



Volume 94 No. 8

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

April 15, 2026



Helping Entrepreneurs Turn Ideas Into Reality

Pamela Moore, UToledo Director of Incubation and Business Operations

In This Issue..

Perryman on Dr. Acton
Page 2

Cover Story:
Pamela Moore
Page 5

OMSDC
Meeting
Page 7

Chicago Mass
Choir
Page 10

Book Review
Page 13

Health & Business Expo
Page 15

Dr. Acton Holds Local
Gathering
Page 3

Flagg on TPS
Page 6

ACES
Page 8

IMA Monthly
Page 11

Classifieds
Page 14

A Ton of Financial
Advice
Page 16

The Faithful and the Frustrated

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

The Truth Contributor



Loyalty to a petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul.

- Mark Twain

Ohio gubernatorial candidate Dr. Amy Acton, a Democrat, was in Toledo last week, sponsored by State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson of Ohio's 11th Senate District. I had the chance to briefly chat with Acton just as she arrived, before she went into her meeting with Black religious and community leaders.

Acton had stepped out of the car like she had somewhere to be and knew exactly why. And it got me thinking. That kind of presence — striking, purposeful, fully engaged; That kind of energy means, at this stage of a political race, the other side has a problem.

That assumption deserves a second look. What happens to the Republican coalition when the transactional voters—the ones who backed Trump for specific economic and policy payoffs—start quietly disengaging or checking out?

Amy Walter, one of the nation's sharpest political analysts, concludes from polling and recent special election results in Georgia and Wisconsin that Trump's MAGA base remains essentially rock-solid at roughly 38-40 percent of his coalition. But the softer Republicans who voted for cheaper gas and groceries, factory jobs and no new wars are angry and drifting away.

Nowhere does this matter more than Ohio's 9th Congressional District—built on union halls and factory floors, clinging to the fading promise of a manufacturing revival.

Democrat Marcy Kaptur—the longest-serving woman in Congress—

is running again. Five Republicans are vying for the chance to challenge her in northwest Ohio's most competitive race.

What will it take to win the GOP primary?

The winner will be the candidate who can consolidate the faithful MAGA base while simultaneously giving frustrated transactional Republicans a reason to show up against a battle-tested incumbent with deep community roots. These are not the same Republican voters as in 2024, and they are not moved by the same arguments.



Dr. Perryman and Dr. Acton

So, it's a trap with no clean exit. Run as a hardcore MAGA candidate, and you may not survive November. Soften and go low-profile MAGA, and someone beats you in May. As for Iran, even the candidates who have doubts know better than to say so out loud.

The ultimate test: can the GOP primary candidate assemble a coalition broad enough to defeat Kaptur in November? But can the candidate get through the primary without going all-out MAGA and risk alienating transactional voters in the general election?

Moreover, beneath the tricky candidate calculus, something else is quietly shifting in northwest Ohio's labor landscape. Senator Hicks-Hudson's sponsorship of the Acton event put us on notice.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), one of the largest factions — and most financially powerful unions in Ohio's coalition of affiliated building & construction trade unions, has broken from the consolidated trades council to endorse Acton's campaign for governor.

It is a significant fracture. The IBEW doesn't make endorsements carelessly. When electricians' leadership concludes the Trump economic bet isn't paying off for their members, it signals that the transactional voter erosion Walter identifies in polling is already percolating within the institutions and has spilled over among individual voters.

Northwest Ohio's transactional voters didn't sign up for Iran or economic anxiety. They signed up for stability, fair pay, jobs, and the lower prices that haven't arrived.

That brief exchange with Amy Acton — sharp, purposeful, and fully engaged even before she walked into the room of Black religious and community leaders — was not incidental. It was a sign of the political realignment unfolding in northwest Ohio.

The GOP winner in OH-9 will face a Kaptur campaign that's already organizing, energized, and drawing on a coalition—from the IBEW to Toledo's Black community—that is quietly coming together.

The crucial issue now is whether any of the five Republicans on that primary ballot can bring home the frustrated along with its MAGA faithful. That is the only path to beating Marcy Kaptur.

And right now, it is not at all clear who among the five GOP candidates knows how to walk it.

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

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Candidate Acton Impresses Her Toledo Audience

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

"We've gone backwards in every single measure in this state," said Dr. Amy Acton last week during a conversation at NHA's Nexus with about 40 of Toledo's most prominent citizens – elected officials, pastors, agency leaders – in attendance. "We have got to fight. I am definitely a fighter and we have got to fight to end the corruption."

Dr. Acton, who is a Democratic candidate for governor of Ohio, will be on the ballot against Republican candidate Vivek Wamasawamy in November an effort to overturn the grasp that the GOP has had on Ohio's state government over the last two decades or so.

"I need to hear from some of your thoughts," she told the gathering. "It's all about relationships and what we are going to do together."

Dr. Acton was in Toledo for a day of events organized by state Senato Paula Hicks-Hudson, who also served as the moderator for last week's event at Nexus. Hicks-Hudson opened the event before the candidate's appearance in order to impress the attendees the importance and necessity of reaching out to voters.

"These things are very dire ... an abomination," said Hicks-Hudson. "Public education has been chopped, health care is on the block. An assault is happening because we don't vote."

Hicks-Hudson informed the audience that Lucas County was the 87th out of 88 Ohio counties in voter turnout in the last election.

"We need to go to where our folks are – the beauty shops, the barber shops. When we vote, we win; when we show up, we can make a change," she said. "We must decide that we are going to put together a plan to get the vote out."

During the candidate's speech, Dr. Acton explained why she is running, detailed her background and spoke about specific issues she will address once elected to office.

"I am running because people in this state are struggling," she said. "There is no more breathing room in this state and it is time for a change."

Dr. Acton spoke of the difficulty Ohioans have with rising health care costs, the difficulties presented by the impact of the Republican voucher program on public schools, rising costs brought on by Republican policies in Washington – including the war.

"We've had it bad up to now, but my opponent [will make it worse]," she said.

