



MILWAUKEE

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



The MCJ: Reflecting on the past, examining the present, projecting the future!

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL PRESENTS

Millennial MAGIC
Modeling And Molding A New Milwaukee

41ST ANNIVERSARY JAZZ BRUNCH
Sunday, August 6, 2017

ITALIAN CONFERENCE CENTER 631 E. CHICAGO STREET MILWAUKEE, WI 53202



Pattillo
By MCJ Publisher Patricia O'Flynn-Pattillo

One of the joys of reaching a 41st Anniversary is reflecting on the past, examining the present and attempting to project into the future.

Throughout these years, Milwaukee Community Journal has retained an objective of being a stable communications' vehicle for the inner city of Milwaukee, particularly the African American community.

Not as an ethnic preponderance, as much as a stereotypical eradicator of images of who, what and how this part of the city lives, grows, aspires and accomplishes.

An evening of television news projects an image of the central city, and the African American community, particularly, that is void of positivity.

It projects poverty and the outgrowths of poverty and lack as a racial preponderance, unworthy of the hundreds of thousands of inner city residents and businesses and
(continued on page 2)

RENOWNED AUTHOR OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO ATTEND FELLOWSHIP OPEN GOLF EVENT

Zellie Rainey Orr, renowned historian and author of the book "Heroes in War - Heroes at Home: First Top Guns," will attend the 2017 Fellowship Open Golf Event August 18, 2017.

Her voluminous work served as the basis for formal recognition of the achievements of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and led directly to the discovery of the "Top Gun" trophy. Thanks to her dedicated efforts, the trophy is now on permanent display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

"I am thrilled to bring the story of our beloved Tuskegee Airmen to Milwaukee and the Fellowship Open," stated Ms. Orr. "Although this has been a painstaking labor of love over many years, the contribution these brave men have made to the history and dignity of America must be recognized, documented and preserved. I gladly welcome the chance to continue their great legacy."

The Fellowship Open generates a broad learning experience for youth through corporate, community and civic collaborations. Young people are provided personal and professional development through educational and vocational opportunities. Overwhelming corporate and community support for the event has provided a wide spectrum



Thelma Sias



Bobby Dandridge



Zellie Rainey

of experiences for these youngsters in Technology, Science, the Arts, Business and more.

"From the very beginning the Fellowship Open has worked to provide real-life exposure to meaningful experiences and influential trail-

blazers like Zellie Rainey Orr," said John W. Daniels, Jr., Chairman, 2017 Fellowship Open. "Achievement at the highest level goes hand-in-hand with the mindset we hope to instill in the youth we serve through these vibrant relationships and connections. We are extremely honored to have Ms. Orr join us on this special occasion which salutes such notable triumphant achievement."

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OPEN

The Fellowship Open was founded in the year 2000 by a group of business and civic leaders focused on promoting and inspiring youngsters to pursue careers in business, and dedicated to fostering support for diversity and inclusion in
(continued on page 4)

THE 2017 FELLOWSHIP OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY

AUGUST 18

SILVER SPRING COUNTRY CLUB

N56W21318 Silver Spring Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI

THELMA SIAS
Community Service Award

BOB DANDRIDGE
Legends Award

ZELLIE RAINEY
Renowned historian and author on Tuskegee Airmen



Milwaukee Community Journal Publisher Patricia O'Flynn Pattilo, her staff and family at her induction into the Milwaukee Media Hall of Fame in November of 2015.--Photo by Yvonne Kemp

The MCJ at 41: Reflecting on the past, examining the present, projecting the future!

(continued from front page) service agencies that the MCJ has not only exposed through its pages but promoted in its editorials, reports, perspectives and photo-journalism illustrations, for now forty one years.

Forty one years, in the inner city, as a Black business that employs, is in itself a major accomplishment.

And continuous communication that makes MCJ the largest circulated newspaper in the State of Wisconsin is unprecedented and historically iconic.

Additionally, the number of people who have gone on to major accomplishments in journalism after internships, employment, associations and the scholarship, guided by MCJ, are national in scope and magnanimous in value and far-reaching for generations to come. MCJ is Milwaukee.. Milwaukee is also Milwaukee Community Journal.

This year, MCJ focuses on Millennials and GenXer's who are changing the look and the importance of Milwaukee today and into the next fifty years.

A look at this outstanding cadre of Honorees speaks to their relevance, their commitment to Milwaukee and

“Throughout these years, Milwaukee Community Journal has retained an objective of being a stable communications' vehicle for the inner city of Milwaukee, particularly the African American community.”

their determination to make a difference.

Millennials and Gen-xer's, are taking their batons and building, restoring and creating a community of which we are all proud.

Their unique technological skills make them citizens of the world, their preponderance of working mothers and often single mothers, makes them very independent in thinking and selections in jobs, communities in which they will reside, the schools their children will attend and their marriages if they opt to participate in marriage as an institution.

Most of all, as their profiles affirm, they know who they are and have opted to give and share their talents and treasure with those coming behind them.

We thank each Honoree, each sponsor, each committee member and each student for their role in making this book possible. It is a tribute to Milwaukee, the MCJ's forty one years, and most of all the future of Milwaukee, and in other cities to which they will travel, and the families they will continue to impact.

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Saturday, August 12th



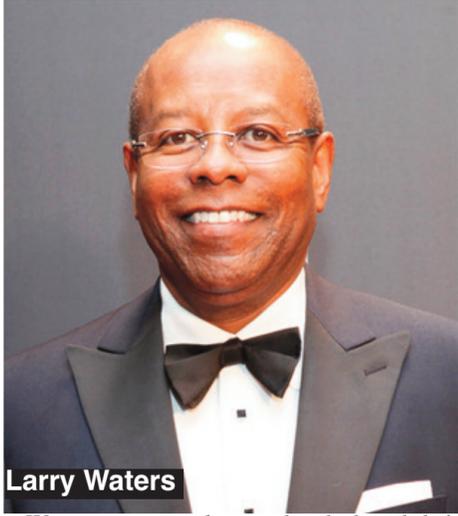
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Master of Ceremonies Larry Waters

Larry Waters is the Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Opportunity Funding Corporation, a Washington, DC based division of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.



Larry Waters

Waters most recently served as the board chair for the Milwaukee Urban League, secretary for the National Council of Urban League Board Chairs and as a member of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra board of directors, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Corporate Advisory Council, the Corporate Advisory Boards for the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation and the National United Merchants Beverage Association.

Waters earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Michigan.

In September 2013, he retired as the Senior Director of Community Commerce and Partnerships for MillerCoors after a 34-year career with the company.

Working out of the Chicago headquarter offices, Waters was responsible for the development of various community strategies and initiatives that aligned with the business objectives of MillerCoors.

Waters has served as a member of leading civic and business related organizations, boards and committees. He is a member of the board of directors for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and 100 Black Men of Greater Milwaukee.

He is also the Wisconsin NAACP State Conference Economic Development Chair and a member of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Chairman's Council.

Old School Fashions and Millennial Dressing

Fashion Show Spoof



Cassandra McShepard

The anniversary jazz brunch will have some fun to go along with the magic with a spoof on Old School fashions and Millennial dressing.

The show is coordinated by Cassandra McShepard and Beverly Kern.

McShepard, who is one of the hosts of Fox6's mid-morning show, is no stranger to the world of fashion. She is also respected as a fashion designer, having designed clothing for singers such as Phyllis Hyman and singing groups like The Manhattans. Clothing design is not the only talent Milwaukee and the community has seen from McShepard.

She is also a writer, motivational speaker, a spokesperson for The Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, a jazz vocalist, personal trainer, and a radio and television personality.

Reverend Justin Lester and Courtney Lester

Keynote Speakers



Rev. Justin Lester and his wife Courtney. Both were recipients of Terence N. Thomas scholarships.

Reverend Justin Lester and his wife, Courtney Marie (Jones) will be the keynote speakers for the 41st Anniversary celebration of the Milwaukee Community Journal at its annual fund-raising Jazz Brunch.

Reverend Lester built a lasting reputation as an exciting Biblical orator who preaches and was principal speaker at a number of Milwaukee churches, especially their youth ministries while matriculating at Marquette University, where he majored in Advertising and Marketing.

Coming to the Dr. Thomas Scholarship Fund as a Freshman, Reverend Lester quickly showed outstanding academic prowess; and it was at one of the annual scholarship events that he met Courtney Marie Jones. Jones began as a freshman, attending Fisk University, studying Business Administration and Sociology, as an undergrad.

The two sat side by side on the dais, year after year, though few knew the couple were beginning to date.

