

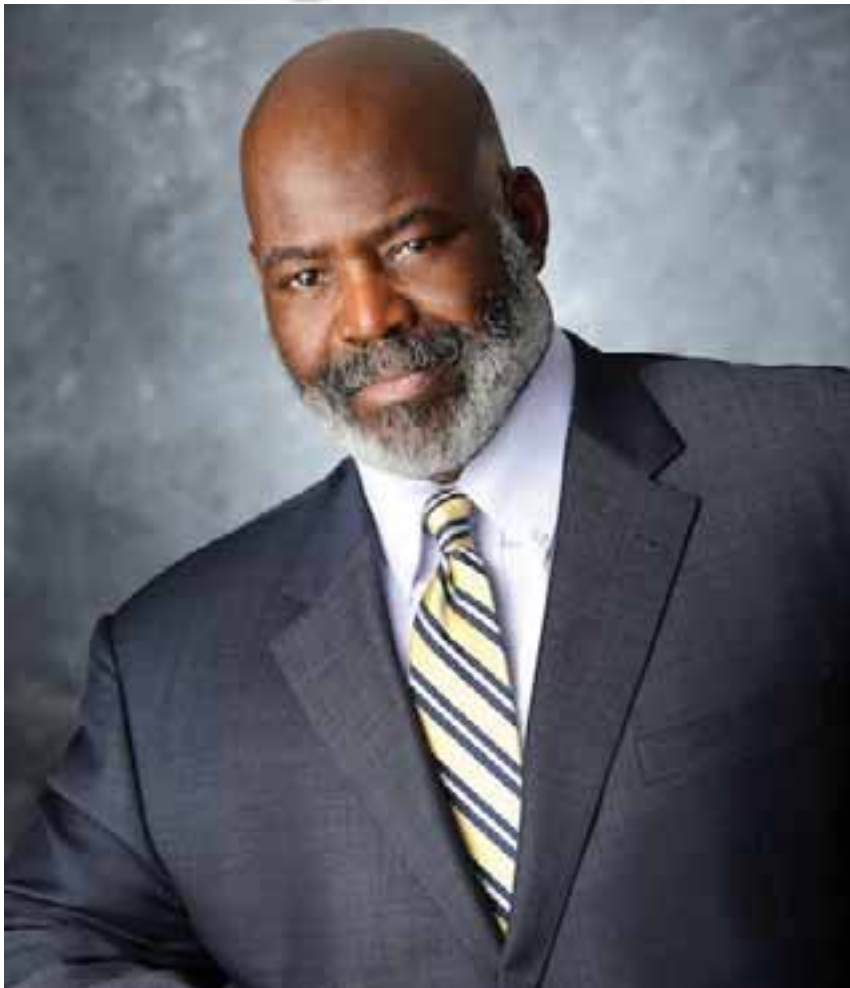


Volume 24, No. 25

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

October 9, 2013

## **Candidate for Re-Election, Mayor Mike Bell**



**"I am totally at peace with myself that at the end of these four years that everything that we said we were going to fix, we have fixed. And there was no easy way to do it and so I met the mission and because I've done what people asked me to do, I got people mad at me." - Mayor Mike Bell**

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# Representative Ashford and Ohio Community Leaders Take Action Against Stand Your Ground

*Clergy and civil rights groups lobby Governor, legislators to stop the bill*

*Special to The Truth*

Last week, State Representative Michael Ashford and President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) Representative Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) were joined by OLBC members and statewide community leaders for a *Day of Action* against a proposed Stand Your Ground law in Ohio.

The group held a press conference to address the dangers of Stand Your Ground; delivered 10,000 petitions and municipal resolutions opposing the bill to Governor John Kasich, Senate President Faber and House Speaker Batchelder, lobbied state legislators and hosted a faith rally.

The OLBC was joined by over 400 advocates and community leaders from around the state including the Ohio Unity Coalition, Ohio Organizing Collaborative, Congressional Black Caucus Chair, National Action Network, NAACP, SCLC and clergy.

"Stand Your Ground legislation is dangerous for Ohio and for our nation," said Ashford (D-Toledo). "If this was a good bill, it would be supported by law enforcement. But it's not because it ties the hands of police officers and undermines public safety everywhere. With tragedies like the shooting of Trayvon Martin fresh in our memories, we need to stop Stand Your Ground legislation before it claims the lives of innocent children in our state"

"Our constituents and communities are outraged by a potential Stand Your Ground Law in this state," said Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President Alicia Reece. "Here in Ohio, we already have strong self-defense laws



State Representative Michael Ashford

on the books, and Stand Your Ground would do nothing but turn our state into the Wild, Wild West. The OLBC and greater-Ohio community stands together in saying that Ohio does not need Stand Your Ground."

The Day of Action focused on the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus' work to fight Stand Your Ground legislation, included in House Bill 203 or any other forthcoming legislation. Participants delivered petitions and municipal resolutions from Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron and Canton, Cleveland, Youngstown and Toledo. Resolutions from these cities represent nearly 75 percent of Ohio's population. Participants are hopeful that these efforts will keep this misguided and polarizing legislation from being passed.

One of the many highlights from The Day of Action came from Ohio State student Arika Janay, who used her passion to fire up the crowd. She called for

legislators to take a stand against what she deemed a "kill-at-will bill."

HB 203 was introduced in the House on June 11th and, if passed, will expand the circumstances under which a person has no duty to retreat before using lethal force in self-defense. This bill is nearly identical to Florida's Stand Your Ground Law, which recently led to George Zimmerman being found not guilty of any crimes in the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin.

Below are comments from participants.

**Ms. Petee Talley of the Ohio Unity Coalition** said, "It has become difficult to have the discussion with people about the importance of voting when they believe their elected officials are not representing their interests in the Statehouse, which is why we are here

today. HB 203 undermines public safety and ties the hands of our law enforcement. We need to pass laws that prevent innocent lives from being lost and we applaud the local governmental bodies that see this legislation for what it is as they are taking leadership by passing resolutions. The last thing they need to be dealing with is local citizens who believe they have a license to kill."

**Mr. Stanley Miller, Former Executive Director of the Cleveland NAACP:** "Perhaps 'Stand Your Ground' laws should be called 'Shoot First' laws, or 'Last Man Standing' laws because the last man standing in a fatal altercation is the person that speaks. "Stand Your Ground" laws do not give people the duty to retreat, and expands on the Castle Doctrine that says a person is protected only in self-defense. I urge the legislature not to rush to judgment on House Bill 203. We don't need to regress society and bring back the Wild West."

**Father Dennis Chiszt of the Church of the Resurrection:** "It's time for the rest of us to stand our ground. To stand our grand against the fear that says when I'm afraid, violence is the appropriate response. We should stand our ground for justice. We need to stand our ground against fear. It was Zimmerman's fear that drove him to believe it ok to follow that boy home just because he didn't recognize him. We need to stand our ground for understanding. We need to understand the stranger, not fear him."