...continued on page 4



Dr. Amy Acton



Jordan Hawkins, the Acton campaign political director



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson opens the event

Community Calendar

April 18

"The Kids Hair in Care Program:" A haircare resource fair; 2800 Bancroft; 11 am to 2 pm; Hair care professionals, activities for youth, foster care parent panels, community vendors, free hair care kits, door prizes, food and more: Contact Maumee Bay Club – 419-699-3716 – 419-345-1505 – MaumeeBay-Club@gmail.com

The Bible Way Toledo Hosts Free Community Event Focused on Health Advocacy, Dental Education, and Family Fellowship; Toledo Library West, Sylvania Avenue, 2 pm: 419-984-8717

April 19

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting; @3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library; Lynnishia Foster President

April 21

Toledo NAACP Membership and General Public meeting to be held: at Mott Branch Library

April 26

The Singles Ministry of the Refreshing Place will present Singles Day at the 11 o'clock service. Pastor Yvonne Drake from Mentor will be the guest speaker; Bishop Christopher Rowell is the Pastor

May 2

Warren AME Spring Tea: Bloom Where You Are Planted; 11:30 - 2:30 pm. Speaker, First Lady Sabrina Prince - The Cross Church. Vendor Tables Welcomed. Rsvp to: darlenesawyer2751@gmail.com

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Candidate Acton...continued from page 3



Yvonne Harper, Doni Miller and Toledo Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English



Dr. Acton and Bishop Jerry Boose

Amy Acton was born and reared in Youngstown, experiencing a very difficult childhood – neglect, abuse and homelessness - difficult enough that she recounted one winter sleeping in a tent. Fortunately, she was able to excel in high school and enter a medical program when she enrolled in college.

Most of her medical career has been in public service – a “life-long public servant,” she said - working for five governors starting with Robert Taft.

She made quite a name for herself during the COVID pandemic crisis, working with Gov. Mike DeWine to establish a gov-

ernment response to the health crisis that was precedent setting – the first state in the nation to close schools, for example.

After Republican state legislators and then-Speaker of the House Larry Householder introduced bills she thought would violate her Hippocratic Oath, she resigned as director of the Department of Health.

For to her work as director, she received a “Profile in Courage Award” from Caroline Kennedy and Jack Schlossberg and was named by the New York Times as “The Leader We Wish We All Had.”

Dr. Acton is on the ballot for the May 5 primary but without an opponent. Ramaswamy has two opponents: Casey Putsch, a northwest Ohio business owner, and Heather Hill, a former school board president from southeast Ohio.

Ramaswamy is a heavy primary favorite due to his unlimited funding, his name recognition and the endorsement of Donald Trump.

In the November’s general election, Dr. Acton has a solid chance to break the Republican grip on state government. Recent polls have shown her with a lead. The worrisome state of the economy will favor the out-of-office party, both locally and nationally – as special elections have already demonstrated over and over again over the last year. In addition, Trump’s recent war with Iran along further blows to the economy will continue to make life difficult for Republican candidates around the nation.

Dr. Acton will make the case in the general election that her opponent’s money holds no advantage for ordinary Ohioans.

“We are going to tell you that you cannot buy this state,” she said of her election plans. “You cannot buy us.” She will also be making the point to voters of her opponent’s shortcomings.

“He’s not just out of touch, he’s completely dangerous.”

46 Toledo Groups Break Silence on Violence at Annual MLK Event

The Ninth Annual *Our Time to Break Silence: A Community Reading of Dr. Martin Luther King’s A Time to Break Silence* convenes on Sunday, April 19, with doors opening at 2:30 and program at 3:00. The FREE community event is held at Monroe Street Church, 3613 Monroe Street, Toledo.

The event is sponsored by the MLK Time to Break Silence Organizing Committee and co-sponsored by Toledo Public Schools and the UToledo Black Student Union. It features 46 area organizations whose missions resonate with Dr. King’s call for people to band together across perceived differences to work not only for civil rights but also for human rights. At the heart of the event, representatives of the organizations join voices to present Dr. King’s *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence*.

Delivered in 1967, one year to the day before his assassination, Dr. King’s speech motivated the American public across lines that had formerly divided interest groups. Dr. King called on all people who are able to protest against violence; to speak for change which must occur if we are to survive; to participate in a revolution in values; and to embrace the belief that love must be the fundamental principle from which we act.

This year, organizers see to amplify the message of BREAK THE SILENCE / STOP THE VIOLENCE, and audience members will be invited to participate in this as a call and response throughout the speech.

In addition to the speech, the event features local singers and spoken word artists, a student art show and information tables about local action opportunities. A punch & cookie reception provides opportunity to meet others; the venue is accessible; all are welcome.

The organizing committee has convened the event in Toledo since 2017. All who recognize a shared mission in the words of Dr. King’s speech are invited. The committee strives to broadcast the invitation more broadly each year. Confirmed participants for 2026 span generations, communities, and issues of concern. They are:

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- American Muslims for Palestine, Toledo Chapter
- Black Student Union UToledo
- CAIR Action Ohio (Council on American Islamic Relations)
- Community Solidarity Response Network (CSRN)
- Dances of Universal Peace
- Democratic Socialists of America, NW Ohio Chapter
- Escuela SMART Academy TPS
- 4Winds419
- 50501 Ohio / The Mockingjay Movement
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- I-475 Neighborhoods Coalition



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... continued on page 11

The Hidden Gem in Toledo Helping Entrepreneurs Turn Ideas Into Reality

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

If You've Been Trying to Figure It Out Alone...Read This

Every entrepreneur knows the feeling.

You've got the idea. The vision. Notes in your phone at midnight. That quiet voice that says, *what if this actually works?*

And then comes the hard part.

Where do you start?

That's where The Business Incubator at The University of Toledo steps in, and for many, it feels like discovering something you wish you knew about sooner.

Because right here in northwest Ohio, there is a place built for people just like you.

And somehow, it's been here the whole time.

Meet the Woman Behind the Work

Pamela Moore didn't begin her journey thinking she would one day help shape an entire entrepreneurial ecosystem.

She started in 2004, looking for stability, good benefits and a place with room to grow. Like many people balancing work and family, she made a practical choice.

But growth has a way of finding people who are ready for it.

With encouragement from mentors like Frank Calzonetti, PhD, Moore went back to finish her degree and kept moving forward, step by step, role by role, inside The University of Toledo. Over time, she rose through the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs, building both skill and confidence along the way.

