store year round, but are often less expensive to buy in July and August as the local sources are in season.

When purchasing, look for squash with bright and glossy skin. Avoid squash with soft spots, wrinkles or mold. Store in the refrigerator in an open plastic or paper bag to keep dry. For best quality use within three to four days. Smaller squash has good flavor and texture. Long types of summer squash should be six to eight inches long and round types should be three to four inches across. You can eat the peel and tiny seeds of smaller squash. Larger summer squash have bigger seeds and less flavor but can be tasty and useful for recipes like stuffed squash or it can be grated and used in baked goods. Remove the seed of larger squash before using.

Summer Salsa, 4 servings

Ingredients

- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 Roma tomatoes, diced
- 1 jalapeño pepper (optional)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced OR 4 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro OR parsley, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup lemon OR lime juice

Instructions

1. Before you begin, wash your hands, surfaces, utensils, and produce.
2. If using a jalapeño, put on disposable gloves and remove the pepper seeds. Dice small. If you don't have gloves, wash your hands with soap and

water after handling the jalapeño.

3. Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl and stir to combine.

4. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes before serving so flavors can blend.

Tips

- Try adding other in-season vegetables to this dish to compliment the tomato and onion, such as cucumber, yellow squash, green pepper, broccoli, or corn.

- For a sweeter version of this recipe, use fruit such as blueberries, oranges, apples, and peaches. Remove the garlic to compliment the less savory flavor. (recipe from Celebrate Your Plate)

Why "sneak" a zucchini? If you are a vegetable gardener – or live near one – you will know that if you grow a healthy zucchini plant, you will have so much summer squash that you will have to find ways to use all of it. On August 8, vegetable gardeners celebrate the summer holiday/joke of "Sneak A Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch". Tom Roy of Pennsylvania is credited with putting the event on the calendar. We're guessing that this holiday was celebrated on many different nights for many centuries before he officially entered it onto Chase's 1998 Calendar of Events. Have you ever filled stockings in the winter, snuck money under pillows or hidden eggs around the yard? If so, this is the summer equivalent of those other folkloric happenings. The best part of this one is that it comes straight from the garden.

All joking aside, excess zucchini from the garden is a good reminder that an overabundance of any fresh produce can be shared with local food banks, emergency food pantries and soup kitchens. Please remember to



... continued on page 11



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A Mental Health Moment

From Stigma to Support: The Difference One Question Makes With Misunderstandings In Relationships to Law Enforcement Fatalities

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPCC
The Truth Contributor

“The stigma of mental health in Black communities is a heavy burden, often leaving individuals without the support they need and vulnerable to misinterpretation by law enforcement.” Michelle Alexander (Professor, Writer, Historian, Civil Rights Advocate) Author of *“The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.”*



An unfortunate circumstance of the human condition is having the conscious choice to lie or to tell the truth. Everyone, and I mean everyone, will at some point tell a lie during his lifetime but can sometimes be met with fair reasoning. I am not condoning the act of lying but often the truth is determined by the questioning.

A large majority of my job as a mental health clinician is asking questions in order to understand the need(s) of the clients and to determine a diagnosis based upon their answers and information disclosed. If a client decides to forgo supplying truthful answers due to not wanting to feel he is being judged or an ongoing stigma of mental health, there is a high probability of a misdiagnosis or the client may go undiagnosed causing further harm to his own mental health factors. A well trained and experienced clinician knows to take other means into consideration before diagnosing such as body language, amount of eye contact, rate of speech, word choice, checking the many other boxes on the forms and the validity of the questions.

Depending upon the delivery of the clinicians questions and disposition, some clients have reported back that they had often felt as if they were being interrogated such as in a law enforcement scenario; which leads to an additional unfortunate circumstance of the human condition...if you are a person of color, at some point in your lifetime, you will be questioned or interrogated by law enforcement and possibly increase the statistics to the already long list of fatalities based upon stigma.

