

# The *Sojourner's* Truth

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 68 No. 3

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

August 11, 2021

**The New School Year Is Almost Here!**



*Shawna Woody, HOPE Toledo Vice President of Operations*

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# There is still time to register for the 2021-22 school year.

Enroll today by contacting your neighborhood school.



## ELEMENTARY

Toledo Public Schools strives to provide elementary school students with a strong educational foundation that will prepare them for high school and beyond.

- Students go to state-of-the-art schools that are in their neighborhood
- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students have access to the latest technology
- TPS offers a variety of classes including music, art and gym
- All elementary students receive free breakfast and lunch
- TPS provides free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school

### Elementary Open Houses

Tuesday, August 17th from 6 – 8 p.m.

### First Day of School for Elementary Schools

Wednesday, August 18th for 1st – 8th grade – half day

### Full Day of School for Elementary Schools

Thursday, August 19th for 1st – 8th grade

### First Day of School for Kindergarten Students

Friday, August 27th – full day

## HIGH SCHOOL

Toledo Public Schools strives to ensure high school students are college and career ready when they graduate. Students have access to an array of college prep classes and career tech focused-programs to prepare them for the future.

- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students attend state-of-the-art schools and have access to the latest technology and online classes
- TPS offers free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school
- With more than 30 career technology programs, students can begin preparing for a career path TPS offers music, art and gym classes, along with numerous extra-curricular activities and sports

**First Day of School for Incoming Freshmen** - Wednesday, August 18th – full day

**First Day of School for all High School Students** - Thursday, August 19th – full day



**TPS.org**  
**419-671-0001**

Facebook.com/TPSProud

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# Buffalo Soldiers Donate T-Shirts and Give Peace a Chance

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Giving peace a chance, the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers MC met at Savage Park on Thursday, August 5, to announce their purchase of over 4,000 t-shirts carrying a message of peace on the front of the shirts and the words "Youth Matter" on the back.

The shirts will be given out freely to youth around the city at various events that the Buffalo Soldiers sponsor and attend.

"Today we're here for a positive appeal for what's happening in our community," said Fred LeFebvre, Buffalo Soldiers public information officer and the event host. "Peace and Youth Matter," he announced as the theme for the day.

The soldiers are partnering with groups such as local Rotary Clubs to raise funds for their efforts and donating to groups such as the City Park League/Resource Group, Inc.

Montrice Terry, organizer of the City Park League was on hand to thank the Buffalo Soldiers and others for the donations. "These are not just t-shirts, they are clothes," he said.

"Peace is the ability to be who you are," said State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson, also a Buffalo Soldier herself. "Peace is possible only if we exhibit it and show it."

Also present was Toledo Police Department Chief George Kral who presented a check to the Buffalo Soldiers from the City of Toledo for \$8,500 to continue their work.

"When you see something positive in your neighborhood, talk it up," said Chief Kral. "You have to spread the word yourself."



*Fred LeFebvre*



*Bishop Marjorie Holt, Councilman Larry Sykes, Harvey Savage*



*State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson*



*Earl Mack, Buffalo Soldiers President*



*TPD Chief George Kral presents check to Earl Mack*

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# Community and Collaboration

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

The Truth Contributor

*If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together.*

- African Proverb



Harvey Savage, Jr. possesses a prominent name in a jam-packed race to fill just six at-large city council seats.

The executive director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Kitchen for the Poor, is the son of the late Rev. Harvey V. Savage, Sr., the Kitchen's esteemed founder and namesake of Toledo's historic Savage Park.

The MLK Kitchen was founded in 1969 after the elder Savage spotted a gentleman eating out of the garbage can at the rear of the Savage residence. The man was invited in and fed, beginning a ministry of community service that has continued for over a half-century.

Savage brings a philosophy of collective social responsibility to the September primary election after previously just falling short in a November 2017 bid for city council.

I had an opportunity to speak with Savage about his campaign and political worldview. Here is our conversation:

**Perryman:** You continue a great legacy of service and humanitarianism that began with your father, the late H.V. Savage, Sr. Through his founding of the MLK Kitchen for the Poor, he showed that he believed that a whole community of people is needed for its citizens to have a healthy life experience.

**Savage:** We were taught, as a family, to love your brother and pass it on and help people, not let people in the neighborhood go hungry. We had a village back then and always looked out for each other. My friends could eat at my house anytime. One of my brother's friends recently approached me and said, 'Man, when I was a kid, I walked 10 blocks to you guys' house each morning before school to eat breakfast because my family did not have a lot.' He said, 'There were 12 in our family.' So, that inspired me because this whole village concept has been going on

for a long time, and we need to get back to it.

**Perryman:** How would you describe what the MLK Kitchen does?

**Savage:** We provide meals, distribute clothing and other things. We support the community. We provide food to Pinewood Tabernacle for their Tuesday giveaway. We provide food for the Believe Center's children's program. We also contribute meals four days per week at the Friendly Center. So, we're pretty involved in what's going on within the community. We also work with Grace Community Center, Frederick Douglass Community Association and spend some time with the Junction coalition. So, we are busy.

**Perryman:** Why are you interested in this city council position, and why should residents vote for you?

**Savage:** I can make a difference. I have a wealth of knowledge of our community. I possess management skills that would enhance city council's role in our community. I've worked a couple of decades in the nonprofit world and have been successful. I am involved with the Department of Neighborhoods and their programming, and I understand the management of federal funds.

I'm able to look at an issue and peel it down to the root cause. We have many things in our community that we need to be working on the root causes and not just the symptoms. I did 13 years as a Human Research manager, and worked with people that had felonies. I also worked with halfway houses, so I understand what is going on right now in the community.

**Perryman:** You also have management experience in the private sector?

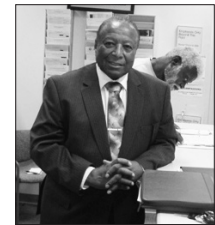
**Savage:** Yes. I have 20 years with DuPont.

**Perryman:** What did you do for them?

**Savage:** I did a lot of employee development. I maintained wage and salary administration and coordinated collective bargaining activities with the local unions. I administered employee benefit programs, supervised secretaries and security for one of the plants. I also served in communications and public affairs. In addition, I monitored the affirmative action plan and EEO compliance. I was also a corporate facilitator for the Drug Abuse Program and our sexual harassment program.

So, that was some of the stuff I did over my career with DuPont. I've been involved with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and under-

... continued on page 6



Harvey Savage, Jr

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-Brian Tracey

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# Hey! I Wasn't Around Then

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

When you delve into the combustible discussion about critical race theory, one thing you will surely discover and that is, many white people are either woefully ignorant (willfully or otherwise) or have been taken captive by dubious arguments about what CRT is or is not.

From some of the vehement discussions about CRT, you would think that Black people, Indigenous peoples, Latinos and Mexicans are asking white people to swallow a red-hot poker!

It is lamentable that too many politicians see a way to score "cultural points" with their white audiences when they divvy out misinformation or outright lies about what CRT is or is not in order to inflame passions and keep Americans divided over issues of race and racism.

Out the outset, let it be clear that CRT does not propose, dictate, demand or insinuate any of the following trolling points:

- (1) That whites are taught to be guilty of their American history.
- (2) That white children are being indoctrinated to hate themselves for being white.
- (3) That CRT is trying to destroy or eradicate America or its institutions.
- (4) That if you teach CRT, you are giving permission to left wing radicals to foment racial hate.
- (5) That the mere presence of white skin means the person is guilty of racial hatred.
- (6) That the teaching of CRT is a precursor to the payment of reparations.

