



Volume 54, No. 1

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

January 9, 2019



Reggie Aldridge and Jodie Summers

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# That Ain't The Problem

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

The Truth Contributor

*Your judgment is no better than your information.*

- Nathaniel H. Bronner, Sr.



Rev. John D. Roberts, my mentor in the ministry, has a saying, "Little Prayer is Little Power. Much Prayer is Much Power." I would like to adapt and remix Roberts' bit of wisdom to say: "Little Information is Little Power. Much Information is Much Power." In fact, access to information has always been a relevant social justice issues for our community.

There are several critical local issues addressing discrimination and equity that are currently gaining political steam. I hope to shine light on many of them in the coming weeks.

The first deals with TARTA's recent plan to eliminate bus transportation on Sundays and holidays, a decision that negatively impacts minorities, low income and disabled persons.

What do you need to know?

It is MORE than a Sales Tax Issue:

The TARTA public relations machine is in full swing portraying TARTA's strapped financial condition as "a result of being blocked from good solutions by a small minority of suburban elected officials."

Don't drink the Kool-Aid!

The truth is that TARTA's troubles are more likely to "stem from management problems and an outmoded and inefficient business model," according to several sources familiar with the Authority's operations.

Yet, it is no secret that TARTA's predominant role in this community is to help people get to work. The people riding TARTA are likely to be minorities, low income and the disabled who work hard and view TARTA as a lifeline to get to church on Sunday or to and from jobs that help them provide for their families.

While TARTA expands and continues service for other more privileged clients, including University of Toledo students and Walleye hockey fans, the decision to cut services to the vulnerable demonstrates bias towards low income, disabled and minorities – a financial strategy being implemented as TARTA simultaneously advertises for proposals to remodel the lobby of the former Cherry Street Goodwill building it recently bought.

First Things First:

When a transit authority proposes cuts, they are legally required to first evaluate whether their proposal will have a disparate impact on minorities and low-income people—and, if so, suggest mitigation strategies or alternatives to the cuts. TARTA has not met these legal requirements to provide alternatives to avoid the deep and negative impact of its cuts.

It certainly appears that TARTA has little or no regard for the people who

form a significant portion of its client base and who have repeatedly been loyal supporters of its past tax levies.

The Authority, in fact, was also required to hold two public hearings on these cuts, which they did—on the same day—and without an opportunity for dialogue on ways to avoid the negative impact on TARTA's riders.

Addressing the Real Problem: Either Reform or Replace

There is a need to end the pro-forma, check-the-box responses to issues affecting minorities and low-income persons and to begin real public engagement where decision makers actually listen to the people they are impacting.

In order to solve the real problems, then, TARTA, as an organization, will need to be completely reformed or completely replaced. We must demand such change that will provide financial stability as well as transportation equity for all.

As a result, United Pastors for Social Empowerment, with assistance from Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), has filed an administrative complaint with the Federal Transit Administration's Office of Civil Rights. In addition, the Lucas County Commissioners are currently assembling a task force to examine TARTA's internal operations and other alternative structures for our regional transportation system.

Little Information is Little Power. Much Information is Much Power!

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org)

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... continued on page 4

### The Sojourner's Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 \* Fax 419-255-7700

[thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com](http://thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com)

### Community Calendar

January 8, 15, 22 and 29

CARE Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Group; Ronald McDonald House – 3883 Monroe Street; 7 to 8:30 pm; For families who have experienced the loss of a baby during or after birth

January 21

MLK Unity Celebration: University of Toledo Savage Arena; 10 am to noon



# It Is Raining Legal Freebies!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

As is my wont, at the beginning of a new year, I like to shower on my dear readers, legal freebies that may be of SOME utility or value as they navigate that minefield known as the legal system.

It can be full of pits, snares and surprises for the novice so, in my small way, I like to be a legal cornucopia and spread a little new year's cheer to everyone.

Now mind you, the following legal freebies should only be used in conjunction with an attorney who is knowledgeable of your particular concerns or dilemma.

So, just as you would not go to a dentist to install your home security system, make sure that the attorney you employ is a seasoned hand so you can avoid or minimize any hard lumps.

**FREEBIE ONE:** If you choose (and you shouldn't) to have a baby outside of

marital wedlock and you want to make sure that you are in the baby's future (even if the birth mother wants to "lock you out"), you can place your name on a putative registry so that your rights as a birth parent are protected. This needs to be done within 15 days of the birth of the child. So, before you buy that first box of "Pampers," get on the registry!

**FREEBIE TWO:** If you are expecting a "fat" tax refund but still need to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy and have urgent expenses, make sure that you keep a detailed list of whatever you spend out of that tax refund, including all receipts. Why? In the event that you file a bankruptcy and the trustee over your case asks about that X grand return, you can present evidence that you did not fritter it away on loose living and buying the latest Jordans.

But rather you spent it on necessities including back rent, utilities, food,

clothing, attorney fees and costs to file the bankruptcy, etc...etc. Do not pay back friends or family members for any "loans" that they gave you. That won't fly with the bankruptcy trustee.

**FREEBIE THREE:** Danger! Danger! If you sign a consumer contract for goods and services, you normally have a three day rescission period by which you can reject the contract and not be liable to pay any contractual balance. However, this three days of grace does not apply to buying a car. So, be very sure that you want the car and the car checks out as not being a lemon or it will become your "bank" (in other words, you are always putting money into it!).

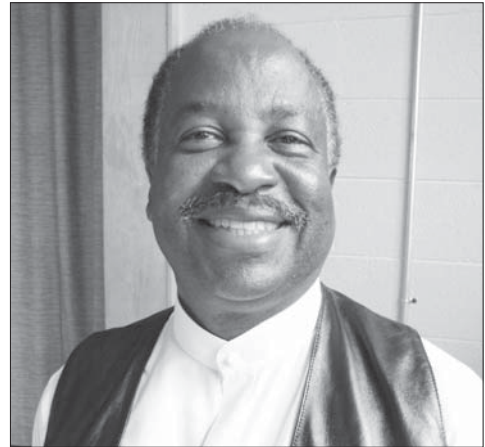
**FREEBIE FOUR:** In the unfortunate event that you are a passenger in a car that is stopped by the police, the police can ask each of the occupants of the car to identify themselves and also to step out of car (safety of the officers).