Take a mental health moment, actually take two as it may help increase a great need for one doing away with the stigmas and two make all of our

lives easier by asking supportive questions as opposed to defensive questions. When someone is asked the question “what is wrong with you?” the question immediately becomes accusatory and stigmatizing. It may lead the person to feel flawed, defective, shamed, with symptoms becoming the focus instead of the root cause. The person may now blame herself for her condition and feel less than. The probability of her returning for help, or answering any other questions honestly has now reduced and significantly jeopardized further communication if any at all.

Sometimes, mental health clinician or law enforcement asking the “wrong” question will get the “wrong” answers and will do more harm than good. On the other hand, asking the question “what happened to you?” changes and shifts the focus from blame, shame, and stigma to the person being met with empathy, understanding and the right answers void of any pathways to failed relationships to fatalities.

How we ask questions is certainly important but asking questions more appropriately is most effective. Human beings are not perfect and we could all agree that there is a little “wrong” with all of us. Imperfection is our normal. Regardless of when or what happened, there is support available to assist in the advantages of healing needs. It is very fortunate that mental health is available to all ages, races, genders, individuals and families.

Bernadette Joy Graham is an active duty Air Force Veteran, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Therapist and Certified Grief Recovery Specialist. She can be reached via Email: graham.bernadette@gmail.com

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If you feel you may be in a mental health crisis, please call 988 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Sneak a Zucchini Day.. continued from page 10

share only high-quality fresh produce. If it is too ripe for you to use, it will not be useful to others.

In northwest Ohio, one in seven people and one in five children experience food insecurity. Access to fresh produce can be especially difficult for those in need. Consider donating fresh produce to a local food pantry and join us on August 8 to share produce with those in need.

Sneak a Zucchini on OUR Porch – this event will be Thursday, August 8, from 7:00 a.m. – noon. There will be a drive through drop off at OSU Extension office at the Toledo Botanical Garden at 5403 Elmer Drive, Toledo, Ohio. Celebrate the annual gardeners’ holiday by donating your excess produce to help reduce hunger in our community. Bring your clean

homegrown vegetables and fruits to the Lucas County Extension office. All food will be shared with local food pantries. For more details visit www.lucas.osu.edu/zucchini

If you ever have **questions about gardening** or insects or plants, the Master Gardener Volunteer Horticulture Hotline runs every Monday and Wednesday from 10am – 1pm. You can call 419-578-6783 or email lucas-countymastergardener@gmail.com. If you have **questions about home food preservation like canning or freezing**, the OSU Extension office will be offering two free community classes on Tuesday, August 20 from 6-7 p.m. at South Branch Library and Monday August 26 6-7 p.m., at Reynolds Corner Library.

Enjoy this summer season and keep finding ways to “sneak” some fresh produce into your meals.

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Perryman... continued from page 2

how the program started.

Perryman: You held the meeting and gathered people together because you recognized the need. What specific topics does the program cover?

Barnett: The program covers a range of topics, including wills, living wills and powers of attorney. We invite attorneys to speak about these legal documents. We also cover various types of insurance, such as life insurance and homeowners' insurance, detailing the important details about all of these things that you should know.

Perryman: Is the program offered as a series of workshops, one-on-one consultations or online modules?

Barnett: It's a series of workshops. We decided that in-person information sessions were necessary because while there's a lot of online information available, much of it is presented as estate planning, which not everyone understands. The "Getting Your Affairs in Order" program clarifies what this actually involves. When people hear "estate," they often don't realize it includes more than just owning a house – it also covers savings accounts, investment accounts, and other assets. The workshops help people understand these aspects.

Perryman: What type of medical decisions does your program help your participants prepare for?

Barnett: The program helps participants prepare for decisions regarding healthcare power of attorney. There are several types of power of attorney, including financial and healthcare power of attorney.

Perryman: Are there other legal documents, including living wills, discussed?