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### October 9-11

Historic Third Baptist Church Fall Revival: 7 pm nightly; Guest speaker Rev. Geoffrey Van Guns of Second Calvary Baptist in Norfolk, VA 419-248-4623

### October 13

Union Grove MBC Men's Day Service: 11 am; "Brethren Gone Fishing:" 419-531-1994

Union Grove MBC Women's Day Service: 4 pm; "Christian Women Are You Following After the Spirit or the Flesh?" Speaker Thelma Autman of Shiloh MBS: 419-531-1994

United MBC 30th Church Anniversary: 9:15 am Sunday school; 10:45 am worship service; 5 pm service – guest speaker Rev. Paul Broadus of Saginaw – United's first pastor

### October 17

Drama Ministries Auditions: Upcoming Christmas productions 419-343-1726

### October 20

Toledo Walk to End Alzheimer's: Lucas County rec. Center; 12:30 Registration, 2:30 walk: 800-272-3900 and www.alz.org/walk  
Charity MBC Women's Day: "Women Working Together in Unity;" 4 pm: 419-320-8345



# Plots, Plans and Payback

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



*"Do not count your chickens before they are hatched."*  
— Aesop

The plot thickens from day to day in the 2013 City of Toledo mayoral election with all of the typical betrayals, affairs, manipulations and dysfunction of a soap opera such as Tyler Perry's *The Haves and the Have Nots*.

The Harley-Davidson motorcycling current mayor, Michael Bell, is accused by rivals of abandoning the black community for a more choice relationship with the wealthy, white elite business establishment and has his eyes on the even sexier prize of the potential running mate of Republican Governor John Kasich in the 2014 Ohio gubernatorial election.

The unions are still beefing with Bell over his support of Kasich's anti-union Senate Bill 5 and have vowed to defeat him in the November mayoral race "by any means necessary," including endorsing or supporting a non-Democrat.

Meanwhile the town drunk, aka the Lucas County Democratic Party, having hit rock bottom, has come down with a case of political impotence and is neither able to provide competent leadership nor service the pleasurable "desires" of its union partner.

Jack Ford, the opportunistic king-in-exile, has long been eager to return and sees a way to make the union's "headaches" and crankiness go away. A direct path for Ford's return to the throne as Lucas County king-maker and relevant political "player" runs through his election to City Council and subsequently as council president, with a possible stop as executive director of the Democratic Party. Look for the "road back home" to be paved with the litter of sacrificial lambs/scapagoats from the attempt to settle many old political scores.

D. Michael Collins, like the rags to riches story of fictional character Rocky Balboa, has gotten up on his feet after being flat on his back only because the two heavyweights ahead of him knocked each other out. Collins, with the unions throwing their political and financial weight behind him, now surprisingly finds himself in the title fight against Bell.

While down in the 'hood, the local black clergy, whose image has rapidly evolved from those with "hat-in-hand" (as in pious political paupers) to "slept on" (as in promiscuous political prostitutes), are beginning to look quite attractive to Collins, who has overlooked them until now. Ford has agreed to "broker" the relationship to a contrite Collins for "considerations." The preachers



Mayor Mike Bell

themselves will profit a seat at Collins' table should he be elected mayor.

Given this melodramatic backdrop, I wanted The Truth's readers to hear the mayoral candidates bring these controversial secrets to light in their own words that the public might be able to separate fact from fiction and truth from rumor and innuendo.

Mayor Bell was the first to agree to speak. This is part one of our conversation.

**Perryman:** Why don't you start off with reasons why you should be re-elected.

**Mayor Bell:** We've taken a city that was on the brink of financial disaster and turned it around to where we have a five million dollar surplus. We took a city where the bond ratings were unstable and stabilized it. We are now able to get loans and get them cheaper for the things that we do in the city. For example, to be able to fix the roads and things like that we borrow the money and then repay it. So it allows for us to do more roads.

So we have met everything we said we would do for people from the standpoint of safety, from the standpoint of not raising taxes, fixing the budget and from the standpoint of fixing their roads. But that doesn't

mean that we're done, we've got quality of life issues that now we can start to attack because we fixed the boat, we had to fix the boat first because it was taking on massive amounts of water. And it could've sunk everybody for a long period of time. And what we had to do was patch the boat first, bail the water out and now we can start thinking about how we reconstruct the boat so that it's very efficient in the future.

**Perryman:** Do you think that this particular approach was politically wise?

**Mayor Bell:** I'm not doing it from a political standpoint. I'm doing it because it's the right thing to do for the citizens. I've had to make some hard decisions here; some of them really perturbed some people. When they talk about my stand on SB5, what most people aren't aware of is that when we originally got here the challenge was to fix a huge deficit without laying anybody off. We were scheduled to lay 271 people off. In that group were eight couples which meant

... continued on page 12

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**Absentee & Early Voting going on NOW for the General Election, Tues., Nov. 5th.**  
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## It's Election Time and We Can Make a Difference

By Jay Black, President,  
Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce  
The Truth Contributor

### TAACC Mission Statement

The Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce (TAACC) advocates and promotes the economic growth and development of African-American owned businesses by focusing on the development of business opportunities, business alliances, and legislative advocacy.

### When?

As I reflect on the upcoming election cycle, I asked myself "when?"

When will the African-American community stand up and hold elected officials and organizations, whom we blindly support, accountable for how they represent (or fail to represent) our

community?

When will we begin to help ourselves by practicing self- help economics?

When will we realize that we should emulate other ethnic groups by supporting our own businesses, holding each other accountable when we don't act in the best interest in our community and calling those out who help to destroy our community rather than help strengthen our community?

When will we take back our community by controlling what goes on in our community?

When will we demand that our pastors stop letting politicians who don't represent our community's interest

come through our churches once every four years?

When will we take responsibility for selecting our own leaders rather than letting others tell us who our leaders are?

When will we set our own agenda rather than letting others define what our agenda should be?

The TAACC encourages our community to take responsibility for and control of what goes on in our community. We also encourage you to stop supporting candidates and institutions that do not use their influence to economically support the African American Community.



Jay Black

I will write subsequent articles that will outline the important economic issues that will have an impact on our community in the November 2013 elections.

## News from the Frederick Douglass Community Association

Frederick Douglass Community Association Old School Card Party Night. Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. Old school music, food, raffles and games of your choice.

Space is limited - Call the FDCA at (419) 244-6722 to reserve your table. Individuals and teams welcome.

New Addition to the after-school programs offered at the Frederick

Douglass Community Association - Free Spanish classes for youth in grades K-8 will begin on October 15, 2013. Classes for grades K-1 and 2-4 will be offered on Tuesday and grades 5-8 on Wednesday.

All class times will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. Contact the FDCA at (419) 244-6722 to register or more information. Class sizes are limited and will be filled on first-come basis.

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# Consumers Should Watch for Scams Related to Affordable Care Act

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor and Insurance Director Mary Taylor are warning Ohioans to guard against scams related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), sometimes referred to as Obamacare, with open enrollment for the new federally-run health insurance exchange in Ohio running through March 31, 2014. Coverage begins Jan. 1, 2014 for those who select a plan by Dec. 15.

"Scammers often pretend to be associated with the government to make their ploys seem real," Attorney General DeWine said. "We want to warn Ohio families to be on guard for potential scams and to take steps to protect themselves."

"It's imperative Ohioans understand the facts about the ACA and the federal exchange so they can best protect themselves," Taylor said. "Because the federal law and the exchanges are new and complicated to consumers, Ohioans should be even more cautious about potential scams and fraudulent behavior."

Reports of ACA-related scams initially surfaced in Ohio over the summer. With consumers and small business representatives now shopping for exchange coverage, even more scammers may try to take advantage of people.