Over the years, attendees at the Jazz Brunch, and administrators of the fund noticed, with strong approval, blossoming scholastic growth. So when they sought post graduate continuing stipends, with funds from the Ernestine O'Bea bequeath, Rev Lester's continuation at Marquette University and Courtney's pursuit of her Masters Degree in Social Work at Washington University, in St. Louis were applauded. Their budding romance was never disclosed.

Reverend Lester continued his advance studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, where he led the Black Seminarians of the college. He helped with the National Baptist Convention and graduated in 2015 with a Masters in Divinity.

Later, we received an invitation to the wedding of these academic stalwarts and we applauded another strong union that illuminates our motto...." we seed success." On May 25, 2017, the two became three with the birth of their son.

Reverend Lester will challenge and motivate jazz brunch attendee. He will also inspire us to seek our best selves as the fulfillment of creation, and our pre-ordained purpose.

We are excited to hear this outstanding millennial of Milwaukee origin speak to a new model for a new Milwaukee!

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St. Ann Center & Ald. Stamper Host Free North Side Business Incubator



Ald. Russell Stamper, II talks to constituents during last year's North Side Business Incubator.

People who dream of starting their own businesses or expanding the one they have will be better prepared to take that step after attending the North Side Business Incubator.

The free event will be held Thursday, Aug. 31, at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus, 2450 W. North Ave. Planned by Ald. Russell W. Stamper II, St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care and the North Avenue Marketplace Business Improvement District (BID) 32, the incubator will provide resources and advice to people looking to start or expand their own business in the 15th Aldermanic District (53205, 53206 and 53210 ZIP codes). Aspiring entrepreneurs are asked to fill out an online questionnaire about their idea at StAnnCenter.org/biz. The deadline for submitting

questionnaires is Wednesday, Aug. 16. 20 participants will be selected from the pool of entries to participate in the event, but every person who submits the survey will receive a 20% on business training classes by Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation. "This is a chance to bring your business idea directly to the people who can make it a reality," says John Jansen, vice president of Grants, Community & Capital Development. All participants will have a chance to meet one-on-one with Ald. Stamper, business coaches and investors to dis-

cuss their ideas. They will also receive step-by-step guidance to help write or enhance a business plan and the opportunity to network with city officials, mentors and other business hopefuls. "We call this a business incubator because we are committing to a full year of providing everyone with ongoing support throughout their journey to success," Jansen added. This is the third incubator held at St. Ann Center's Bucyrus Campus which opened in the 15th District two years ago. Participants from past incubators will talk about how the

event helped them to successfully establish and grow their businesses. Jesse Colas found the incubator to be a great way to network and find resources for his general contracting and construction business. "Since the last incubator, our business has been expanding," he said, adding he's working on projects all over Milwaukee County. Sharon Adams used the incubator to jumpstart her family's plan to develop Adams Garden Park, a mixed-use garden center and community gathering place scheduled to open next year.

"The incubator made us think about what we really desired in a business," Adams said. She hopes to use future incubators as a platform to reach out to neighborhood entrepreneurs who may fit into a collective of small businesses to be part of the garden park. Also on hand will be representatives from the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation, Milwaukee Black Business, African American Chamber of Commerce, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Small Business Development Center and other

experts. "Thanks to the first two incubators, four businesses are on their way to opening up in the 15th District," Ald. Stamper said. "This is bringing growth and economic development to our inner city." All who are interested are encouraged to submit the questionnaire via StAnnCenter.org/biz. Printed questionnaires are also available for pickup at the Bucyrus Campus. For more information on the business incubator, contact John Jansen at (414) 977-5031 or jjansen@stanncenter.org.



Meeting of area stakeholders talk about how to successfully grow their businesses.

FELLOWSHIP OPEN

(continued from front page) the business community. The event's list of honorary chairs features some of Milwaukee's most prominent professionals in corporate, business, government, and civic affairs. Each year, its ranks have grown with individuals that bring outstanding attributes and commitments to the community. Over the past 16 years, the Fellowship Open has contributed more than \$1.5 million to youth organizations involving more than 80 organizations throughout Wisconsin. The Fellowship Open has grown beyond a golf tournament

and is involved in impacting the lives of youngsters throughout the community. Not only has it provided more than \$1.5 million in direct contributions to more than 80 youth organizations, it has raised or provided millions of additional dollars for internships and professional development affecting scores of young people in this area. The event has also recognized some of the most legendary figures associated with Wisconsin. Past honorees include Henry Aaron, Frank Robinson, Willie Davis, Senator Herb Kohl, Com-

missioner Bud Selig and Junior Bridgeman to name a few. The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the HistoryMakers (Chicago) and the PGA of America are just a few examples of the diverse spectrum of organizations to which youngsters gain exposure through the Fellowship Open. National service recognition has come from the Office of President Barack Obama. **2017 HONOREES** The 2017 event will honor former Milwaukee Buck Bob Dandridge and former WE Energies Executive Thelma Sias respectively with the Legends and Community Service Awards. Dandridge is not only a multiple season NBA All-Star but also a trusted advisor to the Bucks organization. Sias, a civic leader who has impacted the community in so many different ways, represents the best values in our community. Their achievements are remarkable. **2017 AWARDEES** The Fellowship Open is particularly interested in supporting organizations that have measurable impact. This year's recipients include the Wisconsin Black Historical Society, Northcott Center, Black Arts MKE, Inc., and One Accord Foundation. In addition, the Fellowship Open supports the MKE Fellows and the youth organizations of the Milwaukee Links. **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION** The annual charity golf event will take place Friday, August 18,

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Opinion and comments expressed on the Perspectives page do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or management of the MCJ. Letters and "other perspectives" are accepted but may be edited for content and length.




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Thurs., Aug. 31st

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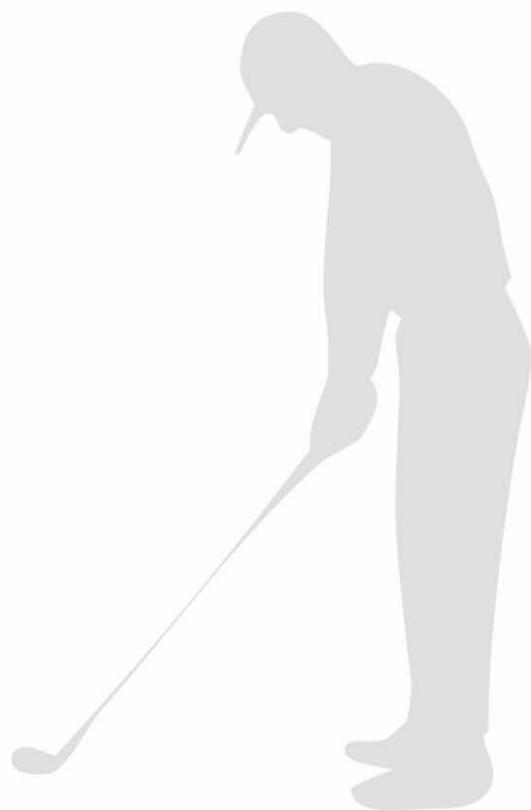
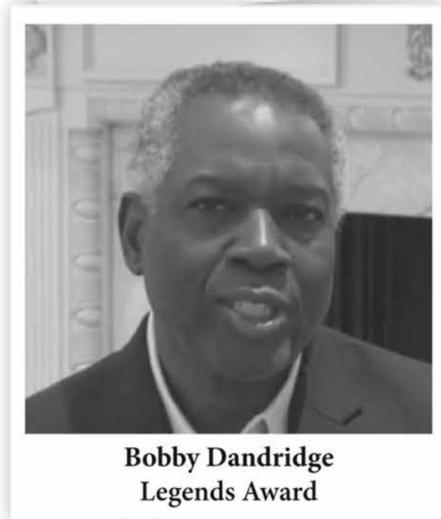
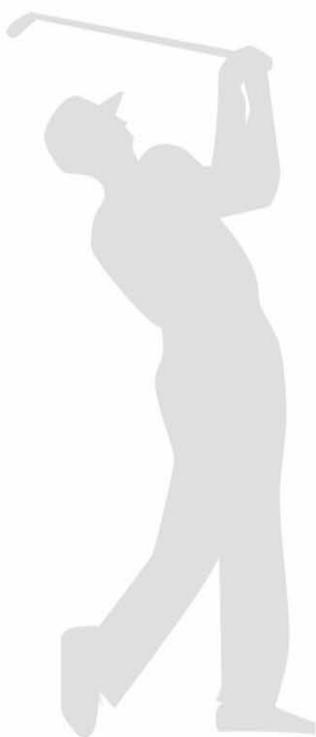
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Congratulations!

