



Volume 87 No. 1

*“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*

November 27, 2024

### The Challenge of Strengthening Black Communities



Cynthia Savage, CEO, Pathway Inc

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# The Challenge of Strengthening Black Communities

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

The Truth Contributor



[Funders] must recognize that a strong, localized, Black-led non-profit sector is essential to thriving Black communities

- Ebonie Johnson Cooper

Black-led and Black-benefiting nonprofits such as Pathway, Inc. are the backbone of communities, deeply connected to the people they serve.

Established in 1965 under its former name, the Equal Opportunity Planning Association (EOPA), Pathway, Inc. is dedicated to addressing poverty and providing vital resources, services, and advocacy to empower individuals and families in the community.

Despite their resilience and other strengths community nonprofits bring to their vital role in addressing systemic inequities and fostering empowerment, these organizations face persistent challenges, including "limited access to diverse funding sources and disproportionate reliance on a small number of funders."

According to the report Grassroots, Black & Giving: How Philanthropy Can Better Support Black-led and Black-Benefiting Nonprofits, 86.5 percent of Black-led nonprofits frequently struggle to secure funding, and over half risk closure if key funders withdraw. This precarious reality underscores the importance of intentional leadership and innovative strategies to sustain their impact.

I caught up with Cynthia Savage, the newly appointed CEO of Pathway, Inc.

In this week's Truth, Savage reflects on the role of her Black-led organization, the challenges it faces, and how Pathway will continue empowering families and individuals while maintaining its legacy of service.

**Perryman:** Let's talk about your journey, how did it start?

**Savage:** I am a native of Toledo, and I'm a product of Toledo Public Schools from McTigue Junior High through Rogers High School. I am also a University of Toledo and Bowling Green graduate, so northwest Ohio has been where I've made my roots and stayed.

**Perryman:** Can you share highlights from your work history and experience?

**Savage:** My first job was as youth director for Central City Ministries, where I created programs and opportunities for students in central-city schools and parishes. From there, I transitioned into marketing and communications at Mercy, where I developed my skills in public speaking, press releases, and community health outreach.

Later, I worked in higher education and volunteered for Jack Ford's mayoral office, then remained as his assistant, handling contracts, legislation and constituent services. That role taught me how to listen, meet people where they are and serve them effectively.

Afterward, I joined the Lucas County Auditor's Office under Anita Lo-

... continued on page 5

## Community Calendar

November 28  
Happy Thanksgiving!

December 08  
Glass City Youth Choir: True Victory Ministries Presents - Holiday Concert Recital; Rogers HS Auditorium; 6 pm

# When Johnny Does a Bad Thing....

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

You got the text on your cell phone. Your 16-year-old son, Johnny, was called into the principal's office because he and two other kids were there caught stealing from the school's cafeteria petty cash fund.

Not a lot...just about a \$112 but when the janitor inadvertently caught them in the boy's room dividing up the loot, they got busted.

The principal placed them in detention for the rest of the school day and called you about an emergency meeting. You get home first and, then, through the door, comes Johnny, seemingly knowing what is about to hit the fan but he seems somewhat unfazed about the theft.



**Mom:** Johnny what happened at school today about the theft of the lunch fund petty cash?

**Johnny:** It wasn't me! I was there with those other guys, but they took the money.

**Mom:** Oh? Why did you go with them and when you saw what they were about to do, what stopped you from leaving?

**Johnny:** (long silence) Well, I did not want to appear like a chicken, so I went along.

**Mom:** Chicken! Is that what you are worried about when some thieves want to bring you in on their hustle?

**Johnny:** (even longer silence) Aw Mom, you are making too big of a deal about this. It was only a \$112!

**Mom:** Johnny...it is not the amount, but the attitude that stealing is not a big deal with you. Where did that idea come from? It certainly was not from me or your father.

**Johnny:** Mom, if Trump can steal millions of dollars or get caught paying hush money to a porn star, what is the big deal already?

**Mom:** (teeth gritting) Since when does doing a crime become not a big deal with you? You know better!

**Johnny:** Nothing happened to Trump when he was convicted of 34 felonies and stealing from those charities he set up. I don't get it. A person does all of that and he still runs to be president...and wins, and no one says anything more about his convictions.

**Mom:** He is a bad example for anyone to follow but Trump did not get caught stealing petty cash from your school, you did! You will probably be expelled or suspended from school, and it will be on your school record for college recruiters to see. You made a huge mess and now you will suffer the consequences of bad choices.

**Johnny:** They got the money back, so what is the big deal?

... continued on page 4

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# Bipartisanship Cannot Be a Dirty Word

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

What is one thing – just one – you can agree on with someone on the opposite side of the political divide? The late General Colin Powell once told me, "Figure that out and you can get a lot done. And as you win one victory together, you might just discover along the way that there's something else you agree on."

Our nation seems utterly divided. Many of the wounds that have been torn open in these last few election cycles are real and painful. But too much focus has been placed on further tearing open those wounds rather than healing them. One way we can heal them is simply by rolling up our sleeves and getting to work on the things we can agree on.

One thing Dr. Martin Luther King taught his lieutenants, several of whom trained me when I was a young organizer, is that if you are comfortable in your coalition, your coalition is too small.

We need unlikely allies and uncomfortably large coalitions. Coalitions of what can seem like strange bedfellows get things done. When I served as national president of the NAACP, we brought together prison guard unions, conservative governors, and Democratic legislators to dramatically shrink prison systems and allow people who served their sentences to regain their right to vote.

Bipartisanship itself can be a powerful tool and vehicle for progress. Here are a few examples, just from recent or ongoing environmental fights for legislation at the federal, state, and local levels.

We know that Donald Trump and his allies in Congress are close friends of the fossil fuel and other extractive industries. As such, one might assume Republican support for conservation efforts would be hard, if not impossible, to find. But one of the green movement's great victories at the federal level during the first Trump administration was passage of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act. The bill provided permanent funding for important conservation and public recreation projects across the country



and addressed a multi-billion-dollar maintenance backlog in national parks and other public lands. At the time, then executive director of the Sierra Club, Michael Brune, called it "one of the most important conservation bills in a generation." It passed in a closely divided US Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, by a vote of 73-25.