Today, she serves as **Director of Incubation and Business Operations**. She also brings regional influence as a 2024 WEDO Award Judge, a role that reflects her voice and influence in shaping women-led businesses across the region.

And her approach to leadership is simple and honest:

"People don't know what they don't know... and that's what we're here for."

Where Ideas Start to Make Sense

Inside the incubator, no one expects you to have everything figured out.

In fact, most people don't.

"They come in with an idea," Pamela says, "but they're not sure how to make that idea into a company."

That's where the work begins.

Not with perfection. Not with polished plans. Just possibility.

Her team listens first. Then they help entrepreneurs ask better questions:

What are you building?

Who is it for?

What makes it different?

From there, things start to take shape.

Moore calls it moving from concept to commercialization.

But for the person sitting across the table, it feels like: finally getting unstuck.

From Idea to Impact

The incubator is something special, and still, many people don't know it exists.

Even local leaders walk in and pause.

"Wait... this is here?"

Moore doesn't hesitate to name it:

"We are the hidden gem that people don't know about."

Inside, there's energy you can feel. A 40,000-square-foot space filled with builders, thinkers, risk-takers. Around two dozen businesses are working on-site, with many more clients growing through the program.

It's not just office space.

It's momentum.

More Than a Startup Space

While the incubator focuses on early-stage businesses, typically three years old or less, it doesn't stop there.

"Growth doesn't stop at the startup phase," explains Moore.

Through programs like Apex Accelerator, entrepreneurs who have gone through the Incubator, or who are already generating revenue, can learn how to compete for contracts at the local, state and federal level.

That's where ideas turn into income, and income into longevity.

Where small businesses step into bigger rooms.

Where scaling becomes real.

Behind the scenes, Moore's impact stretches even further. She also collaborates with the Minority Business Development Center, helping ensure under-represented entrepreneurs have access to resources and guidance. As principal investigator for programs through JumpStart Inc., she also helps connect startups, especially tech and tech-enabled companies, to funding, mentorship, and strategic support.

It's all part of one goal: making sure opportunity is not limited to those who already have it.

The Part That Changes Everything

Here's what surprises people most.

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Pamela Moore

... continued on page 12

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The Toledo Public Schools Are in a World of Hurt — And What Comes Next?

By Steven Flagg

Guest Column

The Toledo Board of Education has its hands full, and the community is asking a fair question: are they up to the task of stabilizing — and ultimately rejuvenating — the learning environment for Toledo's students?

The reality is sobering but this goes beyond just budget cuts. It is about how this board crafts the delivery of a quality education to our students in an environment of declining population and resources.

There is a world of hurt ahead, and there is no avoiding it. State funding will not provide relief, and the levy passed in November 2024, while necessary, was never designed to solve the long-term structural challenges the district now faces. The critical question is whether decisions will truly put students first — or whether politics will soften the impact for adults at the expense of long-term sustainability.

To understand the current situation, we must begin with how TPS got here. The district is facing a structural financial imbalance driven by three forces: declining enrollment, reduced state support and rising costs. Enrollment has been falling by roughly 300 students per year, reducing revenue by millions annually. At the same time, changes in the state funding formula have re-



Steven Flagg

moved an estimated \$24 million over a two-year period. These are not temporary pressures — they are structural realities that will continue.

Demographics are the underlying driver and cannot be denied regardless of the protestations of local leaders. I outlined the problem in a January 21, 2026, Toledo Blade guest column titled "TPS is Toledo's canary — why it matters beyond schools". TPS is experiencing a shrinking pipeline of students. Kindergarten enrollment has declined from 1,888 students in 2015–16 to 1,702 in 2024–25, a drop of about 10 percent.

Even more concerning, Lucas County births have fallen from approximately 6,559 in 2000 to about 4,489 in 2024 — a 32 percent decline in the population feeding future enrollment. This is not a cyclical downturn; it is a long-term demographic shift.

Compounding this, TPS is losing a larger share of a shrinking student base. The district's share of Toledo-resident students has dropped from roughly 63 percent to 59 percent, while voucher participation has doubled over the past decade. The result is clear: fewer students, less revenue and a system built for a different era. The district as configured today is built for 26,000 students, yet current enrollment is just 18,386 — roughly 70 percent of capacity, with many buildings operating well below that level.

Given these realities, how has the Board responded? While action has finally been taken, the public process was late and poorly communicated. The result was a community without a clear understanding of the problem, creating an atmosphere of mistrust. The district relied heavily on traditional community meetings, a method that no longer aligns with how people engage today. Participation was limited, and only a small fraction of stakeholders were meaningfully involved. The failure was not simply in outreach, but in strategy — TPS did not effectively explain the "why" behind the decisions or create a process that allowed the broader community to engage.

The district did gather input through a community survey, but with roughly 1,300 responses, it represents only a small portion of the community and should be viewed as directional — not a mandate for action. The results show broad resistance to closures across all groups, alongside somewhat greater openness among those connected to magnet or non-traditional programs. The takeaway is clear: the survey does not resolve the decision — it simply highlights where resistance will occur and where communication must improve.

This brings us to a critical observation: TPS is at risk of repeating familiar mistakes. The Board developed a menu of options but failed to ensure meaningful community participation or understanding. An effective process involves the community in shaping options — not just reacting to them.

At the same time, the Board attempted to tackle too much at once — closures, consolidations, and program redesign — creating confusion rather than clarity. A more effective approach would have been to phase the work: first addressing unavoidable closures and consolidations, then engaging the community in shaping the future of educational delivery.

Instead, the process has felt compressed and opaque. Further, the Board has not fully leveraged the expertise and capacity within the community — individuals and organizations capable of strengthening both analysis and public engagement. By keeping the process too contained, the Board limited both trust and the quality of outcomes.

Looking ahead, more financial pain is on the near-term horizon. Even after the current round of cuts, continued enrollment declines and financial projections suggest additional adjustments will be necessary. The question is not whether change will happen — it will — but whether it is done strategically, transparently, and with a clear vision for the future.