2017 Fellowship Open Award Honorees



Congratulations to the Fellowship Open, its Sponsors, and its Honorary Chairs on successfully promoting urban youth programs and involvement in business. The Fellowship Open's mission is to recognize volunteers and organizations that have positive impacts on our community's youth. In the past 17 years, the Fellowship Open has raised more than \$1.5 million for youth organizations, involving more than 80 organizations throughout Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued support!

2017 Honorary Committee Members - John W. Daniels, Jr., Chairman; Joe L. Kennedy, Founder

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Brandon Adams | G. Spencer Coggs | Ali Garba | Gregory Jones | Bob Moore | Anthony Smith |
| Stephen Adams | Virgis W. Colbert | Blaine Gibson | Michael Jones | Elmer Moore, Jr. | Charles Anton "Tony" Smith |
| James Allen | William Coleman | Andre Goode | Lavall Jordan | John L. Moutry, Jr | Gaulien "Gee" Smith |
| Kevin Anderson | Brian Cooke | Andre Gordon | Kevin Joy | Cory L. Nettles | Robert Smith |
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| Bevan Baker | Clifton Crump | Dextra Hadnot | George Koonce | Reginald Newson | Perry Stuckey, III |
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| Mandela Barnes | Rob Davis | Kalan Haywood | Vincent Lyles | Arthur Phillips | Russ Thomas |
| Errol Barnett | Robert Davis | Joseph Hill | Edward Magee | Nelson Phillips | George Thompson |
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| Michael Bonds | John Draper | Larry Hisle | Cedric Mays | LaNelle Ramey | Mark Wade |
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| | | | | | Robert Wynn |
| | | | | | Billy Young |

ENTERTAINMENT



CHRISTOPHER'S PROJECT

Christopher Pipkins and his jazz quartet, Christopher's Project will again grace the stage for the 41st anniversary Brunch at the Italian Conference Center. Since we've started the jazz brunch, this popular local group has been the signature musical highlight of our event.

Christopher's Project has quite an impressive resume. They've opened for the legendary Temptations and the Supremes, for starters. But you have more likely seen them at

a festival around town or a corporate function, as one of Milwaukee's go-to R&B, soul and dance bands. Christopher's project are repeat performers at

some of Milwaukee's annual festivals: Riversplash, Summerfest, Rainbow Summer and Bastille Days to name a few.

A smooth, melodic infusion of upbeat keyboards, drum, bass and sax, Christopher's Project also features one of the best female vocalists in the business. Performing a wide variety of styles for listeners young and old, this funky jazz ensemble's sure to get you on your feet!

"Christopher's Project has quite an impressive resume. They've opened for the legendary Temptations and the Supremes, for starters. But you have more likely seen them at a festival around town or a corporate function, as one of Milwaukee's go-to R&B, soul and dance bands."

SALUTATIONS

Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

P

roclamation

Whereas: The City of Milwaukee proudly joins community members in celebrating the 41st Annual Milwaukee Community Journal's Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship Brunch on Sunday, August 6, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, The Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship was established by the Milwaukee Community Journal to provide financial assistance to young, minority doctors from the State of Wisconsin and the State of Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, The Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship supports academic excellence by promoting access to higher education, helping deserving students who aspire to succeed and empowering youth to become our future leaders in the community; and,

WHEREAS, The Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship has awarded nearly \$800,000 in academic stipends to students who excel in the classroom with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Milwaukee congratulates the recipients of the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence and wishes them all many more years of success;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOM BARRETT, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 6, 2017, to be

DR. TERENCE N. THOMAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DAY
throughout the City of Milwaukee.

Tom Barrett
TOM BARRETT
Mayor

Monthly Membership Meeting
Every 3rd Saturday
11:30am- 1:00pm
2745 N Dr Martin Luther King Dr
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*** GUEST SPEAKERS**
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NAACP President:
Fred Royal

The NAACP Milwaukee Branch salutes the Milwaukee Community Journal on 41 yrs. of excellence.

— Fred Royal
President
NAACP Milwaukee Branch

"We did not come to fear the future... We came here to shape it."
— President Derrick Chambers

The MKE Fellows program identifies high-potential Black male college student leaders from Milwaukee and empowers them to pursue and complete higher education, advises internship possibilities, provides mentorship & networking experiences, inspires them to be leaders in civic engagement, and encourages them to return to Milwaukee to begin a thriving career!

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Fellowship Open Weekend	Herzing University	World Festival Inc.	United Performing Arts Fund
Dohmen Company Foundation		United Way	Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Committee			ALIVE Inc. Milwaukee

apply and learn more at:
mkefellows.com

"We view ourselves as an arm of the Civil Rights Movement... We need those hard-hitting issues because there's no other paper touching on them for the Black community."

--Quote by MCJ Associate Publisher and Editor Emeritus Mikel Holt in an article titled, "At an Angle" printed in the January 2016 edition of Milwaukee Magazine

WHEREAS,
THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

celebrated its 41st annual Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Brunch on August 6, 2017 at the Italian Conference Center, 631 E. Chicago St.; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Community Journal hosted honorees and students, and commemorated its anniversary by providing a platform for the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship, which has awarded almost \$800,000 in academic stipends to students who retain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or better; and

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Community Journal, as the vanguard of civil rights for more than three decades, has grown into the largest circulated and most influential black-owned newspaper in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, During its 41 years of publishing, the Milwaukee Community Journal has championed issues of relevance to its readership including education reform, business development and civil rights; and

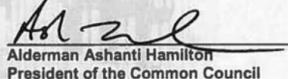
WHEREAS, Following the 1967 riots in Milwaukee, insurance companies refused to pay businesses for damage incurred, so Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo (then Patricia Thomas) assumed the role of editor and publisher, and with the support of the Teutonia Avenue Businessmen's Association, wrote editorials that helped pressure the insurance companies into paying claims so businesses could make repairs and reopen; and

WHEREAS, The scholarship brunch theme, "Millennial & Magic: Modeling and Modeling a New Milwaukee" honored Millennials and Gen X'ers helping to move Milwaukee forward; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates the Milwaukee Community Journal on the occasion of its 41st anniversary, extends its appreciation on behalf of the community, and wishes it continued success.

Introduced by Common Council members Ashanti Hamilton, Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, Nik Kovac, Robert J. Bauman, James A. Bohl, Terry Witkowski, Michael J. Murphy, José G. Pérez, Mark A. Borkowski, Chantia Lewis and Cavalier Johnson and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on July 11, 2017.





Alderman Ashanti Hamilton
President of the Common Council



James R. Owczarski
City Clerk



Gov. Scott Walker

The State of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

DR. TERENCE N. THOMAS SCHOLARSHIP
 Millennials in the Community
 "Modeling and Molding A New Milwaukee"

WHEREAS, for more than 41 years, "The Milwaukee Community Journal" has served the community; and

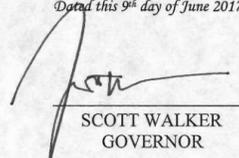
WHEREAS, the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship has provided more than \$800,000 to students pursuing higher education; and

WHEREAS, Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo, publisher of "The Milwaukee Community Journal" and former educator, has devoted her life to promoting the merits of education and, in memory of her son, Dr. Terence N. Thomas, works tirelessly to continue his legacy through providing scholarships to those pursuing higher education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Walker, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, congratulate the Dr. Terence N. Johnson Scholarship recipients – the Millennials in the Community who are "Modeling and Molding A New Milwaukee" – and wish them well in the future.

Dated this 9th day of June 2017.





SCOTT WALKER
GOVERNOR

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THE 2017 HONOREES

Deshea Agee



Joaquin Altoro

Family and faith have always been at the heart of Deshea Agee's commitment to the community and the reason why he has stayed in Milwaukee.

"I grew up in a single parent household on 14th and Burleigh. My mother, Diane Wade, provided a good family environment for me and my siblings (Dinah, Micaela, and Arking). As the oldest, I assumed the role of 'father figure' in our household and saw myself as a "go-to" person in my family. One reason I stayed in Milwaukee was to be a positive male influence in my brother's life. I wanted to be here to help get him through high school. Although my guidance worked to a point, his interest in fashion and basketball took first seat to academics.

"I remember recommending books for him to read. He didn't take my advice as serious as he does now that he's older," said Agee. "I am happy we have a better relationship now."

Agee shared that his father died when he was young, but he had no shortage of role models growing up. He recounts that his mentors included older cousins, including former Alderman Willie Wade and Mark Wade.

"My grandfather and uncles were my role models—even to this day. I am grateful for the 'village' that surrounded and encouraged me. First, there was always my mother and siblings. It means a lot to me that I've been able to share my thoughts and dreams and get encouragement from them. These days, my wife, Sharrie, and my children, Nathan, Deshea, Jr. and my daughter, Shaelynn, complete my village and serve as my cheerleaders," he said.

