



Volume 87 No. 8      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*      January 22, 2025



*Jonathan Dorcely, Director of Marketing & Engagement at United Way of Greater Toledo*

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# Back in the Game: Roberto Torres' Mayoral Ambitions

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

The Truth Contributor



*Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.*

- Jane Jacobs

Roberto Torres is back!!!

After years of impactful work in the Midwest from Cleveland and Canton, Ohio, to Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan, the northwestern Ohio native is now getting back into Toledo's political arena to challenge incumbent Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz in the March primary and, possibly, November's general election.

In Toledo, Torres returns to a world he knows well: the city's politics, community-building efforts and the fight for greater minority inclusion. Born and raised in northwest Ohio, Torres is ready to bring his expertise in economic development, minority inclusion and community advocacy to bear upon his hometown's challenges.

I spoke with Torres, an Independent, to discuss his mayoral candidacy and commitment to using his experiences to improve the community.

**Perryman:** How did things start for Roberto Torres?

**Torres:** I was born and raised in northwest Ohio and grew up in a migrant camp as one of 13 children. My father, originally from Mexico, and my mother, from Texas, settled in Ohio after years of working in agricultural states like California, Oregon and Minnesota. After graduating from Swanton High School, I attended Bowling Green State University and served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps as a paralegal in the Judge Advocate's office.

**Perryman:** Tell us about your professional experience.

**Torres:** My career began in administration at the Catholic Youth and School Services at the Diocese before I transitioned to public service, working for the City of Toledo in 1996. I held leadership roles such as director of the Youth Commission, Office of Latino Affairs and economic development manager. Working under Mayors Carty Finkbeiner and Jack Ford, I focused on creating opportunities for minority businesses. I was elected to the Toledo Public School Board in 2005, advocating for inclusion in the \$700 million Building for Success Program.

In 2008, I became Canton's director of economic development during the Great Recession, securing \$1.8 billion in international investments. My career later took me to Cleveland, Grand Rapids and Detroit, where I led immigrant affairs and economic inclusion initiatives.

I've returned to Toledo to reengage with the community, address its challenges, and run for mayor, focusing on equity and opportunity for all.

**Perryman:** What prompted your decision to run for mayor?

**Torres:** The background that I had under Mayor Ford and Mayor Finkbeiner presented opportunities for Toledoans from all walks of life to be a part of the economic benefits of the city. The current administration has minimized many of those opportunities through policies and the work environment it supports.

**Perryman:** You commented in the media, describing your candidacy as "a campaign driven by the people." Can you explain what that means?

**Torres:** It's interesting because folks have said the current administration has all the union support and millions of dollars in resources to run for reelection. The one thing you can't say is that they are not beholden to interest groups because they are. The current environment that we have that prevents minority contractors and minority businesses from opportunity is because of those interest groups.

When I say it's "other people," I mean that I've been encouraged by community members to seek this position. I haven't gone out there to say I'm running because I have the endorsement by this interest group or that interest group; it's not that. It will be a campaign where I'm listening to the individual voters and those who said we don't have inclusion opportunities, whereas in the past, we did.

**Perryman:** You've spoken about neighborhood neglect; what specific policies or initiatives would you implement to address the issue?

**Torres:** One of the things I looked at when I came back was what economic development activity was happening right now in our neighborhoods. I realized that none of the CDCs I knew existed when I was working with Mayor Ford and Mayor Finkbeiner, and they were no longer around.

That's one piece, and the other is the Block Watch program. The number of active organizations that the city relied on heavily to keep a public eye on what's happening in the neighborhoods has declined. Community engagement and community activism have been missing, so that's something that we would return to under my administration.

... continued on page 3



Roberto Torres

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# Trump's Team is Coming for Climate Science. The Timing Couldn't Be Worse.

By Ben Jealous

It is official: 2024 was the hottest year on record. Temperatures not only surpassed 2023 as the previous hottest year, they leapt – for the first time – past the goal set in the Paris Climate Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Whether you turn on the TV to news of the most recent super storm or raging wildfire, or can see these disasters firsthand just by looking outside, the climate crisis is all around us.

If there was ever a single worst time in history to undermine climate science and America's climate leadership, it is right now. So it is an outrage that incoming President Donald Trump's picks for key administration posts signal his intent to do just that. And the clear pro-fossil fuel, anti-science agenda extends beyond Trump's picks for the positions most obviously related to climate policy. We know that nominations like fossil fuel industry shill Lee Zeldin to lead the Environmental Protection Agency and oil executive Christ Wright as head of the Department of Energy spell disaster for the lives and livelihoods, and health and wealth, of countless communities and working families. But those are not the only foxes in the henhouse.

Case in point: Russel Vought, Trump's choice to lead the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Vought is an architect of the notorious Project 2025 – the authoritarian playbook for decimating democratic institutions and checks and balances to serve up an extreme far-right agenda. Vought authored a chapter on the Executive Office, outlining ways Trump could increase his power. As head of OMB, Vought would oversee the office tasked with overseeing “the implementation of the president's vision across the Executive Branch.” It is an immensely powerful office with influence over a vast amount of the federal government. And Vought has climate policy squarely in his sights.

Vought has laid out his desire to attack civil servants who work to protect public health and address the climate crisis, saying, “When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work because they are increasingly viewed as the villains. We want their funding to be shut down so that the EPA can't do all of the rules against our energy industry because they have no bandwidth financially to do so. We want to put them in trauma.”

In his Project 2025 chapter, Vought suggests efforts to address climate change are merely “social engineering” and promotes reshaping the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). Now, the sharp edge of this particular attack has become clear with reporting that Vought seeks to undermine the National Climate Assessment, which is produced by the USGCRP. The Assessment is the foundational report used by the federal government for policies addressing or related to climate change, the product of research by hundreds of scientists and a key to US climate leadership worldwide. Vought is calling for more White House control of the Assessment, and giving OMB a role in selecting the scientists who produce the report.

Climate scientist and director of the Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media at the University of Pennsylvania Michael Mann told E&E News the goal of the incoming administration “is to undermine any policies aimed at accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.” Attacking the National Climate Assessment is a means to that end.

Americans' health and economic wellbeing depend on not just continuing but speeding up our full transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy sources, as well as addressing the climate crisis in other ways. Undermining the science that serves as the underpinning for all our efforts to tackle the climate crisis is nothing short of a crisis in its own right.

This is Project 2025 in action.