To reiterate, this moment is about more than cuts. It is about redefining how TPS delivers education in a smaller, more competitive, and financially constrained environment. That requires clarity about what the district is asking the community to support: a right-sized system that protects core student experiences while building pathways that attract and retain families.

The warning flares have been fired. The only question now is not whether TPS must change — it must — but whether those changes will be made deliberately and transparently or delayed until the choices become even more limited and far more painful.

The Ohio Minority Supplier Diversity Council Holds NW Ohio Quarterly Forum

The Truth Staff

The Ohio Minority Supplier Diversity Council (OMSDC) hosted a North West Ohio Quarterly Forum on Thursday, April 9, at the Metroparks Toledo Enrichment Center and brought together a number of Black business owners to gather some information about some of the resources available from several different groups.

The attendees heard from the Toledo African

American Chamber of Commerce, The City of Toledo's Economic Development department, the Minority Business Assistance Center, the Gallagher Group along with the OMSDC, the Ohio Department of Development.

Local businessman Milt McIntyre, OMSDC representative, welcomed the business owners. "If you are just out here doing it by yourself, we

can't help you," said McIntyre. "Share our stories and share our successes."

McIntyre introduced LeSean Shaw, president of the newly relaunched TAACC. The TAACC held a get-acquainted event in February 2026 with a town hall with about 75 attendees and signed 40 members, well on the way to reaching the goal of having a membership of 100 by the year's end.

Shaw explained the services that will be provided to members such as: networking events, training/mentorship, education and workshops, business support, advocacy and visibility, partnerships, among other benefits

The TAACC has a range of membership packages available depending on the size of the business.

The event was then moderated by Calvin Brown, COO & principal owner of PNG Consulting, who represented OMSDC

Megan Stretavzki of the City of Toledo's Economic Development department, spoke of the resources available from the city: financing and incentive programs including an enterprise development loan up to \$90,000, façade grants up to \$30,000, white-box grants up to \$75,000 with match requirements, tax-exemption tools, Brownfield cleanup loans, a 2024 permit portal and zoning updates, and major capital projects such as Four Corners and a Westgate North groundbreaking.

Ebony Carter, and her staff at the Minority Business Assistance Center, introduced the two-pronged business assistance program currently available there. First, there are procurement tools – access to contracting possibilities, industry data and growth opportunities.

Second, MBAC can assist with the various state certifications – such as Minority Business

Enterprise, Women Business Enterprise and other certifications and increase eligibility to obtain certain business contracts.

Omara Kzaadi-Abe, the featured speaker, introduced attendees to the Gallagher Group and outlined insurance, surety and cyber risk challenges for smaller firms and proposed benchmarking, a cyber-loss calculator, bonding assistance and complimentary coverage analyses and strategy sessions to help businesses qualify for contracts and manage emerging threats.

The session closed with contact information, encouragement to pursue certifications, and a commitment to distribute event flyers.



Calvin Brown of PNG Consulting



Omara Kzaadi-Abe of the Gallagher Group



Milt McIntyre opens the discussion

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ACES International Day – Students from Around the World

The Truth Staff

Eleven students are part of the ACES Exchange Program this year, a number short of past exchange classes. That is one of the tangible effects of the Trump administration's efforts to close off America to the rest of the world.

The ACES program has, for the past 30 years, been funded by the State Department in order to bring to the IUSA students who would otherwise not be able to afford to make such a trip on their own.

The State Department's YES (Youth Exchange Study), an initiative of Senators Ted Kennedy (D-Ma) and Richard Lugar (R-In), has been particularly successful in bringing in students from primarily Muslim countries – African, Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern. Now, however, the funding has been slashed. The students from those areas are down substantially this year, and next year, when the cuts take full effect, the number of students from countries of color, might be cut entirely, says Trace Ellis, director of the northwest Ohio ACES.

On Sunday, March 29, an ACES International Day was held at the Church of the Living God as the 11 students displayed information, fashion, memorabilia from their countries. Students from Liberia, Ukraine, West Bank Palestine, Mali, Mozambique, Germany, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria held forth in the church's meeting space sharing their experiences there and in this new country.

For some, it's a huge difference.

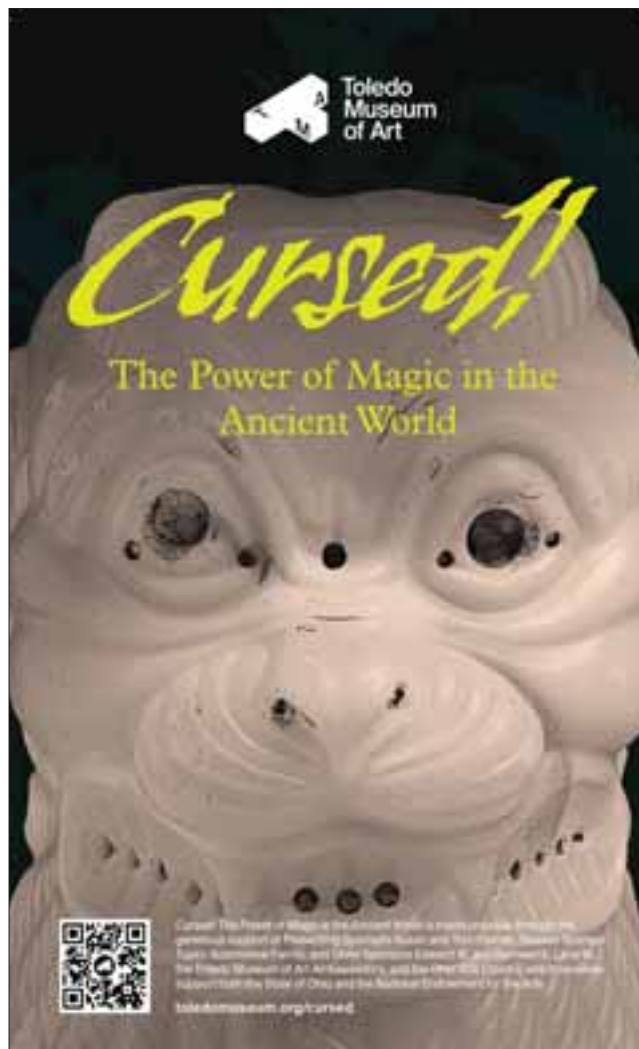
Esther, the 15-year-old student from Ghana, shared one of her new experiences with Ellis recently. "She spoke of what it was like to have a shower for the first time," said Ellis.