Taylor and DeWine offered Ohioans the following tips to avoid scams:

**Guard your personal information.** Legitimate government representatives will never contact you unexpectedly and request personal information, such as your Social Security or bank account number. If you do give out personal information tied to a potential scam, immediately inform your banks, credit card providers, and the three major credit bureaus.

**Never pay upfront fees.** Government program representatives do not sell insurance or demand upfront payment, and navigators (individuals who can provide information about the

ACA) are free. **Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.** Promises about "free" medical devices may signal a scam.

**Get information from reliable sources.** Watch out for phony websites or individuals who pretend to be associated with the government. Contact the Ohio Department of Insurance and the federal government if you have questions about the ACA.

**Report scams or suspicious activity to the Ohio Attorney General and Department of Insurance.**

*Health Insurance Exchange: Watch for Bogus Websites*

The new federally-run health insurance exchange in Ohio is an online portal where consumers who need individual health insurance and small businesses can go to secure certain coverage. You can find more information about the federal exchange in Ohio by visiting [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov), which is the only website where Ohioans can enroll.

• Bogus websites that purport to be part of the exchanges have been appearing online for more than a year. They often attempt to mirror the look of an official exchange website but they are not legitimate. Those behind the fake websites claim you can receive subsidies and purchase a policy. They attempt to collect personal information by asking visitors to complete online information forms.

*Navigators and Insurance Agents: Check for Certification*

Navigators, who must be certified by the Ohio Department of Insurance, were created by the federal law to provide information about the exchanges to consumers. Funded by the federal government, navigators are prohibited from recommending specific plans. Navigators who receive certification will be searchable on [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov).

Insurance agents can help Ohioans shop and enroll for exchange cover-

age, once they have completed training and are certified. Agents are permitted to recommend plans, which are generally those in which they have a contract with that insurer, and help people enroll. A list of Ohio-licensed agents is available at [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov).

• Scammers can claim to be a government official or agent in an attempt to steal your personal information, including bank account number. Be certain to review their licensure and certification status before beginning a business relationship.

*New Obamacare and Medicare Cards: No Such Thing*

You are not required to obtain a new insurance or Medicare card under the ACA. There is not an "Obamacare" insurance card and the ACA does not require Medicare recipients to sign up for new coverage to continue to receive benefits. Anyone who is a legitimate representative of the fed-

eral government should not ask you to provide your personal and financial information.

• One ploy involves unsolicited calls from scammers who claim to have your new "Obamacare" insurance card and they just need to get some personal information before they can send it to you. A variation targets those with Medicare in which callers say they need the person's information so they receive their new Medicare card and continue receiving benefits.

Ohioans who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice can either contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at 1-800-282-0515 or [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov), or the Department of Insurance's new ACA fraud hotline at 1-877-727-6427. Those with questions about health insurance can call the Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1526 or visit [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov).

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## Program Aims to Put Juvenile Offenders to Work

### Special to The Truth

Juvenile offenders in Lucas County who are seeking to change their futures can find assistance to do so through the Face Forward program, operated by WSOS in partnership with the Lucas County Juvenile Courts CITE program.

Classes for this group are forming now in Toledo.

"The Lucas County Juvenile Court is excited to be embarking on this new partnership and initiative with WSOS," said Deborah Hodges, court administrator with Lucas County Juvenile Courts. "The (program's) ultimate goal is to put them (youth) to work."

This two-year program aims to serve this group of young adults between ages 16 and 24 years old by emphasizing skill development so that the youth can re-invent their futures. They will be provided with GED classes if needed, mentors, work experience, job placement,

post-secondary assistance, financial literacy classes, case management, and will have to participate in community service.

"This emphasis provides the court with one more tool to develop the competencies that young people need to be successful law abiding citizens in our community," Hodges said.

In addition, program staff will work with the youth and the courts to expunge their records and divert their efforts in more productive activities. Some youth will be enrolled in the AmeriCorps volunteer program, which provides all enrollees with an educational stipend at the end of the volunteer time.

Youth involved with the Juvenile Court will now have access to training and job placement through this initiative on a much larger and more comprehensive scale than ever before.

"WSOS and the Lucas County

Juvenile Court hope that the collaboration and partnership established as a result of this grant will lead to a long term relationship that will continue to strive long after the grant has ended,"

Hodges said.

For information on how to participate in this program, call Roger at 419-334-8911 or email him at rafisher@wsos.org.

## It's Never Too Early to Instill a Love of Learning

### Special to The Truth

Parents don't need to wait until their children are heading to kindergarten to incorporate learning into their everyday lives. In fact, the sooner they start, the better, as studies show that younger minds are better able to absorb new information.

But kids learn better when they're having fun – so be sure to make it enjoyable. The goal is to get kids excited about learning before they even start school.

"Making learning fun can foster a pursuit of knowledge at a young age," says Dr. Helen Boehm, a psychologist and consultant for VTech, a maker of age-appropriate and developmental stage-based electronic learning products for children.

There are many fun ways to get kids to love learning:

- **Read together:** Give children a literary kick start by reading together. It will expand their vocabulary, introduce them to the alphabet, expose them to new ideas and foster a love of reading. Choose books with fun and engaging stories and characters, covering subjects that interest them. Make trips to the library seem like a fun treat, and plan visits around the library's storytelling hour.

- **Explore:** Visit a children's museum, historical society or aquarium that has great programs for children. Such programs are usually hands-on, giving children a chance to learn more about history, dinosaurs or art in an interactive way.

- **Learning toys:** Traditional toys can also provide a fun, educational edge. Instead of a classic teddy bear, consider a customizable one,

such as Cody the Smart Cub or Cora the Smart Cub, who can be personalized with a child's name, favorite stories and songs. The cubs are a great way to introduce kids to valuable every-day life skills, such as daily routines, first words and emotions. Or try the 3-in-1 Race & Learn, a driving simulation game that can build hand-eye coordination and help kids master multi-tasking skills while teaching letters, phonics, numbers and shapes.

Another option is a tablet made for kids, such as the Little Apps Tablet, that features vivid animations and sounds, pretend camera activity, and learning games that teach counting, words, letters and math through activities with progressive learning levels.

- **Learn together:** Always wanted to study a foreign language? Parents can consider learning with their child. It's perfect because they'll both be total beginners. Practicing together will be fun and can be a good distraction for restless kids during errands or in the car. And early childhood is the best time to pick up language skills.

- **Food Fun:** Plan a trip to a local farm with children. It's a great way to experience the outdoors and learn how food grows. Many farms have opportunities to "pick your own" produce. Getting kids to help in the kitchen is another terrific way to improve fine motor skills and learn about food and nutrition.

Find more learning resources at [www.vtechkids.com/parenting](http://www.vtechkids.com/parenting).

Before children even set foot in school, parents can foster a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

Courtesy State Point



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# Thanking Teachers for Their Service

By *Renée A. Middleton, Ph.D.,  
Dean, The Gladys W. and David H. Patton  
College of Education, Ohio University*



Renée A. Middleton, Ph.D.

Waiting at the Post Office I saw a young man in military fatigues. He stood dignified, a picture perfect soldier. After conducting his business, he stepped to leave. As he walked past, an elderly woman stopped him, reached out her hand, looked him in the eye and said, "Thank you for your service."