We now hope to replicate that success with passage of the bipartisan EXPLORE Act during the current lame duck session or in the next Congress. That bill is a wide-ranging package of popular policies including the Outdoors for All Act and expansion of the Every Kid Outdoors program to make national parks and public lands accessible to more of America's youth.

One of my favorite current examples of a powerful multi-partisan, common ground-finding coalition at the state level is in the fight to stop a dangerous carbon capture pipeline in Iowa. A bill supported by that coalition to slow approval of land seizures for the project passed the Republican-majority Iowa House in March by a whopping 86-7 vote. That bill was unfortunately killed in the state Senate, by just a handful of powerful senators, before it could receive a floor vote. But coalition organizers are still fighting, and they believe the bill – or one similar to it – has the support to pass once they can get it to the Senate floor.

At the local level, I heard a story just this month that illustrates how, even when things seem bleak, there are still plenty of opportunities for

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Tolliver...continued from page 3

**Mom:** Big deal you say! What happens when the swim coach sits you down or you can not take those advance placement courses, and you are barred from running for student government?

**Johnny:** (now dazed by what could happen to him) Hey, wait a minute! That is not fair! Why is it that Trump can do all the things he did, and he is not stopped from doing what he wants?

**Mom:** Johnny, that is not how the world works. Some big fish get through the nets, and some are caught. Trump, so far, got through one of the holes in the nets.

### MORAL OF THE STORY:

The rise and unexpected favor that almost half of voting America have placed in Trump has led to conversations such as the above being discussed at dinner tables across America.

Seemingly America has allowed its standards of right and wrong and esteeming a moral code, to slip and so downwardly to the point that non-violent wrongdoers can point to Trump as the prime exemplar that doing wrong does not mean always getting punished.

Trump is an avatar of a "base" that has championed his deviant behavior because in many respects that base feels an affinity with such a morally corrupt person who shows no remorse at his negative civil or criminal acts.

That base of voters has allowed themselves to be convinced that Trump is their retribution against the Deep State...a state that they believe has robbed them of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So, when a morally corrupt person comes along and stirs up their fears and anger issues against those "others" who are the real problem of their blight or demise, they run to him seeking exoneration and restoration (Make America Great Again!).

Johnny was not too far off in his juvenile assessment of what is right and wrong because hearing and seeing years of Trump flaunting the laws, civil norms, basic human decency, and courtesies can lead one to believe that being a Trump like person is politically and morally sanctioned, when it is not.

The coarsening of the American political and cultural scene was only exacerbated by Trump and his shenanigans, cruelty, and mocking of established norms of manners, civil discourse and decency.

Regrettably for the Johnnies of the world, the example of Trump has become a by-word to shun what is proper, honest and prudent and go for the cheap and vulgar; and because of that, we all suffer individually and collectively as a society.

The Trump virus, to date, has no vaccination shot.

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*Perryman...continued from page 3*

pez, leading the special assessments team. I learned to navigate government bureaucracy while breaking down barriers to help constituents access critical services.

Then, I worked with Center of Hope's food distribution program during COVID-19. Ensuring families had basic necessities during such a difficult time was exhausting and deeply rewarding. Most of all, it was a reminder of the impact of serving others in their time of need.

**Perryman:** And then joining Pathway, Inc.?

**Savage:** I served the past three years as Director of Community Resources at Pathway; having the opportunity to come in and disperse what was initially roughly \$20 million in rent and utility and mortgage assistance is where I started.

**Perryman:** How familiar are you with the Pathway's resilient history, including its time as EOPA?

**Savage:** Growing up in this community and active in my church, I was familiar with key figures like Pete Culp and Weldon Douthitt. I often saw them offering help wherever they were. People would approach them with a need and they'd immediately respond—whether by making a call or taking down information to follow up.

I didn't fully grasp what was happening as a child but I observed their leadership and dedication to helping others. Now, as an employee and leader, I've gained a deeper understanding of the operations of Community Action Agencies and their importance.

**Perryman:** As a Black-led organization, EOPA was a source of pride for the African American community in Toledo, Ohio. The loss of the Head Start grant has certainly impacted the agency. Please talk about the impact and consequences of losing the Head Start funding on the organization and the community.

**Savage:** We're grateful that Head Start still exists; it is now run by Toledo Public Schools (TPS). We are grateful that it is still a part of our community. While it was a major part of EOPA, the history still lingers within our organization. There are still individuals who carry that history and share it as often as they can of the times when that organization or program was a part of the agency. The agency has since rebranded and is now Pathway, Inc., which meant that we were moving forward and have been continuously doing so since that program left.

**Perryman:** Does it matter that Head Start and the education of our children at one time was the Black community's responsibility and a pillar of the organization? How have you been able to pivot and still remain responsive to the community?

**Savage:** If you want to talk specifically about education, we host a GED program that meets weekly at our agency through our partnership with Owens Community College. So, the educational component combined with certifications and training for individuals will remain part of who we are and what we offer. I think we're just educating in a different way. Our focus is on strengthening families so they can create the solid foundations for their children to thrive.

**Perryman:** Can you describe the core programs and initiatives Pathway currently operates?

**Savage:** We have several key programs focused on meeting the needs of our community. The Department of Community Resources offers comprehensive case management to seniors and permanently disabled clients,

addressing their specific needs.

Our Employment and Career Services include a GED program in partnership with Owens Community College, as well as financial literacy and training initiatives supported by LISC, which recently recognized Pathway for its impactful work. This department also runs the Summer Youth Employment Program, helping youth ages 14-18 gain work experience through coaching on topics like paycheck management, etiquette, and professional interaction.

The Senior Emergency Home Repair Program, originally led by Weldon Douthitt, provides critical repairs for seniors aged 60 and older and those who are permanently disabled, with funding from the City of Toledo.