On the campaign trail, Trump did all he could to distance himself from the people behind the abysmally unpopular Project 2025, saying he had “nothing to do with them” and had “no idea” who they were. Now, in addition to Vought, Trump plans to nominate Project 2025 contributors to powerful posts throughout his administration.

Project 2025 also suggests dissolving the critically important National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), describing it as



“one of the main drivers of the climate change alarm industry,” and “fully commercializing” the National Weather Service, which NOAA houses. These science agencies enable us to find effective approaches to curbing the climate disaster and warn people of dangerous weather events to come.

One week before Election Day, Congresswoman Sara Jacobs of California published a piece in Newsweek under the headline, “Project 2025 Is January 6's Attempted Coup Dressed in a Nice Suit.” Project 2025 represents not only a coup against democracy and checks and balances, but against our government's role in solving our nation's problems and America's leadership in solving the world's – chief among them, the climate crisis. For the sake of a livable planet and all the communities that continue to be devastated by extreme climate-fueled weather events, the Senate should vote to reject the nominations of Russel Vought and any other contributor to Project 2025.

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

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

**Perryman:** You've also criticized the focus of the city's new flag. What's up with that?

**Torres:** The point is that we had two homicides in that week, and rather than speak about these incidents and go to the neighborhoods where it happened, there was the announcement of this new flag.

I'm not saying that the flag is not something that ought to be celebrated. What I'm simply saying is the incidents that occurred need to have some attention to it. I went out to the actual neighborhood where the homicide happened, and I spoke to the business owners. They were happy to have gotten a visit from someone who said, “Okay, this happened, and I'm glad you're bringing attention to this.”

**Perryman:** A little while ago, Mayor Kapszukiewicz and Police Chief Trendle discussed the most recent crime trends. Auto theft is down 21 percent; homicides are down 18 percent. We're lower than we were 30 years ago. Robbery is down five percent, motor vehicle theft is down 26 percent and then the number of people shot is down seven percent.

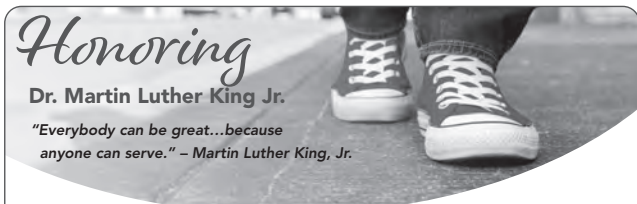
The data seems to conflict with what you're saying. Hasn't the mayor addressed that by coming out with the current report and implementing initiatives to show that we're effectively addressing the crime in Toledo? What is your plan for reducing violence and improving public safety in Toledo?

**Torres:** I suggest contacting previous mayors to determine whether the crime report data is accurate. But, obviously, just from the outside looking in, I can't tell you precisely what my plan would be. However, I can tell you that if you don't have a community engaged in these conversations, you're not being as effective as you can be.

**Perryman:** How do you intend to foster trust, collaboration and engagement between law enforcement and local communities?

**Torres:** Well, first, by being present. My understanding is that you need to

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## State Bank GIVES

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# Rep. Erika White of Ohio House District 41 Sworn Into 136th General Assembly

State Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) last week was sworn into the 136th Ohio General Assembly. Rep. White will be beginning her first term in the legislature, serving the people of Holland, Springfield Township, Maumee, and portions of Toledo at the Ohio Statehouse.

Prior to being elected Rep. White served as both the Vice President & President of her local chapter, CWA 4319 with at AT&T Ohio Bell.

"The chance to change anyone's life is simply creating a harbor where opportunity meets hard work. For me, that opportunity was my union, and that hard work was taught by my mother and fostered through public education. If we want better outcomes, we must equitably invest resources that create realistic opportunities for all Ohioans," said Rep. White.

Rep. White is a committed worker and advocate for both the working and middle class and a devoted mother who understands the necessity of a government that prioritizes the voices and addresses the needs of all its citizens.



Rep White takes the oath of office

# Kaptur Announces \$2 Million DOJ Award for Toledo Community Based Violence Intervention Prevention Initiative

Today, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) announced a \$2 Million Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Site-Based award from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the City of Toledo. This funding opportunity through the Department of Justice supports comprehensive, evidence-based efforts at reducing gun violence through partnership with community, local government, hospitals, victim service providers, law enforcement.

The new funding will build on existing efforts to curb violence and identify

gaps between high-risk populations and current community-based organization capacity. The award will provide training, technical assistance, and competitive subgrant and microgrant programs for individual and community-based organization crime prevention practitioners. This new funding follows \$1.7 Million in Federal Justice awards for the City of Toledo announced by Congresswoman Kaptur in October 2024.

"As a lifelong resident of Toledo and Northwest Ohio, I know that over time our city and region have undergone many changes. In an evolving age of policing and justice initiatives, we need to adapt to new and advanced methods of crime prevention that are proven to work" said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09).

"This federal funding I helped to secure through the Department of Justice will allow the City of Toledo, Mayor Kapszukiewicz, and the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement to reduce gun violence through partnership with community, local government, hospitals, victim service providers, and law enforcement. We must use every tool in our arsenal to address issues of public safety. I applaud the City of Toledo and Department of Justice for this innovative approach that aims to address these problems in our communities. By working together to address root causes and provide necessary tools, we can make a safer Toledo and Northwest Ohio for all."

"This \$2 Million grant from the Department of Justice is a win for Toledo residents," said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. "By investing in evidence-based strategies and empowering community-led initiatives, this funding will help us continue the progress we've made in reducing violence, saving lives, and creating opportunities for our residents. We are deeply grateful to our federal partners, including Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, for championing this critical investment in our community's future."

The award has a three-year performance period, and will fund a full-time program coordinator for that three-year period. The program will be administered by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE). MONSE aims to prevent and reduce violent crime in the city of Toledo by building the capacity of violence prevention professionals, community-based organizations, and grassroots organizations engaged in violence intervention and prevention. This project aims to promote racial equity and remove barriers to access and opportunity for these historically underserved communities by reducing gun mortality and criminal justice system involvement through evidence-based CVIPI.

