

# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 60, No. 8

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

March 25, 2020

## The Community Rises to the Occasion



Wayman Palmer YMCA Executive Director Eric Williams and Buffalo Soldiers Earl Mack

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# Shift Your Privilege to Become an Empathy Archeologist

*All Ohio Residents Ordered To Stay At Home\**

By Diana Patton

Guest Column

Being an empathy archeologist can be challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent Ohio *"Stay at Home Order"*, issued by Governor Mike Dewine, from the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, Amy Ashton. PLEASE take the time to read the Ohio Department of Health Order <<http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6816967-20200322143820416.html>>, in its entirety, for more detail.

However, please note, we may leave our homes for Essential Activities, as defined under Section 5, and Essential Travel, as defined under Section 14. We can travel to care for loved ones and friends who are elderly, minor, dependent, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable people.

PLEASE take the time to learn how you can help and follow the guidelines under the Order.

COVID-19 blasted a spotlight on the inequities that exist within our education system.

School administrators and educators have been working tirelessly to figure out how to provide online curriculums to help students complete the year, while, at the same time, they are also trying to find a way to provide breakfast and lunch to students who would otherwise go hungry if it were not for free or reduced breakfast and lunch at school.

Hourly-wage working parents are devastated, trying to figure out how to take time off of work to provide care for their kids, while also trying to figure out the right environmental balance for their kids to take advantage of the online learning that the schools offer. In many cases, these parents do not even have WIFI and often rely upon the libraries that are now, sadly, closed.

These inequities existed way before COVID-19, as evidenced by the Ohio Department of Education's discovery of a 15-year achievement gap that states that "Ohio's education system is not effectively meeting the needs of students, such as African-American, Hispanic, English learners (EL), economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities."

To solve this issue, the ODE states that the "path to equity begins with a deep understanding of the history of discrimination and bias and how it has come to impact current society." The ODE is asking schools to look at the whole child and seek to understand their specific needs.

The only way to clearly understand where these needs exist for each child is for each school, each educator, each person to take time for a bit of introspection to understand the rights or benefits that they have been given either at birth or from someone, or that were earned over time, due to ACCESS to various opportunities.

Not everyone has been born into or given the same rights or benefits, nor have they been able to earn these benefits, in most cases, due to the lack of ACCESS to the same opportunities.

These rights or benefits are called privilege, and they afford us a certain amount of status and power. Some of us aren't aware of the privileges we hold and the positive opportunities they have the potential to bring to us and to others. Sadly, in some cases, folks have felt alienation, separation, offense, and resentment when the word "privilege" is brought up.

#### Let's localize this a bit:

- Why do certain public schools get more money to educate a child than others?
- Why doesn't everyone have FREE WIFI to take advantage of online learning?
- Why isn't every classroom equipped with the right amount of resources to assist children who have special learning needs?

• Why aren't ALL educators required to undergo intensive social and emotional learning, unconscious bias, and trauma-sensitive practices learning, that have been proven to equip educators with the tools to effectively meet the needs of the whole child?

• Why do we continuously administer standardized tests that are inherently known to be biased against certain groups of people?

• Why are African-American students nearly four times as likely to be suspended from school as Caucasians, oftentimes for the same offense?

• Why are certain communities afforded clean drinking water and others are not?

#### The list goes on.

With the onset of COVID-19, let's all do our best to recognize and embrace the privileges that we hold, seek to understand others who do not have the same privileges, and become what I call "empathy archeologists," and find ways to gift our privilege forward in a respectable, kind, dignified, and compassionate manner.

#### Here are steps for you to consider:

1. **Recognize your privilege.** Take this quick assessment if you are unclear as to the privileges that you hold.
2. **Check your sphere of influence.** This does not need to be a detailed assessment. This is just a high-level review, especially in light of COVID-19. The point of this exercise is to see others and recognize that some of us may



Diana Patton

... continued on page 10

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

Please call ahead to any listed events to make sure they will be held as scheduled

#### April 4

Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist church Adult Choir's "Spring Into Fashions" - Style Show & Dinner Event, has been Postponed. A later date will be established and the public will be notified of that date, in advance. We certainly thank everyone for their interest, cooperation and commitments. God is still in full control! The well-being of our Guest and our Members is always our Top priority. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Prayer is the key! Emeritus Minister of Music, Bro. Johnnie Love, Pastor, Rev. Robert W. Lyons Sr.

#### April 24-25

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry 23 Spring Retreat: Holiday Inn Lima: 419-531-9443

# Meals, Meals, Meals ...

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Along with eight Toledo Public Schools and assorted Connecting Kids to Meals locations, The Wayman Palmer YMCA started handing out breakfast and lunch to kids this past week.

TPS, by Friday, was handing out an estimated 1,800 combo lunch and breakfast bags to students at eight locations – the six high schools plus Jones Leadership Academy and Devilbiss.

Deputy Superintendent Jim Gault noted that such an effort reflected TPS' mission of not only educating students but also looking out for their overall welfare.

The Toledo Buffalo Soldiers MC have teamed up with Off The Rails Food Truck to deliver breakfast to the students and young people in the neighborhood surrounding the Wayman Palmer YMCA which began Thursday morning, March 19, at 8 a.m.

Each morning for as long as they can attract funding the TBS and Jim Rhegness of Off The Rails will prepare and serve a healthy breakfast each morning thanks to the support of Mathews Ford in Oregon, Earnest Brew Works, Pro Medica, and individual contributors.

Because of the coronavirus crisis, the Wayman Palmer YMCA can no longer provide the child care services they normally would. This leaves dozens of children without the first meal of the day.

The daily cost to provide the meals is approximately \$250 so local support will be solicited in the coming weeks.

Eric Williams, executive director of Wayman Palmer YMCA, was on hand along with Earl Mack, president of the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers, and Chef Jim Rhegness, owner-operator of Off The Rails Food Truck.