While funds for the students impacted by the YES Program will be further reduced, the Trump administration has preserved the funds for the State Department's FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) program. Those students are primarily from Eastern Europe and Central Asia – the former Soviet bloc nations.

Increasing the difficulty for students from countries of color to get to America is the fact that so many of those countries, 75 in fact, are on the Trump administration's recently-announced indefinite pause on nonimmigrant visas. Nineteen of those countries are on a full ban.

This means that students in those countries will have to seek an exemption, said Ellis.

Nevertheless, some students from countries of color did make it to America this year before the ban is in place. Locally Mamadou from Mali, Success from Liberia, Raiyan from Tanzania, Esther from Ghana, Nsuwa from Mozambique and Tamaya from Nigeria joined Alisa from Germany as part of this year's ACES cohort. These students were joined by two students from countries at war – Alex from Ukraine and Abood from West Bank Palestine. Both Alex and Abood will be returning in June to war-torn countries and to extremely difficult circumstances, said Ellis.



Alex from Ukraine



Alisa from Germany



Esther from Ghana



Mamadou from Mali and Abood from West Bank Palestine



Nsuwa from Mozambique



Raiyan from Tanzania

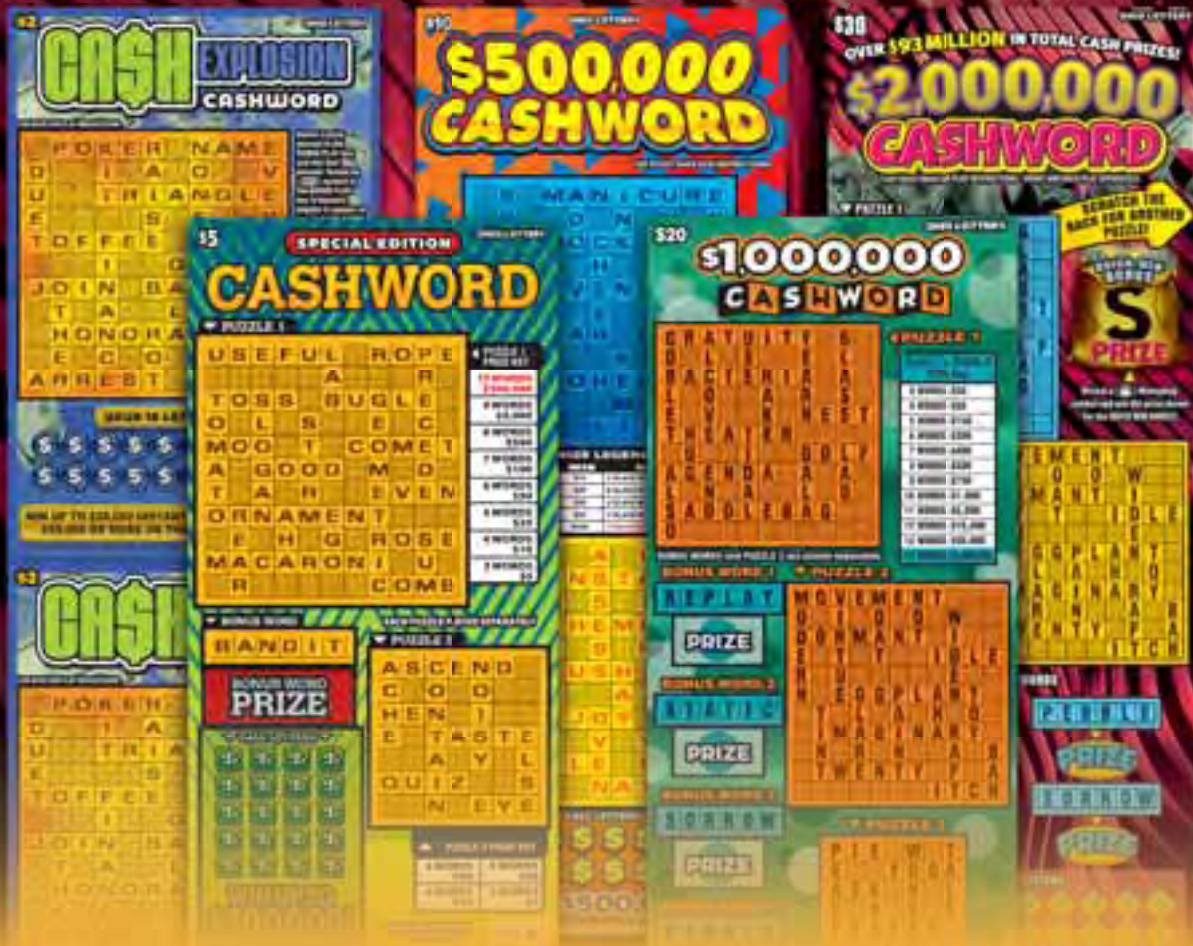


Success from Liberia



Tamaya from Nigeria

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Chicago Mass Choir Visits Friendship Baptist Church

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

On Easter weekend the Chicago Mass Choir ignited the holiday celebration at Friendship Baptist Church. Mike Huggins has organized group trips to Chicago, DC, and other neighboring states for affordable leisure travel. He decided for the holiday to reverse the travel expenses back into Toledo with an empowering Easter celebration.

The Chicago Mass Choir quickly rose to prominence with their powerful blend of traditional gospel and contemporary praise, gaining national attention through recordings and appearances on major gospel platforms.

Reaching beyond the church walls the choir has appeared on programs such as *BET's Bobby Jones Gospel*, *Windy City Live*, and the national *Allstate Gospel Super Fest*. They became especially known for original songs like "I Will Bless the Lord," "He's My All and All," and "God Is My Everything," which



helped define their signature sound. The Chicago Mass Choir has maintained an active touring presence for over two decades and continues to travel to support faith-based initiatives.

Proceeds from the performance were to benefit the Friendship Baptist Church that is under the leadership of Senior Pastor Bishop Duane C. Tisdale and alongside First Lady Thelma Tisdale. The church continues to expand its mission of faith, fellowship and service. Their dedication to empowering the community made the



Easter weekend celebration not only a musical event, but a meaningful opportunity to support the church's ongoing ministries.