CRT is a set of theorems and debatable suppositions that seeks to understand, elucidate and quantify what metrics have been and are currently responsible for ways and the means by which institutions respond to race and racism; and are thereby ways by which any system which defames, disfigures or debases people of color can rid itself of those negative policies and procedures.

Now, that is a tall order to fully understand and digest, but it needs to be done in order to understand how America became America and where America is heading and especially so when the prognosis is that in the year 2042, America will be a minority-majority country.

With a calm discussion of what CRT is or is not, statisticians, policy makers and educators will be equipped to academically and program wise, illuminate how government has functioned and how it needs to function in the future.

Yes, CRT does garner its factual evidence from the past and how that past, sordid or otherwise, has shaped and continues to shape how minorities are viewed and, more importantly, the future ability to assess, provide and recommend societal resources that will empower minorities to stand equal with those others whom, due to white skin privileges, have had the upper hand and upper crust to thrive in America.

Even on the sensitive topic of white skin privileges, CRT does not breathe brimstone and fire upon the recipients of those privileges be they characterized as politically, socially, economically and mentally.

But rather as a salient teaching point, CRT endeavors to teach and edu-

cate that this America did not just, "pop up" out of nowhere and without a historical context and a nascent belief system already in place.

Belief systems are akin to a steering wheel on a car or a rudder on a boat. They will direct the boat and the passengers on the boat to a pre-selected destination and once there, those passengers can choose to engage in the same behavior that got them on the boat or, they can amend or adjust their behavior so

that other passengers can get on the same boat and enjoy the amenities that the boat has to offer.

Simple language but the theory, like CRT, does not romanticize history of what that boat and the passengers on that boat did to Indigenous Peoples when that boat arrived in The Americas.

The passengers on that boat made life changing decisions about what they would do to those who were not on the boat when they arrived or when "others" arrived in the future, how their destiny would be shaped and codified into law and policy (i.e., segregation, Jim Crow, slavery, voter suppression, lynchings, discrimination, etc.).

CRT does not dwell on those issues but rather it uses those, "articles of conduct" to tell the uniformed that America's privileges and how it bestows it blessings and fortunes are not without a traceable history.

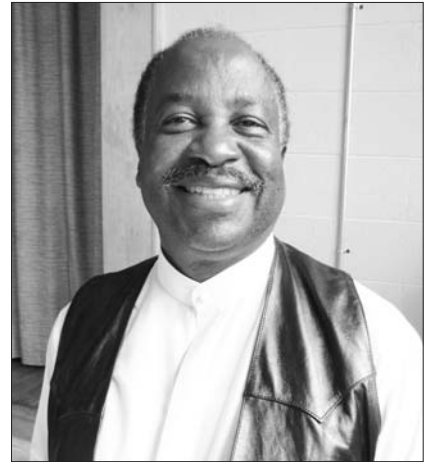
But yet it appears that some segments of white society does not want to learn how American society came together using those "articles" and which articles were involved in legally permissible oppression of other Americans; and now those Americans are saying, "You need to acknowledge what happened and who did what to whom," before we can make permanent amends.

Will the teaching of the theories of CRT cause consternation, guilt, grief, embarrassment and anger? Absolutely! Should it? Yes!

Why? Until you lance a boil, it will continue to fester and will cause pollution to the rest of a healthy system.

CRT is holding a mirror up to America and asking that America not look away too quickly but rather pause and make mental notes of what is good and what is not so good as shown in the mirror's reflection.

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



Lafe Tolliver

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*Perryman... continued from page 4*

stand that area well. I did a lot of continuous flow manufacturing work, including training of employees. So that was a lot of what I did at DuPont.

**Perryman:** All of that experience is relevant to this city council position, wouldn't you say?

**Savage:** That's what I'm saying. Those skills are currently needed on council. But, again, I'm not here to criticize, but they haven't been able to look at current issues and ask the right questions of the administration. Knowing how to ask the right questions gets you started in the right direction.

**Perryman:** One of the top issues in the City of Toledo is violent crime. What is your position on this issue?

**Savage:** My position on crime is we need to get a handle on it. I don't think that you're going to get a handle on it without more robust policing. Just like we just had the shooting at Savage Park, where we had 400 or 500 young people playing ball and kids are in the park. We should have a police presence right then and there as a preventative measure versus waiting until after there's a shooting to show up.

I was at a separate downtown event and saw police officers just walking around; that makes a big difference. You think a little differently if you're going to start some trouble, but you see police officers there. So, we need to have a more significant police presence where we know there are high crime areas.

The other thing, these young people are not our enemy. We need to understand that these are our kids that are out there. They come from families that I know or grew up with. I know the grandparents. We have not done our job in raising our kids, so we need to get busy getting our community back. We need to put the village concept back together. You still need to raise a child. We need to invest in them. I'm a believer

that we can break this culture of violence. We have to just step up to the plate and do what we need to do.

**Perryman:** How about affordable housing?

**Savage:** Affordable housing is something that has to happen. We are a country that has really been down on people that don't have resources. We have misused and abused them and don't see them as equals. We need to come to grips with that.

Toledo doesn't have adequate housing for the people that are here. Our people have to live in slum housing a lot of times. So, they don't have anywhere else to go, and we need to work on that. I think that every assistance that we can offer, we should make available. And, talking about affordable housing, jobs are a part of that. We need to have jobs that pay people not just a living wage but also a wage to purchase homes.

**Perryman:** As someone with corporate management experience, what is your position on the need to audit the City's procurement practices with minority-owned businesses?

**Savage:** My position on that is, Yes! We have minority companies that are available to do the work. So, we need to do that. The other piece of that, though, is that the minority needs to be ready. We need to be in a position that we can perform. I think the other thing that the cities need to understand is that being a minority, you will have some structural disadvantages. So, Toledo must prepare to pay a little bit more because, as minorities, we're not in a competitive position as others.

**Perryman:** How do you think the City should spend the \$181 million American Recovery Plan Act funds?

**Savage:** We need to invest in programming for the individuals and families in the neighborhoods. I'm even looking at a program where we go house to house and spend time with the families that allow us to deter-

*... continued on page 8*

Anita Lopez, Lucas County Auditor wants to inform you about this new pandemic law: SB57

# HELP FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19



August 3 - September 2, 2021



Property owners or commercial tenants (lease requires to pay property taxes) can file property value complaints with the Board of Revision and seek property tax reductions for **tax year 2020**

Property owners must **prove specifically how COVID-19 caused a reduction in property value** and should be prepared to provide the following:

- Audited financial statements or tax returns for the owner of the real estate for calendar years 2018, 2019, & 2020
- Year-to-date financial income and expenses, up to and including 60 days prior to the hearing date
- Property appraisal utilizing authorized approaches to value
- Description and amounts of federal funds received as of date of appeal including, but not limited to: funds received under the CARES act
- Written summary outlining and supporting your request
- **Other evidence supporting your request may also be submitted**



Complaints can be filed electronically at [smartfile.co.lucas.oh.us/SmartFile](https://smartfile.co.lucas.oh.us/SmartFile) Click on "Board of Revision Original Complaint (COVID)" **OR** request a paper form (**DTE1A**) from the Lucas County Auditor's Office

**For more information, contact the Lucas County Auditor at (419) 213-4406 or AuditorBOR@co.lucas.oh.us**



## Shawna Woody: Developing HOPE Toledo's Cradle to Career Education Path

By Asia Nail

*Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

As everyone raises his or her hand to answer the math problem, you wonder why your teacher would choose you? As you stand in front of the class completely stumped, your teacher asks you to give it a try.

Terrified, you make a mistake.

As the class laughs you vow to never let this happen again. While convinced the teacher has waged a personal vendetta against you, she says, "Class congratulate Johnny for having the courage to make a mistake. If you never make a mistake, then you never tried. Clap for Johnny and let's solve this problem together!"