It's a sentiment that can never be expressed enough - gratitude to our service people whose career is to ensure the health and safety of our nation. They lay their lives on the line so that we may enjoy the benefits of our democracy.

There are many, not just those in the armed forces, whose lives are devoted to serving our nation. People like police officers, firemen, and public school teachers.

At first glance it may seem odd to include teachers in that list, but please hear me out. Like service-

men and those in public safety, public school teachers do not choose their careers for the easy hours or generous compensation. For many teachers the workday begins before 7:30 a.m., and it lasts long after the 3 p.m. bell. Their afternoons and weekends are full supervising extracurriculars. They grade papers and prepare lesson plans long into the night. Summers are no respite from their 10-hour days. Many take on summer jobs to make ends meet.

And yet, even as these men and women struggle to cover their own bills, they still pay out of pocket for supplies for their students. The life of a public school teacher is about service. It is ensuring that every student has access to a bright tomorrow, even if that means the teacher has to tighten his or her belt.

Teachers enter a classroom of 25 children, each learning at a different pace. They are tasked with ensuring every one meets state mandates. I have heard an accomplished teacher say that when it comes to teaching a subject like reading for her first graders, she is really teaching six or seven different classes. She must adapt her lessons for those who are gifted and for those who need extra assistance and levels between. She was matter of fact about this, without exasperation or frustration. To her and countless others in her position, a teacher always ensures every young learner meets state requirements. It does not matter how big of a task it is. It is her calling, her job.


Their work keeps America strong. They, like our rightfully lauded servicemen and women,

work to secure the future of American democracy. The backbone of any strong democracy is an educated electorate. The children at the desks will one day vote and maybe run for office. No matter how they participate in democracy, students will use skills and values learned at a teacher's knee.

Our public school teachers nurture our children. They are a constant presence, offering instruction, discipline, and praise. Public school teachers care deeply about every class. Many have, without a moment's hesitation, made the ultimate sacrifice to protect for their students. Who can forget the stories of the heroic teachers in Newtown, Conn. who perished saving their children? Of the Oklahoma teachers who threw themselves on

... continued on page 10


**The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
congratulates Dr. Joseph C. Sommerville,  
former Library Board Trustee.**






The significance of honoring Dr. Sommerville as a community Legend by the African American Legacy Project will have impact for generations. The Library congratulates the other Legends and Emerging Leaders, and hails this particular honoree for his long-term contributions.

Here is a man of distinction who has dedicated his entire life to service.

*"Every legend, moreover, contains its residuum of truth ..."* – Author James Baldwin



   419.259.5200 [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)

## A Poetess's Journey to the Airwaves

By Therza Cox

On Saturday, March 23, 2013, I was a vendor at the W.A.V.E. (Women, Artists, Visionaries, and Entrepreneurs) Festival at Lourdes University. I was selling my poetry books and audio books on CD. There were many vendors from across the United States at this event. The event started at 11 am and lasted until 4 pm.

During the event, I was asked if I could read some of my poetry in a separate room where there was entertainment, a stage and a microphone. Since I was given the invitation, I immediately said, "yes." This was my opportunity to sell myself to potential readers.

As I stood on the stage and I read my poetry, I noticed that the audience was very intrigued and very responsive. I ended the stage presentation with a poem that I wrote when I was in the seventh grade titled, I Am. That poem can be found in my poetry book, *Life Is A Story: A Collection of Poetry*, on page 34. It is one of the longest poems in my first compilation.

After I went back to my assigned table to sell my books, I had so many people who walked past my table to ask about my books and audio CD. There was even a young

teenage girl, a sophomore in high school, whom I happened to meet. She was so overwhelmed with meeting me and reading my work that she asked her mother if she could buy a book of her own.

I took a break for a moment, around 3 o'clock. When I arrived back at the table there was a woman standing there talking to my replacement. She told me her name was Barb Sundermeyer. She worked at a radio station here in Toledo, Ohio and wanted to know if I would like to be a guest on a radio program. I said, "yes".

She wrote some information on a piece of paper and told me to give her a phone call any time Monday thru Friday to schedule an appointment. I called that Monday to speak with her.

The morning of Tuesday, April 9, 2013, I received an email from a man named Larry Whatley. He told me to give him a call and left his phone number. Immediately, I called and he answered the phone. Then he asked me if I would be interested in coming to the radio station. I said, "yes." I only had two days to prepare myself. Fortunately, I was prepared mentally. I had no idea what questions he was

going to ask but I was more than ready.

The day of the interview I started to get butterflies in my stomach. I left my home about an hour early. I wanted to be sure that I found the exact location. I arrived there with a male friend. As we walked through the parking lot and to the door, I just looked around in admiration at how much God (The Most High) has blessed me. When, I was about to open the door to the building, a man said, "stop right there". I turned around and to my surprise, it was Whatley.

Whatley escorted my friend and me upstairs to the radio station. This was my first time being in a radio station. I looked around and saw these beautiful plaques of musicians. I took pictures and I sat on a black leather couch waiting for the interviewer (Whatley). A few moments later, he stepped in the room and asked me to follow him to the radio room when he would be conducting the interview. I followed him and, I must say, I was very impressed.

The radio interview lasted about 25 minutes. He then told me that radio interview would air Sunday, April 14 at 6 am on stations 95.7 FM and 107.3 FM. After the radio



Therza Cox

interview, I posted the video footage on youtube.com. I started calling and emailing as many people as I could to tell them the good news.

That Sunday morning, I could not sleep. I was up extra early to listen to the radio. The very moment that I heard my name announced I started screaming and crying. I was so overwhelmed with joy and pride. Everything was so unreal.

Since I was a little girl at Keyser Elementary School, I have told people that I was going to be a famous poet. It was always my dream since fourth grade to well be known as a "poetess." All of my hard work paid off in a huge way. I am so proud that I was given the opportunity. I was given the most beautiful gifts. God has blessed me in so many ways that I can't seem to thank Him enough.

As of today, I have five videos at

... continued on page 9



Edward M. Parker Technical Academy (EMP Tech) offers a robust curriculum that provides members of our community an opportunity to acquire training and skills that will empower them to gain employment in the emerging energy, electrical, and other technical industries.

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- 8 weeks, 40 hours of training (lecture and hands-on)
- Cost = \$200 per person. 50% tuition scholarship available for eligible students
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- Textbook, tools and safety glasses will be provided
- Students will receive a Certificate of Completion upon successful completion of the course

#### EMP Tech instructors include:

- Electrical Engineers
- Electrical Contractors
- Journeyman Electricians

Edward M. Parker Technical Academy was created in honor of the late Edward M. Parker, a former president of Parker and Carter, Commercial Electric Contractors and Engineers, Trade Contractor and MEP industries. Parker's leadership, electrical and technical expertise and entrepreneurial spirit inspired many African Americans and other minorities to pursue careers in the electrical and other technical industries.



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# Jabali African Acrobats Will Take the Stage at The University of Findlay

## Special to The Truth

The Jabali African Acrobats will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at The University of Findlay in the Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

Pre-sale tickets are available from the UF Box Office, located in the Alumni Memorial Union. Community tickets are \$5. The show is family friendly, and doors open at 7:30 p.m. The UF Box Office phone number is 419-434-5335.