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The Monthly IMA Meeting at Mt Nebo Baptist Church

The Truth Staff

The Monthly Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance meeting was held on Monday April 6 at Mt. Nebo as dozens of individuals and community organizations had the opportunity to explain to a wide ranging audience of clergymen, residents, business owners, government officials and interested observers, the services and programs they provide.

As usual, Pastor Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo and president of the IMA, presided over the proceedings and ushered speaker after speaker to the podium to have a chance to describe their programs.

The IMA meetings offer attendees a unique opportunity to hear from the representatives of numerous groups in the city – government, non-profit, business – and gain insight on services available that those in the audience might not have known of.

Last week's meeting presenters included the Area Office of Aging, the NAACP's ACT-SO, Connecting Kids to Meals, the Caregiver Experience, Stayce Fowler and Keegan Zimmerman from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's office, Women of Toledo, La'Shardae Scott of the Scott Center for Observation, Treatment and Transition, the Toledo Realists, State Rep. Josh Williams, Toledo Library, Deborah Barnett of Getting Your Affairs in Order, City of Toledo Economic Development, Toledo Metroparks, among other individuals and groups.

Of particular interest was the presentation by the Toledo Rotary Club and the impact the club is attempting to have on the community.

Rotarian Curt Church presented the following information "Recently, the Toledo Rotary Club has preliminarily provided funding for 13 local organizations to assist in fulfilling their missions. The amount of funding in this round was just over \$115,000. These funds were distributed to through six different services committees within the Rotary club.

Committees vetting grant requests through administrative overview of the

project, conducting site visits, and a prioritization process with each committee.

"The service committees are focused on several areas: Community, Disability, Youth, International, Vocational and Environmental. Projects and programs

focused on agriculture and gardens, organizational needs to fulfill its mission, exposing challenged children to sports and the outdoors, letting youth have hands on experience in the STEAM fields, and sending urban students to Camp Miakonda to experience the joy of camping!

"The Toledo Rotary Club holds two rounds of funding each year, providing approximately \$250,000 in grants to organizations in our community. The process starts with submitting a grant application through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation's portal. There you will find the Rotary club's guidelines for requesting funds and the Club's granting priorities. At this time, \$10,000 is the ceiling for funding any one organization's request. The next round has a deadline of August 31 for our next fiscal year which starts on July 1.

"I have provided this information every quarter to the IMA in attendance over the years. In my experience, there have been less than five organizations' request funding, even though I will provide help in getting through the process, writing a grant, or researching ideas to see if it might fit Rotary's priorities."



46 Toledo Groups...continued from page 4

- Interfaith Blood Drive
- Islamic Network Group Midwest (ING)
- Jewish Community of Northwest Ohio
- League of Women Voters
- Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (Save Our Community)
- Moms Demand Action / Everytown for Gun Safety
- Monroe Street Neighborhood Center
- Monroe Street United Methodist Church
- Muhammad Mosque #91, Toledo
- MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio

- NAACP
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- Peace Studies Program, UToledo
- People Who Show Up
- Richard Lane Ministries
- Sacred Grounds Toledo
- St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
- St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Catholic School
- Social Work Program, UToledo, Fearless Writers
- Student Government, UToledo
- Student Veterans of America (SVA)
- TransParen(t)s

- Tree Toledo
- Veterans for Peace
- West Ohio Conference United Methodist Church
- Committee Responding to Palestinian Christians
- Toledo Area Jobs With Justice
- Toledo Islamic Academy
- Toledo Kwanzaa House
- Toledo Persists and Ohio Equal Rights
- Toledo Public Schools
- Toledo Queer Black Collective
- Toledo Vietnam Memorial Wall
- Toledo Workers Project
- Women's & Gender Studies Program, UToledo

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Black Wall Street Community Development Hosts Business Networking Event

The Truth Staff

The Black Wall Street Community Development, a collaboration of The Juice 107.3 radio, The Sojourner's Truth newspaper, Pursuit magazine and KpK Unlimited, has over the past two and a half years, brought together small Black business owners for quarterly networking events in order to spread information about who is doing what in the entrepreneurial community and how we can collaborate to for everyone's advantage. Such an event was held on March 25 at the Entrepreneurs' Club.

About three dozen business owners joined the gathering to share their information. Of particular interest was knowledge provided by Valerie Thompson, president of the Toledo American Advertising Federation and Calvin Brown, representing the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce.

If you are a business owner and you need a contractor, or insurance, or

marketing advice, or legal advice, for example, and it makes sense to you to use other Black business owners and keep money in the Black community, then the Black Wall Street Community Development meetings are just what you need. Those were a few of the individuals present at the last meeting at the Entrepreneurs Club.

Stay tuned and keep reading – the next gathering will be in June.



Hidden Gem...continued from page 5

In a world where everything seems to come with a price tag, this feels different.

For many entrepreneurs, it's the moment things shift, from maybe someday to let's do this now.

You Don't Have to Build Alone

One of the strongest parts of this ecosystem is collaboration.

Moore and her team work closely with partners like JumpStart Inc., ProMedica Innovations and Bon Secours Mercy Health, along with local libraries and business organizations across the region.

"We don't compete," Moore says. "We all work together."

So if one door doesn't have your answer, they will help you find another.

No dead ends.

Just direction.

Where Community Meets Opportunity

And then there's something many entrepreneurs don't realize they're missing until they find it:

Community.

The incubator hosts free monthly networking events that are open to the public. No gatekeeping. No pressure. Just people showing up, sharing ideas, and building connections.

"It's the synergy," Moore explains. "We're trying to match people with others doing similar things."

Sometimes you leave with advice.

Sometimes you leave with a collaborator.

Sometimes you leave with clarity you didn't have before you walked in.

Keeping Dreams Rooted in Northwest Ohio

There's a bigger vision behind all of this.

Northwest Ohio is full of talent. Full of ideas. Full of people ready to build something meaningful.

But too often, they feel like they have to leave to grow.

Pamela Moore is working to change that.