All education starts with nurturing environments and positive messaging. Unfortunately, viewing Toledo's approximate 4,000 four-year-olds, many underserved communities will have much fewer favorable memories surrounding making mistakes and learning in school.

Introducing Toledo's best kept secret: HOPE Toledo.

HOPE Toledo believes every child deserves the BEST start and for that start to be accessible, affordable and available.

John C. Jones is the president of HOPE (Helping Our Population Educate) Toledo. His deep commitment to servicing our community is at the heart of their mission to create and deliver a quality education From Cradle to Career for Toledo's youth.

Jones has just hired Shawna Woody as his vice president operations to assist making their new pre-Kindergarten initiative, The Demonstration Project, a success.

Woody is a native of Toledo and a proven leader with the skills to build solid relationships within our community. She began a 17-year-long career at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo beginning as a 21st Century Afterschool Program Instructor and culminating as Director of Operations. During her tenure she oversaw the daily operations of the three Toledo Public Schools-based Clubs. She also supervised the meal program sponsored by Connecting Kids to Meals as it grew from serving 4,000 meals per year to over 86,000 meals.

"I can think of no better person to help us ensure that every child has a strong start and a stronger future than one of Toledo's brightest homegrown stars," said Jones.

In the past, Woody has garnered community support and cultivated collaborative partnerships and innovative children programming with the YMCA Storer Camps, Metroparks Toledo, Imagination Station, Toledo Ballet, Toledo Museum of Art, and many others. She looks forward to energizing community support as she continues her personal pursuit of her life's work. "I'm fully committed to our youth right here in the city I was born and raised," shares Woody.

It's hard to send your child off to school for the first time, especially when they're just four years old. But giving your child a quality preschool education will set them up for greater success in every area of life.

At preschool, children build a strong foundation in social, pre-academic, and general life skills that will give them a leg up in school and beyond. "Research shows that kids who graduate from preschool have improved academic readiness, lower incarceration rates, and higher earnings as adults," explains Woody.

Woody's most recent triumphs include celebrating the HOPE Toledo Promise initiative at Scott High School while spearheading their new Pre-K Project.

The HOPE Toledo Promise, which was funded by Pete Kadens of The Kadens Family Foundation and creator of HOPE Toledo, pledged to pay four and a half years of tuition to a public college, university, or trade school for

Scott High School's entire 2020 senior graduation class and one parent.

To further support the mission in making sure all children in Toledo have high-quality education and opportunities from cradle to career, Woody says, "The Demonstration Project partners with established local childcare providers to make sure we reduce the barriers to access like having free or affordable options in your own neighborhood."

Early education lays the foundations for later success. But quality is critical, and quality varies considerably. The Demonstration Project measures emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support. "We partner with local agencies to have the health, social, behavioral and nutritional services that the children in our communities need," explains Woody.

"There are 4,000 four-year-olds in Toledo. We have about 200 seats avail-



Shawna Woody

... continued on page 10

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# Toledo Public Schools 2021-22 School Year Preparations

By TPS Staff

Special to The Truth

Preparations for the 2021-22 school year are well underway. At this time, we are excited to say students will be returning to school on a five-day a week schedule for in-person instruction.

While we are planning to return to school in as normal of a setting as possible, we will continue to monitor COVID-19 infection rates in our area and make decisions about school and district operations based on information from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and other regulatory agencies. We will follow these safety protocols:

- Students in grades Pre-K-8 will be required to wear masks/face coverings while in school.

- A majority of this age group is not currently eligible to receive the coronavirus vaccine, so this simple preventative measure is one way to protect students and help prevent the spread of the virus.

- Students who utilize TPS transportation services will be required to wear a mask/face covering when riding the bus to and from school.

- Masks/face coverings are strongly recommended for high school students and staff members, especially those who have not yet been vaccinated or are not eligible yet for the vaccine. However, this is optional.

- We encourage everyone – staff and students – to continue with daily health monitoring. If you are not feeling well or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, stay home from school/work and contact your doctor.

- We will continue to practice social distancing whenever possible, especially in classrooms, offices and other areas in our schools or offices where large numbers of people congregate.

- We will continue to reinforce COVID-19 safety guidelines as we work to contain the spread of the virus. This includes daily cleaning and the sanitizing/disinfecting of hard surfaces and classrooms/offices; we also

ask that everyone continue with frequent hand washing or sanitizing and sneezing into a tissue or their sleeve.

Virtual Academy:

- As a reminder, Toledo Public Schools will again offer an online learning option for interested students for the 2021-22 school year. The deadline to register is Tuesday, August 3, for those students wishing to enroll in the Virtual Academy for the upcoming school year. The Virtual Academy is open to students in grades 1 through 12 and all students will be provided with Chromebooks and Internet service, if needed.

- To complete the online registration form, please visit [tps.org](https://tps.org) and go to TPS News for a link. Students who attended last year's Virtual Academy MUST fill out an application to be considered for the 2021-2022 Virtual Academy; those students who attended the academy last year and wish to return to their home school can do so without filling out additional paperwork – your files have been transferred back to that school. Please call 419-671-5100 with any questions or email [virtual-academy@tps.org](mailto:virtual-academy@tps.org). All families will be contacted no later than Tuesday, August 10th with a status update on their application.

- The health and well-being of our students and staff members continue to be the number one priority for Toledo Public Schools. While we are planning to return to school with appropriate safety protocols in place, it is important to note that our plans may change based on COVID-19 rates and recommendations from the health department. Our plans must also align with various agencies as they administer new laws/guidelines, such as the CDC's recent recommendation about masking and the passage of Ohio HB 244, which prohibits districts from discriminating against unvaccinated individuals.

*Perryman... continued from page 6*

mine where we can support and help them. Right now, a lot of single parents are struggling with childcare. I've seen within my family where a single female with a couple of kids, working long hours in these plants, and the children are, essentially, raising themselves. So, we need to be able to offer some assistance.

**Perryman:** How do we address the fact that a mere 28 percent of African Americans in Lucas County are vaccinated for COVID-19?

**Savage:** We have to talk to people and not

talk down to them to really see where we can assist them, listen, and get an understanding of where their minds are. It can't be strangers. It would be best to talk with a family member, your doctor, or places like the Neighborhood Health Association. Please take the opportunity to spend some time with them and explain why they need to be vaccinated.

**Perryman:** Finally, what message do you want to get across to the public about your campaign?

**Savage:** My campaign message is that we have to come together. We are the United States of America. We're the City of Toledo. We can sit down, get together, develop plans that take our city to the next level. We have not done that; we are a divided city; but my goal is for us to

come together.

I plan to represent all the people. I don't care what your political persuasion is; I don't care what your skin color is; Everyone has opinions about what's going on in this city. So anytime someone wants to have a conversation about an issue, I'll make an effort to listen and talk to them because we as a city need to come together and stop any division.

I plan to bring the strife down and put everything back together, and manage our money a lot better.

Then, we will invest in people and make this thing work.

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



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*Shawna Woody... continued from page 7*

able now in our Demonstration Project. It's on a smaller scale today because it was important to start now and keep momentum, but we will further extend offerings as we obtain long term sustainable public investment giving more access to more kids."

And having access means more than just having enough seats, the Demonstration Project stresses; it means having affordable, strong options without having to jump through unfair barriers.

"We know this strong start prepares them for kindergarten. With high-quality pre-K kids are more likely to pass their third grade reading and math tests, naturally graduate from high school and secondary education, and then go on to earn more income throughout their lives.

"Nearly 90 percent of Toledo Public School students financially qualify for free or reduced lunch. As a proud graduate of Rogers High school I myself am a product of TPS so this number shows a correlation for education readiness for those in need," she adds.