Barnett: Yes, we cover various other documents. It's important to understand which documents apply to your situation. Many people have questions about trusts, such as what a trust is and why they should consider putting their assets in one. Trusts work well for some people, but not for everyone. For example, a trust didn't work for me because I have a homestead exemption. When I placed my condo in a trust, the trust became the owner of my property, which meant my homestead exemption no longer applied.

Perryman: At these workshops, will you provide templates or examples of the documents, and offer guidance on how to complete them?

Barnett: The attorneys who speak at our workshops explain them, and while there are online services available, most attorneys will recommend hiring them for personalized assistance.

Perryman: So, they provide an overview, and if you need help filling out the documents, you should contact them.

Barnett: Yes, exactly. One essential document discussed is the final arrangements instructions, which I believe everyone should have. This document allows you to specify your final arrangements to prevent disputes among family members.

For example, when I was growing up, my aunt was the only one who talked about wanting to be cremated, and people found it strange. The final arrangements instructions let you clearly state your wishes, ensuring that your family members respect your decisions without conflict.

Perryman: I wanted to ask how your program addresses communication between family members regarding a person's wishes and desires.

Barnett: We include a document about final arrangements in the swag bags we give out. We felt it was important because many families face conflicts due to financial or other reasons, and people often have different opinions about end-of-life decisions. For example, in my own family, my sister wanted to be cremated. Since she wasn't married and my mother was her next of kin, we were able to honor her wishes without needing signatures from all the siblings. This document helps ensure that everyone's wishes are clearly communicated and respected.

Perryman: So, your program provides strategies to help communicate a person's wishes and desires to family members, helping to prevent potential conflicts? Family disputes surrounding medical emergencies and final arrangements occur far too often.

Barnett: Yes, exactly. Reverend Barbie Harrison has a segment in the program that focuses on how to have these important conversations with your loved ones.

Perryman: Do you have any other tools or resources besides the one you talked about to help with family meetings or discussions about end-of-life planning?

Barnett: Yes, we have another document introduced at our last workshop, thanks to the Neighborhood Health Association, one of our sponsors. Their representative provided a document to record all medications and recent doctor visits. This is crucial because, when my sister, who had been taking care of my mother, fell ill, I didn't know which medications my mother should or shouldn't take. Moving a family member to another city and finding a new doctor is challenging. My mother was able to get medical care because of my connections, but it wasn't easy.

Perryman: What are some of your program's successes?

Barnett: Participants truly appreciate the information provided. Our main goal is to start the conversation and get people thinking about these important issues before it becomes too late. With so many different opinions prevalent, or in the case of blended families, where two separate family units are coming together, things can become chaotic during a health crisis. It's not just about death; it's also about managing care when someone is sick. People need to know how to take care of you, including managing accounts and bills if you're unable to communicate due to illness.

Perryman: Is there a cost associated with the program?

Barnett: No, it's free. We've had sponsors, so we provide participants lunch and a swag bag with various gift items and information.

Perryman: As you talked, I thought of end-of-life doulas. Are you familiar with these professionals?

Barnett: No. Do they work at home?

Perryman: They can work at home or in the hospital, but their role is to support individuals who are transitioning and their families. They ensure dignity in the dying process, help plan, organize paperwork, document wishes, and offer comfort measures. They assist with creating a peaceful environment and advocating with medical staff or institutions for the person's needs. There are associations such as the National End-of-Life Doula Alliance (NEDA), the National Black Doulas Association (NBDA), and the Going with Grace organization. These death doulas or transition doulas provide personalized care that respects the diverse cultural backgrounds of clients, and it might be very beneficial to research their directories and resources.

Barnett: Okay, I will definitely.

Perryman: When is the next workshop?

Barnett: The next workshop is on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the Toledo Lucas County Main Library in the McMaster Center. It starts at 12:30 p.m.

Perryman: Congratulations on this much-needed project.