If that happens to you, please refrain from loud mouthing the police or trying to play tough guy and not cooperate. The owner/driver of the vehicle can protest a search of the car but you can't. So, please cooperate so that you can get home safely and not be a victim of police misconduct.

**FREEBIE FIVE:** Being evicted? If so, make sure that the landlord files the proper paperwork in court and be very careful to make note if the landlord or his agents try to do what is called, "self-help" by which they put out your belongings on the curb before the court process has finished. If they try that tactic, they can be sued for damages. Take pictures and have witnesses if at all possible about the damages done to your household goods and furniture.

**FREEBIE SIX:** If you are facing a foreclosure but want to save the house but the creditor says no, you may file for what is called a Chapter 13 Plan by which, if you qualify, you can save the house

... continued on page 12



Lafe Tolliver

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# The American Food Center Owner's Letter to the Community

By Elizabeth Primas

NNPA ESSA Awareness Campaign Program Manager

January 1, 2019

My name is Joseph Farah, and I am the owner of American Food Center (AFC) in Toledo Ohio. I am sorry for the actions of my former employees on Christmas day which was not in accordance with my store's policy. The suspects in question acted on their own, outside of my supervision. I absolutely condemn the behavior shown in the video of the incident.

As soon as I heard about the incident, the employees involved were immediately terminated. Not only were they fired, but local prosecutors are pursuing assault charges against both former employees. Furthermore, some of the articles released falsely stated that the owners of AFC were directly involved in this incident. However, this is clearly not the case — all parties involved are former employees.

AFC is owned by me, my wife, and our four children whom I was home with at the time of the incident. Moreover, I have replaced and retrained my employees and have hired security while also working in conjunction with Toledo Police to ensure the safety of all customers and employees.

I am aware the public outcry and I take their concerns to heart. Not only do I hear it, I understand it and support it. I have taken immediate action to ensure an incident like this does not disgrace our community again. For over a decade, AFC has been involved in with the local community by investing in and donating to youth basketball teams, several churches, and the Toledo Police Department.

Best Regards,  
Joseph Farah & Family  
Owners, American Food Center

*Ed. Note: The incident referred to by Joseph Farah occurred on Christmas Day when a customer, Shannon Wilson, allegedly stole two bottles of*

*liquor from the American Food Center. On video viewers can see Wilson chased, caught, kicked and beaten by the two store employees, Guirguis Ragheb and Tejas Patel. Ragheb and Patel have been charged with misdemeanor assault. Wilson has been charged with petty theft.*



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*Swimming Lessons... continued from page 2*

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# Banker, Songstress, Children Services Director Are Among This Year's Milestones Honorees

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union CEO Suzette Cowell, songstress, vocal coach, jazz diva Jean Holden and Lucas County Children Services Executive Director Robin Reese are among the select group of women named 2019 Milestones: A Tribute to Women winners by the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. During an unveiling on Tuesday, January 8, YWCA CEO Lisa McDuffie introduced the Milestones winners and touted their accomplishments. The award luncheon will be held on March 27, 2019 at The Seagate Centre.

The Milestones Awards Luncheon was established in 1996 to recognize women of northwest Ohio for outstanding accomplishments and contributions in the following seven areas: Arts, Business, Education, Government, Sciences, Social Services and Volunteerism. The purpose of the event is to honor northwest Ohio women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and who, through their efforts and accomplishments, have opened doors for other women to achieve.

Holden, a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, moved to Toledo at age 17 and began singing with the Toledo Opera Association. She became a vocal coach in 1973 and has spent a career singing in theater productions and night clubs.

She continues singing and coaching vocals at her Studio of Vocal Expression. Holden is receiving the Milestones Award for the Arts.

Cowell, a Toledo native, founded the TUFCU 22 years ago – the first community credit union to open in the state of Ohio – and has directed the growth of the credit union to include over 4,000 members, to the construction of a new free-standing building, to the opening of a second branch in the new NHA Nexus building. In addition Cowell and TUFCU brought the African American Parade and Festival to

town, an event that will be 15 years old this summer.

Cowell will receive the Milestones Award in the Business category.

Reese, also a Toledo native, earned her undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and a masters in social work at the University of Toledo. She joined LCCS in 1984, rising from caseworker to manager of the Placement Department, to supervisor of the adoption unit and the foster parent training and licensing processes.

Reese was named associate director of the agency in 2014 and the executive director in 2016.

Reese will receive the Milestones Award in the Social Services category.

This year's other Milestones recipients are Judith Lanzinger for Government; Mary Fedderke for Science; Lexi Hayman-Staples for Volunteerism and Lynn Fisher for Education.

Lanzinger is a retired justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Her professional career included many different positions as a judge: Toledo Municipal Court, the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, and the Sixth District Court of Appeals. She was elected to the Supreme Court in 2004 and retired in 2016.

Fedderke has been Development Director at the Toledo Zoo since 2004.

Hayman-Staples is the founder and executive director of Toledo Pride and the artistic director of the Collingwood Arts Center.

Fisher is head of school at West Side Montessori.

This year's event will be the 24th annual Milestones Awards luncheon ceremony.