Woody's mother is a retired social worker for Lucas County Children Services. Her father, Stanley Woody is a former Scott High School principal and retired School Improvement Leader for Toledo Public Schools.

"Preparing me for this position was deeply rooted in my heart by my upbringing. My dad Stanley Woody positioned me to understand every child deserves a strong educational start," shares Woody. "I always told my dad that I would focus on educating our kids in the community the way he and all my mentors focused on me growing up."

Unlike Woody, many children from lower-income and minority families do not attend any form of preschool. They often enter kindergarten already trailing their classmates academically, not knowing their numbers, how to tie their shoes, or that sentences flow left to right. These critical facts alone makes it crucial for families to have access to high-quality education opportunities as early as possible as a pathway to success into their K-12 education.

In Toledo many underserved adults who did not complete high school are illiterate, making it difficult for some parents to read to their children. HOPE



Shawna Woody and HOPE student volunteers at Scott High School

Toledo suggests showing the pictures in the books to your kids and building an open relationship with your child's educator. Often times program administrators are not well versed in building trust in these varied situations with parents but HOPE Toledo certainly is!

The conversation and encouragement young children receive at home is just as important as the curriculum they learn at school. Parents often repeat the speech patterns of their own upbringing. It is said that underserved children hear more discouraging words on average than children of professional families. In contrast if a child of a professional home hears six positive words for every negative one, they would hear an approximate total of 560,000 more words of praise by age four than an underserved child.

HOPE Toledo goes through great lengths to ensure teachers receive competitive compensation and professional development. "We not only attract amazing educators, we retain them," shares Shawna proudly.

Toledo Public Schools, ProMedica, and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation, have been vital to HOPE Toledo's overall growth. Woody looks forward to growing with new local education providers and energizing community engagement. "Everyone knows someone who is a four-year-old or who will be four one day," says Woody.

The Demonstration Project Pre-K is enrolling now through the entire month of August. Classes start Sept 1st.

HOPE Toledo's cradle to career nurturing of the community approach will better serve our children and, in the long run, help our city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public/private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools as well as Washington Local Schools to develop high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth. For more information, to donate, or to learn more about HOPE Toledo and how you can get involved contact them at: <https://www.hope-toledo.org>



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# Tyra Smith: Pathways for Successful Leadership, Inc

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Thirteen years ago, Tyra Smith, founded Pathways for Successful Leadership, Inc, and started on a journey of helping thousands of area youth who are considered incorrigible, whose parents or guardians who have become distressed and whose schools have usually given up on them.

It was not a path she would have predicted; she had to be convinced not only that she should start such a venture but also that there was a way of formalizing a method to memorialize the instinctive and successful way she had adopted in working with such youth.

Smith, a Toledo native and Scott High School graduate, was a high school track star whose athletic career ended early in her college days after a severe groin injury. After college, she was on a health care career path working in pre-natal care and with hospice for a number of years before starting her own cleaning company – Crystal Cleaning – which enjoyed success in obtaining a number of sizeable corporate contracts.

She also had a restaurant – the West End Diner – for four years before returning to the healthcare field as an independent provider.

Along with these ventures, Smith found the spare time to coach girls' track at Scott High School, starting in 1999, until 2007. It was a successful period, not simply from an athletic standpoint but from an academic one as well. Every girl Smith coached, she notes, went to college; every girl she coached earned a college degree.

And here's where the path veered towards the educational direction that



Tyra Smith



Trinity Bester receives 2020 Willie Oliver Scholarship with Oliver's daughter in attendance



2021 Scholarship recipient Markyia Warren and Tyra Smith

would lead her to start Pathways. She started working with a local GED class and with that very apparent success, she was asked to come to Pickett Elementary as a volunteer to help with the school's dreadful suspension record.

For a year Smith pitched in, dealt with a number of unruly students, "meeting them on the level they were on," she says. Her year at Pickett proved to be significant. "The rate of suspensions went down, test scores went up and fights were down," she reports.

However, even though it was not her intention to remain in such a position, the school leaders had other thoughts. They insisted she return. She continued as a volunteer, but for TPS, it wasn't enough.

Romules Durant, EdD, then assistant superintendent, told her that her services were needed at more than just one school. "You need a company," he told her. "It's needed in the schools."

Then, however, came the problem for Smith of organizing such a company and describing not only her vision but also her methodology. She had no way to describe how she did what she did.

"I can't put on paper what I do," she told those with TPS who were reaching out to her to start such a venture. "I can't tell you what I do."

Her supporters at Pickett, along with Durant, "had my back," she says now. They encouraged her, worked with her, to explore and define the data that she would need to operate such a concern and Pathways for Successful Leadership, Inc began its now 13-year voyage to change young peoples' hearts and minds and guide them onto successful academic and career paths.

Pathways now has 32 employees and 12 different programs and works with upwards of 2,500 youth during the school years and several hundred during the summer.

These days the non-profit organization does more than help unruly students, Pathways also awards scholarships and adopts families at holiday time. Recently Smith took on yet another task.

"This year I launched my first annual books in the streets at my business office at 2052 Collingwood," says Smith. "We took education to the streets literally that day, giving away 460 books to youth in the first weekend in June that was usually the weekend of the Old West End festival."

Now, after 13 years in service to area youth, Smith has the ongoing satisfaction of attending graduations and seeing young people she has worked with for years walk down the aisles in caps and gowns – some select few of whom will receive scholarships from her agency.

Such success derives from Pathways' ability "to provide a positive outlook and successful future to troubled and disruptive youth – those that lack confidence, self-esteem, trust and respect."

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# Horse Girls: Recovering, Aspiring, and Devoted Riders Redefine the Iconic Bond, edited by Halimah Marcus

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

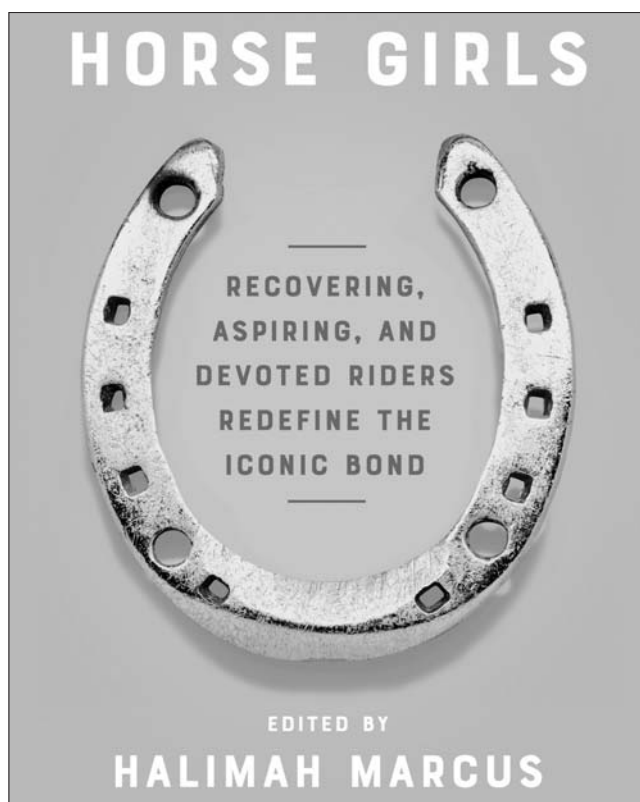
The Truth Contributor

You were determined not to get bit.

But in a totally different meaning of the word, you were equally determined that your horse would accept one. Without a bit in his mouth, he wouldn't turn, slow down, or stop when you wanted to ride – and of course, as in *Horse Girls*, edited by Halimah Marcus, the ride's the thing.