Agee attended Marquette University High School and graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a focus on marketing and management. During college, he worked at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for several years in newspaper retention sales. His first job out of college was in sales at 1290 WMCS radio station, where he worked for five years before finding his niche in the real estate industry.

"I have to give a lot of credit for my current success and the path I took to Mark Eppli, who brought the Associates
(continued on page 14)



Deshea Agee

In the early 1900s, Joaquin Altoro's grandfather came to Milwaukee to provide a better life for his wife and 17 children. While it wasn't easy, he was able to give that life for his family, after finding employment with Pfister & Vogel Tannery.

One of his children—Altoro's mother—eventually became a Milwaukee Public School elementary teacher. Altoro's grandfather never forgot his humble beginnings and passed on determination, his dream for a better life and a strong work ethic to Altoro's mother.

"My mother was tough. She pushed the boundaries, made me go outside my comfort zone, and insisted I do things—even when I didn't want to," said Altoro.

Especially during the time that Altoro grew up in Milwaukee, there was an unspoken tradition that if you grew up on Milwaukee's Southside, you went to school there, worked there, and stayed on the Southside forever. However, growing up in the mid-1980s when citywide busing was instituted, Altoro's mother decided he would get bused to the north side to attend Jackie Robinson Middle School and Rufus King High School.

"In retrospect, it was the best thing she could have done for me, but back then I basically went kicking and screaming. I was afraid of what I perceived to be Black gangs. There was only one other Latino attending the school. As it turned out, navigating from the Southside to the north side enabled me to expand my horizons and my network. I became acquainted with and friends with individuals who didn't look like me, many of whom are now the movers and shakers in Milwaukee," said Altoro.

After high school, while attending college and working part-time, he discovered that he had a unique talent that proved to be quite lucrative.



Joaquin Altoro

(continued on page 14)

Maggie Beckley

Jamila Benson

Maggie Beckley has had to overcome some tough situations, but they have made her stronger, better and more appreciative of this journey we call life. The Milwaukee native grew up in a close-knit family environment, comprised of her mother, father and four siblings.

She did well academically in school and graduated from Rufus King International High School. Unfortunately, what should have been a celebratory time in her life became one of immense sorrow when her father passed away during her senior year of high school.

"My father's passing was a very devastating time in my life. I almost didn't go away to college. I no longer wanted to be so far away from home and family. But with my mother's encouragement and reassurance that it was what my father would have wanted, I decided to go ahead with the decision to attend Xavier University of Louisiana. Both my parents had always instilled in me that education was the key to success," said Beckley.

Beckley packed her bags and moved to New Orleans to attend Xavier. All was going well until her senior year—when Hurricane Katrina hit.

"That was another turning point in my life. I saw the devastation of the city first-hand. Seeing the tremendous impact Katrina had on people, businesses and the community, gave me a renewed sense of gratitude for everything I had," said Beckley.

While New Orleans dealt with the massive rebuilding of the city, Beckley returned to Milwaukee for a semester to continue her education at UW-Milwaukee. Eventually, she was able to return to New Orleans to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in finance, with a minor in accounting. During her sophomore year in college, she became involved with the INROADS Program that connected her with a finance and accounting internship with Aurora Health Care. After graduation, they offered her a full-time position in finance and she's been at Aurora since then—over 10 years.

Beckley said that she had always had an interest in real estate and the devastation and rebuilding of New Orleans, cemented that interest for her.

"I returned to Xavier when it reopened in January and I was able to witness the city transform from bleak to hopeful, and felt a renewed sense of community with every home, business and school that was rebuilt. Gradually, I saw the
(continued on page 14)



Maggie Beckley

Jamila Benson spent the earlier part of her life avoiding walking in her parents' footsteps—simply because they were 'larger than life' to her and she wanted to make her own way, on her own terms. Her father, Clayborn Benson, is a photographer retired from WTMJ-TV4 and founder of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum (WBHS/M) and her mother formerly operated a modeling agency and now runs a special events company.

"Both my parents had successful careers and they were always busy. Growing up, I felt that I was in the shadow of their lives, so I was determined to be my own person. Now, I am doing some of those same things that I said I would never do and I'm enjoying them. I'm doing more video editing—which I get from my father—and I'm okay with that. I finally see myself building for the future and coming into my own," she said.

A Milwaukee native, Benson attended schools in Shorewood until high school, when her parents enrolled her in Messmer High School.

"Until I started attending Messmer, I didn't really connect with my people the way that I should have. I was this little Black kid that talked and acted like a Caucasian kid. At Messmer, I received the best education that I could have, and I learned the value of education and responsibility. Brother Bob helped shape me and gave us a foundation that resonates with me to this day. Almost 150 students started out in the same class and—by our senior year—only 42 of us graduated. We became family. Some of my classmates and I remain friends to this day, and I still communicate with some of my teachers.

"As an only child, I admit that I was spoiled. We traveled a lot, throughout the country and abroad, and I saw things that helped shape me. My parents also taught me a lot of cultural things. The WBHS/M opened when I was nine or ten, so I've always had that cultural and historical foundation in my life. My mom is my best friend, but my dad has been the biggest influence in my life," she said.

Benson displayed an early interest in art and design, so her father encouraged her by connecting her with Attic Design, a small graphic design business owned by Benson Design Group.

"During the summer, I worked with Attic Design. The owner gave me the keys to her house because it was a home-based business. She also gave me all the trust in the world and taught me everything she knew, so every summer for four years, I worked with her. Once I got in front of a computer, the sky was the limit. By my sophomore year in
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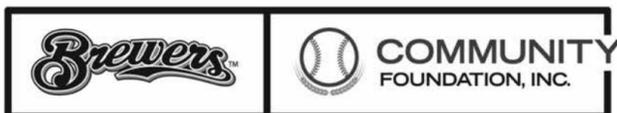
Jamila Benson



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Antoine Carter



Antoine Carter

By happenstance, Antoine Carter's resolve to be an obedient son helped him find his niche in life and he has never looked back.

"I am an only child, raised by a single mother until she married when I was 12 years old. My mother was working with her neighbors and Urban Groundworks to transform a vacant lot into green space when she made me help. I started out volunteering, then Groundworks made me a crew leader and eventually a site supervisor, so I literally learned this organization from the ground up," laughed Carter.

That was in 2011. These days, Carter is the Director of Community Development and Outreach at Groundworks Milwaukee and manages Milwaukee Urban Gardens—their premier program. He is responsible for building the overall capacity of the community gardens, serves as a liaison between the City of Milwaukee to negotiate land leases and city hydrants, and identifies resources for the neighborhoods to leverage the projects.

Carter was born in Milwaukee, attended Spanish Immersion School and graduated from Riverside High School. Afterwards, he attended Bryant & Stratton and Cardinal Stritch University, where he earned a degree in Business and Sports Management. Carter also has a hidden skill that serves him well in his career—he is bilingual!

"Growing up bilingual was pretty cool, especially because of the work I do. And, when I'm working in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, they are pretty forgiving if I mess up the language," he said.

While he played sports in school, Carter never played on any teams, even though his career goal was to one day work in the 'front office' as the general manager of a sports team. Now that his career took a unique and unexpected turn, he still likes to use sports terminology to explain what he does at Groundworks.

"My background is not in urban agriculture, but I'm able to explain what I do using sports' analogies because it's easier for people to understand. Essentially, I'm the 'Commissioner' of the league. We have about 95 community gardens in Milwaukee now, but one garden group may not know what another is doing, even though they may be doing something awesome nearby. My goal is to turn the 95 community gardens into nine or ten silos or teams by encouraging the gardeners to see and interact with others so they can collaborate on projects. I'm basically creating community garden conferences.

"There are a lot of people working in their neighborhoods who are passionate about what they are doing. Each of the 95 community gardens has its own rules and goals. Some groups work with primarily with girls, others are working to increase the merits of intergenerational gardens—young and older people working together. Some groups sell to farmers' markets, and others provide free food to anyone in the community who needs it. Each community garden is unique and I work with them to help them achieve their goals—whatever that looks like for them," he said.

In addition to helping residents turn vacant green spaces into community gardens or pocket parks, Urban Groundworks hosts workshops that provide technical assistance to residents about gardening and community organizing, and attends community meetings to help residents determine what they want to do within their space. The organization also hires young people and teaches them gardening skills that they, in turn, use to help residents.

"Instead of hiring contractors, the young people actually go into the neighborhoods with shovels, wheel barrels and whatever the neighborhood needs for planting days. They work with them to create systems to make gardening easier. We also have master gardeners come out to provide their expertise. Sometimes they go out to a neighborhood with preconceived notions, but after the experience, they become enlightened. In many ways, the program builds bridges of understanding among neighbors, youth and outsiders," Carter said.