Wayman Palmer YMCA Executive Director Eric Williams and Buffalo Soldiers Earl Mack

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# Staying Safe and Informed During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Ohio State Senator Theresa Gavarone

Guest Column

We are facing unprecedented times in Ohio due to the coronavirus pandemic, but I have no doubt that through working together we will get past this and come out on the other side even stronger. As a small business owner in the restaurant industry, I personally understand the hardships we are now facing together as a result of this health crisis. Although the orders may seem extreme at times, my understanding is they are being implemented to help save lives. Accordingly, I wanted to give an update and provide you with resources that you may find useful during this time.

Both my staff and I will be available to all people of the 2nd Senate District who are in need of help communicating with state agencies or accessing state resources, and listen to constituents' concerns and questions. We can be reached by phone at 614-466-8060 or by emailing Gavarone@OhioSenate.gov.

These resources are summarized below:

For the latest updates on COVID-19 from the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, as well as prevention information and resources, visit [www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov](http://www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov) or call the Department of Health's hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). Follow on social media @OHdeptofhealth and @GovMikeDeWine.

For UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS for affected workers, visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohio/Coronavirus> (<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm>).

\* Ohioans can apply for unemployment online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at [unemployment.ohio.gov](http://unemployment.ohio.gov). It's also possible to file by phone at (1-877-644-6562) or TTY at (888) 642-8203, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\* Employers with questions should email [UCTech@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:UCTech@jfs.ohio.gov) (<mailto:UCTech@jfs.ohio.gov>). More details available here: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/RELEASES/pdf/031620-ODJFS-Provides-COVID-Number.stm>

(<http://jfs.ohio.gov/RELEASES/pdf/031620-ODJFS-Provides-COVID-Number.stm>)

For SMALL BUSINESSES seeking relief, any small businesses and non-profits impacted by the ongoing public health crisis are encouraged to contact Ohio's Development Services Agency at [BusinessHelp@development.ohio.gov](mailto:BusinessHelp@development.ohio.gov) (<mailto:BusinessHelp@development.ohio.gov>).

\* Governor DeWine's administration filed a request with the U.S. Small Business Administration to qualify Ohio for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, which has been approved (<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/DeclarationDetails?declNumber=6063436&direct=false>), providing low-interest loans to affected businesses. For more information visit, <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>.

\* The Small Business Administration Disaster Relief has a three-step process for funding/loan assistance, learn more here. For additional help call (800) 659-2955 or email [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov).

\* For information on one-time liquor buy backs for restaurants and bars, visit <https://www.ohlq.com> or call (877) 812-0013.

For Ohioans struggling with MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION concerns, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is providing regular updates and resources at <https://mha.ohio.gov/Health-Professionals/About-Mental-Health-and-Addiction-Treatment/Emergency-Preparedness/Coronavirus>.

For K-12 SCHOOLS, educators, students and families, the Ohio Department of Education is providing regular updates at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus>.

For new information on EMERGENCY CHILDCARE resources, last week's press release from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services can be found here <http://jfs.ohio.gov/RELEASES/pdf/031720-ODJFS-Implements-Emergency-Child-Care-Measures-during-COVID-19-Pandemic.stm> with additional resources at <http://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/ChildCare/ChildCareManual/CCMPL/CCMPL-137.stm>.

For the latest information about the postponement of Ohio's PRIMARY ELECTION, visit <https://www.ohiosos.gov/coronafacts/>.

\* The Ohio Senate is working collaboratively with the Governor and the Secretary of State in the coming days on any legislation necessary to deal with this unique and challenging set of circumstances.

DAILY UPDATES from the Governor: I encourage constituents to follow Governor DeWine's and Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton's daily 2 p.m. press conferences for the latest COVID-19 updates and resources. Those press conferences are available live on Ohio's public radio and television stations, as well as on OhioChannel.org.

Many of Ohio's newspapers are also offering paywall-free COVID-19 coverage on their websites.

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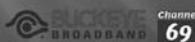
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# Where to Go if You Need to Be Tested for the Novel Coronavirus

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Are you at risk?

The bad news about the novel coronavirus is that the United States lags far behind so many other nations in making the tests available for its citizens. The U.S. and South Korea, for example, became aware at about the same time of the danger the virus might pose, yet since that time, South Korea has conducted about four times the number of tests that the United States has – a of this past Monday.

Both are numbers changing hourly, of course.

But are you sick? Or at risk?

You may indeed have contracted the coronavirus, which leads to COVID-19, if you have such symptoms as a runny nose, a dry cough, a sore throat, a fever, chest pains and trouble breathing.

The complicating fact is that you might have the coronavirus and be asymptomatic for the first five or six days after you contract the virus.

The fatality rate for COVID-19 appears to be between two and three percent, or about 20 times the fatality rate for most influenzas. People at the greatest risk for a severe reaction to COVID-19 are those who are obese, or have high blood pressure, cardiac issues, respiratory issues, diabetes. Being elderly, with a combination of such health issues, compounds the risk.

It's not particularly easy to get tested, if you feel that it may be necessary. In this area, a testing site has been established at the Botanical Garden, 5403 Elmer Drive. However, you cannot just show up and expect to be tested.

First, you have to call the Nurses Line at 419-251-4000 or 419-291-5355. The line is open 24/7. When you are connected, you will be pre-screened and, if eligible, given a time to go to Botanical Garden.

Once there, a sample will be taken, the sample will be sent to Columbus and the Health Department will call you back, within 72 hours, with the results.