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

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Blessings by Chukwuebuka Ibeh

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Sometimes, you just need to step back a minute.

c. 2024
Doubleday
\$28.00
288 pages

You need time to regroup, to think things through, and a scenery change is the place to do it. Get past your current position, and situations can become clearer somehow. Thoughts can be re-organized. Problems pivot. As in the new novel *Blessings* by Chukwuebuka Ibeh, you'll have a different perspective.

Obiefuna didn't say much on the road to the seminary.

What was there to say? His father had caught him in a too-cozy situation with a young man who'd been taken in as an apprentice and for that, Obiefuna was being sent away. Away from his mother, his younger brother, Ekene, and from the young man that 15-year-old Obiefuna was in love with.

Life in seminary was bad – Obiefuna was always on alert for Seniors, who were said to be abusive because abuse was allowed, even encouraged – but things weren't as bad as he thought they might be. He made friends and good grades but he missed his mother. Did she suspect he was gay? Obiefuna wanted to tell her, but he hid who he was.

Mostly, he kept to himself until he caught the eye of Senior Papilo, who was said to be the cruelest of the cruel. Amazingly, though, Senior Papilo became Obiefuna's protector, letting Obiefuna stay in his bed, paying for Obi's first experience with a woman, making sure Obiefuna had better food. Maybe Obiefuna loved Senior Papilo but Senior had other boys, which made Obi work twice as hard to be his favorite. Still, he hid.



Blessings author, courtesy Erin Lewis WashU in St Louis

And then Senior Papilo passed his final exams and moved on.

So, eventually, did Obiefuna. Sure, there were other boys – one who almost got him expelled, a chaplain who begged forgiveness, and there was even a girl once – but Obi grew up and fully embraced his truth: all he wanted was to be accepted for himself, to be loved.

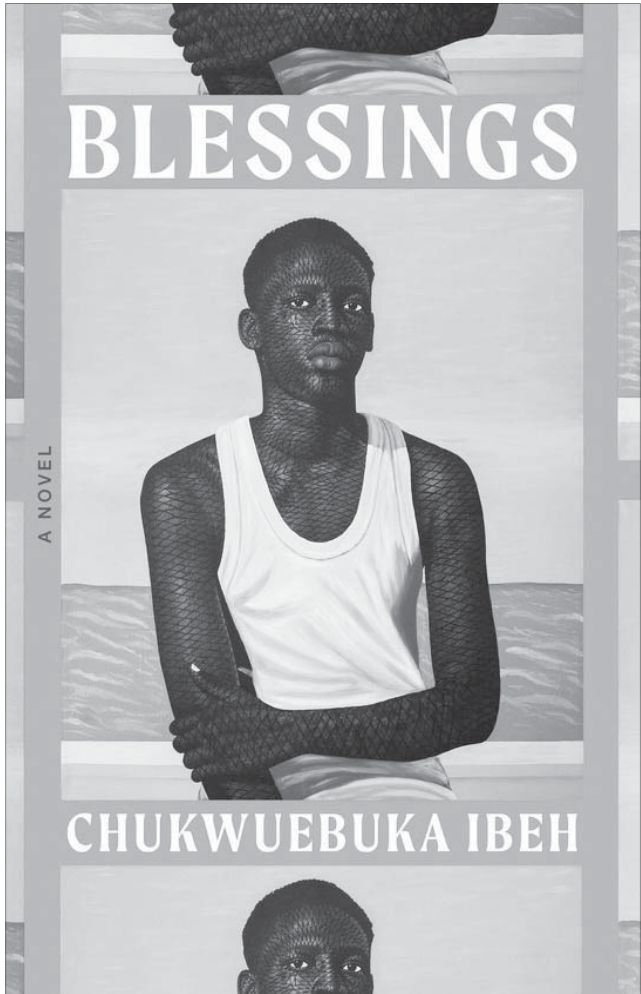
As Nigeria moved toward making same-sex marriage illegal, though, neither one looked likely...