Suzette Cowell



Robin Reese, Executive Director, Lucas County Children Services



Jean Holden



(L. to R.) Jean Holden, Suzette Cowell, Lynn Fisher, Justice Judith Lanzinger, Mary Fedderke, Robin Reese

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# City of Toledo Department of Neighborhood and Business Development 2019-2020 Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant Mandatory Application Review Sessions

By Bernadette Joy Graham, MA, LPC, NCC, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist

*The Truth Contributor*

The city of Toledo this week announced availability of federal funds for Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant for the grant period, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The Department of Neighborhood and Business Development will hold MANDATORY application review sessions on Jan. 25 to answer questions and share information about the application preparation and submittal process, which includes eligible activities for program year 2019.

Non-profit agencies interested in seeking CDBG or ESG funding must send at least one representative involved in the grant-seeking process to the MANDATORY application review session(s).

The MANDATORY application review sessions will be held as follows:

\* CDBG Review Session for Non-Homeless Service Providers will be 9 - 11 a.m., Friday, Jan. 25 at the United Way of Greater Toledo (rooms A and B), 424 Jackson St.

\* ESG/CDBG Review Session for Homeless Service Providers will be 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25 at the United Way of Greater Toledo (rooms A and B), 424 Jackson St.

For information on eligible CDBG activities for Non-Homeless Service Providers, please visit the city of Toledo website at: <http://toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhoods>.

For information on eligible ESG/CDBG activities for Homeless Service Providers, please visit the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board website at <http://endinghomelessness.toledo.org>.

For additional information, please contact Monica Brown, administrative analyst IV, Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, at 419-245-1400.

The city of Toledo supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability to fully participate, please contact ADA Administrator, Joan Easler, city of Toledo Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at 419-245-1059.

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# Why Vocational Education is Critical for Many Young People

*Special to The Truth*

In this high-tech era where a college degree is positioned as a necessity for success, vocational education is often overlooked. But experts say that a vocational education provides the right experience for many jobs that are currently vacant.

Indeed, there are 30 million jobs nationwide that don't require a Bachelor's Degree that pay an average of \$55,000 annually, according to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Whether it's a student that doesn't fit the traditional high school-to-college path or someone who is interested in mechanics, a vocational education can prepare that individual for a well-paying, real-world career right out of high school. Indeed, many students learn from industry professionals and participate in internships and other unique programs that serve as a springboard to careers after they graduate.

For example, over the last two decades, derelict farm equipment has provided high school-aged students with the tools they need for life through the Chevron's Delo Tractor Restoration Competition, an annual event that is open to high school-aged tractor restorers. The program provides a national platform for students interested in careers in agriculture or diesel mechanics on which to shine, mixing the hands-on vocational experience of restoring an antique tractor with the business skills needed to detail, manage and communicate the process. On top of valuable ex-

perience and national exposure at industry events, the Delo Grand Champion receives a \$10,000 prize.

The process of restoring an antique tractor to like-new condition involves commitment, determination, teamwork, project management, budgeting, planning and even a little marketing. It's a very hands-on experience and those familiar with the program say that participants come out prepared for the real world.

"I can't count the number of kids that have been exposed to excellent career opportunities through this program," says Rick Elmore, career and technology education coordinator at Dubiski Career High School. "I have been an advisor and mentor to participants in the competition for over a decade and have seen the impact it can have on their lives."

Indeed, many participants have gone on to careers in mechanics, or have used the experience to launch them into careers outside of agriculture or mechanics.

"The vocational aspects of the Delo event provided critical context that led to my study of automotive restoration at McPherson College," says Tabetia Salsbury Hammer, two-time competition winner ('03 and '04) and the first female to win the event. "The business skills helped prepare me for a career in the classic car industry. To say this event changed my life would be an understatement."

For those interested in a vocational education, such programs abound, representing a number of industries and careers. It's only a matter of learning more about these opportunities.

So, whether you have an aptitude for mechanics or you are not sure if a traditional four-year college degree is the right path for you, visiting the career center at your school as well as looking into vocational internships, programs and competitions, can expand your horizons about what's possible for your future.

*Courtesy StatePoint*

## Former Toledoan Appointed Chief of Staff at Tucson Medical Center

This month, former Toledo and Maumee resident Dr. Gayle Elaine Dean, M.D., has been selected as the new chief of staff at The Tucson (Arizona) Medical Center. "Dr. Dean is the first African American to have this position in Tucson."



*Dr. Gayle Elaine Dean*

A graduate of Maumee High School of 1988, Dr. Dean completed her undergraduate studies at The University of Toledo. She received her medical degree from The University of Cincinnati School of Medicine. She is an obstetrician-gynecologist in Tucson and is affiliated with TMC Healthcare-Tucson. She will continue to see her patients.

Dr. Dean is a member of the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church. She is the daughter of Pamela and Dwight Dean and the wife of Maurice Johnson.



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# Books and Basketball at the Wayman Palmer YMCA

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Youngsters had the opportunity this weekend to learn a lot about books, basketball, art, music, dancing, poetry, among an assortment of skills at the Wayman Palmer YMCA on Saturday and Sunday, January 5 and 6. Pearls of Wisdom Global Mentoring & Sports Foundation presented a free weekend camp courtesy of sponsors, volunteers, donations and guest speakers.

Over 70 youngsters participated in the two-day event and they were assisted, coached and taught by over 20 adult volunteers.

The volunteers and guest speakers include Brandon Copeland, jujitsu instructor and motivational speaker; Debra Sue, Glass City Talent Agency; Dennis Hopson, NBA champ and all-time leading scorer at The Ohio State University, Big Trice of City Park Basketball League and Jodie Summers, poet and author, among others. Volunteers included coaches Glandoy Hill, Anthony Amison, Bruce Orr and Marcus Elliott Sr. Catering was provided by Savannahs Soul Kitchen.

Pearls of Wisdom is the brainchild of founder, CEO Reggie Aldridge, a Toledo native who started the organization in Atlanta during his time there. Aldridge is back home now and has brought the non-profit agency back with him.

The mission of Pearls of Wisdom is to reduce bullying; to educate kids on the importance of healthy living; to prevent drug abuse; to instill confidence; to encourage goal setting; to reduce school drop-outs and to instill a sense of the importance of being law abiding citizens.