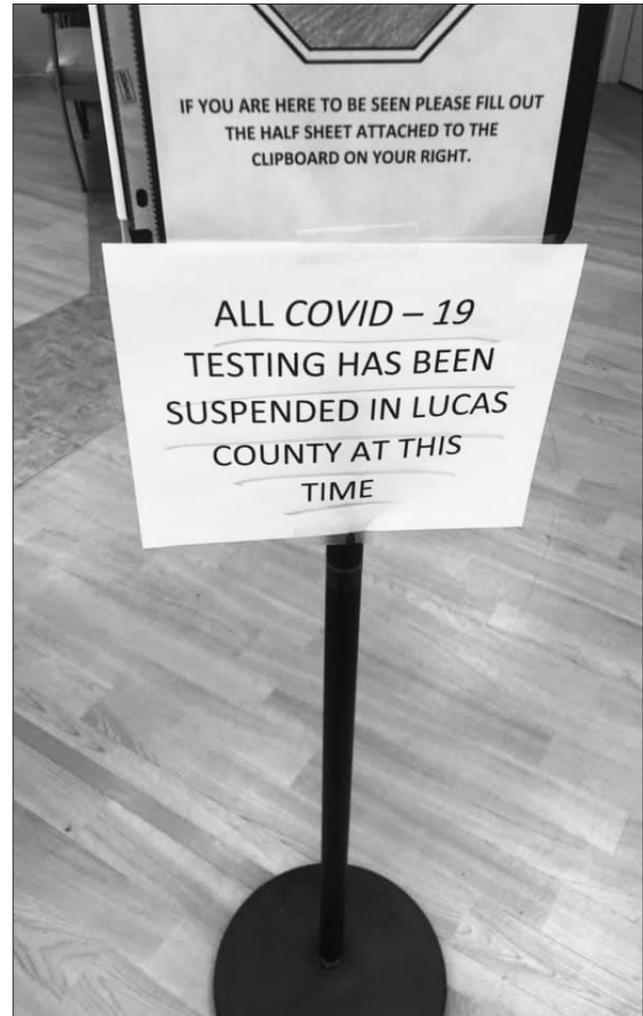
And, in fact, if you do have COVID-19, the next step is usually ... nothing.

There is no magic pill, no cure, for COVID-19. If you are really sick, chances are, before you receive the test results, you will have gotten yourself to Urgent Care or a hospital for admittance and treatment of the severe symptoms. At this point, the tests, as scarce as they are, serve mainly as a point of information for government agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control.

But gathering that information enables government agencies to assess the actions that need to be done to contain the coronavirus because since there is no cure, containment is the only available solution thus far.

Since there is no cure, health workers will not have nearly the impact of government agencies around the world in containing the COVID threat. The Imperial College London group, in a recent study, projects that if

nothing more is done by the U.S. and U.K. governments, given their late starts, as many as 510,000 U.K. citizens and 2.2 million U.S. citizens might die of the disease.



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# Greater Toledo Community Foundation Establishes COVID-19 Response Fund

*Financial assistance available for northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan nonprofits negatively affected by Coronavirus*

The Greater Toledo Community Foundation announced last week that it has established a COVID-19 Response Fund to support northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan nonprofit organizations as they assist in responding to the spread of COVID-19 in the community and experience financial challenges in doing so. The Foundation will seed the COVID-19 Response Fund with a \$100,000 contribution from its unrestricted funds (aka Community Funds) to respond to immediate needs, and will continue to raise additional funding for ongoing expenses incurred by nonprofits. "The Foundation is prepared to leverage its resources to support sudden and unexpected needs that arise in our community," said Keith Burwell, president, Greater Toledo Community Foundation. "Just as in the 2008 Great Recession and the 2014 Water Crisis, we are responding with grant opportunities to support any unexpected expense incurred by our local nonprofits during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Local nonprofits can request funding directly through the Foundation's online grants system. The Foundation staff will also seek recommendations from local agencies such as the County Health Departments, School Districts, the United Way and others to identify nonprofit organizations that can most efficiently deploy funding resources for the greatest impact, while continuing to work with the State of Ohio through Philanthropy Ohio and State Health Director Dr. Amy Acton, formerly with the Columbus Foundation. Guidelines and funding priority areas for this competitive grant process have been announced on the GTCF website: [www.toledocf.org](http://www.toledocf.org). Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19

pandemic, the Response Fund will not operate on a definite timeline. In order to move resources quickly, Greater Toledo Community Foundation will distribute grants on a rolling basis. As conditions change, Foundation staff will coordinate with the Grants and Distribution Committee (a sub-committee of the GTCF Board) to determine when funding considerations should cease, or if alterations should be made to the distribution process. "Community Foundations across the U.S. have been stepping up their response to COVID-19 – creating new funds to support those affected and partnering with local governments and health organizations to help contain its spread" "As our community's philanthropic first responder, Greater Toledo Community Foundation has activated our rapid response fund to collect donations to aid in coronavirus relief. One hundred percent (100%) of donations to this fund will be granted to nonprofits working in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Those who wish to contribute to the COVID-19 Response Fund may do so here.

About Greater Toledo Community Foundation

Greater Toledo Community Foundation 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 900 funds with assets of approximately \$304 million. The Foundation provides philanthropic services for individuals, families, businesses and corporations to meet their charitable giving needs. For more information about Greater Toledo Community Foundation, visit [www.toledocf.org](http://www.toledocf.org) or follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

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# Local Barber Shops and Beauty Salons Adjust to the COVID 19 Mandated Quarantine

By Megan Davis

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Barber shops and beauty salons are often community hubs where people gather to discuss current events, provide a listening ear, meet up with and create trendsetting styles for customers from day to day.

Regular customers have relationships with their hair stylist or barber. Their hair specialists know what styles and products work best for their clients, and they have a unique method to fashion flattering looks for them.

You may go into a barber shop and see someone playing chess or watching a game or boxing match. The commentary is full of energy and may become a debate every now and then. There's nothing like seeing brothers dap it up, talk to young men about life and to see young boys getting clean cut for school as their parents often look on.

Likewise, when women go into a salon, they have looked forward to their appointment and can be seen relaxing, reading a book under the dryer or watching a movie and discussing it with other customers. When their hair is done, they often feel magical, like they just had their crown adjusted and they leave ready to seize the day with confidence.

Black barbers and hair stylists are often self-employed; not many work in chain salons these days. So there isn't much income earned by way of hourly wages that are paid out on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule. They also may own a salon or shop or rent a booth.

For many, hair cultivation is a primary source of income and has sustained the livelihood of these small business owners for years. While several barbers operate on a walk-in basis, salon owners tend to schedule appointments to provide one-on-one service with as little wait time as possible. There is a science to it all, maintaining a space, a schedule, finances, building and equipment maintenance and balancing family. But they do it, and some even involve their families in their businesses.

With the rapid changes the coronavirus pandemic has imposed on everyone, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has mandated that most businesses close their doors, including salons and barber shops. He has also issued a "stay home" order as well, keeping people indoors unless it is absolutely necessary to go out.