So, here's the puzzle: the story inside *Blessings* is interesting. Obiefuna is a great character who takes what happens with quiet compliance, as if he long-ago relinquished hope that he could ever control his own life.

Instead, he passively lets those who surround him take the reins and though reasons for this are not clearly stated and it's uncomfortable, it's easy to grasp and accept why. This goes, too, for the Seniors whose actions readers will tacitly understand.

What's not easy to accept is that author Chukwuebuka Ibeh's story often slows to a glacial pace, with great chunks of the books' multi-year timeline crunched into basically only highlights. You'll be left loving this story but hating its stride.

The best advice is to embrace this moving novel's message and accept the slowness, love the excellent characters, but don't be surprised if you find yourself checking to see how many pages you have left to crawl through. Yes, you'll enjoy the soul-touching cast in *Blessings* but if speed in a plot supersedes good characters, then step back.



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TARTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON UPCOMING FARE SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) has scheduled a series of public events to collect community feedback on the planned rollout of an account-based ticketing system. If approved by TARTA's Board of Trustees, this fare-capping system will allow customers to get the value of extended passes without paying the upfront fee. For card-holders, the day cap would be \$3, the 7-day cap will be \$15, and the 31-day cap will be \$45.

These events will include two in-person forums and two virtual feedback sessions. These forums will focus on the Title VI equity analyses surrounding the service changes. A virtual session will be recorded and posted on the TARTA website. Public meetings are scheduled for:

- Virtual meeting, **Monday, August 19, 5-6 p.m.**, Register at tarta.com/publicmeetings
- In-person meeting, **Tuesday, August 20, 6-7 p.m.**, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Kent Branch, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo
- In-person meeting, **Wednesday, August 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**, TARTA Transit Hub, 612 N. Huron Street, Toledo
- Virtual meeting, **Friday, August 23, 10-11 a.m.** Register at tarta.com/publicmeetings.

All language assistance services for TARTA programs are provided to the public at no charge. In-person translation services for events should be requested at least 5 business days prior to the event.

Registration and additional details will be available in the coming weeks at tarta.com or by calling 419-243-7433. Customers and others from the public interested in submitting questions may do so by sending them to customer-relations@tarta.com.

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INVITATION TO BID LHSC MAINTENANCE SERVICES IFB24-LHSC001

Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC) will receive sealed bids for **LHSC Maintenance Services** to provide "as needed" maintenance services at LHSC properties. Received in accordance with law until **September 5, 2024 at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING FIRMS BLDG. ENVELOPE/ WEATHERPROOFING FY25-26 PROJECT #: 1130-25-359

The University of Toledo is soliciting qualifications for professional design services for the repair and/or replacement of building envelope / weatherproofing components on multiple buildings on several campuses. Interested firms may find the full RFQ instructions at: <https://ofcc.ohio.gov/project-opportunities/bids-rfq/qualifications-based-rfq>. Submit all questions regarding this RFQ in writing to Nicole Baden at Nicole.Baden@utoledo.edu with the project name included in the subject line (no phone calls please). Questions will be answered and posted to the Project Opportunities page on the OFCC website. Submit the requested Statement of Qualifications directly to Erin Homer at Erin.Homer@utoledo.edu with the project name included in the subject line by 2:00 P.M., Friday, **August 16, 2024** to be eligible for consideration.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING/ DESIGN FIRMS CARLSON LIBRARY RENOVATIONS PROJECT #: 0034-25-351

Calling all Scott class of 69 alumni. Our 55th reThe University of Toledo is soliciting qualifications for professional design services for Carlson Library Renovations. Interested firms may find the full RFQ instructions at: <https://ofcc.ohio.gov/project-opportunities/bids-rfq/qualifications-based-rfq>. Submit all questions regarding this RFQ in writing to Nicole Baden at Nicole.Baden@utoledo.edu with the project name included in the subject line (no phone calls please). Questions will be answered and posted to the Project Opportunities page on the OFCC website. Submit the requested Statement of Qualifications directly to Erin Homer at Erin.Homer@utoledo.edu with the project name included in the subject line by 2:00 P.M., Friday, **August 16, 2024** to be eligible for consideration.