Additionally, the award will fund:

- Quarterly microgrants awarded by the Community Action Table to community-based and grassroots initiatives aimed at addressing violence and/or promoting peace.
- An assessment of the current CVIPI landscape in collaboration between the Community Action Table, a multidisciplinary stakeholder working group, and research partners at Bowling Green State University and Boston Univer-

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# Jonathan Dorcely and United Way of Greater Toledo: Connecting Hearts, Minds, and Resources for a Better Tomorrow

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Imagine standing at a crossroads in life, unsure of which path to take. For **Jonathan Dorcely**, that moment came during the tumultuous days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Laid off like many others in 2020, he was searching for his next step when a door opened: **United Way of Greater Toledo**. "I've always had the desire to be involved with my community and help others, but I wasn't sure how to do that. United Way came to me at the perfect time in my life," Dorcely shares.

Today, Dorcely serves as the director of Marketing & Engagement at United Way of Greater Toledo, where his passion for connection and community-building shines. But what does United Way actually do? And why should it matter to you? Let's explore the story of Mr. Dorcely and this transformative organization that's been at the heart of our community for over a century.

### The Heart of United Way: Building Bridges

Did you know that United Way started in 1918 as the *Community Chest*, a fundraiser to support social service agencies during World War I? Back then, people needed help but didn't know where to turn. United Way answered that call, connecting donors, volunteers and organizations to tackle pressing social issues. Over 100 years later, the mission remains the same: **to unite the power of community to improve lives.**

"We're connectors at heart," Dorcely explains. "United Way doesn't provide direct services like some nonprofits (outside of 211), but we uplift our partners, shine a light on important issues and connect the dots for the community." Think of United Way as the glue holding together the fabric of support in our region.

United Way's approach is more than just funding—it's about empowering smaller organizations to thrive and collaborate for a greater impact. By stepping in as a bridge builder, they ensure even the smallest voices in the nonprofit sector are heard and supported.

Dorcely explains, "Under our United Way model, we take the organizations we work with and suggest the strongest metrics to see if what they're doing is truly leading to positive change. Our money goes further because we're able to help our partners align their efforts."

This alignment not only amplifies the effectiveness of individual programs but creates a ripple effect, driving measurable, community-wide progress that's greater than the sum of its parts.

### A Lifeline Through 211

One of United Way's standout programs is **211**, a free 24/7 helpline connecting individuals to resources like food, housing, healthcare and more. Whether you're a single mom struggling to make ends meet, a senior in need of transportation or anyone facing unexpected challenges, 211 is a lifeline.

"During the pandemic, we mobilized 211 to help register students for meal distributions, connect seniors to vaccination efforts, and ensure no child went hungry when schools closed," Dorcely recalls. "This is the value we

bring—connecting the pieces so no one is left behind."

### DEI: A Non-Negotiable Commitment

United Way's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) runs deep. Under the visionary leadership of CEO Wendy Pestrue, J.D., and the dedicated efforts of the Community Impact Team, United Way ensures complete transparency in how decisions about community investments are made.

Dorcely and his team also ensure that their marketing strategies reflect the rich diversity of our community. "We're very intentional about our imagery and language. Everyone should feel seen and valued," he emphasizes.

This inclusivity extends to their decision-making process. United Way is reflective of the communities they serve and ensuring they involve people with lived experiences in shaping community funding. For example, if a housing program is being evaluated, someone with firsthand knowledge of housing challenges is at the table. "We believe in making intentional investments that truly align with the needs of our community," Dorcely says.

### Guiding the Next Generation

For young professionals considering a career in marketing, nonprofits, or community engagement, Dorcely offers heartfelt advice: "Find a cause that resonates with you. Volunteer, attend events, and talk to people. Developing your leadership skills will lead you to your perfect destination."

He encourages aspiring leaders to embrace their journey, even if it feels uncertain at times. "It may take time to discover what truly drives you, but once you do, the impact you can make is limitless."

### Responding in Times of Crisis

United Way's ability to adapt during crises sets it apart. From the pandemic to natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires, the organization steps up when the community needs it most. "There's a level of comfort knowing United Way is here to respond and show up in whatever way the community needs us to," Dorcely shares.

During the early days of COVID-19, United Way raised emergency response funds to support organizations struggling to meet increased demand. They provided resources, equipment, and volunteers to ensure vital services

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Jonathan Dorcely

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# A Letter From Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: WHAT'S UP, MY PEOPLE?

I have been gone from you for more than 56 plus years and you will soon be reminded of the day that I left you on April 4, 1968. However, my time away from you has brought on remarkable events that have changed the course of life for you, my people. In fact, it's apropos that I speak with you during this time, when in a few weeks the shortest month in the year will once again be set aside as Black History Month. I could say more about this but I won't at this time.

And still when I awaken from the nightmares that I often encounter, my historical perspective kicks in. I find myself wanting to go back to sleep because of what I'm reminded of with the pervasive flashbacks as to how your lives are devalued by my counterparts and my White brothers who made a promise to me that they were ready to commit to CHANGE. Not just a change that would allow you MY PEOPLE, to enjoy the basic guarantor called LIFE that they have always had the privilege of enjoying, rather, I have found myself surmising that they lied with WHITE PRIVILEGES incessantly, extemporaneously, and yet they became infuriated when those privileges were threatened to be extended to othe4rs, those of you my brothers and sisters of color, and especially you who look like me.

I realize that life can be a lot to handle that you MY PEOPLE live on a daily basis. I told you a few years ago that I was AWAKEN FROM A NIGHTMARE that stifled my being and caused me to shed tears because of what I envisioned and was exposed to that was occurring in every facet of your lives. My, how things have changed. But let me ask you, WHAT'S UP MY PEOPLE? How did you change from experiencing a meaningful life, to accepting by any means necessary, a meaningless life? How is it that what WE valued as a people when I was with you, has become fragmented, missing, and seemingly lost? The hopes, dreams, blood, sweat, tears, pain, and yes death, that took some of us to our grave fighting for your right to vote, I hear is being challenged because you have proven that you, MY PEOPLE, can win elections. No, we didn't know then but now we know, that we have become a threat to our known contenders that when WE WORK TOGETHER, WE WIN! Let me tell you that winning is not new to us, because we have always been willing to fight to win. HOWEVER, WHEN WE WIN, ITS OFFENSIVE TO THEM!

Now I have heard some new news lately that has to do with voting and what can't happen anymore that was common courtesy. I'm doing what you all call SMH. No water given to VOTERS IN LINE, no food given or shared? Did they not know what we had in our pockets, our grocery bags, our handbags, and our brown bags when we walked miles around the country for freedom? Let me remind them. We had bologna, chicken, coca cola, R C, cinnamon rolls, crackers, water and so much more. None of it ever walked alone; it walked with us, and we walked with it. You, MY PEOPLE, have already figured that one out, LOL. I will continue to say it even though I am not there with you, YOU CAN'T FIGHT VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE. I still believe in you. My lifetime friend the late Con-



Bishop Marjorie Holt,  
PhD

gressman John Lewis who has now left you and joined us, I believe still has a place in the hearts and minds of those of you who march on, fight on, and VOTE on. By any means necessary. His legacy must live on, and on, and on. OUR FIGHT FOR VOTING RIGHTS MATTERED THEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO MATTER!