For more information, contact Reggie Aldridge at 678-457-7073 or on Facebook at Coaching Reggie.



Reggie Aldridge



Debra Sue, DJ Knot, Jodie Summers



**Thank you to The Wild Bunch Motorcycle Club for providing Christmas cheer to students at Reynolds Elementary. From class of Mrs. McQueen, Mrs. Dorine, Mrs. Renee and Ms. Jasmine**





Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section • Education Section

# Seven Graduate Students Chosen to Receive the ProMedica Hospital/McKesson Fund Scholarship

Last week, Dr. Dawn AuBuchon, CRNA, director of the Lourdes University Master of Science in Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program (MSN:NAP), announced the students who were selected to receive the ProMedica Flower Hospital/McKesson Fund Scholarship. Each student is currently enrolled in the Nurse Anesthesia Program and will receive a \$3,000 scholarship.

The ProMedica Hospital/McKesson Fund Scholarship recipients are:

- Riga, MI resident Chris Colter
- Toledo, OH resident Brent Kramp
- Ypsilanti, MI resident Kevin Lim
- Wixom, MI resident Vercina Powell
- Toledo, OH resident Alec Schindler
- Toledo, OH resident Nathaniel Sellers
- Jackson, MI resident Audrey Woodward

In August 2011, ProMedica Flower Hospital through its McKesson Memorial Fund, donated \$1 million over a 10-year period to the Lourdes MSN:NAP. Approximately 80 percent of the funding is utilized for students enrolled in the program who demonstrate financial need and academic merit. Lourdes University has invested the remainder of the fund-

ing in continuing education in the field of anesthesia, staff development, direct support for the training program and the creation of a lecture series.

The Lourdes University Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Anesthesia Program and Graduate Nurse Anesthesia Certificate are fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs through fall 2026.

Graduates of the MSN:NAP are prepared to fulfill the requirements to sit for the National Certification Examination (NCE). The MSN:NAP program has a 100 percent employment rate in the field within six months of graduation.

To learn more about Lourdes University's nursing programs, call 419-885-5291 or email [luadmits@lourdes.edu](mailto:luadmits@lourdes.edu) <<mailto:luadmits@lourdes.edu>>.



Vercina Powell

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## 2019-2020 School Choice School Fair for Grades K-8

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund along with National School Choice Week are presenting a 2019-2020 School Choice School Fair for Grades K-8 on Saturday, January 26 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Franciscan Center, located on the campus of Lourdes University, at 6832 Convent Boulevard. Interested families can learn about the different educational options available in Northwest Ohio including private schools, charter schools and homeschooling as well as tuition scholarships.

Representatives from participating schools and homeschooling co-ops will have tables with informational materials to share. Parents will also have an opportunity to learn about the scholarships available for private education including the EdChoice Scholarship Program and the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund.

EdChoice scholarships provide students from underperforming schools as well as students in grades K-5 from low income households the opportunity to attend participating private schools. The Northwest Ohio Scholarship

Fund awards scholarship assistance for low-income students who reside in one of 19 counties in Northwest Ohio.

While parents are learning about schools and scholarships, children can participate in fun activities and entertainment. Snacks and drinks will be available. Parking and admission are free.

"National School Choice Week is the perfect time for parents to search for new or different schools for their children," said Andrew Campanella, president of National School Choice Week. "By planning a school fair and inviting all different types of schools to participate, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund is bringing educational opportunity one step closer to even more Buckeye State families. We could not be happier that they chose to plan this helpful fair during National School Choice Week, and we encourage families to attend and discover their options."

For more information visit <https://nosf.org/news-and-events/announcements> or call the NOSF office at (419)720-7048.

## CTW Presents "Muslim Voices" With Support From Toledo Community Foundation

Children's Theatre Workshop (CTW), in partnership with Welcome Toledo-Lucas County, is preparing for their production of "Muslim Voices," a series of short plays that feature the experiences of young Muslims in America.

CTW received a grant of \$2,400 from the Toledo Community Foundation's

Fund for Islamic Understanding, Education, and Dialog to present "Muslim Voices." Grants from this fund are awarded to support projects, programs or

... continued on page 11

The Truth

# Art Gallery



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# WGTE Public Media to Broadcast American Public Media's The Slowdown, Hosted by U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith

WGTE Public Media will offer the broadcast of the celebrated podcast *The Slowdown* to public radio listeners starting in January. Hosted by U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith and produced by American Public Media (APM), *The Slowdown* has been bringing the power of poetry to listeners across the globe as a weekday podcast since its launch in November 2018.

The radio feature of *The Slowdown* will present the same five-minute program, encouraging listeners to make a daily space for poetry in an increasingly busy and chaotic world. *The Slowdown* will air Monday, January 14 at 9 a.m. and is made possible through funding by the Poetry Foundation, a national independent literary organization and publisher of *Poetry* magazine, and the support of the Library of Congress, which appoints the nation's poet laureate.

Smith, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, is serving her second year as the nation's 22nd poet laureate. In this role, she has focused on connecting with rural areas by visiting states across the country through her project "American Conversations: Celebrating Poems in Rural Communities." Smith aims to spark conversations that prove poetry helps readers and listeners slow down, think more passionately and deeply, and see the world through the eyes of others. Previous episodes of *The Slowdown* can be heard by visiting [slowdownshow.org](http://slowdownshow.org).



Tracy K. Smith

## Toledo Library Goes Fine Free

Fines for late items/materials have always been part of the Library experience. But should they be?

Charging overdue fines is not a strong motivator to return Library materials on time. For many families in the Lucas County community, overdue fines serve as a real barrier to access. And for those who can afford to pay them, the small fee is not a very effective incentive to return materials on time.

To improve access and opportunity in our community, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) eliminated overdue fines effective Jan. 1, 2019.