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DEI Position... continued from page 8

from the Supreme Court on the issue of race in scholarship and student life. They state that in 2023 the court ruled that race can no longer be a factor in admissions but now that is being applied to other areas at the university where minorities believe there is no justification or legal backing.



Pastor Brandon A. A. J. Davis of Warren AME and Rev. James H. Willis Sr. of St Paul MBC

At the University of Toledo alone there have been hundreds of minority scholarships that have been frozen. A legal representative stated that half a million dollars in minority scholarships have been paused and not given out to students as intended. Individual donors have asked for the money from the University of Toledo and have not been given the money back.

Black families have left endowments for scholarships at The University of Toledo and cite that the institution is relying on a recent Letter from the Ohio Attorney General inferring that race cannot be applied to scholarships and other areas rather than a direct ruling from the Supreme Court.

WilliAnn Moore, who has a foundation in her name at the University of To-

ledo, shared her thoughts: "I don't care what they infer, it becomes a legal issue with me because they are not going to infer what they do with my money," she stated.

"I am saying that I want my money back because I can award it how I see fit as an independent donor to whichever student I feel needs that. I know we need more Black doctors and that's what my foundation was established for and I'm not inferring anything else. I have never agreed to it. I asked them to send me something in writing and never received it."

Moore, amongst other donors, is bringing legal action against the University of Toledo.

Black student organizations whose members had scholarships were also impacted and current students are concerned as to their status at the university and quality of student life.

"It's time that we start standing up for what is right and until we start doing that, what just took place is going to continue to take place. The community should be involved in the efforts of making sure that the best for our students is being delivered," said Rev. James H. Willis, Sr. senior pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

"We depend on students coming in from other areas. What kind of message is this going to send to get somebody to come to the University of Toledo?" he said.

Rev. Willis invites over 300 students annually during the summer to visit the University. "With what is happening now, next year I won't be encouraging any of them to attend the university because [they're] taking part of their rights away. Diversity and inclusion is what they need in order to hang their hat on," he emphasized.

Concerns were raised amongst the leaders, community members, church members, legal representatives and parents about whether they would recommend the university, in its current state, to prospective students. The resounding answer was no.

The University of Toledo is open to conversations with the leaders on the recent changes. The Black leadership plans to meet with the University of Toledo soon to discuss these issues further. To speak with Rev. Brandon A. A. J. Davis or inquire further about this topic visit Warren AME Church at 915 Collingwood Blvd. or call the church at 419-243-2237.

Sonya Massey... continued from page 6

Amjad Doumani of the Media Decompression Collective offered the case for those in Gaza who have undergone such violence during the last 10 months and the similar circumstances that oppressed people around the world face.

"We have a lot in common," said the self-described long-time peace activist. All our struggles are a common struggle... Sonya Massey is one of a countless number of African Americans who didn't need to die - she was murdered. The same thing is happening in Palestine."

Doumani described Israeli tactics of deliberately placing Palestinians in harm's way in order to kill as many of them as possible and declared that the death toll is vastly underestimated at 40,000. He said he believes the toll is at least 200,000, perhaps as many as a million.

He assailed the proposal by the local authorities to obtain a military grade commercial vehicle as he also noted that Israel sends military people to the USA to train police officers in this country in their tactics.

"They feel like we are the enemy," he said. "Our struggle is the same struggle and the U.S. is funding genocide in Palestine."

Next up was Walaa Kanan of the American Muslims for Palestine whose group's purpose includes educating local communities about the Palestinian cause.

"I don't have to stop grieving for those in Gaza to take time to grieve for those here," said Kanan. "Our struggles are interconnected."