"We want to bring entrepreneurs in, keep them here, so they can build, hire, and reinvest back into Northwest Ohio," she explains.

"This local economic growth strengthens all of Northwest Ohio."

Because when businesses grow here, everything grows.

Jobs. Families. Communities.

Opportunity stays close to home.

This Might Be Your Starting Point

If you've been sitting on an idea...

If you've been trying to figure it out on your own...

If you've been waiting for a sign to take the next step...

This might be it.

Not a shortcut.

Not a magic answer.

But a real place, filled with real people, ready to help you move forward. Moore says, "We never tell anyone no. We just help them navigate the next step."

And sometimes, that's all it takes.

A conversation.

A connection.

A door you didn't know was there, and now you do.

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Books for Poetry Month by Various Authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

In life, there are times when you want some rhymes.

Short ones or long, alone by yourself or attached to a song, rhymes you read quietly or read out-loud, savored alone or enjoyed with a crowd. It's Poetry Month and you're on the look, so why not seek out one of these books?

c. 2026
various publishers
\$18.99 - \$29.99
various page counts

Who are you and where did you come from? *Stages* by **Tramaine Suubi** (Amistad, \$19.99) gives you things to think about, including your inner life and what's going on outside it. Read it, and be educated.

Place matters a lot, and *Shade is a Place* by **MaKshya Tolbert** (Penguin Poets, \$20) is a book that considers Charlottesville, Virginia, in various ways. It invites readers to visit the "Black sense" of the city, to seek out natural parts of it, and to study the small, quiet places within. This book is perfect for vacation or if you're thinking about travel.

If you are a new parent – or you're about to be – look for *They Bloom Because of You* by **Jessica Urlrichs** (Putnam, \$19.00), a book about the ever-evolving process of becoming a mother: the love, the despair, the strengths and sadness, and watching as a newborn becomes a toddler becomes a big-kid. This is a book you'll reach for many times over the years.

On that note, *This Is Not a Small Voice* by **Sonia Sanchez** (Beacon Press, \$18.99) is a book that tackles a wide variety of topics: love and community, as well as activism and family. Readers will absolutely note the urgent power in these poems, and they might make you want to get out and do something.

If the Sanchez book is right up your alley, then you'll also want *We (The People of the United States)* by **Joshua Bennett** (Penguin Poets, \$20), one long book-length poem that touches upon many aspects of American life over the last century or so. Black culture, scientific innovation, popular music, creativity, whatever made America good – and bad – is in this book. The semiquincentennial is coming soon, so read it now.

And finally, if you want to know more about poets, then look for *No More Worlds to Conquer: The Black Poet in Washington D.C.* by **Brian Gilmore** (Georgetown University Press, \$29.95). In this book, you'll read about a thriving literary community that Gilmore says is often overlooked but that's just as vibrant as any other in America. Filled with interviews, it's deeply researched, and nicely comprehensive, making it a book you'll absolutely want to have next to your poetry collection. Tackle it in between reading poetry; you won't be sorry.

If these books are good but they're not enough, if you want other poems and rhyming stuff, if you've got some rhymes but you need more, then head to your library or local bookstore. The staffs there are good, they'll put books in your hands, they'll put rhymes in your head and they'll make you a fan. Or find these books, above, for their timing then sit down and read, and happy rhyming.



Wisdom on Financial Affairs...continued from page 16

ored and your family is supported during these challenging times."

By documenting wishes and organizing information, she continued, "you reduce stress and confusion for those who may act on your behalf."

The speakers on the program included Cynthia Wilkes from the City of Toledo's Department of Public Utilities; Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford and David Perkins; Lamont Rivers from the Lucas County Treasurer's office; Lucas County Auditor Katie Moline and Austin Finnerty; Matt Benner from the Huntington Bank; Brandon Key from Legal Shield, Agent Sara Ross from State Farm and attorney Arthur Battle.

Deeds and other property issues, wills, living wills, trusts, bank accounts and fraud prevention, life and homeowners insurance, powers of attorney and transfers of assets were among the topics of discussion during the Getting Your Affairs in Order discussion.

At the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, Cowell and Olivia Holden, director of Assets Toledo, held forth and conducted a workshop on proper budgeting and managing credit.

"You need to be proactive for yourself," said Holden as she led off the discussion. "Look at every penny. You need to have disposable income ... if you go to Starbucks and McDonalds every day ... STOP IT!

"Pay your bills on time and ask 'was it a need or was it a want?'"

Holden advised the attendees "don't bury your head in the sand about credit."

Following up on Holden's entreaties to budget carefully to maintain good credit, Cowell also emphasized that point. Cowell advised attendees to pay bills as early as possible; to keep credit card balances low - 30 percent of the funds available; to monitor credit reports as often as possible. Cowell advised them to establish their own accounts so that they can check their credit whenever they like with all three credit reporting agencies.

Next up. The Getting Your Affairs in Order workshop series continues. The next event is October 17, 2026. The Toledo Urban's 2026 Financial Wellness Workshop Series continues with an event on September 19 with a discussion on debt management strategies.

A Moment of Truth will explore some of the issues that are so critical in the lives of the residents of Toledo's African American community. The Sojourner's Truth has spent a quarter of a century speaking with and listening to those in our community who make a such a difference in our lives.

Join us now on WGTE 91 FM on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. as our hosts - Asia Nail, Stacy Fowler, Ricky Tyus and Alexandria Leatherberry - hold conversations with community members and examine how all of us can learn and benefit from those who are blazing paths for us in a number of critical areas such as community activism, business, health and travel.