In his role as 'commissioner' of the 'league,' Carter has to be a great listener and a skilled negotiator.

"Rather than tell residents what they want or need, we listen to them and let them define their space, based on their individual needs and desires. My

(continued on page 14)

Arleta Cobb Slaughter



Arleta Cobb Slaughter

Arleta Cobb Slaughter discovered her passion for working with young people quite by accident. Initially, she wanted to pursue a degree in electrical engineering, but opted to attend a college that was more affordable and did not offer that curriculum track.

"Since UW-Parkside didn't really offer a degree in that area and, since I had always excelled in communications, I chose that as my major. I was accepted to other colleges—in Alabama and Florida—but they were too costly. Since my mother told me I had to go to college, I decided to attend UW-Parkside and earned my bachelor's degree in communications. I had tried computer science as an option, but that didn't really fit my personality," she said.

Slaughter is a Milwaukee native and a first-generation college graduate. While her parents divorced when she was young, she enjoys a close relationship with both parents and her two siblings—brother, Joshmeal Cobb, and younger sister, Shawana Coleman.

Prior to enrolling in college, Slaughter attended Riverside University High School. Since receiving her bachelor's degree, she has also earned a certification in conflict resolution and analysis, and is pursuing her master's degree in student personnel administration from Concordia University. Simultaneously, she is attending Robins and Lloyd Career Training Institute to obtain her real estate license. She also recently started a wedding and event planning business.

Fresh out of college, Slaughter's first job was working as a teaching assistant at Learning Enterprise High School, and that ultimately translated to a career of working with youth in a variety of education scenarios.

"I found my first position to be very challenging. Prior to working at the Learning Enterprise Center the only teaching experience I had involved various leadership roles I held as an undergraduate student. My interaction with youth in pre-college programs helped prepare me to deal with students, but not at-risk students. This population was tough for someone just out of college, not to mention that some of the individuals in my classroom were almost the same age as me.

"I always tell my students to make sure they seek out internships and make those necessary connections with people who work in fields they are interested in, to help them determine their career path. It was tough for me, graduating from college with a degree in such a broad field of communications. The only job I could get was teaching," she said.

Eventually Slaughter was promoted to a lead teacher, but left Learning Enterprises to accept a fifth grade teaching position at Believer's in Christ Academy. From there she went to teach middle school at Bessie M. Gray Preparatory School for four years.

"I discovered that I had a natural gift for teaching. In addition, I took several professional development classes to enhance my skills because I wanted to learn to become more effective," said Slaughter.

After teaching at Gray's, Slaughter decided to transition to becoming a life skills educator so she accepted employment with Rosalie Manor Community and Family services.

"I worked there for four years, and loved it. Every time I had to seek other employment, it had to do with funding. That's the nature of the beast with non-profits—the uncertainty of funding," she said.

These days, Slaughter works as the Project Director with Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) teaching and providing teen pregnancy prevention to middle and high school students.

"I love empowering and making connections with young people. I enjoy hearing their voices, working with them and understanding what they want to see happen in our community. I also enjoy the flexibility that I have with this job. I am able to use my creative ability to implement programs and services that I believe in. My su-

(continued on page 14)

Tiffinie Cobb



Tiffinie Cobb

Wisconsin's Open Enrollment program exposed Tiffinie Cobb to a world she didn't realize existed, and helped put her on the path to a non-traditional career for a person of color. A native of Milwaukee, Cobb grew up in a single parent household after her parents divorced when she was six years old. Along with her five brothers, Cobb was raised on Milwaukee's north side and attended public schools until her parents enrolled her in the Open Enrollment program when she was in fourth grade. She attended elementary and middle school in Fox Point and went on to Nicolet High School in Glendale, where she graduated.

"Attending school with more affluent students exposed me to different lifestyles. For example, I became really involved in exercise and fitness. The neighborhoods were safe, so in middle and high school we would run miles on the streets during gym class. Then I would return to my home—in the poorer neighborhoods—and not understand why things were so different. We didn't have the same access. My friends in the central city didn't know about the things I knew, because they were never exposed to that lifestyle," said Cobb.

Once Cobb understood that college was an option for her, she pursued it and eventually became a first-generation college graduate—but not without some struggle.

"I attended UW-Milwaukee and, for the first couple of years, I really struggled. I didn't know about dropping classes when my grades weren't good and I didn't have the proper guidance. I didn't even know what I wanted to major in. It wasn't until I sat down with my advisor—Mr. McDonald—that things turned around. He was the first person to question me about my major.

"Since I valued fitness, my advisor's probing led me to pursue a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. As I honed in on my interests, I also became more interested in school, which was reflected in my grades. I started feeling better about school and my direction in life," she said.

In fact, after pulling her grades up, Cobb applied for and received the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship during her last year as an undergraduate.

"I knew about the scholarship. In fact, my father and Dr. Terence Thomas were best friends, so Mrs. Pattillo had invited us to the annual event. It wasn't until my last year of undergraduate work that I felt confident—academically—to apply. I'm extremely grateful for the assistance," she said.

While her grades got better, Cobb didn't believe she was ready to go into the workforce and she became somewhat fearful. At the same time, throughout her life, Cobb volunteered with community organizations.

"Volunteering was a constant in my life. When I was younger, my siblings and I accessed the meal program, so giving back was important to me. During my last semester of college, I took a class that focused on the sociological aspects of physical activity and its correlation to class, race and health disparities. That's when the light bulb went on for me. At that point, I knew I wanted to learn more about how to resolve those disparities," said Cobb.

That led Cobb to continue her education. She pursued a master's degree in public health from UW-Milwaukee's Zilber School of Public Health, where

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TYRA (MC FARLAND) EILAND

Tyra (McFarland) Eiland, former pageant queen, is beautiful inside and out. She competed in pageants for the Miss America organization and Miss USA. In 2014, as Miss Southern Wisconsin, Eiland (then McFarland) competed for Miss Wisconsin and had the honor of placing 2nd runner-up.



Tyra (McFarland) Eiland

The following year, she went on to compete for the title of Miss Wisconsin USA 2015 and placed 1st runner-up. She enjoyed her reign in both programs and during this time, she stumbled upon a love for community work.

“The pageantry world introduced me to many things and my life has come full circle now. My journey has been personal and spiritual, and my focus is working with young women to help them build confidence within themselves. Beauty is found in the inside, the outside is the temple that holds it together,” she said.

Eiland grew up as a ‘military brat.’ While she spent some time with her father in Chicago, she moved around a lot with her mother, who was also in the military. After high school graduation, she attended UW-Oshkosh for three years and then transferred to UW-Milwaukee, where she graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Media Studies.

Growing up, Eiland admits that there was no one she could call her ‘hero’. However, her ancestors play a big role in who she is today. Today, Eiland’s goal is to inspire her 16-year-old self.

“Some girls do not know what they can do because they haven’t dreamed. Most lay up in silence, hoping someone rescues them from their pain. I never dreamed.

“Both of my grandmothers were my everything. Each filled me with a lot of wisdom. Grandma Lela schooled me on style. My other grandmother, Mon, taught me how to be a good person and love God. I love working with teen girls today; many of whom are out there looking for ‘heroes’ in all the wrong places.

“I never had that ‘go-to’ person in my life after losing my grandmothers at a young age, but whenever I was at my lowest, I now know, God had me. I’m not sure if young women understand the power that they have in this world. My goal is to plant the power seed and watch it grow,” she said.

Eiland acknowledges that keeping a smile on her face was not always easy. “The world was beating me up spiritually, mentally and physically. I hit rock bottom and I needed to learn how to swim all over again. I remember the day I decided to take control of my life again. I found myself in a verbally abusive relationship when I was in college and it was starting to become physically abusive.

“Neither of us was happy but neither of us wanted to leave. We were scared, comfortable with the drama, dependent on each other and young. So we kept breaking one another and calling it love. I was running out of life

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Nepherterra Estrada-Best

Nepherterra Estrada Best’s life has been full of twists, turns—and cartwheels—but she treasures every experience and understands that everything happens for a reason.

At the age of about eight years old, Estrada-Best got involved with gymnastics and loved it so much that she dreamt of becoming an Olympic competitor. She competed competitively for seven years and, recently, when she was recognized by Charlotte Business Journal’s 40 Under 40, she demonstrated that she still ‘has it’ during the ‘hidden talents’ segment, where she did a cartwheel across the stage, before accepting her award.