Kanan referred to "the generational trauma of our ancestors" as the origin of that interconnectivity. "But there is hope," she added. I am deeply optimistic because this is the generation that is going to make a difference."

In closing, Muhammad revealed that the CSRN is in the process of starting a civilian police review board, one that will be very unlike those of the past in which members have been "cherry picked" by police and civilian authorities.

This board, said Muhammad, will subpoena witnesses and officers to obtain statements about reported incidents. The board will send notices to officers' neighborhoods to warn residents of hos unsafe such a person might be. They will also utilize billboards for that purpose.

"If we can have sleepless nights, then so can they," he said.



Some of the attendees



Walaa Kanan

YWCA Announces That the Funding for Its Renovation Is Complete

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

On Friday, August 2, the leadership of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio held a press conference to announce that two government funding awards for the renovation of the agency's building on Jefferson Avenue had been obtained to close a gap in the amount of financing necessary to complete the renovation.

The YWCA will be expanding its services which include housing for people experiencing sexual and domestic violence along with education and counseling guidance.

As Lisa McDuffie, CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio, explained, the process began three years ago when the board determined that the Y would need to raise \$17.3 million in order to renovate the 70-year old building, to increase residential living quarters, to introduce air conditioning and improve the heating in the main building and to redo space that had fallen into disuse almost 20 years ago.

"We developed a leadership ... and they started asking the community to join us," said McDuffie of the fundraising effort. That fundraising effort raised \$13.5 million, she said, before they "set out to approach elected officials."

Elected officials came through on both the state and federal level. "I'm overjoyed," said McDuffie, applauding the government response. "We have brought in five and a half million dollars. We are one million over our fundraising goal."

The Department of Housing and Urban Development donated \$3 million to the renovation project and the state of Ohio kicked in \$2.5 million.

As pleased as the board is with that success and the overage, the extra funds may well prove to be necessary to the renovation effort.

"You never know what the economy is going to do," noted McDuffie. In addition, considering the age and size of the building that was constructed in 1954, the current renovations may bring challenges during the rebuilding

process that could increase costs tremendously.

"It was so wonderful to have the support of elected officials," she added, thanking in particular state Senator Paula Hicks Hudson along with state Representatives Elgin Rogers and Michele Grim, all of whom were present for the press conference, and U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, who sent a representative, Erika Krause, from his northwest Ohio office.

Through a statement read by Krause, Brown said that "every Ohioan should feel safe at home and in the workplace ... this is a critical investment."

Rep. Grim spoke of her own excitement about the fact that the state had been able to contribute a significant amount to the project. Grim's background includes 10 years of experience in rape counseling so she is fully aware of the mission of the YWCA and what it means to women to have access to such facilities during crises.

Rep. Rogers praised "the vision and leadership" of McDuffie and her team and Hicks Hudson noted she was "so grateful for the tenacity of the board," which kept working on its fundraising project for three years to reach its goal.

"This project is not just for this county, it's not just for the city of Toledo," said Hicks Hudson. "It's a safe haven for women throughout northwest Ohio. The government does best when it's on the ground."

Phase one of the construction process has already begun. A construction crew has started the most expensive part of the overall construction aspect that will replace mechanicals, will drill deep under the facility to shore up the new parts of the basement along with the first and second floors. The goal is to add new administration offices, double the number of resident rooms (currently at 17) and add indoor play space for children.

"A lot more room for victims and for administration space," said Brent Gray, senior project manager with Program Solutions, during a brief tour of the construction site.

The pool area, locker rooms and the gym facilities, which were closed in 2005, are being completely remade in order to add the new facilities. Ultimately the renovation will also increase the Y's Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter capacity.

Phase One is expected to be completed in 2025 and then Phase Two, completion of the administrative offices, residential spaces and common areas will begin.



Filling in the swimming pool

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Lisa McDuffie (at podium) explains the YWCA fundraising process



Brent Gray explains the construction project