This new normal of being indoors, not working and trying to plan next steps has proven to be a challenge for salon and barber shop owners.

"Honestly, it has affected me and other stylists a lot. It was very unexpected so now we have to find other ways to provide for our families because we can't work in the salon and it's illegal to work from home. I am still responsible for paying rent at a location I can't occupy or operate in. Should this go on for a prolonged period of time, I will be forced to seek employment alternatives," stated Alondra Hadley, owner of The Social Lounge Salon in South Toledo.

This is a sentiment that has resonated among these small business owners



who may be scrambling to find a way to continue caring for their families with as little disruption as possible. "This pandemic has really hurt small

... continued on page 8



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Barber Shops and Beauty Salons... continued from page 7

businesses greatly. I am very hopeful that we as an industry, community, city, state and a nation will come through this. I will now begin restructuring and planning for the long haul. Although I have more financial responsibilities now, I'm in a better situation compared to the last recession," said Doug Keetion, owner of Studio 329.

While many weren't prepared for the uncertainty this pandemic has created, some stylists are cautiously optimistic. Tiffany Thomas is a local stylist/braider who just added apprenticeship training to her business stated, "People are still trying to book and unfortunately I have to turn them away; but with savings, it allows me to be okay until this blows over."

In small business, there aren't a lot of resources in place for situations as unique and as abrupt as the COVID 19 social distancing has caused. Keetion continues, "I'm disappointed in the insurance industry. Most business insurance policies have a product for loss of income. They don't tell you until you file a claim they don't cover a virus. I wish all the governors will follow New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy; he's passing a law to make all insurance companies cover all claims from Covid 19. The saddest part is insurance companies want businesses to still pay premiums and their businesses are closed due to this virus, lacking empathy for us."

Many small businesses are often uninsured. The current \$2 trillion economic stimulus plan, as introduced in Congress, is being ironed out in Washington, as of Monday this week. It could provide a great relief to these struggling businesses who could potentially fold under these closures.

Although both Democrats and Republicans agree on the urgency of the matter, they can't agree on all of the proposed provisions which currently would give families of four up to \$3,000, expand unemployment benefits and offer loans to tide over small businesses like hair salons. Democrats are blocking moving ahead because Republicans are resisting that portion of the proposition. Negotiations continue and it is hoped that a favorable vote will take place this week.

Just last month, The Toledo Museum of Art's Circle Group, in partnership with ProMedica, hosted The Art of the Cut, where nearly 1,000 guests attended throughout the day. Local barbers took center stage to create hairstyles from yesterday, today and the future. Because barber shops are often sanctuaries for men, Robin Charney of ProMedica, has been going into the shops for over two years, talking about black men's health, while offering free health screenings.

A partnership that has evolved into an event that brings art and health together on one platform. One of the barbers featured at Art of the Cut was Andre Johnson of Fletcher's Hair Design in West Toledo. While this temporary shutdown has affected his business somewhat, his part-time employment in a local factory helps him take care of his immediate needs until the quarantine passes. When asked if he and the other barbers keep in touch, he said "Yes, but since we are unsure of how long this will last, we are doing our best to prepare to reopen when the time comes."

Ray Vargas, who also was an Art of the Cut participant and owner of Victory Barber shop in West Toledo shared that while everything is put on hold, he has a back-up plan. However, having to close his business down, not being able to do what he loves is also heart wrenching.

The Beauty Mark Luxury Beauty Bar, slated to open next month is delayed due to the quarantine. Owner Ty'Keysha Harris said she will continue renovations throughout this time since she has invested in her new salon. "This is my main source of income, so it's definitely taking a toll on my budget. Even though they've given us a grace period to not pay certain bills, they will still accumulate and be due once this epidemic is over. I have a young son to care for and I don't want to be in a financial hole. I've come too far to not see this vision come to pass!"

As these salons and barber shops sit closed, with darkened windows, and uncertainty mounts, barbers and hairstylists alike are hopeful for a new lease on business when the lights are back on, and their chairs are filled again.

Larry Walker is a stylist at Studio 329 and has a positive perspective on the situation. "Well this whole thing is a reality check. I feel like for me it's a reset. Time to reflect on me and what I'm actually doing in the world. I worked for a few days from home but stopped and at this point I'm relying on God to do what he said and be a provider and to be a shoulder and to be my eyes when I can't see! I'm just gonna get myself in position for the bounce back because once this lifts, we will be bombarded by people wanting their pretty back!"

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# Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill Hosts Statewide Children's Cluster

The Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., of the Mid-Western Region, hosted the first ever All-Ohio 2020 Children's Cluster at the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA). Nationally, Children's Clusters are held by Jack and Jill regions as a way to bring children together for a day of learning while having fun with their peers. The Toledo Chapter planned and hosted the event in collaboration with TMA. Participating chapters were Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Erie Shores, Toledo and Youngstown. In total, there were 139 attendees.

The theme was "Paint and Poetry: Creating the Masterpiece in You".

leaders including: Paula Hicks-Hudson, Ohio Representative of the 44th District, Judge Myron Duhart of Lucas County Common Pleas Court, and Ashely Futrell, Assistant U.S. Attorney. The whole experience ignited participants' creativity and personal reflection as they created the masterpiece within them.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a membership organization of mothers with children ages two-19, dedicated to nurturing future African-American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty.