Or is a sense of freedom the best part of owning a horse? Many girls think so,

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while others just want their very own Flicka or Ginger or Pie. Whatever it is, Marcus says that there's a difference between "horse girls" and "a horsewoman." The latter, she writes, is "tough, no-nonsense... riding every day... unsentimental about horses but devoted to them for life" – unlike many of the women in this book who gave up riding as young women and re-established their love for it later in life.

But what makes a horse girl?

Marginalization, in the stories here. These horse girls often felt shame for not fitting the norm, for being queer, Black, "chubby" or poor – but they still loved horses. Some of the writers are lesbians, but they didn't understand it until their girlhoods were over. Alex Marzano-Lesnevich writes of cross-dressing cowboys in history; Sarah Enelow-Snyder writes about Black cowboys and of "curly Afros shoved into unaccommodating cowboy hats." C. Morgan Babst writes of cruelty and anorexia, a two-pronged part of her childhood.

Horse girls worry. A lot. They worry about where their horses went after they were sold or given away. On the day she got it, Adrienne Celt worried about how she was going to bury her horse if it died. They worry about disappointing horse-loving parents, and they fret about the best way to introduce their daughters to riding.

They ride with joy. They met spouses through horses. They remember the smell of a box that once contained a plastic horse – because, says T Kira Madden, "the thing about a horse is, it's never about the horse."

Nope, it's also about stories. Fifteen of them, to be exact, all inside *Horse Girls*, but unless you're the horsey-type, you grew up in a saddle, or your shelves once held plastic 1:9-scale horses, you can just mosey along. In that case, you'll haaaaate this book and that's okay. It's not for you anyhow.

If you fit the former, though, pommel, stirrup, and all, then editor Halimah Marcus offers stories you'll devour, stories of loving horses, even when (especially when!) doing so made you an anomaly. There's strength in that but loss also looms large here, particularly loss of childhood, innocence, or imagination. Fortunately for many of these storytellers and for the readers invited along on this ride, though, recollections are resolved, reasons for them are reconciled, and the endings are mostly satisfying.

If you ever trotted around the yard, pretending to be a horse, or if you actually spent your girlhood in a saddle, this book will bring back memories. *Horse Girls* is a book you won't want to miss, not even a little bit.

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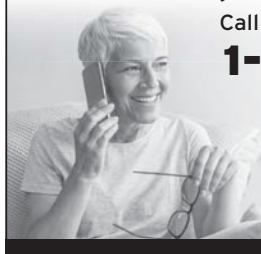
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# HOPE Toledo Pre-K Launches Inaugural Preschool Project

Special to The Truth

Enrollment Open Now with Nine Highly Rated, Neighborhood Preschool Providers

John C. Jones, president of HOPE Toledo, recently announced the organization's partnership with nine community-based preschool providers to offer more than 200 high-quality, full-day, affordable preschool seats to four-year-olds across the Toledo area. Enrollment is available now at [HopeToledoPreK.com](http://HopeToledoPreK.com) with classes scheduled to begin September 1, 2021.

The nine, inaugural HOPE Toledo Pre-K partner providers are: All 4 Kids, Believe Academy, Catholic Club, Children's Discovery Center (Talmadge), East Toledo Family Center, Learning Ladder Child Care 2, Quality Time Child Care Center, Rise and Shine Childcare Academy and Toledo Day Nursery.

"We are truly excited to see our vision begin to come to fruition through our partnership with these nine partner providers," said Jones. "And this is just the start as we look to bring more providers on board in order to fulfill our mission & #8212; that every Toledo child has the opportunity to attend a high-quality early childhood educational program that prepares them to succeed in kindergarten and beyond."

Currently, more than 80 percent of Toledo's children enter kindergarten without the skills, behaviors or knowledge necessary for success (based on 2019 KRA scores). But high-quality, evidence-based preschool programs have been shown to improve outcomes for children throughout their lives.

Studies show that children who start kindergarten ready to learn are more likely to pass 3rd-grade reading tests, 8th-grade math tests, graduate from high school, go on to college, and earn more income over their

lifetimes. Criteria for high-quality programs include:

- Full-day instruction
- Income-based, sliding-scale tuition
- Comprehensive curriculum-led learning
- Low teacher-to-child classroom ratios
- Active parent engagement
- Well-prepared, highly qualified educators
- Routine developmental assessments
- Support, coaching, and funding to help providers achieve and maintain quality
- Regular program evaluations and accountable oversight

"High-quality preschool can help children succeed in their first years of school and reduce the early achievement gap," said Dondra J. Coleman, administrator and owner of Learning Ladder Child Care. "This is especially important for low-to-moderate income families who have historically had to deal with disparities related to the achievement gap and everything that goes with it," she said.

"We are grateful for the partnership with HOPE Toledo because it allows us to serve families who potentially couldn't afford these opportunities otherwise," said Coleman.

For more information or to enroll your child, visit [HopeToledoPreK.com](http://HopeToledoPreK.com). For more information on how to become a HOPE Toledo Pre-K Provider, contact Elisa Huss-Hage at [elisa@hope-toledo.org](mailto:elisa@hope-toledo.org) or call 419-367-8600.

HOPE Toledo is a 501(c) 3 organization and encompasses HOPE Toledo Pre-K and HOPE Toledo Promise. The mission of HOPE Toledo is to work with the Toledo community to support and ensure high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth, from preschool to post-secondary and trade school, with the goal of helping to create generational economic change for the betterment of our families and our community.

This cradle-to-career-to-community approach will better serve our children and, in the long run, help our city progress towards a stronger, more educated workforce. To that end, HOPE Toledo is working with the Toledo community, through public/private partnerships and in tandem with Toledo Public Schools and Washington Local Schools, to develop a plan to deliver high-quality educational experiences for all of our youth. For more information, to get involved, or to donate, visit [hope-toledo.org](http://hope-toledo.org).



John Jones

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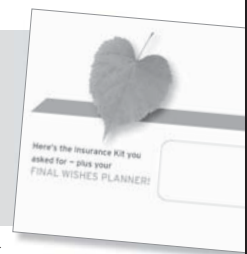
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# The Wilberforce Imperative: Enriching the Lives of Our Students

By *Elfred Anthony Pinkard, EdD*

Guest Column

I am the 22nd president of Wilberforce University, this nation's oldest, private HBCU that was founded, owned and operated by people of African descent. Wilberforce University occupies a rare place as the first among a group of institutions called HBCUs with a special mission to highly educate African Americans, and it presents an extraordinary expression of self determination of people still enslaved in the American south.

The institutional DNA of Wilberforce University boasts a legacy of overcoming difficult challenges. In fact, the year 2020 would prove no less formidable when it tested the university's and its students' resilience, tenacity and strength, and moved our school community to immeasurable pride and joy.

That year began unremarkably as the campus community prepared for the upcoming spring break. We expected to return to finish the academic year, to hold a celebratory commencement, bid farewell to our graduating seniors and begin preparing for a new academic season. Soon, we would learn a looming, ominous threat would significantly upend our lives and the rhythm of academic life at Wilberforce University. We pivoted, as did every other institution of higher learning and we attempted to make the best of an increasingly difficult situation that was laden with unanticipated daily stressors.

Despite the rich and storied history of Wilberforce University, even in steadier times, the university consistently faced significant challenges. So that despite limited resources and lingering uncertainty, our students did not allow the COVID 19 pandemic to derail their academic journeys. These are young people whose intellect, talents and abilities have sometimes been ignored or marginalized their entire lives. In this time of epic crisis, they triumphed over this raging 21st century health adversity with the same 19th century spirited determination carried by our founding fathers.