The negative consequences of overdue fines far outweigh the positive

aspects of eliminating them for communities across the country. In fact, Library systems that have phased out charging late fees have seen increases in the amount of materials borrowed, without any significant increase in materials not returned. Ohio Libraries that are now fine-free include Columbus Metropolitan Library, Dayton Metropolitan Library, Wood County District Public Library, Way Public Library, Stark County District Library and Westerville Public Library.

Fines and fees make up less than one percent of funding for TLCPL. Enforcing, collecting, managing and explaining fines to customers who are confused or upset over fines costs money. It also takes a lot of time for Library staff, time that would be better served helping customers in more positive ways. In short, the Library doesn't rely on the money received from overdue fines to run the system and the expenses simply do not justify the activity.

Eradicating overdue fines does not mean eliminating accountability. Customers who haven't returned or renewed books won't be able to check out additional ones. Customers will receive reminders to return items on the due date and once they are one week overdue will be delivered by phone, email or text at no extra cost. TLCPL also offers easy online and mobile technology options for renewing items to help customers keep their accounts current. If materials are returned, there will not be an overdue fine.

For more information visit <http://www.toledolibrary.org/policies/nofines>

CTW... continued from page 10

services that provide educational opportunities that promote a greater understanding of Muslims and the Islamic faith.


CTW will present "Ten Years Test," and "Fast Friends," two of the plays in the "Muslim Voices" repertoire, originally written and performed by the Brooklyn Children's Theatre in New York. "Ten Years Test" is based on the true story of how Eid became an officially recognized holiday in New York through the efforts of Muslim students and their supporters. In "Fast Friends," Muslim children observe Ramadan for the first time, and their non-Muslim classmates learn about its origins and find ways to celebrate Ramadan through charity work and giving.

"As theatre educators, we know we have a responsibility to use our skills to amplify the stories of people who don't often see themselves represented. Telling these stories in this way is an exciting opportunity to help establish a space for these artists in Toledo," says CTW Executive Artistic Director Aimee Reid.

Auditions for "Muslim Voices" will be in April 2019. The cast will feature Muslim and non-Muslim children ages 10+, as well as adults, with some singing and dancing in each play. Thanks to the support from TCF and Welcome Toledo-Lucas County, this program will be completely free for all participants, including audiences. Performances will be in June 2019.

Toledo Community Foundation, Inc., is a public charitable organization created by citizens of our community to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families in our area. In existence since 1973, the Foundation has more than 800 funds with assets of approximately \$287 million. The Foundation provides philanthropic services for individuals, families, businesses and corporations to meet their charitable giving needs. For more information on the Foundation, visit the organization's website at [www.toledocf.org](http://www.toledocf.org) or follow them on Facebook.

Audition information will be posted on CTW's Facebook page and website, [www.ctwtoledo.org](http://www.ctwtoledo.org). For additional information, contact the CTW office at [office@ctwtoledo.org](mailto:office@ctwtoledo.org) or call at 419-244-5061.



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or call 419-213-3336

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

from foreclosure and also you can catch up on any past due and owing house payments and property taxes. You must act quickly so that your rights are protected since after the foreclosure is done, your rights are extinguished unless you can pay the due amount in full which may include substantial attorney fees and costs.

**FREEBIE SEVEN:** If someone dies and they made out a will but you can not find it but you do have a copy of it, you can still ask the local probate court to admit the will and there will be a legal proceeding to validate the copy as if it was the original will. If no original can be found and neither can a copy be found, you can still probate the estate assets of the deceased that are not included in a trust document (trust documents are not admitted to probate court).

**FREEBIE EIGHT:** In the event that you want to deed property to someone but with conditions, you can do so and thus give a person a "life estate" in the property and when they pass on, you can (in the same document) determine who then gets the property or whether it should revert back to you or your heirs.

**FREEBIE NINE:** To save money as regards probating one's estate, consider having a possible heir, or two, placed on your checking or savings account so that in the event that you pass away, those remaining funds are now considered to be owned by those name heirs. This is called a "POD" (payable on death account) and can be set up by going to your bank and adding a name, or more, to the paperwork and thus it is a contract and as such will not

be considered a probate asset and thus avoids going through probate.

**FREEBIE TEN:** In the event that you need to file a bankruptcy or a Chapter 13 Plan, the federal law allows you to include into your monthly budget an amount for tithing to your church (Note: there is no New Testament requirement for tithing, only for joyful giving) and which amount can be up to 15 percent of your annual gross income. Such giving could make a favorable result in you being able to file either a bankruptcy or a Chapter 13 Plan since that amount lessens what is available to pay to creditors!

**FREEBIE ELEVEN:** In the event that you are sent an unsolicited gift in the mail (in other words you did not ask for it or order it), it is yours to keep and the sender is out of luck. So, if a package comes to you and you keep it and then you get letters demanding payment or its return, throw the letters away and enjoy the freebie.

**FREEBIE TWELVE:** If you and your spouse have to separate and you both agree upon a dissolution as opposed to a divorce (dissolution requires no grounds to be proven), make sure that each spouse will be present at the final hearing because if not, and one spouse does not appear, the court will/ can dismiss it and you will have to start over and file a more costly divorce action.

Well, there you have it. Freebies for all! Use them wisely and when you are in a contentious situation, do not get angry...get smart. Angry people lose while smart people win.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)

*MLK Awards... continued from page 16*

and Community Engagement (PACE) Program for Health Equity in Colorectal Cancer Prevention, a comprehensive colorectal cancer awareness and screening program which has been recognized nationally by the American College of Gastroenterology and National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable. He also chairs the Health Equity Steering Committee at OSU, assists in the implementation of Health Sciences Academies in Columbus City Schools, serves on the board of Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services and is an ambassador for #BlackMeninMedicine.