Jack & Jill full group

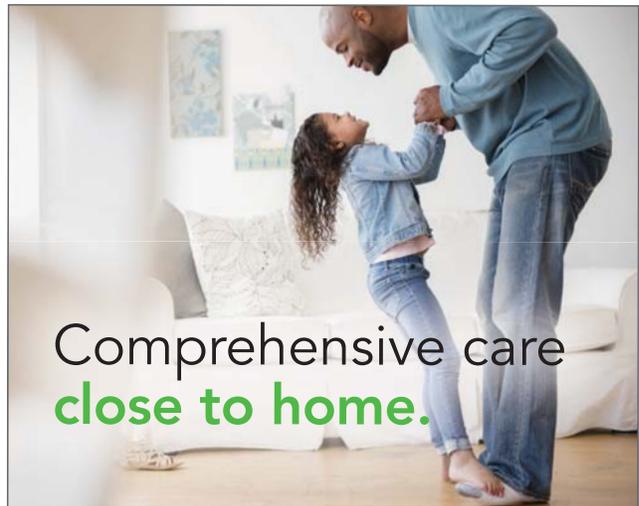
Under the leadership of Toledo Chapter President Angelita Cruz Bridges, Event Chair Jeanna Temple, Co-Chair Rita Russell and the cluster committee worked hard to ensure the event was successful. Children kindergarten through fifth grade participated in an enriching and educational activity entitled "Sculpture All Around," that explored objects and materials to make 3D Art. Children also had the opportunity to paint their own self-portrait.

Mothers and children joined to participate in "Global Conversations: Art in Dialogue" that allowed the opportunity to use various materials to make their own collaged creations. Mothers also engaged in an "Ekphrastic" poetry guided tour. The Tween group, which consists of sixth through eighth students, participated in an inspiring Improv workshop designed by Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Mid-Western Region. They learned the art of improvisation during their workshop, led by drama instructor Rosie Best of Issue Box Theatre.

The children were divided into groups to choose a legislative advocacy topic to perform an improv skit. Their skits were judged by local



Jack & Jill competition



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# Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority Names New President & CEO Joaquin Cintrón Vega to Lead LMHA

*Special to The Truth*

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority Chairman William Brennan announced last week that LMHA has a new leader.

"LMHA is pleased to announce the hiring of Joaquin Cintrón Vega as its new president & CEO," stated Brennan. "Joaquin is well known to The Authority due to his previous employment as Chief Financial Officer and Director of Asset Management. He understands the critical role LMHA plays in the local community and is committed to fulfilling the vision and strategy the Board of Commissioners has adopted. He also understands the need for LMHA to be a leader in improving and building the stock of affordable housing in the county and working collaboratively with our local partners to achieve that."

Cintrón Vega is now responsible for overseeing all aspects of the agency's operations including 2,633 public housing units; 4,657 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) allocated units; 322 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units; 198 Market Rate units and 107 Homeownership Properties.

Over the span of 20 years, Cintrón Vega has established a distinguished career with professional experience that includes, but is not limited to, the management of federal housing assistance programs and policy development. Immediately prior to joining LMHA, he was the Director of Public Housing for the nation's seventh largest housing authority—the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development Department. There, he was responsible for overseeing all operational aspects for more than one hundred properties and directing public policy, federal programs, and regulations research for public housing and urban development programs.

Cintrón Vega holds a bachelor's degree, with a concentration in Accounting, from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico and has an extensive finance background. He served under the Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration (second largest public housing authority in the nation) as the head of the Budget Bureau successfully managing yearly budgets over \$400,000,000.

He was responsible for overseeing many different federal programs and was also a key partner in one of the largest low-income housing tax credits transactions in the nation for the rehabilitation of 4,132 units across 33 properties located in Puerto Rico.

Joaquin Cintrón Vega was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and claims Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, as his hometown. He is married with two sons, and he and his wife are expecting a baby girl.

Established in 1933, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) continues to provide affordable housing to adults, seniors and children in its Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, Mixed-Income and Market Rate housing units. LMHA also provides a myriad of



Joaquin Cintrón Vega

programs and opportunities designed to improve the total quality of life for its residents, with the ultimate goal of achieving self-sufficiency.

The programs and services are the results of successful collaborations with numerous community partners. The current housing portfolio consists of 2,633 Public Housing units; 4,657 Housing Choice Vouchers; 322 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units; 198 Market Rate units and 107 Homeownership Properties. There are approximately 17,500 people who reside in LMHA properties. Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority partners with all people and organizations willing to exchange ideas and efforts to enhance Toledo, Lucas County and the world.

*Shift Your Privilege... continued from page 2*

have different starting points and privileges that we hold. Start by checking your colleagues, those you lead, your students, their parents, your neighbors, your immediate and extended family, especially the elderly, your interest or service groups, your church, synagogue, or spiritual place of worship, and other areas of your life.

3. **Learn of their needs.** Call, text, or video chat those in your sphere of influence and discover ways that you can learn and meet people, right where they are. Ask what they need. This will take intention and effort - to learn and meet people where they are, who may not be the same as you.

4. Gift your privilege forward - with respect, dignity, and compassion. Now that you've learned from someone, do you see ways that you can gift your privilege forward? No? Not to worry. This takes time. Don't rush this. The only way you know what type of gift to give to someone is to learn and empathize with their pain points.

Being an empathy archeologist is essential if a person or family is quarantined or in social isolation due to COVID-19. We can all consider offering to drop food/drinks at the door of those who are quarantined, offer to help with yard work, run errands, or send books and games.

The bottom line is that when we ALL RISE and learn about our own privilege and what it affords us, when we seek to understand and become empathy archeologists, we are able to see when a person is underprivileged - we can see the seemingly insurmountable number of closed doors and limited opportunities that they have to endure. And to someone who is underprivileged, it can feel exceedingly difficult to overcome.

I pray that we all do our very best to shift our privilege to become empathy archeologists and be the change that we all should be.

Are you a middle school or high school woman educator interested in creating community and learning how to be the difference for the whole child? Sign up online at [www.risewithdiana.com](http://www.risewithdiana.com) to be notified of the SOON to be announced workshops/courses and masterminds that will help you have unstoppable confidence, energy, and passion.

Diana Patton's organization, RISE, is an advocacy program that implements social-emotional learning and inclusive and caring practices in school systems. With the recent upheaval of our school programs, RISE is on the front lines, doing everything we can to provide support and tangible tools to our educators.

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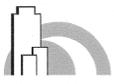
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# Kaptur Announces \$425,000 in Federal Funds for Toledo's Fair Housing Center

*Funds will be used to strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination in Toledo*

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, last week announced \$425,000 in federal funds for The Fair Housing Center in Toledo to strengthen its work to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination. The funds were allocated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which funds fair housing organizations and other nonprofits that assist individuals who believe that they have been victims of housing discrimination.