Lastly, we operate the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which provides emergency energy support. HEAP is a staple service for many, and during our winter crisis program, we see hundreds of individuals seeking assistance, including at events like our recent Super Tuesday Program. These programs reflect our longstanding commitment to serving and empowering the community.

**Perryman:** Pathway has recently experienced significant layoffs. What are the challenges moving forward, and how are you addressing them?

**Savage:** Well, it's not easy. During my time leading the Department of Community Resources, I established a peer network to ensure team members could lean on one another for support – whether to navigate work-related issues or simply to say, "Hey, today's a heavy day for me, and I'm not okay. Can we talk?" Those relationships were established intentionally to build trust and provide the opportunity to learn from one another.

The layoffs you mentioned were tied to statewide cuts in HEAP dollars, with the explanation that they were rolled back to pre-COVID levels. That led to the loss of 10 individuals plus three unfilled vacancies. Since then, we've repurposed staff from other departments, like our CSBG team, with prior knowledge of HEAP to help manage the workload. My approach is to ensure no one feels overwhelmed or unsupported – we're strongest when we step up together to address challenges.

**Perryman:** With leadership changes at the federal and state levels, the reliance on government funds presents nonprofits with an uncertain future. How do you lead during such times of crisis and challenge?

**Savage:** My faith keeps me grounded; I know that He will not lead me where He will not guide me. I am also very proactive, so I have established relationships with private foundations and explored partnerships with other organizations to diversify our funding sources.

While we are deeply grateful for government funding at all levels, we're actively pursuing new avenues to sustain our services and keep the momentum going. My goal is to reassure staff and the community that we are committed to keeping our doors open and continuing to serve, no matter the challenges. We've also developed an extensive outreach program so that we're not relying on individuals to just come through our doors but going out into the community to tell them who we are and what we offer.

**Perryman:** You follow revered and esteemed leaders like Oscar Griffith, Jim Powell and Mary Hodge, as well as strong board chairs like Jim Caldwell and Bishop Robert Culp. What legacy would you like to leave in this role?

**Savage:** Oscar Griffith's legacy is still so heavily embedded in our orga-

*...continued on page 6*

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# World AIDS Day 2024: Addressing HIV/AIDS in the African American Community

On December 4, 2024, the Toledo Alumnae and Epsilon Omicron Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host *Ladies Night Out* at the West Toledo Library to mark World AIDS Day. With the theme "Put People First," this event seeks to raise awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS in African American communities, especially in Lucas County, where they represent 46 percent of HIV cases despite making up only 17 percent of the population.

African American women are particularly vulnerable, often due to male partners engaging in "down low" behavior, where relationships with other men are hidden. However, this is part of a broader issue, involving stigma,

limited healthcare access, and other structural barriers. Additionally, sexually transmitted infections such as syphilis are closely associated with HIV transmission, but many in the community are unaware of this link. This program is designed to educate and empower individuals to prevent HIV and understand the risks of other related diseases.

This event will provide interactive activities, expert-led discussions, swag bags, raffles, and refreshments. Join us from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the West Toledo Library for an evening of fun, education, and empowerment. Together, we can put people first, reduce stigma, and help create a healthier, more informed community.

### Bipartisanship...continued from page 4

progress. A Sierra Club volunteer leader receiving a lifetime achievement award for her work spoke to a crowd that was no doubt devastated by the results of the recent election. She told them she had, just the day prior, attended a board of supervisors meeting in her community where she and other community members convinced the body – composed entirely of Republicans except for one Democrat – to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers. It was a reminder of how often straightforward local community organizing transcends politics.

This is just a small sampling of countless examples across the country of Americans who are not letting partisanship stand in their way as they work to make things better for their families and communities. The com-

mon ground is there if we bother to look for it. And look we must if we care about getting things done.

We do not have to agree on much for us to thrive together, in our families and communities, and as a country. For those of us fighting to get something done, we must remember: coalitions that include a variety of viewpoints are coalitions that ultimately win. General Powell's words still ring true.

### Perryman...continued from page 5

nization in terms of the memories that individuals have for the work that has been done in that space. I don't take it lightly. Let me say this: when I walk through that door every day, I know what I'm facing, I know what my assignment is, and I know what has been done leading into this role.

My legacy is that when people walk away from Pathway, they know that they have been impacted in a positive way; that we can make a difference and turn the page for families; that they can see a better day, and that we treat them with respect and dignity.

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



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**Hosted by the Toledo Alumnae & Epsilon Omicron Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

# Thieves Target TUFCU ATM at Monroe Street Location

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

In the wee small hours of the morning – Monday morning, November 18 – two thieves stole a Bobcat-type loader, a machine used to haul or push material from one location to another, from a construction site on Smead Avenue, drove it down the city streets to the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union location at 3053 Monroe Street and knocked over an ATM machine.

No, really! Knocked it over. Knocked it over, picked it up and eventually loaded it into a pickup truck and drove off, without anyone apparently seeing them and reporting it.

The alarm on the ATM, which was so solidly grounded to the concrete that the screws remained in place, sounded at 4:24 am when the machine was first attacked, alerting Guardian Alarm, which subsequently alerted the police.

At 4:32, Angela Cattladge, TUFCU COO, received a call from Guardian Alarm and then a call from the Toledo Police Department as the robbery continued. TPD arrived on the scene at 4:41 a.m.

Meanwhile the scofflaws kept pushing the ATM loose from its moorings and, after several attempts, loaded it onto the truck, watched it fall off and reloaded it, all the while as people drove by in the morning hours oblivious to the ongoing theft.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (to whom such thefts from federally insured financial institutions must be reported) such a robbery is a first. "They have never seen something like this in this area," said TUFCU CEO Suzette Cowell.

But of particular concern to TUFCU board members and staff is that this relatively small community financial institution in the heart of the city would be attacked. "This was not a black-on-black crime," said Bishop Pat McKinstry, pastor of Worship Church and chair of the TUFCU board. The video of the

incident appears to show the forehead of a white man's head above his mask, she notes.