I know that from Charlottesville to Capital Hill, change has to come. No matter the difference, it has to override the injustices that have emanated from such vile trivialities that have become etched in the masterminds of pioneers then and the new births that are laced with RACISM and HATE.

And I have heard up here that my fellow Jews, who are only six percent of the U. S., and my Asian brothers and sisters, have been attacked from all points, and seemingly without cause, other than HATRED. And let me say this, I know that fear is being expressed from those on the other side who are walking on eggshells because my BROWN people have now threatened to move from being in the minority to the majority. Wow, that sounds like a plan right there!

Now let me speak to my YOUNG PEOPLE because I'm told that a lot of un-nerving things are being experienced on their watch. You were left behind to be a catalyst for positive change. However, no matter the devastation and your desire to do it your way, I have to believe that you are choosing to substitute and inflict pain that I'm hearing is causing even deaths to your peers. We must ensure you that any pain that you encounter, must not force you to turn ON EACH OTHER, RATHER TURN TO EACH OTHER. You are MY YOUNG PEOPLE, that have come up through the ranks of our pioneers, who by the way, always found a way in the midst of them parting the Red Sea, to do a back stroke until they could get up and walk again. You are MY PEOPLE, and I ask WHAT'S UP, because I know you, remember? Even though I'm not with you, my spirit remains, my remnants remain, my DREAM remains, and they must always remain so that what we have left in you, can be the jewels that you preserve for the present time and yes, the future. Don't seek REVENGE, rather seek JUSTICE by quietly strategizing diplomatically to defeat who the real enemy is.

I know he's been gone from you for quite a long time as well, in act he joined us in 1984, but my brother Marvin Gaye had it right when he asked the question, WHAT'S GOING ON and I say WHAT'S UP MY PEOPLE! We both asked those questions that served and continues to serve to remind us that the STRUGGLE CONTINUES, THEN & NOW!

And some of the other news that I received up here is that our HBCU's, Black colleges that is, on the first day of our month, February, have received bomb threats. I must remind you that where you are is significant, because location has always served as a launching pad for you, MY PEOPLE. Everything good that happened for us and with us, happened at our universities and churches, and nothing, I mean nothing, no message, no threat, no scare will or has ever stopped you MY PEOPLE from getting to your promise land. You must continue to see and effectively allow Education to serve as the backdrop and foundation to our NEXT and not allow what I hear has become the driving force and motivator with our young people that's called: Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter, FB, and oh so much more. And what is this crave that's called Twerking? Yes, I said what I said.

OK, let me just say that I had to speak to Coretta about this thing called TWERKING. She had a few things to say about it too. She reminded me that she too had heard about how our beautiful young ladies have seemingly sold their souls for their bodies and not their brains, and how dollars and cents in their NOT SO REALITY VENUES, have replaced the meaningful values that she and other mothers tried to instill in them for a lifetime. Yes, she's disappointed because she remembers as well when the heads of our young men turned toward the young ladies because they had on all of their clothes and away from them when they had on few. You must know that we are having to have frequent conversations about YOU MY PEOPLE, because of what we are hearing that's going on. WHAT'S UP?

I hear that you are banning books but not guns, that your schools and houses of faith have now become slaughterhouses instead of safe houses; that your brothers and sisters from the other party are now more committed to the party or the one who's going back to the big house, and not the prin-



Martin Luther King, Jr.

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... continued on page 7



Martin Luther King, Jr... continued from page 6

ciples of the party. Unfortunately, I'm not only told but I'm having nightmares because it seems that everything that once mattered and everyone who stood for RIGHT ae now being left and forced out. I'm sorry if you don't want to hear this from me and you think it's OLD SKOOL, but LIFE is what matters, not a rule that won't even be around to even hear about. Keep first things first. Remember, we've always had to be smarter than a fifth grader to live, and our dying, my dying, the other pioneers who have died, must not and cannot be in vain.

Now I have lost sight of how much progress that has been made since I left you and how there are those who want to take you even further back than when I was with you, but you must be mindful of the fact that this has always happened; that when we got close to what looked like EQUALITY, the rules changed. It's no different from what I see today that is still happening that you are reporting to me. Every meaningful RULE seems to be on the chopping block. But you must not let DISENFRANCHISEMENT TURN TO DISCOURAGEMENT!

The facts bear out that there's been a few good things that I have heard that has happened since I left you, such as:

The election of the FIRST NEGRO PRESIDENT. You say AA, and that's OK; the acquittal of White Police Officers for the shooting of Negroes of AA; the election of a few more Senators & Representatives; the appointments of more judges; the election of FEMALE MAYORS in metropolitan cities; the appointment of a NEGRO/AA FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, wow; and even the selection of a NEGRO/aa VICE PRESIDENT who became the presidential Democratic nominee for a recent election.

That's progress but I'm still bothered by the auxiliary reports that I'm getting about the drugs laced with fentanyl that YOU MY PEOPLE ae dying in record numbers from, the guns in the hands of our young people that continue to kill each other, the continued attempts to overthrow legitimate elections, the alliance between a former president of the United States and our arch enemy for decades, as well as one who has loosed RACISM that yields an all time high on people of color, an insurrection on the Capital that keeps being downplayed, the Black Lives Matter Movement that ought to matter no matter who else matters, the pandemic that caused ill-prepared and unexpected deaths of you MY PEOPLE. By the way, get that vaccine that I have been told save lives, IJS.

Go forth MY PEOPLE, go forth. And as I close this letter to you. I leave this with you. For more than centuries, there has been a HID-



DEN AGENDA that was supposed to be kept under lock and key. But there is one thing that we know, and yes, I still know even where I am today, that the WORST AGENDA IS A HIDDEN AGENDA. But the secret is out.

I heard about the demise of George Floyd some years ago and how the spark around the world took place. Keep that flame burning. However, you must not become dedicated to anger, rather the MOVEMENT that changed the world when I was with you. While you may not know this, I do; the benchmark for some of my White brothers and sisters, has always been HATRED & RACISM AGAINST YOU MY PEOPLE. And the unfortunate take away was that some of them believed that OUR BLACKNESS WAS INTENDED TO BE A THREAT TO THEIR WHITENESS. I still know that we have never asked for a different kind of treatment, we just wanted FAIR treatment.