Of the \$425,000, \$300,000 will be used to open a minimum of 80 new complaint-based and systemic housing discrimination cases, while assisting over 600 complainants, and providing over 800 referrals to other agencies; conduct over 24 case review meetings; coordinate, execute, and evaluate a minimum of 48 tests; recruit and train new testers; conduct a minimum of two refresher trainings for veteran testers; conduct onsite accessibility visits/audits; resolve a minimum of 25 housing discrimination complaints and other alleged violations of fair housing laws; and conduct various enforcement related and educational and outreach activities.

The remaining \$125,000 will be used to conduct several outreach events, including producing and distributing an educational video that will illustrate the impact of Zip Code on life outcomes. Upon completion, the organization will host a premier featuring a screening and panel discussion to raise awareness of the connection between place and opportunity. The organization will also use advertisements to educate the public and housing professionals about fair housing rights and responsibilities, and develop new printed material and a webinar to educate the public about fair housing rights for people with disabilities.

"I am so grateful for the important work The Fair Housing Center carries out on a daily basis to prevent and eliminate housing discrimination in our community," said Rep. Kaptur. "Discriminatory housing practices continue to be a barrier for many who seek housing. Thankfully, The Fair Housing Center has been there to educate housing providers, provide resources to individuals who've faced housing discrimination, and hold bad actors accountable when necessary. At a time of immense economic and social upheaval related to the global coronavirus pan-

demic, the work of the Fair Housing Center is as important as ever. Thank you to the Fair Housing Center for their unwavering dedication and service to the Toledo community."

"The Fair Housing Center is grateful that HUD announced these awards in the midst of a national health crisis so that we can continue providing vital resources to our community," said Marie Flannery, president and CEO of The Fair Housing Center. "Now more than ever, it is essential that all people are able to access safe and stable housing, free from discrimination and other barriers. We appreciate the support of Congresswoman Kaptur and other leaders in Congress who have fought to preserve this grant program, which has served as a critical funding source for us and many other fair housing organizations across the country. The funding provided through these grants allows us to continue our work addressing and preventing discriminatory practices, in order to create more inclusive, vibrant neighborhoods of opportunity for all."

Fair housing organizations and other non-profits that receive funding through the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), such as The Fair Housing Center, assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination.

FHIP organizations partner with HUD to help people identify government agencies that handle complaints of housing discrimination. They also conduct preliminary investigation of claims, including sending "testers" to properties suspected of practicing housing discrimination. Testers are minorities and whites with the same financial qualifications who evaluate whether housing providers treat equally-qualified people differently.

In addition to funding organizations that provide direct assistance to individuals who feel they have been discriminated against while attempting to purchase or rent housing, FHIP also has initiatives that promote fair housing laws and equal housing opportunity awareness.

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# Making Our Way Home: The Great Migration and the Black American Dream by Blair Imani, illustrated by Rachelle Baker, foreword by Patrisse Cullors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

You are not safe.

How scary is that? If someone told you that your life was in danger right now, and they were serious, what would you do? Where would you go, and who would you seek for help? In the new book *Making Our Way Home* by Blair Imani, your ancestors may have looked for answers to those questions hundreds of miles away.

In the months after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation "marked the beginning of the end of... slavery in the United States," it quickly became apparent that equality for black people in many places wasn't going to happen – in fact, in some areas of the U.S., racism and Jim Crow laws kept even the smallest advantage out of the reach of newly-freed slaves. It was frustrating, disorienting, and it could be dangerous: people were sometimes lynched and killed just for living their lives.

At around the turn of the last century, black Americans began to hear that life in the North and West was better – maybe not totally equal, but jobs were plentiful, decent housing was easier to get, education was available for black children, and some companies even helped black workers get settled in a new life. Tens of thousands of black Southerners headed to New York, Chicago, and parts North, while others went to California and Oklahoma.

When World War I began, black soldiers did their part in the effort and were proud to do it. After they came home, though, they were disappointed to see that nothing had changed at all; the same thing happened at the end of World War II, after men and women alike served at home and abroad: inequality was still in force here in the States. This started the "second wave" of the Great Migration: at the end of both wars, black Americans headed North and West, including black musicians, singers, athletes, writ-

c.2020  
Ten Speed Press  
\$18.99 / \$24.99 Canada  
180 pages

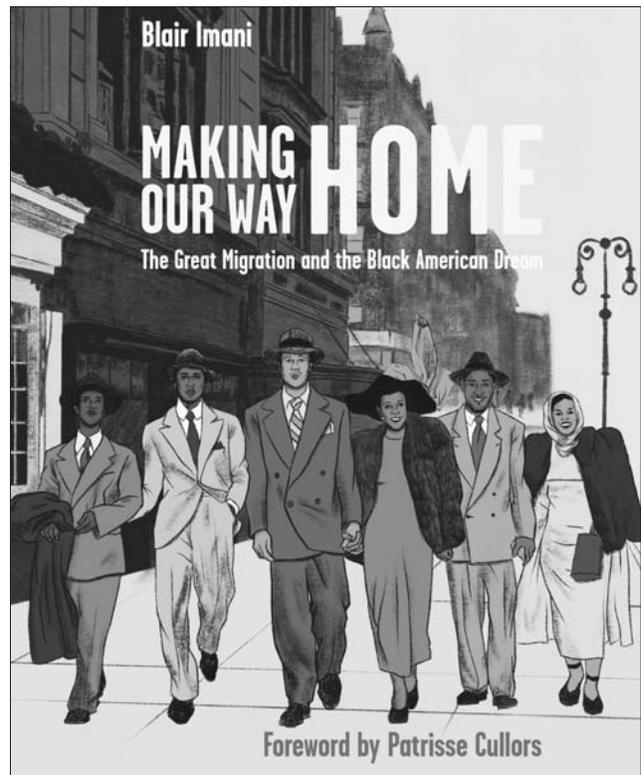
ers, and scholars.

And yet, there was still "disillusionment and frustration," at continued inequality, which "laid the foundation of the Civil Rights movement"...

Much as you hate to judge a book by its cover (weren't we warned about that?), it may be hard for your child not to do with *Making Our Way Home*.