While this is the first time bandits have absconded with a TUFCU ATM, or anybody's ATM in the area, this is not the first time TUFCU's ATMs have been attacked.

In May of this year, an ATM at the Dorr Street location was attacked but could not be moved – it was simply severely damaged. In July, an ATM at the same location was raided and the thieves "took the brains" of the machine, said Cowell.

For the moment as Homeland Security and TPD try to solve the mystery, Cowell asks those in the community to be on the alert. If you see someone trying to run off in the middle of the night with an ATM, or even just attacking it on site, "call someone."



TUFCU's board member Pastor Tim Pettaway, CEO Suzette Cowell, Board Chair Bishop Pat McKinstry point to the still in-place screws that held the ATM



Thieves knocked over a TUFCU ATM



One of the thieves after the hauler dislodges the ATM



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# Exploring Athens, Greece: A Taste of History, Cuisine, and Comfort

By Shana Lee

The Truth Travel Reporter

Athens, the cradle of Western civilization, seamlessly blends ancient history with modern vibrancy. On my recent trip to this mesmerizing city, I discovered incredible places to eat, awe-

inspiring historical landmarks, and a luxurious place to call home during my stay. Here's a guide

to my favorite Athens highlights.

## Where to Eat in Athens

Athens is a foodie's paradise, offering everything from traditional Greek flavors to eclectic international fare.

### Flavour Business Resto Café

This chic café was a delightful find! I savored their Flavour Omelette, a hearty dish made with three eggs, gouda cheese, turkey, peppers, and smoked bacon. It was served alongside a fresh green salad and was absolutely delicious. The service was top-notch, and the lovely ambience made it a standout experience. If you're a coffee lover, I highly recommend stopping here for one of their expertly crafted espresso beverages.

### Ciao

Dining at Ciao was like being welcomed into a family. From the moment we arrived, the staff made us feel right at home with their warm hospitality. The food was incredible—we enjoyed everything from their perfectly baked pizzas to rich, flavorful pasta dishes. And let's not forget dessert! Every bite was a testament to their commitment to quality and authentic flavors. If you're in Athens, this spot is an absolute must-visit for an unforgettable dining experience.

### Masina

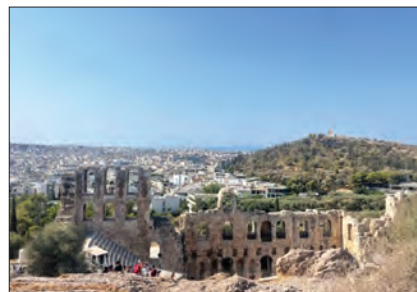
If you're looking for a restaurant with modern elegance, Masina is a



The Parthenon



Grand Hyatt Athens



must. At Masina, I enjoyed one of the best meals of my trip. Their Pitta Pork Gyros stole the show—tender, flavorful pork wrapped in soft pita bread and dressed with fried potatoes, tomato, onions, and tzatziki sauce. It was the perfect balance of textures and flavors.

The Greek salad was another highlight, topped with the most delicious feta cheese I've ever tasted. The food at Masina was simple yet perfectly seasoned and incredibly delicious, with prices that were more than reasonable. Service was impeccable, and I couldn't get enough of the boho-inspired decor, which created a warm and inviting atmosphere.

## Must-See Attractions

No trip to Athens is complete without stepping back in time to marvel at its iconic landmarks.

### The Acropolis

This ancient citadel perched high above the city is a breathtaking testament to Greece's storied past. Stroll through the ruins, admire the intricate carvings, and take in panoramic views of Athens.

### The Parthenon

Located within the Acropolis, the Parthenon is a symbol of classical Greek architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its grandeur and historical significance left me in awe—it's a place that must be seen to be believed.

### Panathenaic Stadium

A visit to the Panathenaic Stadium, the birthplace of the modern Olympic Games, is a must.

This historic stadium, entirely made of marble, is the only one of its kind in the world. Walking through this iconic venue was awe-inspiring, and it offered a unique glimpse into Athens' connection to ancient and modern sports.

### Where to Stay: Grand Hyatt Athens

For a luxurious and comfortable stay, the Grand Hyatt Athens exceeded all expectations. This modern hotel offers elegant rooms with spectacular views of the city and the Acropolis. With a rooftop pool, exceptional service, and delectable dining options, it was the perfect oasis after long days of exploration.

Athens is a city that captivates with its rich history, culinary delights, and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're strolling through ancient ruins, indulging in delectable dishes, or relaxing in luxurious accommodations, Athens offers a travel experience that is both enriching and unforgettable.

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# The Historic Triangle: Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, VA

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

For the history buff, the student of American history, there may be no more fascinating place than the Historic Triangle – that site in southern Virginia where Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown intersect. However, even if history is not a visitor's strong suit, there are plenty of other fascinating aspects to the Triangle.

But let's start with the history. It's all around.

Jamestown became, in 1607, the first Virginia settlement and, in 1619, the site where the first enslaved people from Africa landed, foreshadowing the issue that would plague the New World for centuries to come.

The Jamestown experience starts at the Visitor Center, one mile past the entrance gate and across the causeway connecting the mainland to the island. In the Visitor Center you can view the history of the events that brought the English settlers, and the Africans they enslaved, to the Virginia colony.

Then, cross the footbridge and take a walking tour of the island and the reconstructed original settlement. View re-enactments of the lives of the first settlers.

Williamsburg was founded in 1632 on the high ground between the James and York rivers. The town served as the capital of Virginia from the late 1600s until 1780 and was the center of political events in the state leading up to the Revolution.

The village has been reconstructed and visitors, after a tour of the Visitor Center, can take buses to the village and tour the huge sprawling display of houses, churches, exhibits and colonial folks who will explain exactly what is on view.

It's a breathtaking reconstruction – plan to spend a good portion of your day there.

Listen, you just can't get enough history in the Historic Triangle. Yorktown on the Chesapeake Bay is the site of the decisive battle of the Revolutionary War.