“Gymnastics was a big part of my life, I continued to compete through high school and, as an adult, I even coached gymnastics at Schroeder YMCA. The lessons you learn being part of a competitive team are invaluable and applicable later in life. At some point, I would love to get back to coaching,” she said.

Another of life’s twists occurred in Estrada-Best’s life when it came time to attend high school. While she wanted to attend John Marshall along with her friends, the Chapter 220 program came into fruition about that time, so her parents decided that she should attend Homestead High School in Mequon.

“Of course, I was pretty upset with my parents. In hindsight, it was a great opportunity for me, but I definitely didn’t appreciate it at the time. Out of some 1,200 students, there were only about 100 African Americans in the school. I received a great education and met some lifelong friends there, and I’m still in touch with some of the teachers there. Now that I’m older, I’m much more appreciative of the experience,” said Estrada-Best.

While in high school, two of Estrada-Best’s friends who were older came back to visit Homestead High and brought brochures from the college they were attending—Johnson C. Smith University. That piqued Estrada-Best’s interest and, since she had attended predominately Caucasian schools from sixth through 12th grade, she was excited about the possibility of attending a historically Black college or university.

“Johnson C. Smith was not even on my radar...I had never even heard of it. I had applied to Howard, Grambling, Alabama State and UW-Whitewater. My dad had relatives in North Carolina, so he was somewhat familiar with Johnson C. Smith when I mentioned it to him. My parents liked the idea of me being close to family and I immediately fell in love with the school when I went for a tour. My time there was the best four years of my life—hands down! I blossomed there, made lifelong friends, and I’m still in touch with some of my professors. Johnson C. Smith is a small private, school and it was the right choice for me. I needed to be in a smaller environment, where I was able to get to know my professors and they held me accountable,” said Estrada-Best.

After graduating from Johnson C. Smith, Estrada-Best moved back to Milwaukee for several years. These days, however, she splits her time between



Nepherterra Estrada Best

(continued on page 15)

Lauren (Bridgeman) Fields-Bowers

Lauren Bridgeman could very well be a poster child for the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship award recipients. She exemplifies the quality and caliber of students that the scholarship seeks and supports.

“I received the Dr. Terence N. Thomas scholarship for six consecutive years, and I am grateful to the Milwaukee Community Journal and the Patillos for their continued support and encouragement.

“They were a blessing in my life during my undergraduate and graduate schooling. The scholarship helped me pay for books, room and board, and I knew I could count on them to keep their word, as long as I maintained my grade point average. They continued to be faithful, even when I was in graduate school—not just in helping me—but so many others who received scholarships, year after year. They are truly making a positive impact in Milwaukee by affording young people the opportunity to attend colleges and improve their lives,” said Bridgeman.

Bridgeman has worked hard to show herself deserving of the scholarship. Her parents have also been great cheerleaders for her success. As she matriculated through Brown Deer’s public school system, Bridgeman’s parents helped instill a faith in her that not only served her well in school, but continues to be the foundation that drives her passion for community service.

Determined that their children would not have ‘idle minds,’ throughout high school, Bridgeman and her younger brother, Darryl, were involved in a myriad of activities—from ballet to violin, soccer and basketball. She actively participated in the Spanish and diversity clubs, Top Teens of America, and a Bible Study group at school. She was also involved at her church—Ec New Testament Church of Milwaukee—where she worked part of the summer and presented announcements on Sundays.

“My mother was a Milwaukee Public School teacher, so both my parents instilled the importance of education in us, early on. They also taught me the importance of having God in my life and keeping Him first, no matter what,” she said.

Her desire to attend a historically black college led her to visit Howard University and Hampton University, and she opted to attend Hampton University in Hampton, VA, where she graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism. While attending Hampton, she was involved in the campus chapter of the St. National Association of Broadcast Journalism and served as president of Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society, served on the student recruitment team and was a peer counselor. She went on to earn her Master’s degree in Communications from Illinois State University.

“Communication has always been my strength—both verbal and written, so it was a natural fit for me. At one time I thought I wanted to become a news reporter; I even interned at Fox 6 News and an NBC affiliate in Portsmouth, VA, but I changed my mind. You have to be very aggressive and some of the stories are so disheartening, so I decided to pursue a career in corporate communications,” said Bridgeman.

Bridgeman is not part of the ‘brain drain.’ After earning her degrees she did something that’s becoming increasingly non-traditional—she returned to



Lauren Fields-Bowers

(continued on page 15)



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Ashley Hines Lyah Holmes Jennifer L. Johnson

As a child, Ashley Hines had a strong interest in health and wellness. Over the years, this interest grew and, today, Ashley is making a positive impact in the community and the healthcare field.



Ashley Hines

She is the Diversity and Inclusion Manager at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and the first full-time employee hired to help establish MCW's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

"I'm absolutely not doing what I thought I'd be doing in my career. My original plan was to become a physician. I was driven by my interest in science and clinical medicine.

At that time, I did not understand the full range of opportunities in healthcare and I have since discovered that I have strengths in administration and organizational development. The chance to impact the culture of healthcare is deeply meaningful for me," said Hines.

A Milwaukee native, Hines attended school in Brown Deer—from elementary to high school—and went on to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies-Child Development.

"My undergraduate studies afforded me the unique opportunity to be exposed to several disciplines such as psychology, physics, biblical studies, sociology and biology.

"I have a very eclectic academic background that has provided me a broad view of the world and how to communicate with many different people. While in college, I also studied abroad in Uganda, Africa for a month. This experience undeniably changed my life. I felt a different connection to the world and my place in it," she said.

Also during college, Hines worked as an intern at Marquette University's Educational Opportunity Program's (EOP) Upward Bound Program. She coordinated and facilitated the program's five-week, summer medical practicum for Milwaukee high school students.

"She was also a community health intern at the Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Pediatrics Center for the Advancement of Underserved Children (CAUC) where she conducted community-based research. After college, Hines accepted a position with the Office of Global Health at MCW. In addition, she was the Affiliate Liaison and Coordinator for the National Black Child Development Institute-Milwaukee and directed the completion of the statewide report, "Being Black Is Not a Risk Factor: Statistics and Strengths-Based Solutions in the State of Wisconsin."

Hines credits much of her success to the love, support and faith of her family.

She is married to Brandon L. Hines, an Executive Pastor at Christian Faith Fellowship Church, and they have one son, Brandon L. Hines II. Family is incredibly important to Hines as evidenced by the fact that the entire, extended family gets together once a month for a day of family fun and fellowship.

"My parents set a great example for me and my siblings—even to this day. They were always people of integrity, commitment and honor, and I appreciate them for modeling what it means to be good humans, the importance of treating others with respect, and showing my siblings and me how faith, hard work, kindness and dedication pay off," she said.

Hines said that among other individuals who have influenced and supported her are Dr. Earnestine Willis, MD, MPH, Kellner Professor of Pediatrics at

(continued on page 15)

Dr. Lyah Holmes describes herself as "homegrown"; she is a Milwaukee native who has never left Milwaukee. She admits that, while she travels a lot, all her schooling and employment has occurred in the city.



Lyah Holmes

Holmes graduated from the highly acclaimed Rufus King High School's International Baccalaureate Program, having already earned college credits.

She went on to attend Cardinal Stritch University where she majored in biology, with a minor in chemistry, and a focus on pre-medicine. During this time, she also studied abroad in Costa Rica, learning about sustainable development and organic farming.

She also has a master's degree and is the first person in her family to earn a doctoral degree. She currently has a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from Marquette University and has expressed an interest in pursuing a PhD in Epidemiology.

"It was always important to me to excel academically, but it wasn't until my dad—who is an instructor at MATC—suggested that I speak with a counselor about the institution's nursing program that I solidified my career choice.

The counselor gave me some ideas about employment opportunities that I could pursue while holding degrees in both biology and nursing. Meeting with the counselor really helped set me on the path to my current career," said Holmes.

Holmes is one of just a handful of Black nurse practitioners in the Metro-Milwaukee Area. For the past two years she has honed her skills in this field at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSI). Most recently, she utilized her clinical skills in Haiti where she assisted in providing health assessments to Haitian nursing students.

"There are perhaps a handful of Black nurse practitioners in Milwaukee. We are sprinkled about throughout the city.

"When I graduated with my master's degree in nursing from Marquette School of Nursing, I was the only African American graduating

from the program at the time. Overall, there are few Black nurse practitioners in comparison to the non-African American numbers.

"Working as a nurse practitioner is very rewarding. I am able to help individuals either maintain their path or get back on the path to being healthy—whatever that looks like for them.

"It also can be overwhelming and stressful because you deal with several complex issues. Many of my patients come in with not only health issues, but they are struggling with psychological and socioeconomic issues that complicate matters," she said.