This year, at the 165th commencement of Wilberforce University, I made an announcement that captured the attention it seems of the world, placing the university in the spotlight: "Members of the classes of 2020 and 2021, because we are in awe of your strength and perseverance, because you've made your families and friends proud, because you have shown the world you are ca-

pable of enduring difficult times, because you represent the best of future generations, we wish to give you a fresh start." In summary, I announced the university cleared the debt directly owed to the university by the grads. Wilberforce was proud to relieve some of their financial responsibility but we could not alleviate their debt that is owed to federal student loans or financial institutions.

It was sheer joy to witness the unbridled excitement and delight of our graduates in their implicit realization that their university cared about them and their future. Indeed, we cleared their accounts but we also provided them a moment in the sun following a year of unexpected challenge and uncertainty.

No doubt that announcement has resurrected the broader conversation about relieving student debt, but that must involve many divergent voices and perspectives. However, like most thorny issues facing the American public that conjure deep seated attitudes about race, poverty and systemic unfairness, there will be conversations that undoubtedly generate more heat than light. I do believe however, that some relief of student debt has the potential to positively and significantly impact the lives and futures of all students.

So, in our serene, southwest corner of rural Ohio, we made a decision focusing on the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021 for which we will be forever proud. We determined that we could provide at once, an acknowledgement of their hard work and give them a little more runway to begin their lives with one less debt to manage.



Elfred Anthony Pinkard, EdD

## Blue Gill Fishing Club Donates Scholarship Funds

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Blue Gill Fishing Club's members annually raise money to donate funds to local agencies and to local scholars heading off to college. On Saturday, August 7, the Club gave a \$500 scholarship to Natania Greene, a 2021 graduate of Rogers High School, who will be attending Xavier University in New Orleans in the fall.

The \$500 will go to helping the young scholar with books and other expenses during her freshman year.

Greene, the valedictorian of the 2021 Rogers graduating class, will be heading down to New Orleans in a week's time to start her studies in bio-medical engineering. Her plan is to learn about making prosthetics and models so that she can have a career working with orthopedic surgeons.

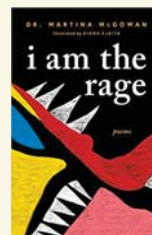


Thomas Walker, Nate Greene, Perry Helms, LA Frost, Al Chapman, Gene Davis, Dale Richardson Bey

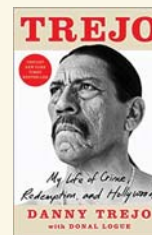


Scholar Natania Greene - center - with her parents Natalie Greene and Paul Lee

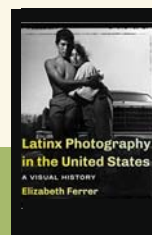
## WHAT WE'RE READING THIS SUMMER!



I Am the Rage: A Black Poetry Collection by Martina McGowan



Trejo: My Life of Crime, Redemption, and Hollywood by Danny Trejo



Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History by Elizabeth Ferrer



Blackout by Dhoneille Clayton

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# Make the Most of Your Summer with the Toledo Library

The days are getting shorter. School is starting back up soon. Pumpkins, apple cider, and corn mazes are right around the corner. Before the cool, crisp fall air arrives, squeeze a bit more fun out of your summer with help from the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

## Go on a geocache adventure.

Millions of geocaches are hidden around the world—including at all Toledo Library locations! Begin your Library geocache adventure by creating an account with the Geochaching® app, then start exploring the outdoors at the Library.

## Take a stroll along a StoryWalk.®

Enjoy reading and fun as you wander along a pathway, following signs to the next page in the story. Found at 19 locations, each StoryWalk® provides a new way to experience the grounds and gardens of various Toledo Library locales.

## Build your backyard oasis.

Whether large or small, make the most of the outdoor space around your home using resources available from the Library. From landscape design and container gardens to do-it-yourself home improvement projects, the Library offers books to help you create an outdoor retreat of your own.

## Satisfy your tastebuds.

Planning a picnic or a backyard barbecue but uncertain about the menu? Be the consummate host with an assist from the Toledo Library. Master the craft of grilling or become a cocktail connoisseur with books from the Library as your guide.

## Make your summer campfires memorable.

Nothing beats a fireside hang with family and friends, especially when storytelling is involved. Visit your nearest Library location before your campfire to find funny, silly, and scary stories to share.

## Create a summer soundtrack.

However you spend the waning days of summer, create the perfect playlist for your remaining sunny season activities using Freegal Music, a free music service from the Toledo Library with thousands of albums and unlimited streaming.

To make the most of your summer with the Toledo Library, all you need to get started is your Library card. Don't have a card? Register online at [toledolibrary.org/card](http://toledolibrary.org/card) and get nearly instant access to all of the Library's materials.

# Lourdes University Welcomes Three New Board Members

Lourdes University President Mary Ann Gawelek, Ed.D., is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its board of trustees – Sheila Eason, Martha E. Vetter and Sr. Rebecca Rutkowski, OSF.

"Lourdes is thrilled to welcome Ms. Eason, Ms. Vetter and Sr. Rebecca to our Board of Trustees. The University will benefit from their community connections and the expertise they bring in organizational development, human resources, public relations, journalism, social work and business" says Gawelek.

Sheila Eason is the founder and CEO of Elevate People Solutions, LLC, a leadership and personal development consultancy. With more than 25 years of experience helping organizations leverage human capital to their maximum potential, Eason provides workshops and training in the areas of leadership, personal development and diversity and inclusion.

A certified speaker, trainer, and coach with the John Maxwell Team, Eason delivers interactive an educational experience to audiences in order to elevate their skills and develop transformational leaders. As a coach, she helps create awareness and facilitate learning and growth in her clients.

Eason is a graduate of Bowling Green State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Organizational Development. She holds both Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) certifications. She is past president of the Northwest Ohio Human Resources Association and served as Diversity Chair for several years.

Martha E. Vetter is a public relations and communications expert, with more than 35 years of experience. Vetter was the founder and CEO of R/P Marketing Public Relations (now Transcend Strategy Group), until she sold the firm in 2017. During her 25 years with R/P she was recognized nationally as an expert in hospice marketing and received over 100 local, regional, and national PR, healthcare, hospice, advertising and public relations awards including the Toledo Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award, Public Relations Society of America Silver Anvil Award, and the Girl Scouts of America Woman of Distinction Award.

Ms. Vetter received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Public Relations from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Business and Organizational Communication from the University of Akron.

Sr. Rebecca Rutkowski currently serves as a Councilor and Congregational Treasurer for the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania. Sister Rebecca arrived in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1993 and served as Director of Catholic Social and Community Services. In 2002, she became the first woman appointed Chancellor for the Diocese, a position she maintained until being elected to the Leadership team with the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio.

Sister Rebecca received an Associate of Arts in Business from Henry Ford Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Toledo, and a Masters in Social Work from St. Louis University.