The Sojourner's Truth

A MOMENT OF TRUTH

THE LOCAL THREAD

wgte Public Media

MORTGAGE LOAN ASSISTANT

Position Summary:

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union is seeking a Mortgage Loan Assistant. The Mortgage Lending Assistant supports the loan officer in processing mortgage applications, ensuring smooth transactions, and providing excellent customer service throughout the loan process

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support Mortgage Loan Officer by gathering and verifying necessary financial documentation, including proof of income, credit reports, and property and title evaluations
- Act as a liaison between members, real estate agents, and escrow companies, updating all parties on the status of loan applications and ensuring a smooth transaction
- Handle administrative tasks such as answering phone calls, scheduling appointments and maintaining organized loan files and documentation
- Help complete loan applications and submit them to underwriting for approval, ensuring all applications are thorough and accurate
- Stay updated on industry regulations and best practices to ensure compliance throughout the loan process

Minimum Qualifications:

- A high school diploma or equivalent
- At least one (1) year of Mortgage Loan Processing, Underwriting, Origination experience with desired, but not required
- Strong attention to detail and excellent organizational abilities to manage multiple loan applications efficiently
- Ability to communicate complex financial information clearly and effectively to members
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office products to include Word, Excel, and Outlook

Skills, Abilities & Expectations:

- Ability to work in a fast-paced team environment, manage multiple tasks, and prioritize work
- Ability to apply general accounting knowledge processes (debits, credits, balancing)
- Assuring customer service is top priority whether internally or externally, treating members and employees professionally, with courtesy and respect
- Detail oriented and organized with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Stay abreast of regulatory requirements and complete annual compliance training applicable to the position

Contact Susan Jester at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union: 419-255- 8876 – sjester@toledo.urban.net

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www.pathwaytoledo.org

Project Director

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Pathway, Inc., the Community Action Agency serving Lucas County, is seeking a dynamic and mission-driven Project Director to lead the implementation of the FORGE Fatherhood Program in Toledo, Ohio. This federally funded initiative aims to strengthen families, support fathers, and improve outcomes for children through comprehensive services, case management, and community partnerships.

The Project Director will provide strategic leadership, oversee daily operations, and ensure compliance with federal grant requirements while driving measurable outcomes. This role serves as the primary liaison to federal partners and local stakeholders and plays a key role in advancing Pathway's commitment to family stability and economic mobility.

As part of the Community Action Agency network, which serves communities across more than 1,000 agencies across the country, this position offers the opportunity to contribute to and learn from a broader movement focused on reducing poverty and strengthening families nationwide.

Apply @ <https://pathwaytoledo.org/employment> no later than Monday, April 13, 2026

INVITATION FOR BIDS RENOVATIONS AT BIRMINGHAM LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – PHASE V IFB26-B004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Birmingham Lead Hazard Elimination – Phase V** in accordance with IFB26-B004. Received in accordance with law until **April 06, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



DIRECTOR OF SUMMER CAMPS

The Padua Center is seeking a Director of Summer Camps. The Director is primarily responsible for the overall development of and implementation of the Padua Summer Programs. The general outline of the six weeks of camp is awaiting a creative director to complete the plans. The director will supervise the various volunteers, work with the Padua Staff in arranging particulars of the camps and executing a successful Summer Recreation and Learning experience for 25 to 30 elementary school age youth. This is a seven- week summer employment at 35 hours a week. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor degree and some educational experience. The Padua Center is an EOE. For more information contact The Padua Center. Please submit resume by April 15, 2026 to The Padua Center at thepaduacenter@gmail.com. 419 241 6465

The Annual Business and Health Expo at Epworth

Special to The Truth

The 15th Annual Business and Health Expo took place on Saturday, April 4, at the beautiful Epworth United Methodist Church. This event, as always, was hosted by Donnetta Carter, (The Social Butterfly) event organizer along with various volunteer members.

Epworth was a new location and was a perfect setting on a beautiful sunny day. Who was present? The Metroparks of Toledo climbing wall, Toledo Museum of Art glass blowing along with 60 entrepreneurs and community resources that participated this year, such as Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Service Board, Oak Health Street Clinic, New York Life Insurance, Women's Voter League, UTM. A special highlight was the appearance of the Hollywood Show podcast host Robert Henderson and co-host Kimberly Russell. They participated by interviewing the vendors and some guests.

For food, visitors had the great pleasure to have Jo Jo's Famous turkey burgers and New Taco Del Patron food trucks.

This was a busy day for all from the time it started until the ending at 3 p.m. There was a lot of positive feedback from the guests and vendors who enjoyed the new venue with plenty of parking, easy accessibility and cozy atmosphere.

We would like to thank all who assisted with the 15th Annual Business and Health Expo and all sponsors and volunteers. Sponsors were Taylor Automotive Family, Huntington National Bank, The Sojourners Truth Newspaper, Metroparks of Toledo, Toledo Museum of Art and Imagination Station

Finally a big thanks to Epworth United Methodist Church for their hospitality and accommodations.

The next event in this series is the 12th Annual Motown Dinner & Dance Cruise Fund-raiser Friday August 28, 2026. For future events visit the www.thesocialbutterflyllc.com or email: thesocialbutterflyevents@yahoo.com



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Wisdom on Financial Affairs Is Readily Available

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

If you care about your financial well-being, your family's financial well-being, you had an opportunity on Saturday, April 11, to gain a wealth of knowledge about how to handle such matters.

Deborah Barnett conducted her quarterly "Getting Your Affairs in Order" workshop, which started at 10 am at Rogers High School. Suzette Cowell, ThD, held her "Understanding Credit" workshop at 12:30 p.m. at the Monroe Street branch of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union.

The good news is, if you made it to one or both, you are much better off for it. Actually, there is no bad news. If you missed Saturday's events, you will still have opportunities because both Barnett and Cowell will be conducting such workshops again in the future.

Barnett, a former banker and current owner/president of N'Sync, a consulting firm, has been holding these workshops for several years, bringing in a host of local experts from the public and private sectors to present ideas on not just dealing with personal and family financial affairs but also enhancing net worth in many cases.

Cowell, CEO and treasurer of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, has been advising members of the credit union and those in the community for three decades on how to manage financial matters.

The expertise and the impact on the community was on full display at both workshops.

The Getting Your Affairs in Order event pulled together about a dozen speakers on a variety of subjects related to personal financial matters.

"The purpose is a thoughtful, responsible step that you can bring to yourself and your loved ones," said Barnett during her opening. "This process may feel overwhelming but taking the time to organize important documents, clarify your wishes and make difficult decisions ensures that your intentions are hon-

... continued on page 13



The Getting Your Affairs in Order panel



Deborah Barnett



Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford and LC Recorder Office Manager David Perkins



Lucas County Recorder's Office staff



Olivia Holden and Suzette Cowell, ThD



Tina Williams of the Area Office on Aging

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