Hearing that the Brits were trapped there because the Americans' French allies' fleet had them penned in, General George Washington force marched his troops down from their New York headquarters. Washington and his troops and French allies arrived in September of 1781 and completely surrounded the army of British General Cornwallis who surrendered on October 19.

The surrender prompted negotiations between the British and Americans which culminated in The Treaty of Paris of 1783.

And, yes, there is a replica of old Yorktown so visitors can experience times during the Revolutionary period. The American Revolution Museum, the Yorktown Battlefield and the Yorktown Beach all are awaiting you.

But, what if history just doesn't do it for you?

Then go to the historic triangle for the lovely scenery, for the food, for the churches, for the farmers' markets, for the food, for the Riverwalk Landing, for the beauty of the College of William and Mary, for the food, for Busch Gardens, for the holiday celebrations and parades ... and did I mention the food?

So much fresh seafood, in so many restaurants with gorgeous views of the rivers or the cities. Add a little adventure to your trip and take a drive south on Interstate 64 to Norfolk and go over the bridge to the Eastern Shore and find yourself a restaurant overlooking the Chesapeake Bay to sample some seafood and drink in the glorious view. The Oyster Farm Restaurant in Cape Charles, for example.

The restaurant offers outdoor patio seating – breathtaking view of the Bay, delicious food, a short drive from the downtown Cape Charles area which, in



itself, is worth a walkabout, to view the shops and galleries.

Then, back to the Williamsburg area.

Plan on a long weekend in the Historic Triangle. A week is better. And plan on revisiting the area in a couple years, to see again the history, to soak in the scenery, to rediscover one of America's most important, most historic, most interesting sites.

However much time you spend in the Triangle, it will be time well spent!



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# My Working Vacation at Sandals Grande Antigua

By Ricky Tyus  
Owner Tyus Tours & Travel  
Publicity, Education & Program Chair for PTANA GDC

I was the final board member from Detroit to arrive in the enchanting paradise of Antigua. Our journey began as we soared from Detroit to Miami together, though fate had me lingering with a two-hour layover while my fellow board members hurried to catch their connecting flight, as our flight from Detroit had arrived late. I have little fondness for racing through airports, so I ensure to grant myself at least 90 minutes between flights. Thus, while my companions dashed away, I indulged in a leisurely lunch.



Ricky Tyus

Who are we, you may wonder? We are the illustrious Professional Travel Agents of North America (PTANA), Greater Detroit Chapter, here to celebrate our 16th Annual Convention. More on PTANA later.

As I arrived at Sandals Grande Antigua, blissfully unaware, I discovered that other board members from different chapters were also on my flight. Navigating through customs, I found a welcoming shuttle from Sandals awaiting me, ready to whisk me and fellow travelers to the splendid Sandals Grande Antigua—a mere

... continued on page 11



# Rachelle Roy's Exploration of the World Has Begun

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

In early 2023 Rachelle Roy, a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, acquired a new lease on life as she started traveling seriously and visiting countries around the world for the first time. Those experiences have changed her life and turned her into a committed traveler eager to explore more of the world that she has still not yet seen.

... continued on page 11



Grecian ruins



The very modern new Dubai



Rachelle Roy at the southern tip of Africa



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Rachelle Roy... continued from page 10

Roy's daughter first interested her in the prospect of travel a little more than five years ago, but the pandemic put those thoughts out of mind. Later discussions with a sorority sister revived those dreams ... but how to start? Where to go? How to get there? How to make the best use of her money?

By chance, Roy and her sorority sister, who had always wanted to visit Greece, fell into a conversation with a seasoned traveler who informed them of a company called Gate 1, with whom he had taken more than a dozen trips. Gate 1's services include escorted tours, cruises and customized vacation packages.

"If you ever want to travel the world, then Gate 1 is the way to go," says Roy now having experienced four trips using their services.

Off they went. First stop? Greece, of course. And it was every bit as exciting, and enlightening, as she might have hoped for. "The historic value ... the world as it was before Christ ... the old ruins ... the food." And the Gate 1 tour guide was able to bring it all into perspective, Roy says.

That trip was so exciting, so fulfilling, that before 2023 was over, Roy booked another – this time to Dubai which she had found out a little bit about on social media. Again, she reached out to Gate 1 and again she was not in the least disappointed during that adventure.

"The blue water and the white beaches!" Everything was an adventure for Roy because she did not do any research beforehand, and everything was a delightful surprise – especially the mosques she visited, and the differences she observed between old Dubai and the touristy, new Dubai which began to be developed in 1970.

Still later in the year, Roy went to the Dominican Republic for a brief birthday trip but as excited as she was to get away again, when she wandered away from the resort area, she was disturbed by the extreme poverty most of the island

residents live with.

After that, it was back with Gate 1 and off to Africa in 2024. First to South Africa where she visited both Cape Town and Johannesburg, later in the year to Egypt to visit Cairo and the Nile. And again the Gate 1 tour guides were especially helpful in explaining the sights and the history behind those sights.

"It was all good," she says, "because I had never been to the motherland."

In South Africa she learned more about recent history and Nelson Mandela and his impact on that nation and its now free-of-apartheid people.

In Egypt, she had the opportunity to view ancient history among the pyramids, the Sphinx and King Tut's tomb. A three-day cruise down the Nile was an eye-opener. "That was the best experience in Egypt because my tour guide was the best in the world," she recalls. She notes that her particular guide, Walid Batouty, has also led a number of celebrities, such as Will Smith and Morgan Freeman, around Egypt.

As a result of what she has seen and learned and the assistance of knowledgeable tour guides, she has become more daring and adventurous in the meantime.

On her first two trips – Greece and Dubai – she went with sorority sisters. When she traveled to Africa, she went by herself on the tours. She is full of confidence that she can befriend strangers, fellow travelers, and relish their company as they all enjoy their new surroundings.

As a very committed traveler, Roy has a list of number of places on her list to visit. Such a list includes the Turks and Caicos Islands, Thailand, Australia, Belize, Bali, Jamaica and the Bahamas, to mention a few.

However, would she revisit any of the past sites?