Sheila Eason

FACE PAINTING CHILDREN HAIRCUTS & HAIR BRAIDING

ENTERTAINMENTS PATHWAY, INC

FOOD GIVEAWAYS

**BACK 2 SCHOOL FAIR**

CHILDREN MANICURES

**BOOKBAG GIVEAWAY**

WE'RE GIVING OUT FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES ON AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

**: TIME:**

**FROM 11:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**505 HAMILTON ST. TOLEDO, OH 43604**

FOOD, FUN AND MORE

HEADSTART PROGRAM, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, DAYCARE PROVIDERS, MENTOR PROGRAMS, ZEPF CENTER, NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING, POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENT, COVID 19 SHOTS FOR TEENS, EYE GLASS SERVICES, DENTAL CARE SERVICES AND SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND MANY MORE.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP21-R015 Snow Removal Services AMP 111 Communities  
RFP21-R016 Snow Removal Services AMP 112 Communities  
RFP21-R017 Snow Removal Services AMP 121 Communities  
RFP21-R018 Snow Removal Services AMP 122 Communities  
RFP21-R019 Snow Removal Services AMP 131 Communities  
RFP21-R020 Snow Removal Services AMP 133 Communities

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Snow Removal Services. Received in accordance with law until August 26, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP21-R021 Snow Removal Services AMP 111 Scattered Sites  
RFP21-R022 Snow Removal Services AMP 112 Scattered Sites  
RFP21-R023 Snow Removal Services AMP 121 & 122 Scattered Sites  
RFP21-R024 Snow Removal Services AMP 131 Scattered Sites  
RFP21-R025 Snow Removal Services AMP 133 Scattered Sites

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for Snow Removal Services. Received in accordance with law until September 3, 2021, 3:00 PM ET. see documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 201 Belmont Ave., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.



## LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM

Professional Design Service Qualifications will be received at the Main Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, Ohio, 43604 (Dispatch Office addressed to the Fiscal Officer) until August 27, 2021, 12:00 P.M. for furnishing professional design services related to the replacement of the Access Control System at Main Library located at 325 N. Michigan Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Copies of the request for qualifications (RFQ) including the scope of work, qualification requirements, and evaluation criteria for selection may be obtained by emailing David Scanlan at [david.scanlan@toledolibrary.org](mailto:david.scanlan@toledolibrary.org).

Each firm shall submit qualifications according to the required format outlined in the RFQ.

By order of the Board of Trustees, Toledo Lucas County Public Library.



### Rudolph Libbe Inc. Job Posting

Rudolph Libbe Inc. (RLI) offers a complete range of project contract delivery methods including general contracting, design/build and construction management. Based in Toledo, Ohio for more than 60 years, RLI is part of the Rudolph Libbe Group of companies with offices in Cleveland, Columbus and Lima, Ohio, and Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, visit [RLGBuilds.com](http://RLGBuilds.com).

We are seeking a **Senior Safety Specialist** at our Rudolph Libbe Inc., Walbridge, OH location. As a member of our safety team, you will be responsible for supporting and assisting company associates in achieving safety excellence by helping to identify existing and potential safety risks on current and upcoming projects, providing training, and performing site visits to verify that safety regulations and company policies are consistently implemented company-wide.

Candidates should have 8-10 years construction safety experience. BCSP certification or similar, and Bachelor's Degree in Occupation Safety, Safety Management or related field preferred.

Rudolph Libbe Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Interested candidates may apply at [www.rlgbuilds.com/careers](http://www.rlgbuilds.com/careers).



## OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding, the Land Bank has renovated 750 vacant properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and improved the lives of countless individuals by improving their neighborhoods.

We are seeking a talented individual to join our diverse and energetic team as Operations Coordinator. The Operations Coordinator is a professional that provides regular customer service support, assists our finance team with bookkeeping and clerical accounting work, and works to maintain a pleasant, fun, and well-resourced office environment.

Salary range of \$35,000 - \$45,000, with excellent benefits including affordable health, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, a retirement plan with generous employer match, and robust paid time off.

Position will remain open until filled. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://lucascountylandbank.org/about/jobs>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.



## PROJECTS SPECIALIST

The Lucas County Land Bank is a non-profit organization working to build and strengthen our community's neighborhoods. Since our founding, the Land Bank has renovated 750 vacant properties, demolished thousands of blighted buildings, and improved the lives of countless individuals by improving their neighborhoods.

We are seeking a talented individual to join our diverse and energetic team as a Projects Specialist. The Projects Specialist is a professional that provides detail-oriented support to the Land Bank's property acquisition, ownership, demolition, development, and disposition projects. This individual assists with the day-to-day management of the Land Bank's work, develops specialized skills in support of our many active projects, and helps to set the strategic direction of the organization.

Salary range of \$45,000 - \$55,000, with excellent benefits including affordable health, dental, vision, and prescription drug coverage, a retirement plan with generous employer match, and robust paid time off.

Position will remain open until filled. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://lucascountylandbank.org/about/jobs>

The Lucas County Land Bank is an equal opportunity employer.

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

**Project #0051-21-238**  
North Engineering Lab/Classroom Renovations  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County

**Bids Due:** 2:00pm EST August 31, 2021; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

**EDGE Participation Goal:** 15.0% of contract  
Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$2,562,000.00
Alternate 1 - Loading Dock	\$32,000.00
Alternate 2 - Restrooms	\$58,000.00

**Pre-bid Meeting:** August 17, 2021, 10:00am, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo OH 43606

**Walk-through:** A walk-through of the project sites is scheduled for August 17, 2021 immediately following Pre-bid.

**Walk-through Location:** Plant Operations Building

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

**More Info:** Project contact: Rick Butera, Champlin Architecture, Phone: 419-464-7697, E-mail: [rick.butera@thinkchamplin.com](mailto:rick.butera@thinkchamplin.com)

# 100 Sistas Against COVID-19 Host Event to Promote Vaccinations

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Frustrated by the disproportionate number of illnesses and deaths in the Black community due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the low number of vaccinations in the local area, a group of prominent Black women organized an event on Tuesday, August 3, to confirm their commitment to vaccinations. They also announced their intention to get the word out that vaccinations are critically necessary to avoid the deaths that have devastated the Lucas County community.

The event, 100 Sistas Against COVID-19, took place in the parking lot of Nexus Healthcare, attended by an audience of about a hundred people, mainly women, who were interested in learning how they can spread the word about the importance of vaccinations.

"The women who pulled this event together support each other," said Miller, the mistress of ceremonies, as she introduced the group to the audience and explained why they had decided to organize. "Twenty-eight percent – remember that number," she added.

Those women are: Miller, CEO of Neighborhood Health Association; Deborah Barnett, founder/CEO of N-Sync; Lisa McDuffie, president/CEO of the YWCA of Northwest Ohio; Wendi Huntley, president of Connecting Kids to Meals; Vallie Bowman English, Clerk of Court of Toledo Municipal Court; Billie Johnson, president and CEO, Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio; Robin Reese, executive director Lucas County Children's Services and Pharmacist Ireatha Hollie.

"Twenty eight percent is the number of black folks vaccinated in Lucas

... continued on page 19



Akienreh Johnson, Paula Hicks-Hudson, Doni Miller, Deborah Barnett, Lisa McDuffie, Billie Johnson, Robin Reese, Ireatha Hollie, Dr. Anita Lewis-Sewell



Debbie Barnett



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson



Doni Miller



Dr. Anita Lewis Sewell



Doni Miller, Billie Johnson, Ireatha Hollie



Let us take a closer look  
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Children's bodies grow and change fast — and that includes their eyes. That's why it's important for them to get regular eye care.

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[promedica.org/eyecare](http://promedica.org/eyecare)

*100 Sistas... continued from page 18*

County,” said Miller. “Thirty-nine percent is the number in Ohio. We are dying from this disease. We are losing a generation of people.”

Miller noted that even before the pandemic, the Black community has experienced a disproportionate number of people to heart disease, diabetes and heart disease, among other ailments. Those losses are in addition to the loss of babies due to the high infant mortality rate in the Black community.

“We have got to stand up for ourselves ... we have got to do better,” she said.

Barnett also iterated the need for the Black community to take control of its own health outcomes as she urged people to get vaccinated and to spread the word that vaccines are both safe and necessary for the general health.

“When sistas get together they can make things happen and we are helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, particularly in the Black community. We have only 28 percent vaccinated – health disparities in the Black community make us more susceptible. We have a responsibility. We must make a plan to stop its spread. We encourage you to make the vaccine your first choice. Join us in doing your part to keep Toledo healthy.”