On the outside, this book looks an awful lot like a text book. That's unfortunate, because author Blair Imani packs a superb amount of story inside the covers, and history isn't the only thing your child will get here. Imani also writes about the people who migrated, moves which opened doors for their unique talents. She includes LGBTQ individuals and those outside the mainstream. Kids will learn about social issues and events that culturally impacted the Great Migration (which Imani treats as one event, rather than two "waves"), and the illustrations by Rachelle Baker are great draws to empowering stories.

Ultimately, pride emanates strongly from the pages of *Making Our Way Home*, and that should make it easier to get your 10-to-15-year-old interested, despite the books' academic look. One page is all it'll take, and enjoyment is a safe bet.



**Small Business.. continued from page 16**

The SBDC at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce offers expertise and experience in business and has the access to business resources to help to guide small businesses. The SBDC has successfully navigated businesses through many challenging times in the past, including the 2008 recession and the water disruption event in 2014. They can be reached at 419.243.8191 or joinus@toledochamber.com.

About the Small Business Development Center The Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Program is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBDC program is

also funded in part by the Ohio Development Services Agency. All services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Call 419-243-8191 or visit [www.sbdc.development.ohio.gov](http://www.sbdc.development.ohio.gov) for more information.

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# The Last Negroes at Harvard by Kent Garrett with Jeanne Ellsworth

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

Remember, remember....?

Skipping school, good teachers, hard lessons, practical jokes, smelly lockers, remember? If you don't, your oldest friends probably do. As in the new book *The Last Negroes at Harvard* by Kent Garrett with Jeanne Ellsworth, they were there alongside you when everything happened, remember?

c.2020  
HMH Books  
\$27.00 / \$39.00 Canada  
320 pages

For many years, Kent Garrett claimed that he "rarely thought about Harvard." Yes, it was his alma mater, but there was more to him than his graduation from an Ivy League school. He had a career and, later, a dairy farm to run. Being one of a handful of "Negro" graduates from an esteemed college was a small part of who Garrett was.

But then he discovered that a Harvard upper-classmate died, and he began to do what he said he didn't: he thought about Harvard.

Garrett was just 17 the fall of 1959, when his family drove him to Harvard and helped him carry his belongings to a room he would share with another boy, one who happened also to be a "Negro." There were, as Garrett later learned, 18 "Negroes" in the class of 1963, scattered among various dorms. Eventually, he met most of them, and they gathered daily to eat lunch; they also socialized together because, although Harvard strove to avoid racism, social segregation off-campus was still generally mandatory.

As they moved into their dorms that fall, Americans were just learning that the Soviet Union was capable of launching missiles from submarines. A war in a country halfway across the world had its first two casualties. Mike Wallace had done a TV report on Black Muslims



*Last Negroes at Harvard* authors Courtesy Jill Ribich

and Malcolm X, shocking white America.

The freshmen who hoped they'd survive at Harvard became sophomores, then juniors, then seniors.

In their college careers, the "Negroes" saw protests and sit-ins, violence and calls for peace. They met people who'd influence history, and others who'd die too early. And by the time they graduated, eighteen men had learned that they were not "Negroes" anymore...

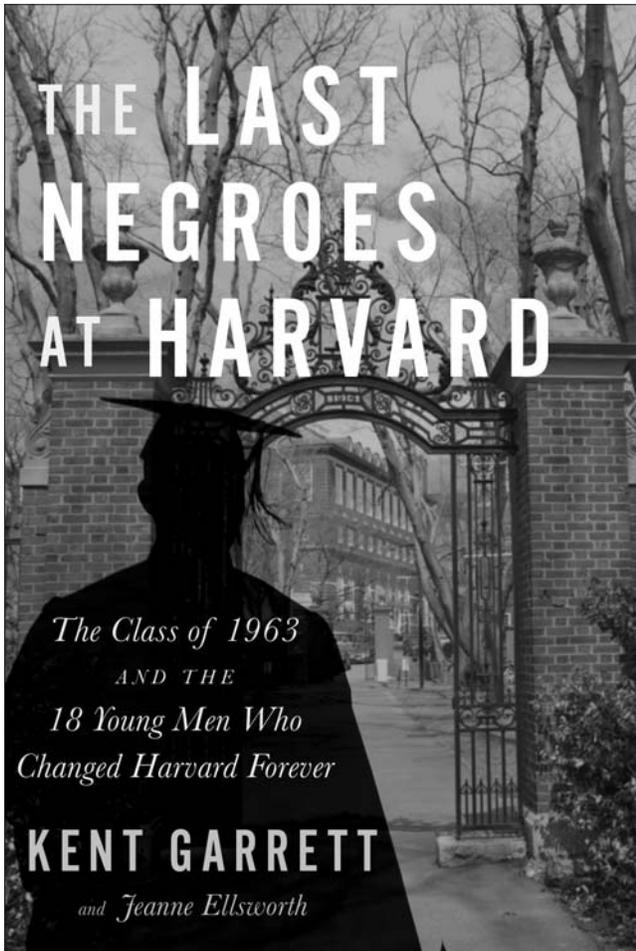
It's really hard not to love *The Last Negroes at Harvard* right from the get-go.

Author Kent Garrett tells his story with a gee-whiz, down-to-earth demeanor that makes friends with a reader quickly. It's a warm tale that can be confusing in its overload of names and nicknames, but Garrett's portrayals of his classmates lets readers know that these young men were nevertheless unique individuals with ideals, strengths, and promise.

But this book isn't only about 18 black men.

It's also a snapshot of a burgeoning Civil Rights Movement, and a country that's evolving. We get a peek of life on the edge of change, when college-age men wore ties to dinner. We watch as protests arrived in Boston, "the Pill" was whispered-about, segregation eased in the North, sit-ins became a thing, and language changed, too.

Know that this is not merely a book of nostalgia for older folk: it's also for younger readers heading for college, or for lovers of social history. Sit down with this book and be delighted. *The Last Negroes at Harvard* is one you'll remember.