Holmes is the first person in her family to earn a doctoral degree. She credits her father and her "squad" of strong women in her life for helping her achieve the academic goals that she set for herself.

"The women in my family—my mother, aunt and grandmother—are all driven and independent women who really encouraged me to pursue my dreams and excel academically.

"In fact, my aunt was my second grade teacher and I credit her with putting me on the trajectory to become a good student.

"I also have to acknowledge my dad who helped push me into a career path that I hadn't considered before," she said.

These days Holmes is realizing her dreams of giving back to the community by working at MHSI.

"I grew up near the MHSI clinic located on King Drive and it's always been my goal to give back and help eliminate some of the health disparities in our community.

"I'm delighted to be able to do

(continued on page 15)

Her middle name could be 'perseverance' because throughout her life, Jennifer Johnson has mustered up the courage and determination to do just that.



Jennifer L. Johnson

Not only has she persevered, but she is winning in the game of life because she has always refused to give up and not allow her circumstances to overcome her reality or deter her from her goals.

"I had an ideal upbringing with my two younger brothers until my parents divorced when I was 12 years old. Despite the divorce, both my parents were very hands-on in my life and immensely supportive. This was most evident whenever I became ill due to Sickle Cell Disease (she was diagnosed with the disease at the age of six months).

They didn't allow the Sickle Cell to become an excuse for mediocrity and neither did I—it applied to all facets of life including education. By the time I started high school, I was academically prepared, but I knew the school wasn't a good fit for me because I recognized as a freshman that the teachers were 'teaching' incorrect information," said Johnson.

Johnson admits that it was a horrible experience but thankfully her parents enrolled her in Messmer High School, where she graduated in 2001.

Johnson participated in a couple sports but excelled in academics in high school. She was a cheerleader and ran track. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and on the honor roll throughout high school.

"I attended Marian College (now Marian University), in Fond du Lac, WI. I was preparing to attend the University of Dayton but at the last minute Marian offered more scholarship money, so my mother encouraged me to go there instead."

"My college experience wasn't the typical college experience people talk about. Fond du Lac was a small town, and there were barely any black people attending school there. I didn't have many friends and didn't participate in the party scene. I fell in love with psychology following a course I'd taken in high school. I made that my major and graduated from Marian with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2005," she said.

After graduating, Johnson returned to Milwaukee and worked for the family's business, South Star, Inc. She then worked for an insurance and bonding agency, but discovered that she didn't have the personality for it. "I obtained my insurance license but only had one client, which was an old friend from high school and college," she laughed.

When she was younger, Johnson had toyed with the idea of becoming an attorney, and feeling unfulfilled in her career while working at the insurance and bonding agency, she decided to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). After taking the test and applying to ten schools, she was only accepted into one—a law school that was unaccredited.

"I knew settling with the unaccredited school would have been a terrible idea so I took the LSAT again, but this time I was determined to be better prepared. I took an LSAT preparation class and I worked harder on my personal statement.

"The second time around, my LSAT score was better and I only applied to law schools in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. I was accepted into four or five of the ten schools I applied to, and decided to attend Indiana University (Robert H. McKinney School of Law)," she said.

Law school was difficult and stressful for Johnson, but with the encouragement of her support system, she persevered.

"Law school was the worst. I did not enjoy it. It was humbling. I went from getting good grades with little effort, to staying up until the wee hours

(continued on page 17)



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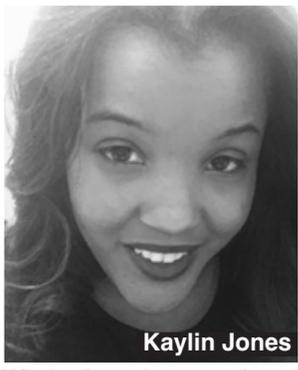

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Kaylin Jones Alderwoman Chantia Lewis

Kaylin Jones grew up in the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center—literally! She started attending the Center as a visitor, eventually became a volunteer in their summer program, was hired as a teen worker, and now—after almost 14 years—remains there as a youth and teen program coordinator.



Kaylin Jones

“I was a rebellious youth and after I got kicked out of school in the eighth grade, my mother sent me to live with my grandparents for a while. When I returned to Milwaukee, I attended a basketball game at Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (SSNC), then I started accompanying my brother there, and eventually became a volunteer. The Center really helped me become who I am today,” said Jones.

Jones is originally from Decatur, IL. She moved to Milwaukee with her mother when she was only nine years old because of her mother’s job. She acknowledges that she was raised in church and that her mother’s family had strong Christian values.

As a youth, Jones struggled with the fact that she was bi-racial and that her father was not in her life.

“I’m Caucasian and Black and, typically, I find that people expect for you to identify as Black, when you are bi-racial. I was never comfortable ‘choosing’ to identify as Black or White because I really didn’t have a strong relationship with my father’s side of the family. I knew my mother and grandparents, and I identified more with them because that’s who pretty much raised me. I struggled to identify with both sides of my family because at family dinners, I was the only person that looked like me. Even though my grandparents were loving and kind people who accepted me, I struggled with a sense of belonging. I felt like an outcast on both sides of my family.

“When I returned to Milwaukee to live with my mother, my younger brother was involved with a basketball program there, and because I took responsibility for him, I would accompany him to and from the Center. Silver Spring Neighborhood Center turned my life around. For the first time in my life, I found a ‘safe’ place where I was accepted. There was no conflict. I fit in. The Center became my family. They welcomed me and got to know me, and it had nothing to do with race. That was a different environment for me,” said Jones.

(continued on page 17)

She may only be a in her first term as an Alderwoman, but Chantia Lewis is already making a positive mark in District 9.



Ald. Chantia Lewis

She is passionate, committed and unwavering in her quest to serve her constituents, as she identifies solutions to problems to help better Milwaukee.

“We’ve only been at it for eight or nine months, but I can already see the progress.

“We have a huge partnership targeting two areas of my district that have not had resources prior to now. We are bringing training dollars into this area, along with mentorship and job training for the young people.

“There’s redevelopment occurring on Brown Deer Road, spearheaded by the City of Milwaukee in partnership with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Urban Planning and Design. These are exciting times for us,” said Ald. Lewis.

As with most of us, Ald. Lewis has had her share of ups and downs in life, and she is quick to credit her mother for helping her become the person she is now.

“My mother, Deborah Tatum (Campbell), was an activist in this community. She marched with Father Groppi. She instilled her spirit of activism in me and pushed me, even when I didn’t want to be pushed. She told me early on that I was supposed to be the voice for those who didn’t have one. I would not be where I am today without her guidance.

“I lived a fairly sheltered childhood, so after graduating from Bayview High School, my mother encouraged me to join the military, where I served for three years. At the time, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and she feared that she had not sufficiently prepared me to take care of myself. My mother sent me away while she was sick so I could grow up and learn to handle life,” said Ald. Lewis.

Thankfully, Ald. Lewis’ mom has been in remission for quite some time, and her push for her daughter to ‘grow up’ has paid off in a big way. Not only did Ald. Lewis attend MATC and Mt. Mary for short stints, ultimately

(continued on page 18)

Sean Lowe

Sean Lowe is a man with a vision; he sees what he wants, and goes after it. An honor student throughout his years at John Marshall High School, one of Lowe’s assets is his determination and self-motivation. Case in point, when he wanted to learn to play chess, he taught himself!



Sean Lowe

“My mother was a homemaker and my father was a truck driver. I’m the first person on both sides of my family to graduate from college. College was a personal goal that I set for myself,” said Lowe.

Without any prompting or prodding about his academics, Lowe maintained his honor roll status and went on to achieve his goal of earning a college degree. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, with a major in Marketing.

“College was something I wanted to do, so I made it happen. I wasn’t involved in any extracurricular activities during college because I had to work. I was employed at Home Depot and took out student loans to pay for my college education,” he said.

A year after graduating from UW-Milwaukee, Lowe started working at Northwestern Mutual and he’s now been at that company for 13 years. He started out as a financial representative. On the rise, Lowe now works out of the corporate office on the management team of the New Business Department. In this capacity, he reviews suitability on deferred and income annuity applications, leads projects and serves as a subject matter expert on annuities. He is also responsible for auditing the non-management staff and financial representatives of Northwestern Mutual’s field force.

While Lowe is proud of his achievements at Northwestern Mutual, he is also passionate about community service—particularly his service to the Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals (MULYP), where he has served as President for the past three years.

“I’m able to counterbalance my analytical professional side with my civic and social involvement. I enjoy working in and serving the community,” he said.