MHRBS Executive Director Scott Sylak

**Winner: Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Toledo,** is a leader of diversity and health equity in Lucas County. The board has funded educational partners and grass roots organizations, and has provided direct access for mental health and recovery services for those who are marginalized in the local community. The board has demonstrated its vision of creating a compassionate community that embraces recovery and mental wellness through enabling community organizations to provide services in underserved communities in Lucas County. The board also is committed to ensuring the voice of the disenfranchised is heard by including consumers in key areas of decision making and by developing a position for a director of health equity. The board is an instrumental part of the current conversation in Lucas County as it relates to addressing matters of inclusion, diversity and health equity.

**Social Justice Award criteria:** The recipient selected in this category has made significant contributions to achieving justice for individuals or communities, including contributions made through the legal, legislative and governmental systems as they apply to the more vulnerable elements of our society.

**Winner: Vincent Edwards, Jr., Cincinnati,** has made many positive contributions to the community. He works as a victim advocate for the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. In his spare time, he wrote a children's book, *One Face/One Race*, that explains to children that even though people may look different on the outside, on the inside everyone is created equal. He visits schools where he engages children while reading the book to get them to discuss these important issues.

**Youth: Capturing the Vision of Dr. King Award criteria:** The recipient exemplifies leadership, nonviolence and commitment to excellence and interracial cooperation as well as adherence to one or more of Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence.

**Winner: Groomed for Greatness, Toledo,** is a nonprofit organization serving girls ages 4 to 17. Its mission is to enhance the lives of girls through professional and personal research-based programming that equips them with the necessary skills to be leaders. Programming includes a diversity forum that exposes participating girls to other cultures while helping them to discover who they are and how they can assimilate into society and become productive citizens. The girls also are taught how to take active leadership roles and be voices against injustice and oppression in their community.

The commission is housed in the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which provides centralized support for state agencies.

For more information about the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, visit [das.ohio.gov/mlk](http://das.ohio.gov/mlk).



Michelle McCaster

## February Events at the Toledo Zoo

Through March 1      Online Coupons

Need an inexpensive yet entertaining activity to drive away the winter blahs? Your Zoo is here to help with a half off admission coupon! The coupon is available online at [toledozoo.org](https://www.toledozoo.org) <<https://www.toledozoo.org>> and is redeemable on visits within the same time period. Guests must present the coupon (printed or digital) at the entry gate to receive the discount. Coupon is not valid with any other offers and does not apply to groups of 20 or more.

Feb. 2, 3, 8, 9, 22, 23      Snooze at the Zoo

Spending the night at the Zoo is a wildly good time for families, groups and schools. During the overnight adventure, guests make enrichment for our animals, tour the Zoo, meet animals up close and enjoy delicious meals. Each Snooze lasts from 6:30 p.m. - 10 a.m. the next day. Separate fee, pre-registration required. For more information, including pricing and available dates, visit [toledozoo.org/snooze](https://www.toledozoo.org/snooze) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/snooze>>.

Sat, Feb. 9      Horticulture Make & Take Workshop

Join us for another round of botany and bubbly at our Orchid Workshop! Get the inside scoop and all your questions answered about caring for orchids from special guest speaker, Dennis Seffernick, an orchid judge for the Great Lakes Orchid Judging Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan and member of the American Orchid Society. Guests will each leave with a beautiful ceramic pot and orchid. Reservations are required. Workshop is 10 a.m. - noon. Register and learn more at [toledozoo.org/workshop](https://www.toledozoo.org/workshop) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/workshop>>.

Fri, Feb. 15      Wine & Dine: Aquarium

Ages 21 & up may Wine & Dine for a Valentine's Day date night in the beauty of the deep blue from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Advanced tickets are required. Separate fee; Zoo member discount applies. For more information, please visit [toledozoo.org/wine](https://www.toledozoo.org/wine) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/wine>>.

... continued on page 13



# *(Don't) Call Me Crazy* by thirty-three authors, edited by Kelly Jensen

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Ouch, you twisted your shoulder and it hurts.

That'll last awhile, but you'll be okay. Might need a sling, maybe, but it won't cramp your style; your friends will help. That's what people do when someone's hurt and they see that's the case – but what about the illnesses they can't see? In *(Don't) Call Me Crazy*, an anthology edited by Kelly Jensen, you'll read about diseases that often stay invisible.

Hang around older folks for more than a minute, and you might hear them mention their arthritis, bad back, bad knees, and other aches and pains. They do it openly because we have no problem talking about physical hurts or disabilities. So why is it hard to talk about mental health?

It shouldn't be. People deal with mental health issues all the time, and saying they're "crazy" can mean different things. It can include an aversion to sounds or a way of looking at one's body. It can be sadness or compulsion. Overall, though, the thing to remember is that even when it feels the messiest and most overwhelming, "crazy" does not define an individual. You can be a "Latina Feminist Mental Health Activist or a psychiatrist-in-training or someone who's trying to deal with family issues, whatever, but the disease is not you.

Or maybe you don't know even you have mental illness.

That happens. You go about living life, enjoying your quirks until someone says you're "crazy," and you go look it up. Surprise! Your quirk is suddenly in a book somewhere and you learn, to enormous relief (and maybe ill-placed embarrassment), that you're not alone in this. And that's the whole point: you're not alone.

Whatever you're feeling, there's a chance that someone else has been through something similar. They're not you, but they know your mania, your body dysmorphia, your OCD or PTSD or depression or anxiety or the isolation all these things might bring. They know and they've survived. They know "there's always someone there to help..."

Baby steps. That's the simple takeaway from *(Don't) Call Me Crazy*: just two words that a teen will learn when facing mental illness.

It takes 33 "voices" to get there, and each one hammers across the point – some with humor, others with fear that leaps between a reader's hands, still others that offer a facts-only account that will comfort readers who don't

c.2018  
Algonquin Young Readers  
\$16.95 / \$24.95 Canada  
228 pages

want embellishment. The writers featured here also come from different backgrounds, including those of color and a trans woman, all of whom are the least-discussed in mental health discussions.