State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson repeated the theme that the Black community must act and act swiftly on its own.

“We understand what we must do,” she said. “Myths and lies have been told to us – 28 percent is a downright pitiful number ... we have an opportunity for Black lives to truly matter.”

“We are mud made and if we are mud made, we know we got to get up out of the mud and clean ourselves off,” said the former mayor.

Kerri Kaye King died of COVID-19 on June 3 – exactly two months before the 100 Sistas event. King’s mother, Dr. Anita Lewis Sewell, MD, addressed that tragedy while remembering her daughter’s difficult and unnecessary passing.

King, a nurse, did not receive the vaccine, said Dr. Sewell, she was skeptical. “I think they made it too fast,” she told her mother. Unfortunately, King was at high risk; she had diabetes, was overweight, had sleep apnea and had had a pulmonary embolism.

“She contracted COVID in mid-April,” said Dr. Sewell, “and was on a ventilator when her son graduated from high school. All we have left is memories.” Addressing the audience she said, “I don’t want you to go home to look at pictures of loved ones and know that’s all you have left.”

“Get vaccinated; get vaccinated; get vaccinated,” she implored the attendees.

Also speaking on Tuesday were Tina Butts, founder of the Movement,



W.O.W. - Women of Wellness ... Wisdom ... Worship ... Worth



The AKAs



The Deltas

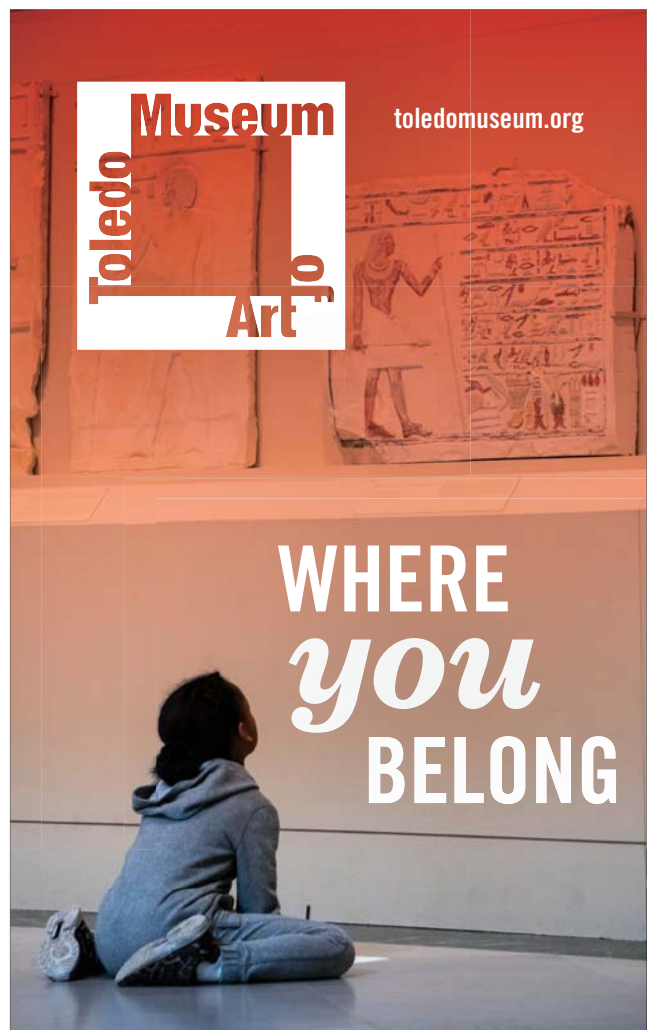
which has made extraordinary attempts to make people aware of the need to get the vaccines – holding events and knocking on doors. “The Movement is in the community trying to educate – we did whatever it took; it’s our duty to do what we can,” said Butts.

Also speaking were Rogers High School/University of Michigan basketball player, Akienreh Johnson, who is headed overseas to start her professional basketball career, and Pharmacist Ireatha Hollie.

Hollie urged listeners to reach out to their family and friends and reassure them that reliance on the vaccines is a matter of “knowledge and testimony based on fact.”

The facts are that the vaccines are effective, said the pharmacist and even if some discomfort should result, “side effects are better than death.”

The August 3 event was not intended to be a one-time event. The sistas plan to continue efforts to get Black residents of Lucas County vaccinated – reaching out to convince people, collaborating with health agencies and volunteer groups such as The Movement.



Back to School • Back to School • Back to School • Back to School • Back to School • Back to School • Back to School • Back to School

## Buffalo Soldiers Annual Scholarship

On July 28, the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers held their annual scholarship awards event and donated funds to four area students who are heading off to college in the fall.

Breyana Kemp who graduated from Southview High School will be attending Columbus College of Arts and Design in the fall and Winter Richburg of Rogers High School is headed to Lourdes University. Both young women received scholarships

in the amount of \$1,000.

Jayla Russell of St. Ursula, who will be entering the University of North Carolina to major in psychology/public health, received \$1,500.

Rayvon Brazeil, the valedictorian of his Scott High School graduating class, will attend The Ohio State University and major in business – Rayvon received a \$2,000 scholarship.



Students Rayvon Brazeil, Winter Richburg, Jayla Russell, Breyana Kemp



## Mom's House Back to School Lemons-to-Lemonade Stand Fundraiser

Special to The Truth



*The Maritime Academy of Toledo is opening our doors to the community. Please join us on August 12th for fun and fellowship. Enjoy a dip in our indoor pool. Have fun on some bounce structures. Pick up some Maritime Swag.*

**COME JOIN US ON AUGUST 12TH!**



1 MARITIME PLAZA, TOLEDO, OH 43604 | MARITIMEACADEMY.US

At Mom's House, a new school year means so much more than new school supplies and clothes. A new school year represents a new beginning, new hope and new opportunities to make dreams come true; dreams of a brighter future for the young moms and their children. On Thursday, August 12, the Mom's House preschoolers and former Mom's House preschool graduates will host their very own Lemonade Stand, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at 2505 Franklin Avenue.

In addition to the Mom's House Lemonade Stand, event sponsors have been invited to create their own custom, decorated stands to help the young families serve the community. Young mothers who are current and former clients will also volunteer their time. To ensure safety and ease-of-access at the event, Franklin Avenue will be closed.

"This is an opportunity for our children to display their communication and leadership skills," said Christina Rodriguez, Mom's House Executive Director. "Early learning is critical to children, especially those born into poverty, and we work hard to ensure each child gets the chance to develop these foundational skills, which is another layer of our program," she said. "Our hope is that our community will take a few minutes to stop by, boost the children's confidence and get a cold glass of lemonade!"

The staff expressed their gratitude to the following sponsors: Knight Insurance Group, The Mannik & Smith Group, Lucas County Sheriff's Department, Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, Fowl and Fodder, UPS, Waterford Bank, N.A.

All profits from Lemons to Lemonade will go toward early childhood education programs.

Mom's House is open to low-income, student parents of children aged six-weeks to five years, who are dedicated to completing their educations. Students must be enrolled full-time in programs such as: high school, GED program, college or university or vo-tech training. Mom's House has serviced the Toledo Community for 28 years.

## TPS Mask Mandate

Due to the substantial increase of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lucas County, Toledo Public Schools will now require all students and staff members - regardless of vaccination status - to wear face masks during the school or work day. This new directive impacts all district schools and offices. This precautionary step is being taken, along with other preventative measures, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community and will remain in effect until further notice.

Staff members will begin wearing masks tomorrow, Tuesday, August 10, and students must be in masks beginning on their first day of school.