She would definitely love to return to Africa, the motherland. She would like to visit more countries in the middle of the continent and see more tribes, for example. "I felt more connected to Africa," she says.

Grande Antigua... continued from page 10

15-minute drive.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by Sandals staff with warm hospitality and refreshing cool towels. What a marvel! Despite my extensive experience selling Sandals, this was my inaugural stay at a Sandals Resort. Woo-hoo!

Let me share a glimpse of Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa: Nestled on the most breathtaking and longest stretch of white-sand beach in Antigua—Dickenson Bay. A swift 15-minute journey from V.C. Bird International Airport. Home to the 'Original' Rondovals, now beautifully renovated, featuring larger bathrooms with overhead rain showers. The garden Rondovals boast magnificent enhancements with private pool sanctuaries. This glorious resort sprawls over a 27-acre expanse on the island's most stunning beach.

Sandals Grande Antigua offers 373 rooms and suites. The Mediterranean Oceanview Village, where our convention convened, boasts more swimming pools, while the Caribbean Beachfront Grove lies closest to the alluring shoreline. (See the picture above.)

About Antigua: When one envisions Antigua, the first thoughts often drift to its opulent, tropical climate and the sweet, majestic aroma of the year-round ocean breeze. This coveted destination proudly boasts 365 beaches, yet stepping onto the coral sands is merely the beginning of its treasure trove of offerings.

Fun fact: Just off the coast of Antigua lie around 51 smaller islands, easily accessible by speedboat or pleasure craft for a day of exploration or a secluded picnic on a private beach. Among these enchanting isles is Jumby Bay, home to a celebrated ultra-luxurious resort that exemplifies Caribbean elegance. While many of these offshore havens remain untouched, a select few serve as exclusive retreats for discerning travelers. To uncover more about the wonders of Antigua, visit <https://bit.ly/3OizQqX>.

About PTANA (Professional Travel Agents of North America): PTANA was established in 2009, blossoming into 13 chapters across the USA. Our membership comprises professional travel advisors and supplier Business Development Managers nationwide. PTANA stands as the largest national travel agent organization, governed by agents, and is the only member association recognized as a Consortia. Notably, PTANA is one of 28 premiere members

of CLIA, representing top-producing travel advisors who generate millions in revenue annually across the U.S. Discover more about PTANA at [www.ptana.org](http://www.ptana.org) (<http://www.ptana.org>).

Activities for our convention commenced on Monday evening with the jubilant White Party, where announcements were made and attendees mingled before embarking on "A Dine Around Restaurant Experience," allowing us to choose different restaurants for our culinary adventures. All the dining experiences I encountered were simply delightful.

The convention's primary goal was to vote on 39 by-law amendments. During our business sessions, we utilized our phones to cast votes, and by Thursday's end, we triumphantly achieved our objective.

Here's a glimpse of our activities beyond the business sessions: On Tuesday, we participated in a mandatory Sandals Site Inspection. Wednesday afternoon brought an island tour, culminating in an "Invitation Only" beach party at Royalton Chic Antigua. Thursday afternoon, while PTANA's guests enjoyed a shopping tour, members savored a sponsored lunch with Barbados Tourism, followed by a trade show featuring various vendors.

Our farewell event, the Masquerade (mask optional), took place at Sandals Mediterranean Pool Arch, where it was announced that our next convention in 2025 will be aboard the Sun Princess, a 7-day sailing from Athens, Greece to Barcelona, Spain. This is an event not to be missed! Pictures from the event can be found on PTANA's GDC Facebook page or Ricky Tyus' personal Facebook page.

As our departure approached on Friday, Sandals graciously arranged transportation to the airport, along with a heartfelt farewell presentation from their staff. The temperature in Antigua throughout the week averaged a delightful 89 degrees, though Monday night brought gentle rain showers, as did our beach party on Wednesday. I commend Sandals for their outstanding hospitality and eagerly anticipate sending clients to this paradise soon.

I was the first board member from Detroit to depart Antigua, alongside new-found friends from PTANA and Industry Partners. While my colleagues faced a three-hour layover in Miami, I lingered with a five-hour wait. We reunited in Miami and journeyed back to Detroit, landing safely just after midnight on Saturday morning. This was my working vacation!

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# Protecting Our Youth: An Evening of Safety & Awareness

Hosted by Groomed for Greatness

December 18, 2024 | Scott High School | Toledo, Ohio

Toledo, Ohio—Groomed for Greatness is proud to host “Protecting Our Youth: An Evening of Safety & Awareness” on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at Scott High School’s 2nd Floor Theater, located at 2400 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo, Ohio. This important community event will focus on educating parents, guardians, and youth about the dangers of social media and how to stay safe in today’s digital age.

**Event Details:**

- **5:00 PM:** Food served
- **6:00 PM:** Program starts

The evening will feature expert guest speakers from the **Do It For James Foundation** and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**, who will lead

engaging discussions on social media risks and offer practical strategies for protecting children online.

In addition to the expert presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to gain invaluable insights into online privacy, parental involvement, and how to empower youth to make safe and informed choices in the digital world.

This event is **free** and open to the public. It is supported by **Assets Toledo** and **Councilman John Hobbs III**, who are committed to fostering a safer, more informed community.

**Why This Event Matters:**

... continued on page 13

# Pathway Inc., Department of Development Offering Heating Assistance to Help Avoid Chill of Winter Months

Nearly 77,000 households served last year

The Ohio Department of Development and Pathway Inc. wants to help alleviate the burden of costly energy bills this winter and keep more of Ohio’s families warm.

From Nov. 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, income-eligible Ohioans can receive one-time assistance with their home energy bill through the Department of Development’s Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program.

The Winter Crisis Program assists Ohioans facing service disconnection, those who have already been disconnected, individuals needing to establish new service, those required to pay for a service transfer, and those with a Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) default or who need to make their first PIPP payment. It also supports households with 25 percent or less of bulk fuel in their tank to maintain service. Qualifying households must have a gross annual income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, that is \$54,600.