The biggest help, though, comes from the sense of community that this book offers in the form of been-there stories from survivors and those who are works in progress. Either overt or implied, the words "It's okay, you're not alone" are here, everywhere.

Though it's meant for 12-to-20-year-olds who desperately need its compassion, this book is a good start to a long adult conversation. *(Don't) Call Me Crazy* could also offer good insight for professionals, parents, and friends to help shoulder the pain.

## February at the Zoo... continued from page 12

### Sat, Feb 16 Will Zoo Be Mine? Overnight

This Valentine's Day weekend, join us for an exclusive adult-only overnight experience that you and your friends are sure to enjoy! This experience includes special access tours, delicious food, drinks and sleeping in the Aquarium. Make this Valentine's Day a night to remember. For more information, please visit [toledozoo.org/snooze](http://toledozoo.org/snooze) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/zoo-snooze>>

### Sat, Feb. 16 Happy Hearts Day

Bring your sweetie and watch the animals enjoy their holiday-themed enrichment treats! This event is free with Zoo admission and takes place 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. throughout the Zoo. For the full schedule, visit [toledozoo.org/valentine](http://toledozoo.org/valentine) <<http://www.toledozoo.org/valentine>>.

### Sat, Feb. 16- Mon, Feb. 18 Free Lucas County Admission

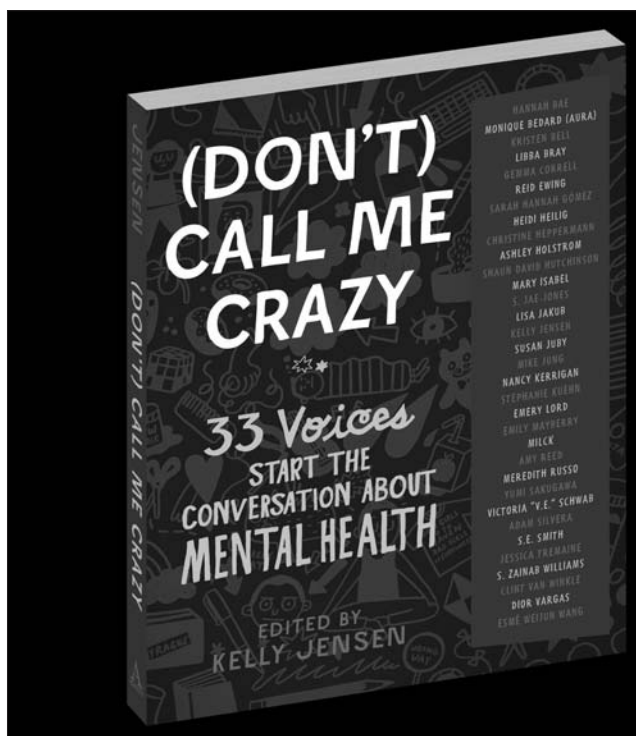
In appreciation of Lucas County's continuing support, Lucas County residents are admitted free to the Zoo from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. this Presidents Day holiday weekend. Valid proof of residency required.

### Mon, Feb. 18 Camp for a Day

Have the kids spend their day off school at the Zoo! From 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. they will explore all about how the Zoo keeps its animals happy and healthy. Campers will make stops at our indoor exhibits to learn how diet, enrichment, vet care and exhibit design all contribute to animal health. Separate fee, pre-registration required. Available for ages 5 – 12. Zoo member discount applies. To register or learn more, please visit [toledozoo.org/camps](http://toledozoo.org/camps) <<http://www.toledozoo.org/camps>>.

### Thu, Feb. 21 Climate Change Symposium

From 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. the Zoo will present an educational symposium about climate change in the Malawi Event Center. This event is ideal for middle school through high school students and teachers, along with anyone interested learning more about this current issue. This event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is recommended. Learn more at [toledozoo.org/](https://www.toledozoo.org/) <<https://www.toledozoo.org/>>.



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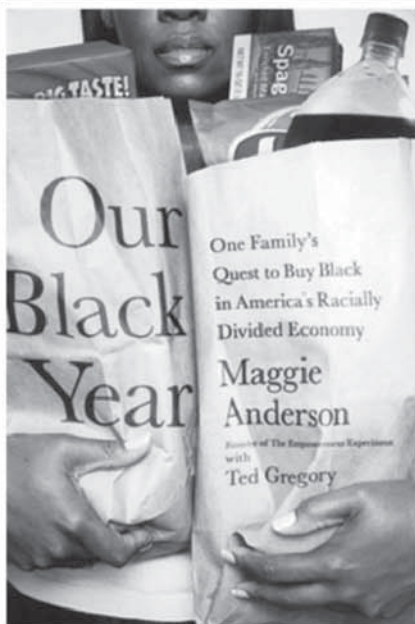
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# CLASSIFIEDS

January 9, 2019

Page 15

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-30, (Project # 1020-19-201) for Classroom Renovations for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 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 \$150.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Alejandro Medina of BHDP Architecture at 513-271-1634. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$922,600.00; Breakdown: General: \$457,700.00; Plumbing: \$23,650.00 HVAC: \$35,550.00; Electrical: \$405,700.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-31, (Project # 1020-19-200) for Savage Arena Pedestrian Bridge Replacement for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 29, 2019. 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 \$90.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Shelley Kiwala of Osborn Engineering Company at 216-861-2020. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$830,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$830,000.00.