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# CLASSIFIEDS

March 25, 2020

Page 15

## SPECIAL NOTICE

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted March 30, 2020 – April 3, 2020 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Housing Services Corporation (LHSC), an affiliate of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position: **Assistant Community Development Program Manager**. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org/219/Careers>. **Deadline:** 03/16/20. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



## DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/EMA DIRECTOR LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Services is accepting applications to fill the position of Deputy Director of Emergency Services/EMA Director until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Deputy Director of Emergency Services/EMA Director" from the list to read more or apply.

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Metroparks Toledo has an opening for part time Building Servicepersons to perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial, and basic maintenance functions at the Tree House Village, Oak Openings Preserve. Up to 35 hours per week. \$11.73/hr. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must have valid driver's license. May include evenings, weekends and holidays. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) <<http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/>> to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply.

## SYSTEMS ANALYST LUCAS COUNTY

Lucas County Emergency Services 9-1-1 is accepting applications to fill the position of Systems Analyst position until filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select "Systems Analyst" from the list to read more or apply.

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## FEEDBACK NEEDED

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) is seeking Lucas County Residents to participate in a short survey.

Please take a few minutes to provide feedback for the development of our 3-year strategic plan that will be focused on the direction, impact, and responsiveness of MHR SB's work in the communities we serve. Your candid feedback and insight will be used to develop the final strategic plan for the next three years. Complete the survey online in English or Spanish by visiting: [docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfJN6abJNj\\_NSqee\\_sHFZIFMX.../viewform](https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSfJN6abJNj_NSqee_sHFZIFMX.../viewform)

Printable versions of the survey are available in Arabic, English, and Spanish on our website: [www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/](http://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/) We appreciate your willingness to participate in this process and look forward to the honest feedback.

## MANOR HOUSE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ASSISTANT

Metroparks Toledo is looking for an outgoing individual to provide excellent customer service for park visitors and program participants through positive and engaging experiences.

The Manor House Programs and Events Assistant position is located at Wildwood Preserve Metroparks. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Must have completed some college course work in history, education, communication, or related program or equivalent work experience. Some experience in customer service, and public speaking. Experience leading public programs preferred. Seasonal position through December. May include some weekends, holidays, and evenings. Up to 35 hours per week. \$9.47/hr. Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) <<http://www.MetroparksToledo.com>> to review complete job description and to apply. EOE

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$24,150.00 for one person or \$27,600.00 for two people.

We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning.

We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

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

# Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce Available to Assist Local Businesses with SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Process

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted sent a letter and application to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to qualify the State of Ohio for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. This federal program will enable small businesses and non-profits throughout the state impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19 to apply for low-interest loans up to \$2 million in assistance that can provide vital economic support to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. Once the state is qualified for the program, Ohio Development Services Agency will work with the SBA to notify entities that they can now apply for loans. "Do not wait until the 'Disaster Declaration' has been approved to start gathering the information you will need to apply for a SBA loan," urges Bill Wersell, Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Director at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The online forms will not be available on the SBA's website until after the declaration has been made for your county. But you can download hard copies at [www.toledochamber.com](http://www.toledochamber.com) [[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kijdD0qU2r\\_tofigDJipB5iyyDloa-mgXfOSEYqDKhmpYJqnC-bo9wZxJidDv\\_yU58QFhwKx6IK5sGAIQsLC25n7x5B0Hv1v1XHLDKxmwq4YZsqpcoQpFyaB-1P13T\\_r9I1PVw9IFAuLQ57J01dk\\_Z2MluH2H13R9Ruh4QRHhEhgcpPly50](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kijdD0qU2r_tofigDJipB5iyyDloa-mgXfOSEYqDKhmpYJqnC-bo9wZxJidDv_yU58QFhwKx6IK5sGAIQsLC25n7x5B0Hv1v1XHLDKxmwq4YZsqpcoQpFyaB-1P13T_r9I1PVw9IFAuLQ57J01dk_Z2MluH2H13R9Ruh4QRHhEhgcpPly50)]

JeNQ==&c=z-Ia26SFtFR85Cy8GuvSs4yktL6VIRQGQd8b7OUa42bp39AEAtuMw==&ch=7C0lopq3lxdKLFZM4PUSyyZGN90\_4yV7a4xW75mNNh5UNATZiIv9aw==] and begin preparing them today.

Eligible businesses include small business concerns, private non-profits, aquacultures, small agriculture cooperatives. The Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used by Ohio small business owners and non-profits to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses and 2.75 percent for non-profits. Additional information about the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available at (<https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>) [[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kijdD0qU2r\\_tofigDJipB5iyyDloa-mgXfOSEYqDKhmpYJqnC-bo9\\_rRAjo3hhK5-XIP-cJjTMNZkFP-5SFsK37b9Y8ppNdUxMvJ\\_RGGOUcN7uyM2dgbfrZMrB6xrOxWGvJRoXwz\\_9if-M1q1PG2sVXBwIqLkarJriLXzDOOXItOXYK-Zuo05zI5QV3xG83Uf\\_ZSZ53\\_MB7KvQFdwQg1OCZKHuloICXM&c=z-Ia26SFtFR85Cy8GuvSs4yktL6VIRQGQd8b7OUa42bp39AEAtuMw==&ch=7C0lopq3lxdKLFZM4PUSyyZGN90\\_4yV7a4xW75mNNh5UNATZiIv9aw==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kijdD0qU2r_tofigDJipB5iyyDloa-mgXfOSEYqDKhmpYJqnC-bo9_rRAjo3hhK5-XIP-cJjTMNZkFP-5SFsK37b9Y8ppNdUxMvJ_RGGOUcN7uyM2dgbfrZMrB6xrOxWGvJRoXwz_9if-M1q1PG2sVXBwIqLkarJriLXzDOOXItOXYK-Zuo05zI5QV3xG83Uf_ZSZ53_MB7KvQFdwQg1OCZKHuloICXM&c=z-Ia26SFtFR85Cy8GuvSs4yktL6VIRQGQd8b7OUa42bp39AEAtuMw==&ch=7C0lopq3lxdKLFZM4PUSyyZGN90_4yV7a4xW75mNNh5UNATZiIv9aw==)].

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