The Jabali African Acrobats combine athletics – acrobatics, contortions, tumbling, human pyramids and chair balancing – and dance – Congo snake dance, the flaming limbo bar dance – with skip rope footwork techniques, comedy and electrifying music. Audience participation is included.

The group performs for festivals, NBA and college halftime shows, and they tour regu-

larly with the Harlem Globetrotters. They also have performed by special invitation for President Clinton at the White House, the

Big Top Universoul Circus, the Big Apple Circus, ESPN Sports Television Network, the “Crook and Chase Show,” “Late Night with David Let-

terman” and others.

The Jabali African Acrobats are performing on campus as part of Diversity Month at the University.

## UT Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The University of Toledo community is honoring and remembering those affected by domestic violence with events in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Life-sized silhouettes created as solemn displays to commemorate victims known as the Silent Witness Project were on display from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8 on the steps outside the Student Union on the UT Main Campus. The silhouette displays served as memorials to girls and women whose lives were ended abruptly and violently at the hands of a husband, ex-husband, partner or stalker.

A Survivor Vigil concluded the day's events at 6 p.m. to honor survivors and remember those who have lost their lives to domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month events are coordinated by the UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program.

POETESS... continued from page 8

<http://www.youtube.com/Searchmyname>, Therza P. Cox. My 2 poetry books are still available at [www.barnesandnoble.com/](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/)

and [www.amazon.com/](http://www.amazon.com/). Or people can visit People Called Women Bookstore 6060 Renaissance Pl off Holland-Sylvania Rd. The books are available in paperback and ebook.

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## Technology Can Help Parents Stay Connected to Their Kids

### Special to The Truth

In today's digital world, connecting with your children goes beyond face-to-face communication. While nothing beats in-person quality time, on-the-go lifestyles don't always allow for it.

But physical distance when you or your kids are out of the house shouldn't present too much of a communication barrier between parents and kids, say the experts.

"These days, most children are fairly comfortable using communication technologies. Capitalizing on your children's tech prowess can help you stay connected," says Eric Klopfer, Ph.D, Learning Expert for VTech, a maker of age-appropriate and developmental stage-based electronic learning products for children.

Whether you're at the office, a frequent business traveler or simply want to keep in touch with your kids while they're away from home, Klopfer says there are a few things to keep in mind when communicating with your children electronically:

#### Age-Appropriate Technology

It's crucial to find technologies that are age-appropriate, safe and easy-to-use. Many messaging services are restricted to those over the age of 13. And messaging services with fewer restrictions can present a hassle for parents who want to ensure that kids are only corresponding with approved contacts.

Luckily, emerging technologies designed for a younger audience are addressing these concerns. For example, VTech Kid Connect, a new communication app for the company's children's learning tablet, Inno-Tab 3S, features tablet-to-mobile capabilities, making staying in touch both safe and easy. It eliminates the need for setting up a complicated restriction system, which can be a big relief for parents questioning the safety of their kids online. More information and a demonstration can be found at [www.vtechkids.com/kidconnect](http://www.vtechkids.com/kidconnect).

#### Writing Skills

For parents skeptical about the impact that texting and electronic messaging will have on children's written communication skills, Klopfer assures that with care, you can use the technology to actually improve literacy.

"Through time, great minds have worried about the impact that emerging technologies would have on human intelligence," says Klopfer. "While these advances -- from the printing press to the Internet -- have certainly changed the way we communicate, when used appropriately, their impact is immensely positive."

Encourage kids to develop their writing skills while communicating with you electronically by paying attention to their spelling and grammar. And you can set

a good example by avoiding excessive acronyms and emoticons, and including great vocabulary words into messages.

It may seem paradoxical, but in this fast-paced, tech-driven age, keeping kids and parents connected is getting easier.

*Courtesy State Point*

#### TEACHERS ... cont. from page 7

top of their classes as a tornado whipped through their school!? Their sacrifice is as inspiring as it is tragic.

It is with deep humility that I say to teachers, "Thank you for your service!"

Thank you for answering the call the serve. Thank you for caring for children long after they have left your classroom. Thank you for every hour spent nudging a child in the right direction. Thank you for encouraging dreams and nurturing self-reliance. Thank you for seeing the future in the eight-year-old at work. Your time, energy, and effort do not go unnoticed. Thank you for your service yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

## African Art Has Arrived!!

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# The Rejected Stone by Reverend Al Sharpton

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

The directions didn't make any sense.

They came with diagrams, but that didn't help. Online information was no better, you were making a mess of things, and about ready to scream. You needed clarification. You needed simple answers. You wanted someone to *show* you what to do.

You needed a leader. So why can't it be you? In the new book **The Rejected Stone** by Reverend Al Sharpton, you'll see how it could happen.

Every once in a while – especially when he's somewhere unexpected – Reverend Al Sharpton looks around, surprised and pleased. He's been working for social justice and civil rights since he was nine years old, and there are many things he never thought he'd see in his lifetime.

He admits that he's come a long way since his Tawana Brawley days. He's lost weight and gained insight, changed his outlook and his mind on issues. He's become a leader because the black community needs more of those.

Great leaders, he says, don't become leaders by accident. They know where they're going and they know how they're going to get there. They don't let their past deter them; they don't blame their childhood or neighborhood for their shortcomings. They understand that successful African Americans became successful be-

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Canada  
272 pages

cause of community, not family.

They listen to the giants of history; they have mentors and they mentor.

Leaders are true to themselves, but they understand that they must be "different, better, more" than those around them. They know their own strengths and don't pretend to be something they're not. They've defined themselves, they ask for what they need, and they aren't afraid to "be big."

Successful leaders, he says, are all-encompassing. If you are against injustice, then you must be against all injustice. It's "hypocrisy" to pick and choose.

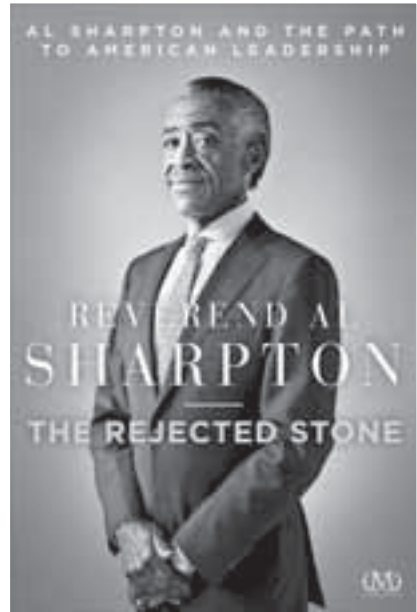
To be a leader, you must focus and commit to a cause. You must understand that religion isn't something you merely preach, it's what you practice. And, to be a leader, you must know when it's time to quit.

In all that author Reverend Al Sharpton has done in his life, considering the people he's known (Michael Jackson and James Brown, for example, both of whom he writes about at length), and the issues that have made him front-page news, who would've expected wide-eyed amazement at his current life? Yes, that's what you'll see in the first chapter of *The Rejected Stone*, and it's good.

From his roots in Brooklyn to his current activism, Sharpton weaves his own experiences in with ad-

vice on becoming a leader, reaching for one's "blessings," and being an agent for justice. Readers may be pleasantly surprised to see humility here, too; Sharpton occasionally writes with what seems like hindsight tinged with regret, which truly adds to the magnetism of his words.