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Metroparks Toledo has an opening for an Accounting Manager. Three years of general accounting experience including accounts payable and payroll is required. Moderate level of experience with grants, financial management of capital projects and governmental accounting preferred. Supervisory and leadership experience required. Bachelor's Degree in accounting, finance, public administration or related field, or equivalent work experience. FT position with benefits. Go to [www.Metroparks-Toledo.com](http://www.Metroparks-Toledo.com) to view the job description, position requirements and apply online by January 20. EOE

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-29, (Project # 1130-19-202) for Building Envelope/Weatherproofing for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2019. 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 DC Reprographics, 1254 Courtland Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201. Call 614-297-1200 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$140.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Todd Schram of eS Architecture and Development at 614-764-1115. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$1,420,000.00; Breakdown: General: \$1,260,000.00; Plumbing: \$33,000.00; HVAC: \$105,000.00; Electrical: \$22,000.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-32, (Project # 1130-19-205) for Electrical System Enhancements for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 29, 2019. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 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 \$120.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Desjardins of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$1,300,000.00; Breakdown: Electrical: \$1,300,000.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY19-33, (Project # 1020-19-199) for Underground Steam/Condensate Infrastructure Improvements for the University of Toledo. 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, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 29, 2019. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 1:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Cannell Data & Print Solutions, 1465 Northwest Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43212. Call 614-781-9760 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$100.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Vincent Jarrett of RMF Engineering, Inc. at 614-441-9411. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 15%. Project Estimate: \$1,750,000.00; Breakdown: HVAC: \$1,750,000.00.

## ASSISTANT TEACHER

Brightside is seeking Assistant Teachers to join our team. An Assistant Teacher must have the following education: CDA or enrolled to complete a CDA; or an Associate's or Bachelor's degree with at least 9 Early Childhood Education credits; or on track to complete degree with ECE credits within one year. Please apply with your resume to [Kbandfield@BrightsideOhio.com](mailto:Kbandfield@BrightsideOhio.com)

# Winners Announced for State MLK Awards – Four Toledo Individuals/Groups Recognized

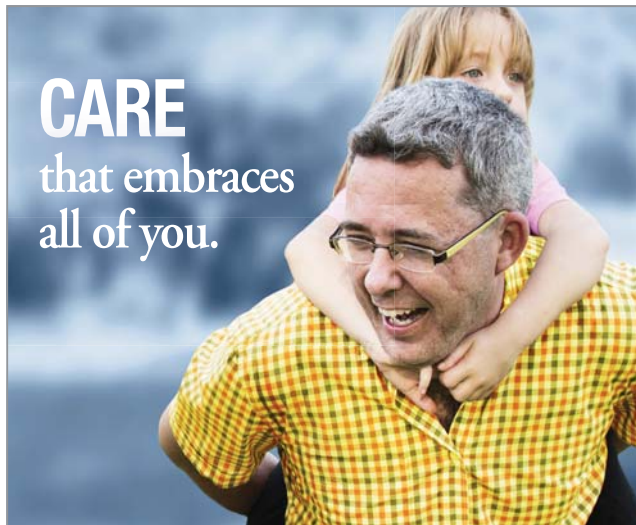
## Annual Commemorative Celebration Jan. 17 in downtown Columbus

Seven Ohio individuals and organizations will be recognized for their efforts to advance nonviolent social change at the 34th annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration. The free event, sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, will be held at noon Thursday, Jan. 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St., Columbus. Individuals or organizations from Toledo are winners in four of the seven categories

The annual event also will feature speeches from winners of the 2018 State-wide MLK Oratorical Contest held last April.

The awards and their recipients are as follows:

**Community Building Award criteria:** *The recipient selected in this category has made significant contributions toward building a sense of unity among Ohio citizens. The recipient has demonstrated the ability to build safer communities through various activities and programs that help to revitalize areas and make our communities a more wholesome and desirable place for living, learning and loving. The recipient has used Dr. King's vision of nonviolent social change in efforts to successfully bring people from diverse backgrounds together to build a better community.*



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**Winner: Michael Douglas, Chesterland,** founded Diversity Initiatives, Inc. in 1998 to help public and private organizations advance positive interaction and communication across racial, cultural, socio-economic and gender-based boundaries. He has consulted with many companies and school districts and serves as chief diversity officer for Walsh University.

**Cultural Awareness Award criteria:** *The recipient selected in this category has demonstrated an appreciation for diversity and evidenced skill in building and maintaining harmonious cross-cultural relationships. The recipient's achievements foster Dr. King's vision of unity among people of diverse cultural backgrounds.*

**Winner: Toledo Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Inc., Toledo,** conducts many community service projects and workshops for local youth and presents educational presentations about the heritage and history of the Buffalo Soldiers. The motorcycle club is named for the historic African-American U.S. Army regiments nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers" by Native Americans who encountered the service members on the battlefield. One of the most impactful programs the Toledo club is involved in is a presentation for youth explaining how to react if they are stopped by the police. They also provide mentoring and information about respecting oneself and others. Other projects include adopting a local park and raising funds to pay swimming pool fees for area children.

**Governor's Humanitarian Award criteria:** *The recipient of this award has acted independently of associations and organizations. The recipient has given his or her time and service freely to those in need without question and often without recognition. This award honors quiet soldiers who promote the welfare of humanity and elimination of pain and suffering through their own selfless service.*

**Winner: Pastor Michael E. Carter, Jr., Toledo.** His ministries at the Praise City Worship Centers in Toledo and Detroit where he pastors include operating a food pantry and providing free meals for youth during the summer and free food for basketball program participants. The centers hold clothing and toy give-aways. Carter also leads several small groups, including parenting classes, fatherhood classes, peer men-



Pastor Michael Carter

toring, youth mentoring and a youth leadership initiative with millennials in ministry and business. He also leads a free GED program, and provides job training and soft skills training.

**Health Equity and Awareness Award criteria:** *The recipients selected in this category offer exemplary community outreach and educational programs that serve an underserved population in the state. These services increase the accessibility of health care for the under-served while providing a high quality of customer service. (There are two winners.)*



Buffalo Soldiers

**Winner: Dr. Darrell Gray II, Columbus,** is a gastroenterologist serving as an assistant professor at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and The James Cancer Hospital where he also serves as the deputy director of the Center for Cancer Health Equity. At OSU he engineered the Provider

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