I STILL HAVE A DREAM, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE A NIGHTMARE: harness the fortitude that I left you with. Make a difference in the lives of each young person that you come in contact with. Encourage them to be the legacy that was etched in our history to be all that we could be by doing all that we could do, ignore the voices that seek to deter your progress and disregard your existence and label your sons and daughters as nobodies whose lives don't matter. Change your thinking on purpose, but be wise in who you share your vision with. Strategize with the few that will help you remember the blood, sweat, tears, and death that we suffered to get to freedom. Don't get trapped into sacrificing integrity for a photo shoot; bring the vision to pass by any means necessary.

MY PEOPLE, DON'T STOP. Do not be deterred. Do not be shaken and do not be mistaken as just angry people with an ax to grind. I still know that the Bible is right; The prayers of the righteous availeth much. You must Fight on, March on, and in the end YOU WIN. You must move from singing WE SHALL OVERCOME TO WE WILL OVERCOME, FOREVER IN MY HEART, I DO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL

OVERCOME NOT SOMEDAY, RATHER TODAY!

GOOD NIGHT MY PEOPLE, IT'S NAP TIME FOR ME BUT AWAKE TIME FOR YOU!

Affectionately Written by  
 Bishop Marjorie Holt, Ph.D.  
 Sr. Servant@Bethesda Christian Center, Toledo, Oh  
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# The Sojourner's Truth

[www.thetruthmedia.com](http://www.thetruthmedia.com)



# The Museum's MLK Day Is "More Than a Dream"

By Fletcher Word  
The Truth Editor

"Art and activism help us to think about Martin Luther King in a more wholistic way," said Lanisa Kitchiner, PhD, Chief, African and Middle Eastern Division at The Library of Congress and director of Education and Scholarly Initiatives at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, during a panel discussion at the Toledo Museum of Art's celebration of MLK Day this past Monday.

"King awarded us a moral fabric ... with such persuasive power, such poetic skill," she added. "We must think of him as an artist."

And thus the discussion began about the connection between art and activism. The panel, moderated by Jennifer McCary, PhD, Chief Culture and Brand Experience Officer at TMA, explored the issue as it related to Dr. King's contribution to both art and activism.

The other Art Is Activism's panelists were artist/activist Yusef Lateef, ...continued on page 12



Damon Coleman



Yuseff Badcar explains the traditional Palestinian scarf as fellow panelists Lanisa Kitchiner, Anthony King and Yusef Lateef look on



# The F.A.M.E.D. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Feast Celebration

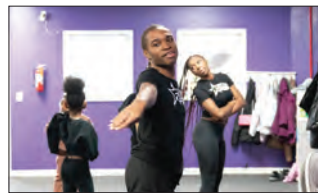
By Alexandria Leatherberry  
The Truth Reporter

F.A.M.E.D. Studios on 2610 W. Central Ave. hosted their third annual community dinner in honor of Dr. King's legacy. Owner Shawanda Johnson-Clarke attributes the idea to her husband acknowledging the need for a gathering style of celebration similar to those for Thanksgiving.

The F.A.M.E.D. family and staff pulled together to host a full feast amidst their studio rehearsals. Shawanda brings the community together for a feast in celebration of Dr. King to display that "even with birthdays or transitions of life, each time is a celebration."

F.A.M.E.D. Studios has been serving the community for 14 years through performing arts and social-emotional skill programs with a focus on youth development. The dance studio specializes in several styles, including jazz,

tap, ballet, contemporary, hip hop, praise dance, and cheer. The studio looks forward to accepting new students into programs that find their interest on FamedStudios.com.



Dance instructors Joanna Coonley and Brandon Moore rehearse with students before MLK dinner commencement



Owner, Shawanda Johnson-Clarke, opens dinner celebration with remarks on impact and prayer



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*Jonathan Dorcely...continued from page 5*

continued uninterrupted.

### **A Celebration of Service: 211 Week**

Mark your calendars for February 11, when United Way celebrates 211 Day nationwide. Locally, the festivities include a week of programming, a breakfast event, and even a scavenger hunt to help people learn how to navigate the 211 database. It's a fun and engaging way to spotlight the incredible work being done in our community.



### **A Call to Action: What Can You Do?**

Jonathan Dorcely's story and United Way's mission inspire a simple yet powerful question: What do you want to see change in our community? Perhaps you've felt the tug to make a difference but aren't sure where to start. United Way offers countless opportunities to get involved, from volunteering to donating or simply spreading the word.

As Dorcely puts it, "Find what resonates with you most. It will be your guiding light."

### **Building a Brighter Tomorrow**

At its core, United Way of Greater Toledo is about hope—hope for stronger families, healthier communities, and brighter futures. With leaders like Dorcely at the helm, this organization is not just solving problems; it's creating possibilities.

The question is, are you ready to join the journey? Together, we can build a world where everyone has the chance to thrive. It starts with one connection, one act of kindness, and one shared vision: to Live United.

*For more information about United Way of Greater Toledo and how you can get involved, visit their website or dial 211 to access resources.*

*Perryman...continued from page 3*

have the leadership present in the community. How do you know what's really happening if you're not there listening to the residents in your community?

**Perryman:** Can you share examples from your time in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Canton or elsewhere where you successfully implemented policies to enhance public safety?

**Torres:** Well, I haven't been a director of public safety; I've been a director of economic development. I can tell you where I've had job creation. I've been the director of immigrant affairs and economic inclusion. I can show you how I've grown the city's population through housing and placement. I can tell you how many young people I've been able to support during my time as youth director and director of the youth entrepreneur program.

**Perryman:** OK. Let's talk about economic development. According to studies, Toledo is ranked last for cities our size and larger for economic conditions for African American residents. What concrete steps would you take to address those economic disparities and improve inclusion?

**Torres:** One of the things I've recognized and worked on in other cities is that you can't just rely on the traditional resources that a city receives. For example, you can't just rely on CDBG, ESG, or home funds as the only funding that you have for development. A city has to be very aggressive about going out and identifying funds.