I liked that; I liked the lighter, no-nonsense tone of this helpful, easy-to-read book; and I think if you know someone with potential – teen or adult – it's what they need: *The Rejected Stone* could be a push in the right direction.



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# Area Office on Aging's Brochure Rated Best in the Nation in Mature Media Design Competition

Special to The Truth

The Area Office on Aging (AOoA) was chosen as having the best brochure for older adults in the nation with its selection as the Gold National Mature Media Award winner in the brochure category.

The National Mature Media Awards is the nation's largest awards program that annually recognizes the best marketing, communications, educational materials and programs for adults age 50 and older.

About 1,000 entries were judged by a panel of mature market experts from across the country for overall excellence

of design, content, creativity and relevance to the senior market.

The development of the brochure was a joint effort between the AOoA and T. Parker & Co.

AOoA President/CEO Billie Johnson said: "Sometimes the smallest things we do at the Area Office on Aging end up having the biggest impact. In developing our brochure, we just wanted it to effectively communicate our story to local adults and caregivers. We are pleasantly surprised to see it have a much bigger impact by being recognized as the best brochure in the nation for older adults."

The impact of the award has an even greater significance for northwest Ohio since the design firm – T. Parker & Co. is a local company founded and operated by a Toledoan, Terri Parker.

From her early years as owner/creative director of Lee & Parker Associates in Detroit to her current work as founder and chief creative officer of +parker&co., Parker has won numerous awards and the confidence of every client.

From digital communication to traditional media, Parker answers clients' challenges with strategic, targeted solu-



Terri Parker

tions. Parker imbues every project with all the benefits of her 25+ years of marketing leadership and branding expertise.

... continued on page 13

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**PERRYMAN ... continued from page 3**

that all of them, that whole families would've been on unemployment.

I sat down with my unions and asked them to negotiate concessions. They refused. They told me to lay them off. Being a person that had been laid off, I wasn't accepting of that. And so I was going to do whatever it took to make sure that we kept everything running, everybody working and be able to come out of this deficit while keeping the same level of services without raising taxes. And that's what we were able to do.

Thirty-eight businesses have been moved into the city or created in the city in the last year. That's pretty impressive. Fifty-four hundred jobs have been created inside the city in the last four years. That's pretty impressive. Our revenues, which govern our ability to be able to do some of the things people want us to do, have gained by \$20 million in the last four. I've done what I'm supposed to do.

I am totally at peace with myself that at the end of these four years that everything that we said we were going to fix, we have fixed. And there was no easy way to do it and so I met the mission and because I've done what people asked me to do I got people mad at me. But it wouldn't have happened any other way.

**Perryman:** The truth is that this election is about revenge, isn't it?

**Mayor Bell:** Well, if it's about revenge the revenge is about what? They wouldn't hurt me, they would hurt the city. The SB5 issue failed so you can't get over that? The 20, 30, 40 or 50 different things we could put down as accomplishments you can't see that but you see one issue that I used to leverage my union who was telling me to lay people off?

They came to the table and gave us nine concessionary contracts, which allowed for us to put ourselves into a balanced budget. So who got hurt on that? Who would've been hurt on that if I hadn't have done it that way? That

would've meant that the opposite of that is to come back and ask the taxpayers to increase the budget because we've got to give these people raises because they want their money. I wasn't doing that.

My pledge to the citizens was to keep the budget, keep their tax rate at the same level and provide them the same level of services. I did what I said I was going to do. Now if that makes me the bad guy I'm cool with that because that's what I told you I was going to do and you voted me in because that meant you were in agreement that's what needed to be done. And now that the deed has been done we all of a sudden want to get political, we want revenge.

Okay so what's the alternative? Somebody else is going to come in here and do what? How do you beat this record? We're getting such attention from places like Forbes Magazine, the National Journal, the Wall Street Journal, New York Times. All these people are marveling at the results that we have gotten in Toledo. But in my own hometown I've got to scuffle with the people who can see it close up and personal and they don't realize how great we've actually turned this thing around and how close it was teetering to disaster. And anyone who says that it wasn't, well that's just rhetoric.

Because if you remember before I got in office they had laid off 75 police officers. So we were in a situation that nobody in the administration here had ever been under and we had to fix something within 90 days. We had to have a balanced budget in 90 days from the time I got in office. And so the solution had to be sort of unconventional but we did something that worked. And there are people who are extremely happy who understand, who have been watching, who've gone through some things and so they know how difficult this was.

But we also have people that say 'I'm just going to get Bell, we're going to take him out.'

Okay so when you take me out what happens, what do you think happens?

**Perryman:** I don't know. However, I can say, "The best-laid plots, plans and payback of mice and men, often go awry."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

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# The Pic I Decided NOT to Post on Instagram

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

There's a fine line between using the Internet and over-using the Internet.

Ever since the days of Blackplanet, I've always been very active online.

No matter what the newest or latest new craze is, I manage to get hip to it right before the masses jump on the bandwagon. Hell, I remember being on Myspace so early that Tom would actually reply to you if you messaged him and he would ask you to invite more people to check it out.

When Facebook purchased Instagram in the spring of 2012 I had already been on the new photo-sharing social media app for about three months.

Which is part of the reason I still only have around 500 followers.

Once Zuckerberg and crew got their paws on IG they set it up so that your Facebook friends could be easily migrated to your Instagram account which would often result in hundreds possibly a couple thousand followers overnight.

I was already on Instagram before the two platforms were merged and I don't link accounts so I have to get my followers the old fashioned way.

Or by plugging my handle right now, **FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM @ MERCURYGRAM!**

Yeah, yeah I know... web 2.0 has made us all shameless self promoters and nothing is sacred anymore. Ironically, that was part of the appeal of Instagram at first.

There was no status update, no words.

Relying on visuals as the only method of communication basically forced users to be creative and see their environment through the eyes of

a photographer.

Sure, not everything was Gordon Parks...but it soon became the in-thing to do to have an Instagram account packed with pics that displayed creativity and perspective.

In the same way all those annoying glitter banners on Myspace forced a mass exodus to Facebook, FB was now overrun with rampant foolishness made a brief respite necessary.

Of course, people aren't leaving Facebook any time soon... but the groundswell of ignorant posts needed to be tempered with some kind of social media experience that still felt interesting. When something becomes ubiquitous, you search for its antithesis.

It's that never ending, unquenchable need for what's fresh.

Instagram was interesting, simple and it seemed to bring out the best in people.

Sure, it has since been dumbed down significantly.

There are still a dedicated few who commit to only posting thought provoking images, but for the most part the striking visuals have given way to the same kind of pics you see scrolling through your Facebook newsfeed.

For me, I always try to find the balance in between.

My Instagram has pics of food, nights out kicking it, a few selfies and all the other typical trends of silliness. But I also have pics of nature, beautiful scenery or phone photography where I'm using light, shadows or depth of field to convey to my followers how a certain scene stuck out to me.

See it, snap it, post it.

But is that basically turning every man, woman and child with a camera phone into paparazzi?

I was driving up Lewis Ave. into Michigan when I saw the most bizarre scene unfolding in the parking lot of Monroe Bank and Trust.