Last year, the Winter Crisis Program assisted nearly 77,000 households in Ohio, providing a total of \$23.5 million in benefits.

“When temperatures drop this winter, no one should have to worry about if they can afford to keep their home warm,” said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development. “Every year, this program serves as a lifeline for thousands of Ohioans, ensuring they can stay safe and comfortable during our coldest months.”

Households serviced by a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)-regulated utility must sign up for PIPP or another payment plan if there is still an outstanding balance on the utility bill after receiving assistance.

Ohioans can start their application online but must schedule an appointment with their local energy assistance provider to complete the application. Depending on the agency, the appointment may be in person, on the phone, or remotely. The application and list of providers can be found online at [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).

Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

... continued on page 13

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# Christmas Romance Books and More by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Dear Santa....

You've asked for love every way you can imagine, so why not try a letter to the North Pole? That's what you want for the holidays: love, intrigue, family, and you'll find them inside these great Christmas romance books and other novels...

c. 2024  
various publishers  
\$17.99 - \$28.00  
various page counts

When city girl Tia Solanke is faced with a boyfriendless Christmas, she's understandably sad. In *Only for the Holidays* by Abiola Bello (Soho Teen, \$19.99), Tia's mother thinks a change of atmosphere will help, so she plans a Christmas vacation on a nearby farm where the handsome "country boy" who helps run the place also happens to be single. He's also looking for a date to the farm's Winter Ball. Hmmm. Mistletoe Rating: Five out of Five.

Here's something different: set in Norway, *Christmas at Glitter Peak Lodge* by Kjersti Herland Johnsen (HarperVia, \$17.99) is part mystery, part winter tale, and part romance, written in bite-sized chapters for one-a-day reading. When Ingrid Berg assumes management of the lodge her grandmother owns, she wonders how she's ever going to keep the place running. So. Many. Problems. Can she overcome them, or will it be a ho-ho-horrible holiday?

For the romance fan who wants something more classic, try *The Christmas Cookie Wars* by Eliza Evans (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$19). Melody Monroe has been trying to keep the Christmas spirit alive for her nine-year-old twins, but the boys aren't feeling very Christmassy. So when Melody has a chance to seize some holiday spirit, she joins their school's cookie-baking committee, despite that the school's principal is a horrible man who soon starts an argument. Who wins? Nobody but Santa – and love, of course.

You know who'd come to your rescue if your fiance dumped you? Your bestie, of course, and in *The Holiday Honeymoon Switch* by Julia McKay (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$19), Holly's man has jilted her and her bestie, Ivy, steps in with a plan. They'll switch places: Ivy will go on the ex-honeymoon alone, while Holly will take Ivy's cabin-vacation. But when Mr. Ex checks into the hotel, and the cabin host turns out to be a cabin hottie, these single belles might hear romantic Jingle Bells.

And, okay, you can't have enough romance for the holidays, but you need something else, too... like maybe a thriller to chill ya? In *You Better Watch Out* by James S. Murray and Darren Wearmouth (St. Martin's Press, \$28), it's two days before Christmas and Jessica Kane wakes up with a terrible injury. She distinctly recalls being assaulted on her daily run, but it takes a minute to realize that she's not home. What's even scarier is that five other people have had the same experience, and they're all trapped in an otherwise empty town. When they begin dying, one by one, Jessica knows that Santa Claus isn't the only one who's come to town.

Not enough for your holiday enjoyment? Then pick up some new books



by asking your favorite bookseller or librarian for more holiday romance. Or you can always ask Santa.

*Pathway, Inc... continued from page 12*

- Copies of their most recent energy bills, if available
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members
- Proof of disability, if applicable

For more information about the Winter Crisis Program, visit [energy-help.ohio.gov](http://energy-help.ohio.gov).

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio's people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at [development.ohio.gov](http://development.ohio.gov).

*Protecting Our Youth... continued from page 12*

As technology continues to advance, children and teens face increasing risks associated with social media, online predators, and cyberbullying. Groomed for Greatness recognizes the urgency of addressing these issues and aims to equip families with the tools needed to navigate these challenges successfully.

**About Groomed for Greatness:**

Groomed for Greatness is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth and families through education, mentorship, and community engagement. By addressing pressing issues like online safety, the organization strives to create a safer and more supportive environment for Toledo's youth.

**Join Us!**

We invite parents, caregivers, educators, and community members to attend this crucial event. Together, we can work to keep our children safe online and help them thrive in the digital world.

**For More Information:**

Please contact Groomed for Greatness at (419) 280-7550 or (313)623-9313.

Join us on December 18, 2024, as we work together to protect our youth and build a safer future for our community.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

November 27, 2024

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

- Assistant Director, Programs and Services.

### SUMMARY

The Assistant Director will provide direct supervision of the managers over the continuum of prevention, treatment and recovery services, including client rights. The continuum is designed to meet the needs of children, adolescents and adults and is consistent with established board priorities. This includes the Manager of Crisis and Treatment Services, Manager of Prevention and Recovery Services and Manager of Client Rights and Housing.

### EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

The person will have a minimum of a Master's degree in a relevant field of study and appropriate licensure (LISW, LPCC), or ability to obtain the license within one year. Requirements also include a minimum of 7 years' experience in the behavioral health field and at least 2 years of supervisory experience. System planning experience and excellent communication skills are preferred.

**Starting Salary Range is up to \$73,000 dependent on license and experience.**

For detailed position descriptions and to apply please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p5hs2b2>  
**Equal Opportunity Employer**

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

- Administrative Assistant

### SUMMARY

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for managing the daily operations of the Board office to ensure that office functions are carried out in an efficient, timely and cost-effective manner. The Administrative Assistant 2 will have the primary responsibility to support the Executive Director, Administrative staff, the Board, related committees and perform financial functions as assigned. The individual must have the ability to manage multiple tasks and set priorities. The position will report to the Executive Director.

### EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Associate's degree in business, office management or related field, at least two years' experience providing administrative support services, Excellent written and verbal skills along with significant experience using Microsoft Office software and familiarity with parliamentary procedures required. High school graduate or equivalent and with at least four years' experience providing similar work may be substituted for degree requirement.