In Detroit, I made applications to get Choice Neighborhood dollars. In Canton, I made applications for brownfield grants to train individuals on remediation, and that bore fruit rather quickly because, during the time we were doing the training, there was a partnership between the city, workforce development and Stark State College. The country experienced the BP oil spill in the Gulf. Many of the students in our program were recruited and employed to go down to the oil spill to clean it. Many of them received employment with those environmental companies upon coming back.

There are ways in which a city can be more proactive about going out and getting more funds to spur economic development. Historic tax credits, for ex-

*... continued on page 11*

 A close-up photograph of a pile of small, light-colored grains of salt on a dark surface. The grains are scattered and some are in sharp focus, while others are blurred in the background.
 

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# TPS Schools Foundation Partners with Local Organizations to Provide Essential Funding for Youth Swim Safety Program

The Eastern Community YMCA, in collaboration with Toledo Public Schools (TPS) Foundation and several community partners, is proud to announce an impactful initiative to bring swim safety education to six (6) TPS elementary schools. This program aims to equip children with essential water safety skills, thanks to the generosity and support of local organizations.

Todd Deem, principal at Waite High School and East Y Board Member, played a critical role in the development and implementation of this program within TPS schools. "This program is a game-changer for our community," said Deem. "It's about creating opportunities for children to gain life-saving skills while also fostering a love for swimming and confidence in the water."

Community Partners Step Up to Support Youth Safety The program's success is made possible through the dedication and generosity of several organizations:

- ProMedica Bay Park Hospital Foundation and Toledo Refining Company: Contributions will provide funding for transportation, ensuring students can safely travel to and from swim lessons.
- ProMedica, Will Yenrick Vice President of Operations and Eastern Community YMCA Board Member
- Cenovus Toledo Refinery: Funding the YMCA's Safety Around Water Program, which offers vital water safety education.
- Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital: Donating towels and swim bags for all participating children.
- St. Charles Mercy Health Auxiliary and Mission Services Program: Provid-

ing swimsuits for children in need, ensuring every child is equipped to participate fully.

- St. Charles, Craig Albers President and Eastern Community YMCA Board Member

## A Collaborative Approach to Water Safety

The program begins with an in-classroom safety talk at each school, followed by three 45-minute swim lessons at the Eastern Community YMCA in Oregon, Ohio. This hands-on approach allows students to learn critical safety skills and gain confidence in the water.

"We are thrilled to begin this program with Oakdale Elementary," said Dr. Robert Yenrick, Principal of Oakdale Elementary School. "This partnership represents the best of what our community can achieve when we come together for our children's future."

The program will also serve five additional TPS elementary schools: Raymer, Birmingham, East Broadway, Garfield, and Navarre.

"This initiative goes beyond teaching swimming skills," said Beth Konczal, Executive Director of the Eastern Community YMCA. "It's about ensuring every child has access to critical safety education and the tools they need to thrive in and around water. With Lake Erie right in our backyard, this program is essential to meeting the needs of our community. Over the past two years, the Eastern Community YMCA branch and board have worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality, already serving over 900 students from the Oregon City School District and Cardinal Stritch. We are deeply grateful to our community partners for their generosity and commitment to this mission."

Making a Difference in Lives of Children The YMCA's Safety Around Water Program is designed to reduce the risk of drowning, increase water safety awareness, and instill confidence in children. With the support of the TPS Foundation and local partners, this program promises to leave a lasting impact on hundreds of students and their families.

# Lucas County Democratic Party Encourages Residents to Run for Office; Seek Party Endorsement

Last week, the Lucas County Democratic Party (LCDP) opened its 2025 endorsement application for candidates running for public office who would like to do so as an official "endorsed Democrat."

"The May Primary is quickly approaching," said Schuyler Beckwith, chair of the LCDP. "Many local races will appear on the ballot – Mayor, Council, and Municipal Court. We have strong Democratic incumbents but we also know there are many Democrats across the County who are ready to run."

The deadline to submit an endorsement application to the LCDP is February 6, 2025. It can be found on LCDP's webpage at [lucascountymunicipalparty.com/screening](http://lucascountymunicipalparty.com/screening). Signatures to run for office are due to the Lucas County Board of Elections on March 7, 2025, with the May Primary happening on May 6, 2025. In Lucas County, May primaries will be occurring in the City of Toledo, Village of Berkey, Village of Holland, Village of Ottawa Hills, City of Sylvania, City of Waterville, and the Village of Whitehouse, as well as judgeship seats on Toledo Municipal Court.

"If there are Lucas County residents who want to run for office but don't know where to start, please contact the LCDP. We want Democrats who believe in expanding personal rights, who believe in organized labor, and who believe in community-centered solutions to make that leap to run for office," said Beckwith.

Being an endorsed LCDP candidate has numerous benefits, such as access to volunteers, fundraising opportunities, and a greater connection to active local Democrats. Again, the deadline to submit an endorsement application to the LCDP is the end of the day, February 6, 2025.

## Perryman.. continued from page 8

ample. In many cases, cities rely on just the developers or an organization to do it. My experience has been that you go out there and get the funding. That funding will then attract developers to come in and create jobs or develop housing.

**Perryman:** Voters' overwhelming passage of Issue 9 this past November allowed residents an opportunity to re-elect a mayor again for a third term. The charter amendment may indicate that Toledoans are skeptical about leadership changes. How would you reassure voters that you can deliver on your promises during your campaign?

**Torres:** I've done it with every city I've been in. I delivered at the Toledo Public School Board. I delivered in my positions when I was here with the city. Some of the young people I had on the Mayor Ford Youth Entrepreneur Program are assisting with the campaign.

I have a track record, and not just a track record here in Toledo. I have a track record in other communities to show community engagement, job creation, and neighborhood improvement, all of which have happened in positions where I've been in leadership.

**Perryman:** Finally, what other things are you doing in Toledo now that you are back in the game and at home?

**Torres:** I'm supporting minority contractors by finding contract opportunities with various institutions in northwest Ohio. It's something that I did when I was with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and when I was with the city. However, 75 percent of the time is going out and engaging with the community. Since the campaign announcement, I've been applying all my time to engagement.

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

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## Kaptur... continued from page 4

city. This assessment will inform:

- Supporting the Violence Reduction Council to conduct community service provider reviews of fatal and nonfatal shootings.
  - Establishment of a CVIPI capacity building and training Peace in Motion Academy.
  - Competitive subgrants to two Community Based Organizations to implement and sustain evidence-based community-based violence intervention and prevention.
- Expected outcomes include:
- The enhancement of the Community Action Table, a cross-disciplinary group of individuals and organizations closest to the issue of gun violence.
  - The enhancement of Peace In Motion: Toledo's Path to Community Safety, a comprehensive five-year plan to address gun violence in Toledo.
  - An increase in local community-based organization Community-based Violence Intervention and Prevention capacity.
  - Increased access and implementation of evidence-based violence intervention and prevention services to high-risk populations.