A man was standing next to his two door cherry red Ford Mustang as it burned to a charred crisp right before his very eyes. With more than half of the vehicle engulfed in flames, he stood there transfixed. Immediately I thought the car may explode and he could be injured so I made my way closer by winding through the adjacent parking lot ending up maybe 30 feet away. Soon as I threw my car into "park" I realized there was a small but growing crowd of onlookers.

Each person had a phone in hand but none were dialing 911, they were all snapping pics and video. So I called 911 on my phone and luckily they said someone had just called and they were on their way. I can't front, I took my phone out of emergency mode and shot some video and snapped a few pics also... that sight was just something else.

I got footage of the Fire Department saving the day, and I instantly thought of posting these images to my

Instagram account.

The scene started to become a spectacle so I dipped and as I drove away I felt weird inside. I spent the rest of that Saturday wrestling with whether or not to post those pics.

A late 1960s cherry red Ford Mustang, on fire in a parking lot in the middle of the day.

It's a striking visual that would've fit right in with some of the rarest images among Instagram's cajillion photos.

But what about that man who probably spent his hard earned money restoring that vehicle?

What about what he must have been feeling?

My conscience would not allow me to violate him in that way just for the sake of a few "likes" on Instagram. So I didn't post it. No Twitter, Tumblr, Youtube, Vine, ... nothing.

I believe we should be as social as we want to be with social media.

But just like there is a line to jump on whatever platform is now or next, there should be some lines of how to conduct ourselves once we're on that bandwagon.

Or else, there really will come a time when absolutely nothing feels fresh, interesting or sacred.

**AOoA... continued from page 12**

With her guidance, every creative staff has earned multiple awards and, more importantly, produced effective creative for clients in health care, manufacturing, newspaper and other industries.

Parker attributes this success to hard work and dedication to analytic rigor in developing creative, targeted solutions. This approach has been the foundation for every endeavor, whether providing instruction at Detroit's College of Art & Design or creative direction for the marketing department of *The Blade*, where she consulted on targeted solutions for advertisers, created niche publications, developed marketing policies, supervised staff and governed budgets up to \$2.5 million.

Today, as chief creative officer of +parker&co., Parker produces award-winning, strategic creative with hand-picked teams of copywriters and de-

signers. Founded in 1996, the firm is a full-service design and communications agency serving clients in and beyond northwest Ohio. +parker&co.'s focus, as always, is to help every client achieve or exceed its stated objectives.

Parker's dedication extends to the industry and her community as well. She has been a member of the National Association of Minority Media Executives (NAMME) for more than 10 years. Locally, she served for several years as a board member for Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio. She currently serves on the Executive Board for Prevent Blindness of Northwest Ohio and Habitat for Humanity and Anne Grady Services.

The award-winning brochure can be viewed at [www.areaofficeconaging.com/brochure.pdf](http://www.areaofficeconaging.com/brochure.pdf).

The Mature Media Awards recipients are found at: <http://www.seniorawards.com/2013mmawinners.pdf>



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Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed  
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**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**



### Legal Notice

Bid packets will be received by Lucas County Department Job & Family Services (LCDJFS) until **3:00 p.m., November 12, 2013** for the selection of Provider(s) to provide **Domestic Violence Prevention Services** for eligible participants. Submitted bid packets must be completed according to the specifications and provisions outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The contract period for services to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)-eligible participants will be from approximately **January 1, 2014** through **September 30, 2014**. The contract period for services to IV-D-eligible participants will be from approximately **January 1, 2014** through **December 31, 2014**.

No bids will be accepted after **3:00 p.m., November 12, 2013**; bids that are submitted via any method other than that described in the RFP will not be accepted.

The Request for Proposals will be available on October 9, 2013. It will be available for potential bidders to download by going to the site: <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

An Electronic Question & Answer (Q&A) process will be from October 9, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. to October 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. **PARTICIPATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.** Questions for the Q&A must be submitted in writing and received via email at [LUCAS\\_CONTRACTS@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:LUCAS_CONTRACTS@odjfs.state.oh.us) by October 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.; the posting of the Q&A will be on October 30, 2013. If any changes are made to the RFP as a result of the Q&A, an addendum to the RFP will be posted on the website address (noted above).

This notice is posted, as of **October 9, 2013** at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.aspx>.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Carol Contrada - President  
Tina Skeldon Wozniak - Commissioner  
Pete Gerken - Commissioner

**Bid: 48-14-RFP-04**

### Full Time Building/ Grounds Maintenance Employee

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is a senior housing facility with 158 apartment units in Perrysburg, Ohio. We are seeking a full time experienced Building/Grounds Maintenance Employee to perform the following duties:

- Basic carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and painting maintenance
- Maintain the physical appearance of the facilities (inside and outside)
- Maintenance of gutters, walkways, parking lot
- Provide snow removal and salt to walkways
- Complete all work orders in a timely & efficient manner
- Accurate record keeping for HUD reports
- Maintain equipment of facility
- Maintain and update MSDS manual
- Must be available for after hours and weekend emergencies

Candidates must possess the following qualifications:

- High School diploma/GED
- A valid Driver's License and willing to obtain a CDL License (Class C)
- Must have a professional presentation and positive rapport with residents/staff/contractors
- Minimum of 1 year experience in apartment maintenance
- Carpentry and plumbing skills are preferred
- HVAC previous experience a plus.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, including company paid health insurance. Abundant Life of Perrysburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Candidate must successfully pass a pre-employment drug screen, background check and driving record screening.

Please mail or deliver your resume including your history of employment to Abundant Life of Perrysburg, #1, 100 Trinity Court, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Your information can also be sent via email to [ablife@bex.net](mailto:ablife@bex.net). We will not accept interested applicants' information beyond 5:00 p.m. on September 27, 2013.

### Notice to Bidders:

Inquiry # FY14-29, (Project # 5004-13-1769) for UMC ER Trauma Rooms No. 10, 11, & 12 Renovation for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 22, 2013 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$45.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Julie Cavese of MBA Architects and Planners at 419-873-8450. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$238,060.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$78,000.00; Plumbing: \$45,000.00; Fire Protection: \$7,000.00; HVAC: \$32,400.00 & Electrical: \$75,660.00.

### CLINICAL THERAPIST – CHILDS PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM

Full-time

Unison is seeking a Childs Partial Hospitalization Therapist to provide services to children with severe emotional disorders.

Master's degree and current Ohio licensure as a LSW or PC required. LISW or LPCC preferred. Experience working with children and families is preferred.

Human Resources - CTCPH  
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Email: [hr@unisonbhg.org](mailto:hr@unisonbhg.org)

EOE

### CLINICAL THERAPIST – HOME BASED FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICES

Full-time

Unison is seeking a Clinical Therapist to provide services to children and adults with severe emotional disorders in community settings. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing treatment plans and providing individual and family therapy.

Position is based at Starr Avenue but requires work in the community. Master's degree and current Ohio licensure as a LSW or PC required. LISW or LPCC preferred. Experience working with children and families is preferred.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:

Human Resources - CTHB  
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Email: [hr@unisonbhg.org](mailto:hr@unisonbhg.org)

EOE

### Medicaid Clerk

Full-time (40 hrs/wk) position available to provide assistance to clients applying for Social Security (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Medicaid. Position will gather information, verify eligibility, track redeterminations and assist clients who have lost benefits. May serve as client representative. Position schedule is Monday – Friday.