**Starting Salary Range is \$42,000-\$46,000, salary dependent on experience.**

For detailed position descriptions and to apply please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/3wf7j4yc>  
**Equal Opportunity Employer**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS LMH UNIT TURN SERVICES IFB24-B015

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **LMH Unit Turn Services in accordance with IFB24-B015**. Received in accordance with law until **December 5, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP24-R001 N

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Project Based Vouchers for the HCV Program**. Interested parties should be owner/developers, management agent, and/or project sponsors for projects concentrating on Supportive Services. LMH has reserved up to 151 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until **December 5, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://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.



## PATHWAY, INC.

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### Office Aide BYOUth/SYOUth

\$17.00/hr. x 40 hrs./wk.

**Essential Functions:** Provides support in the initial stages and throughout the program; completes phone call log; responsible for recruitment; follow-up with participants; completes Case Management; manages an active caseload; links and refers participants with resources; responsible for completing assigned monthly, quarterly and annual reports; and coordinates developing a community, outreach, and recruitment plan.

### Case Manager BYOUth/SYOUth

\$21.00/hr. x 40 hrs./wk.

**Essential Functions:** Provides support in the initial stages of the program and throughout; completes phone call log; responsible for recruitment; follow-up with participants; completes Case Management services; manages an active caseload; links and refers participants to community resources; follow-up to ensure contact with service providers; responsible for completing assigned monthly, quarterly and annual reports; and coordinates in developing a community, partner, outreach, and recruitment plan.

### Employment Specialist P/T

\$21.00/hr. x 20 hrs./wk.

**Essential Functions:** Responsible for recruitment and entering into the ETO system; provides linkages and referrals; completes case notes; follow-up ensuring program completion; supports recruiting efforts by reviewing yearly, monthly, and weekly goals for youth ages 18-24 and fathers 25 and older; builds outreach efforts and plans by researching and contacting community services, hospitals, clinics, and working with CHW through Healthy Start or Pathways HUB; assists with making presentations; and maintains rapport with community partners.

Apply at [pathwaytoledo.org](http://pathwaytoledo.org)



# A Conversation with Stayce Fowler and Amy Hall

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

Sister 2 Sister held 'The Conversation with Stayce Fowler and Amy Hall' Thursday, November 22 at Franklin Perk Café. This ongoing meet up hosts an interactive discussion between women (and men!) of all walks of life. The aim is to foster an authentic environment and deepen connections while discussing and delving deep into important topics.

Stayce Fowler, publisher of Stalwart Magazine, and Amy Fowler, business owner and life coach, came together eight months ago to create the innovative space.

"We just wanted to get together just to take people out of their workplaces, take people out of their stresses and just to talk about life. We just wanted to invite the community to come out and enjoy it with us," Fowler shared.

They've held the event at various places, highlighting small businesses and partnerships in the area. The event is for everyone-- both men and women of all ages.

"It's a live interactive conversation in which Stayce and I kick off a topic and then we open it up to audience participation," stated Hall, co-founder of Sister 2 Sister, along with Fowler.

The conversation changes each time, as well as the people. While there are regulars, the new mix of participants adds a different perspective and experience each time.

Thursday's topic was gratitude. Previous topics include purpose, limitations and communication.

"We're coming off an election, there's a lot going on all over in the world and in our own worlds and people are now rolling into the holidays - so we said, let's look at gratitude. Because there is so much to be thankful for and sometimes we lose perspective on that," said Hall.

Participants expressed their struggles with gratitude, their daily practices

and tips on how to stay positive and thankful for what they have amongst the struggles of day-to-day life.

The group has helped spark deeper connections and friendships among participants that go beyond the conversation. That are based in authenticity, "So many people have met other people," stated Fowler. "Once you start talking, you see the other person feels like you."

The aim for the group is clear: "How do we add value to people's lives, create a community in which people feel heard and appreciated and that they matter and be able to enrich people's lives," said Hall.

The group is doing just that! Sister 2 Sister has recently closed on their own space downtown where they will continue to grow and expand their event to support more people. The new space will open in the summer of 2025.

The next 'Conversation' will be in January. Last Thursday's event cost \$20 and included food, refreshments and wine.



Co-hosts Amy Hall and Stayce Fowler



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# The African American Leadership Council Maximizes Impact with a Breakout Conference

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

United Way's African American Leadership Council held their annual fundraiser on November 14. The conference included several workshops to inform attendees how to best use digital platforms and local resources to drive their initiatives.

The sessions covered personal branding led by Alissa Mauter, founder of GroundUp Creative agency; emotional intelligence led by Tim Clark, a New York Life Partner; AI business applications led by LaShean Shaw, president of Empowered AI.

A panel discussion titled "Why Toledo" moderated by Candice Harrison, SSOE director of DEI, unpacked the unique qualities that the community has to develop with leadership practices. The panel included diverse perspectives from native and relocated changemakers: entrepreneur Tashara Ballard; United Way's

Director of Marketing Jon Dorcelly; Pathway's Program Lead Avis Files and Mental Health Counselor Cecil Holston.

Holston, a native of Toledo, shared that being "comfortable enough to go anywhere" is the significance of staying local to reach the needs of people.

The discussion followed the Keynote address of the notable Toledo informative, Alexis Means of 13abc. In her address she emphasized the importance of sharing stories and discovering the connection of talent to impact. She reflected on her own journey in discovering what her talents brought to her community, Means stated "when you are true to yourself, you give others the permission to do the same and that is where real change begins."

Means encouraged the attendees in their individual impacts, charging them up for the remainder of the conference that concluded with an engaging network session led by Sheila Eason, founder of Elevate People Solutions.

As attendees left with new information and connections, the AALC group left with a new face to lead in 2025 with the announcement of Amanda Davis as chair.



Rev. Tim Clark



Alexis Means



Candice Harrison, Alexis Means, Alissa Mauter



Marcus Harrison



Sheila Eason

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