## Museum MLK Day... continued from page 9

performance artist/activist Youseff Baddarr and activist Anthony King.

The Art Is Activism Panel was just a part of TMA's MLK Day celebration, which also included a performance by cellist Damon Coleman, a BGSU Pan-Hellenic Council Performance, a Local-Eyes Brenda Singletary Tour and a host of art-related activities throughout the museum.

Art, said Anthony King, enables Dr. King to "endure his trials and tribulations. "Art is the fuel behind activism, it opens us the joy of activism."

Baddarr, whose primary focus as an activist has been on the struggles faced by those in his native land, Palestine. He agreed on the importance of art as a means of sustaining the activists' struggles.

"Activism requires endurance," said Baddarr. "You have to be resilient to be an activist ... Palestine has been under oppression for 75 years and art keeps them going." As an example, Baddarr explained the significance of the traditional scarf worn by many Palestinians which reflects the unity and persistence of those within that struggle.

"[Art] will center you and help you recognize your humanity," said Lateef. "You are an activist when you try to reach for your best self and you are an artist."

TMA's "More Than A Dream" holiday celebration started at 11 a.m. on Monday – normally the museum is closed on Mondays – and lasted until 5 p.m., concluding with a spoken word workshop late in the afternoon.

The African American Legacy Project cordially invites you to join us 4:45 pm, Monday, February 3, 2025 to welcome

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# Slavery After Slavery: Revealing the Legacy of Forced Child Apprenticeships on Black Families, from Emancipation to the Present by Mary Frances Berry

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Your kids will have a better life than you had. You'll make sure of it, saving for their education, demanding excellence from them, requiring discipline, and offering support for their dreams and desires. Their success is your dream and, as parents did in the new book "Slavery after Slavery" by Mary Frances Berry, you'll fight to see that it happens.

c. 2025  
Beacon Press  
\$27.9  
184 pages

In the years after the end of the Civil War, some Southern former slaveowners refused to accept that slavery was over, and the courts often sided with them. In particular, under habeas corpus, Black children were sometimes taken from their parents and placed into an "apprenticeship," which was another word for "slavery" then. Berry estimates that more than two million 10-to-19-year-olds were trapped in this way for years.

Here, she shares the stories of many of them.

In late 1865, Nathan and Jenny Cox lost their five children to their former "master," who also took seven other children by persuading a local magistrate to let him apprentice the kids. As time passed, some of the children took their former owner's last name as their own which, in effect, erased their family's history.

When six-year-old Mary Cannon was in danger of being apprenticed, a white woman came to her defense. Ultimately, the courts sided with Mary's benefactor and the girl was returned to her parents to live on their former enslaver's plantation.

Hepsey Saunders tried to leave her former owner's plantation, but he "refused to let her take the children" that were born when she was enslaved. Though the theft of her children happened in 1865, the story lingered over a span of decades.

In most of the cases Berry cites, the families – with or without the return

of their children – remained uneducated, unhealthy, and under discrimination. Imagine, she says, that these former slaves had had a chance to control their own lives. Imagine, she says, "if these black people were permitted to pursue the American Dream..."



The Author Mary Frances Berry

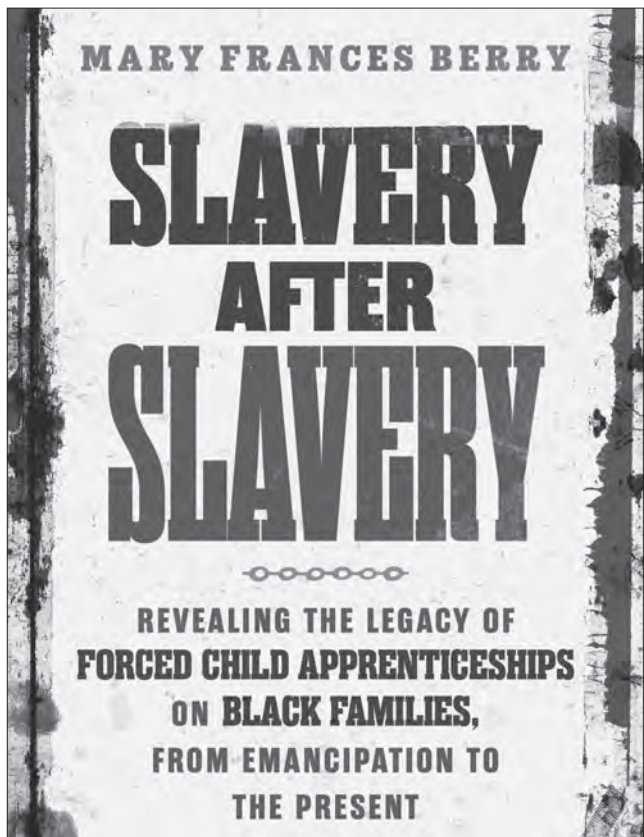
While it may seem that *Slavery After Slavery* is a historical narrative, that's not all you'll get if you tackle this skinny book.

When reading the stories inside here, readers may struggle to keep track of what's told. The accounts are a bit repetitious and each one packs a lot of names, legal decisions, court rulings, and places, some of which nearly require a law degree and all of which demand full attention. That can be overwhelming, unless you shut the door and avoid any distraction.

Author Mary Frances Berry uses these stories to point out lasting damage done to many Black families, which is essential info for readers to ponder. She goes further to argue that what happened to the two million children is reason enough for reparations, which makes a good argument but it's sometimes misplaced inside the flow of this book.

Still, I will agree that the accounts Berry uncovered have been hidden too long, and shedding light on them is essential. What's in "

*Slavery After Slavery* educates, and could help make conversations better.



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# CLASSIFIEDS

January 22, 2025

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## VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

St. Philip Lutheran Church, 3002 Upton at Central is seeking tutors in Math and English for our "Raise a Child" tutoring programs. This will be for 4th to 6th graders from McKinley Stem Academy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm, from February to May. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your time and talent with children who need assistance in these subjects. Background checks and child safety classes will be required. Please call 419-283-434 if you are interested.

## LUCAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO RUN FOR OFFICE; SEEK PARTY ENDORSEMENT

This week, the Lucas County Democratic Party (LCDP) has opened its 2025 endorsement application for candidates running for public office who would like to do so as an official "endorsed Democrat." "The May Primary is quickly approaching," said Schuyler Beckwith, chair of the LCDP. "Many local races will appear on the ballot – Mayor, Council, and Municipal Court. We have strong Democratic incumbents but we also know there are many Democrats across the County who are ready to run." The deadline to submit an endorsement application to the LCDP is February 6, 2025. It can be found on LCDP's webpage at [lucascountymunicipalparty.com/screening](http://lucascountymunicipalparty.com/screening). Signatures to run for office are due to the Lucas County Board of Elections on March 7, 2025, with the May Primary happening on May 6, 2025.

In Lucas County, May primaries will be occurring in the City of Toledo, Village of Berkey, Village of Holland, Village of Ottawa Hills, City of Sylvania, City of Waterville, and the Village of Whitehouse, as well as judge-ship seats on Toledo Municipal Court.

"If there are Lucas County residents who want to run for office but don't know where to start, please contact the LCDP. We want Democrats who believe in expanding personal rights, who believe in organized labor, and who believe in community-centered solutions to make that leap to run for office," said Beckwith.

Being an endorsed LCDP candidate has numerous benefits, such as access to volunteers, fundraising opportunities, and a greater connection to active local Democrats. Again, the deadline to submit an endorsement application to the LCDP is the end of the day, February 6, 2025.

## GLASS CITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

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

- The student will be attending a 2- or 4-year accredited post-secondary institution during the 2025-26 school year.
- The student is a member of Glass City Federal; or a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian is a member of Glass City.
- The student completes and submits the required application and essay by the deadline of March 31, 2025.

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

## KENT BRANCH MANAGER

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) is seeking a dynamic leader and dedicated Manager for the Kent Branch. Join our team and help inspire lifelong learning while providing universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library ([toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

## NOTICE

CONCESSIONAIRE PROPOSALS marked "Operation of The Wheelhouse Food and Beverage Concession" will be received by the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, 5100 W. Central Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43615, until: **1:00 PM Local Time on Friday, January 31, 2025.**

Proposals received after the specified due date and time will not be considered.

Metroparks Toledo is accepting Proposals from qualified vendors capable of operating a food and beverage concession at The Wheelhouse at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The Wheelhouse is positioned near the popular Beach Ridge Singletrack mountain biking Trail and Cannaley Treehouse Village in Swanton, Ohio.

RFP packets for the Qualification Statement requirements may be obtained electronically by contacting Mike Keedy, Director of Enterprise Development, at [mike.keedy@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:mike.keedy@metroparkstoledo.com), (419) 407-9707. Submit one (1) PDF electronic copy of the Proposal as instructed in the RFP packet. The Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area may elect to interview short-listed firms but reserves the right to award a contract based solely upon Metroparks' review and ranking of Proposals received.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA  
David D. Zenk, Director

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

1120-25-374  
Demolition – International House (IH), Academic House (AH), and Sullivan Hall (SL)  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: February 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. through the State's electronic bidding system at <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 5.0% of contract of the contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$1,600,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: January 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – Main Campus, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606.

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

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

More Info: Verdantas Architecture, Inc., Megan Dougherty, 513-792-8508, [mdougherty@verdantas.com](mailto:mdougherty@verdantas.com)

## CIRCULATION SERVICES LEADER

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) seeks a dynamic leader to oversee Circulation Services at the Mott Branch. Join our team and help inspire lifelong learning while providing universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library ([toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

## DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

St Martin de Porres Parish is seeking a part-time (20 hours a week) Director of Social Ministry. A Community Health Worker would be preferred. Main responsibilities include working collaboratively with the Pastoral Team, with the Food Pantry team, and with The Claver House team to continue and expand the social ministry of the parish. The successful candidate will work with various social agencies in the City and Diocese. An active Roman Catholic is preferred. EOE Send letter and resume via email to [virginiaewelshosf@gmail.com](mailto:virginiaewelshosf@gmail.com). 419 241 4544

# Over \$30,000 in Scholarships Awarded at the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Scholarship Breakfast

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

At the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Scholarship Breakfast, on January 18, the men of Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. awarded scholarships to six high school seniors and one student at the University of Toledo.

The young men are selected each year for their academic achievement, community involvement and leadership. Calvin Burney Jr., DMin, has chaired the event for five years as he looks forward to "bringing the community together to fund young scholars." This year's event brought together over \$30,000 in scholarship awards.

This year's event also featured three panelists, Alfred Baker, Judge Myron Duhart and Thomas Winston to discuss achieving activism through the power of work. The conversation, led by Kristian Brown of Channel 13abc, opened the door to insight with each panelist sharing keys to reaching their success.

"If you don't do the work it will tell on you" said Baker, a trustee of the University of Toledo and former vice president of human resources for Owens-Illinois.

"I remember crying about the amount of work and sacrifices you have to make," stated Judge Duhart of the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals. The mind over matter perseverance was shared amongst the panelists which they agreeably learned from those before them.

Thomas Winston, CEO and president of Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, encouraged listeners to "find the mentor that has the experience, that

is accessible and committed with integrity," and to teach an aspiring leader the best way to do it so they can in turn do it better.

The seven scholarship awardees included Meikhi Bailey, Langston Baker, LeVon Graham Jr., T'Mon Hall Jr., Jahaun Knix, Jalen Tamer and Ward Emmanuel Barnett. Barnett received the first renewable scholarship offered by Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter in honor of late member Joseph O. Sansbury.

The fraternity had raised \$16,000 to award to the young students but they were met with another honor before the end of the ceremony as each scholarship award was increased thanks to a donation dedicated by the three panelists of \$15,000. In total the scholarship breakfast raised over \$30,000 this year to continue the legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



Al Baker, Thomas Winston, Judge Myron Duhart



Toledo Museum of Art's Rhonda Sewell, HOPE Toledo's John Jones and Channel 13abc's Kristian Brown



Alpha members



Alphas and guests



Ward Emmanuel Barnett, a psychology major at the University of Toledo, awarded the Joseph O. Sansbury Scholarship.



**Kentucky Derby Packages**



**Churchill Downs-Louisville, KY  
Saturday, May 3, 2025**

**Our 2025 Derby Hotel packages offer Kentucky Derby Tickets, lodging near Churchill Downs or Lexington, unique experiences along with transportation to the Kentucky Derby and Oaks.**

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