Qualified candidates must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of SSI, SSDI and Medicaid programs. Proficiency in computer use and software applications such as Excel and MS Word. Must have prior experience using electronic billings systems, experience with electronic health record preferred. Excellent customer service skills required and previous experience in dealing with individuals with mental illness preferred.

Human Resources - MC  
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
1425 Starr Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Email: [hr@unisonbhg.org](mailto:hr@unisonbhg.org)

EOE

### Announcement

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus is asking: Is there a performer in you? Do you like to sing? Do you want to learn how to sing?

The adult choir, one of the area's most venerable singing groups for over 35 years, is directed by Clarence R. Smith, Jr., and typically performs both traditional and updated spirituals plus traditional jazz, classical music, and Broadway numbers. For more information and/or to schedule an audition, call 419-534-2299.

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## Center of Hope Community Baptist Church Honors Dr. and Mrs. Donald L. Perryman for 16 Years of Pastoral and Community Leadership

On September 29, 2013, Center of Hope Baptist Church celebrated the leadership and service Rev. and Mrs. Donald L. Perryman have provided within the religious and greater community.

Center of Hope Community Baptist Church, founded by Perryman in 1997, is located in Toledo's central city. Perryman has earned both a bachelors and masters degree in Business Administration from The University of Toledo, and a doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary, where he studied the intersections of Social Justice Ministry and Political Activism. He is currently a PhD student in the Antioch University Leadership and Change Program.

Perryman founded Center of Hope in response to what he believed to be a pervasive level of silence among the African-American faith community on the following issues:

- A growing disillusionment among our young people and those on the fringe of society
- A lack of male role models in schools, churches, in the home; and a negative portrayal of the African-American male and female in society
- Visible moral and spiritual decadence and hypocrisy at every level of society
- Abnormally high rates of crime, violence and substance abuse in our community
- Lack of equal access to education and financial resources
- Devaluation of human life

According to Perryman's vision, Center of Hope is a center for change and hope in the community by bringing the light of the gospel to bear upon the issue of diversity, liberation, inclusiveness, empowerment and social justice.

Center of Hope has a small congregation, which both Perrymans embrace. Both believe that community and individual transformation must occur on various levels. While Perryman impacts larger audiences through journalism addressing an array of social justice issues, both he and Mrs. Perryman also devote a great deal of time to helping individuals transform themselves and their families.

The Perrymans value knowing all congregants and their families on a personal level. Their view is that intensive time, reflection and effort is needed to provide relevant guidance and mentorship to effectively empower their congregants to actualize their best selves, and align their personal goals with God's will.

This model is one that is embraced by the membership, who prefer a congregation where everyone intimately knows each other. With this small congregation in an economically disadvantaged area, the Perrymans led them to purchase the current location on Dorr Street in 1999, and pay off the mortgage in less than 15 years. The Perrymans have organized several church ministries related to positive youth development, family education and support, and male and female empowerment.

Center of Hope is also honoring Rev. and Mrs. Perryman for their work beyond the church's walls. They are both very active in the community, as Center of Hope's mission is to reconnect holistic Christ-centered ministry (in social, economic, political and all facets of contemporary life) to our spiritual and cultural foundations. Rev. Perryman serves on several community boards, including Neighborhood

Health Association, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, and is the chairman of the Equal Opportunity Planning Association.

Perryman has provided leadership while EOPA has undergone several transformations. His objectives have been to facilitate board cohesion; locate, galvanize, and empower leadership to implement 21st Century vision, policies, and practices; ensure that EOPA's vision, objectives, and operations are responsive and relevant to the clients served.

Perryman is also the founder of the United Pastors for Social Empowerment (UPSE), an independent ecumenical group of senior pastors working in collaboration with community leaders and institutions to challenge the crises and disparities affecting the poor, marginalized, and communities of color through public policy advocacy, community development and through political empowerment and coalition building. UPSE's vision is to mobilize pastors who are committed to using their collective power to effectively empower communities of color and marginalized populations economically, socially, politically, and spiritually.

At the event, Perryman announced his newest project – developing faith-based partnerships to address discrimination in hiring practices.

Mrs. Perryman currently works for Center of Hope Family Services (CHFS), Inc., a non-profit agency co-founded by her, Rev. Perryman, and their daughter, Tracee. CHFS's mission is to improve the life outcomes of adults, children, and families in urban settings. Mrs. Perryman believes that CHFS is critical to progress of Center of Hope church, because the agency allows us the ideals that we impart on Sunday mornings to action during the week. At the service, Mrs. Perryman emphasized her commitment to being an advocate for vulnerable youth and families, but also for pastors and other faith leaders. She states that the faith community's integral involvement in significant and lasting social change fuels her passion to advocate for the authentic engagement and respect of the clergy's voice and contributions in the community arena.

The Perryman have three children - Marlon, Tracee and Staci (Randall Clark), and one granddaughter (Jamison). Their daughters, Tracee and Staci, use their vocal skills, training and talents in both vocal and musical composition at Center of Hope and in the broader community.

Tracee is the executive director of Center of Hope Family Services, Inc., and is a PhD student in the Ohio State University College of Social Work. Staci Perryman-Clark, PhD, is an assistant professor and the director of First Year Writing in the Western Michigan University College of English, as well as a three-time author.

Approximately 200 individuals joined Center of Hope in honoring the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Perryman. Derek Arnold, D.Min, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, delivered the morning message. The program included reflections by the United Pastors for Social Empowerment, including Elder Martin Johnson (New Life C.O.G.I.C.), Pastor Benjamin Green (New Covenant Baptist Church), and Pastor Robert Bass (United Missionary Baptist Church). Bass



reflected on Perryman's recent recovery from a sudden health scare. Pastor Bass stated, "The devil tried to get Dr. Perryman a few months ago, but he couldn't keep him. When I went to see him, I thought he would be resting. But, he was up, plotting and trying to figure out his next move."

Several community leaders gave tributes to Rev. and Mrs. Perryman, as well. Lucas County Commissioner Peter Gerken, stated that several elected officials – have all come to pay tribute Dr. Perryman and his family." Gerken described Perryman as one who "stands in the gaps where there is trouble, conflict, and where resolution is needed. Dr. Perryman takes leadership on issues that impact the legacy and future of our people. He is a man with bravery and courage."

Gerken called the Perryman Family "a model 'First Family'." Gerken added: "This family has been immensely successful in attacking issues such as reconnecting fathers to their families, and reconnecting incarcerated individuals with potential to their community. This family works every day to make sure children have the most essential skill – the ability to read."

Tia Cook, Chevrolet Multicultural Advertising Manager at General Motors, Detroit, MI, shared these words – "We really expect a lot from our community leaders, and especially from our religious leaders. We expect more from them than we expect from ourselves. What I love about Dr. and Mrs. Perryman is that they live their entire life in the manner that you see within the church walls. We expect a lot from them, and they deliver it 100 percent of the time. You won't see them in any other place any differently than you see them now."

Other supporters of the event included Lucas County Commissioners President Carol Contrada, Toledo City Councilman Adam Martinez, Toledo Public Schools Board member and Toledo City Council hopeful Larry Sykes and Toledo Public Schools Board hopeful Polly Taylor-Gerken.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

EXPLORE HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

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OCTOBER 19, 2013  
10:00am - Noon



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