Lowe started volunteering with MULYP in 2005 and quickly became the membership chair. He went on to become vice president before being elected

(continued on page 18)

Krystle C.M. Perry

Early on, Krystle Perry discovered that she had a gift for advocacy. As a teen attending Messmer Catholic Schools, she was involved in peer education and health education, helping others cope with and understand issues.



Krystle C.M. Perry

“Advocating on behalf of my peers provided me with an outlet to help others, while not succumbing to the pressures of adolescent.

“I was always comfortable with my body and talking about health issues, so when friends and peers had concerns, I would readily get on the telephone and speak with nurses on their behalf,” she said.

Perry was also active in school—playing volleyball, managing the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams and participating on her school’s debate team. What many didn’t know is that during her teens, she struggled with issues of anxiety.

“Advocating for and helping others was also self-help for me. It made sense to my parents and me for me to become educated about mental health issues. I was able to learn from teaching. Many teens struggle with it, but I was fortunate because I found a way to cope with my issues. I learned to cope with my personal trials, which helped me realize that I wanted to be a part of the solution,” she said.

Perry shared that during high school, two teens who attended her school committed suicide. She also said that some friends struggled with sexuality and being manipulated or taken advantage of by the opposite sex.

“Untreated mental health is real and when it goes untreated, people get mislabeled, persecuted, mistreated, misdiagnosed and possibly fail to prosper as a result.

“The turning point for me in terms of speaking out about it was when two of my friends committed suicide in high school. I can’t help but think about where my friends would be today, had they addressed their possible need for

(continued on page 18)

Alderman Khalif Rainey

Ald. Khalif Rainey, a native son of Milwaukee, with roots deep in the heart of the city, was born to Dyanne and Anthony Rainey (a proud UAW member).



Ald. Khalif Rainey

Raised in one of the country’s poorest zip codes—53206—Rainey has risen above adversity to become a beacon of hope in Milwaukee, addressing many of the social ills the community and this nation seek to remedy every day.

Rainey attended Milwaukee Public Schools and graduated from Riverside University High School. As a senior in high school, he received a scholarship from philanthropist John “Jack” Rosenberg to attend college—an opportunity if not received, would have prevented Rainey from attending college. The only stipulation of the scholarship was that Rainey give back to underserved populations within Milwaukee.

Being a man of his word, Rainey returned to Milwaukee after earning a Bachelor’s Degree from the Southern University Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs to begin his career of service. Upon returning to Milwaukee, he discovered that a former high school teacher had become an alderman; that teacher was current Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton.

With the help of his former teacher, he became an intern in then-Alderman Hamilton’s office. He later, married his high school sweetheart, Mandra, and with her support, applied his education and training to become the Constituent Liaison in the Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore.

For nearly a decade Ald. Rainey addressed quality of life issues concerning housing, senior care, transportation, economic development, veterans, environment, taxes, energy and youth. He witnessed firsthand the sacrifices that go into servant leadership.

Seeing the need for leadership within his community, in 2013 he decided to offer himself as a candidate for county supervisor of Milwaukee

(continued on page 18)

LaToya Sykes

The first indication you get about LaToya Sykes’ passion for her work at Our Next Generation (ONG) is that she refers to the youth that come there as “my babies.”



LaToya Sykes

Indeed, they ARE her babies as she encourages, empowers and prepares them for the future through the innovative resources and services offered through the nonprofit organization.

Much of Sykes’ passion hails from her firsthand experience of living in similar environments as many of the youth who come to the center.

“Growing up, we were poor. My mother was a single parent who received public assistance to take care of my siblings and me. We moved to Milwaukee when I was in the sixth grade.

After graduating from Washington High School, I went into the military. I made the choice to do that because I didn’t realize that I had other choices. I had two uncles who, after graduating from high school, went into the military and afterwards they did two things that were important to me: they bought homes and got what I considered to be ‘real’ jobs. In other words, they earned a living without having to rely on public assistance. From my frame of reference, going into the military was the only way to become successful,” said Sykes.

After her stint in the military, Sykes returned to Milwaukee to help take care of her mother who was ill and her two younger siblings. Through a temporary job placement agency, she found employment at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC).

“I loved the experience. I had opportunities to connect with the community, and soon discovered other choices and opportunities that were available to me. I learned that with an education your life can be drastically different and I fell in love with that notion,” said Sykes.

After completing an Associate’s degree at MATC, she went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Communication from Concordia University and a Master of Science in Human Services with a Concentration in Community Counseling Psychology from Springfield College.

For a while, Sykes was stricken by an illness that left her homebound and re-habbing for three years.

“During that time, I started rethinking my life and refocusing. I came to understand and embrace the notion that my path, passion and, ultimately, my success, would come from helping others. Once I understood that I had options, my life really changed and I knew I wanted to be in a position to help the next generation realize that as well.

(continued on page 18)

Jonathan Spence

From New York’s prestigious Fashion Week to Afropunk Festival, Jonathan Clarence Parrish Spence is living and loving his life like it’s golden. The Milwaukee native, who now calls Brooklyn, NY home, is a poet, real estate agent and yoga teacher.



Jonathan Spence

His career diversification reflects his personality. He is uniquely unique in every aspect of his life and unapologetic about it.

Spence discovered his love for the arts and all things creative, while attending Wauwatosa West High School where he participated on the debate team, was in the orchestra (he plays the violin), and competed on the tennis and swimming teams.

He also dabbled in poetry and, during his senior year, he won a national award in poetry. The youngest of three siblings, Spence credits at least some of his love of poetry to his mother, prominent Milwaukee attorney Sheila Parrish Spence, who is an award-winning, published poet in her own right.

Spence also admits that his love of music helped him as he prepared for his various competitions. Ultimately, the music translated into him writing more poetry.

After high school, Spence studied briefly at Bradley University, Morehouse College and received his degree from St. John’s University, where he majored in Marketing. He was employed as a marketing and graphic design intern at Bridge Street Development Corporation in New York, before starting a career in New York’s lucrative real estate market.

These days Spence enjoys selling real estate ‘to help pay the bills,’ but he continues to nourish his creative side,

(continued on page 19)

Aronica V. Williams, MD

While many millennials and Gen X’ers are flocking to places like Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr. Aronica Williams lived in “The Queen City” for seven years before returning to Milwaukee to share her gifts and talents with the city she calls home.



Aronica V. Williams, MD

A native of Milwaukee, Williams is a product of Milwaukee Public Schools. She graduated from top-rated Rufus King International High School and went on to attend Loyola University in New Orleans on music and academic scholarships. Ultimately, she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music; but since she wanted to become a physician, she simultaneously completed the necessary science coursework to attend medical school.

“I play the violin and piano, and I love music! However, I knew that my career goal was to become a physician, therefore, I’m grateful that I was able to take advantage of both scholarships that were provided to me and complete both courses of study,” said Williams.

Dr. Williams attended medical school at the University of Illinois—Chicago and then completed a Family Medicine residency at Columbia St. Mary’s Family Medicine Residency Program in Milwaukee. She is a board-certified family physician, and currently serves as the Chief Medical Officer at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSD). MHSD provides accessible, quality, primary and related health care services to Milwaukee residents, with the continuing emphasis on medically underserved families and individuals.

Dr. Williams’ interest in medicine evolved when she participated in UW-Milwaukee’s Health Careers Bridge Program that focused on improving the recruitment, retention, and graduation of minority students in health careers.

“Dr. Sandra Underwood, who developed the program, continues to be a great mentor to me. I was involved in the program throughout high school and served as a mentor for program participants during college. Many of the participants now work in healthcare—from pediatric to geriatric care, physical therapists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians. The program strengthened my desire to pursue a career in health care and helped prepare me for it.”

(continued on page 19)

Bianca Williams

Bianca Williams is living proof that you can escape your environment and that you don't have to be a victim of your circumstances. Her testimony is raw and honest, but more importantly, it resonates with those she serves with and for which she cares.

Her story didn't come from the tomes of academia, but the school of hard knocks and, thankfully, though

the end has been written yet, we see her light shining brightly and we have hope that the ending will be happy and the heroine will be victorious.

Williams grew up on Milwaukee's northside, watching her parents go to work every day and still struggling to make ends meet and take care of her siblings and her.

"I knew that I didn't want the life



Bianca Williams

that I was exposed to for myself. I wanted something different, so becoming an entrepreneur was important to me. After high school, I didn't want to go right to college, so I took a different route," said Williams.

After graduating from Thomas Edison High School, Williams worked as a dancer for eight years. Along the way, she also became the parent of four children.

"As a child, I used to run errands for my grandmother. She would write notes with information about what she wanted and I would go to the store for her and get the items on the list. I started doing this for other older and disabled adults as well. Ultimately, I worked in the caregiver field for about four years. It made me feel good to show them that someone cared about and for them.

"Eventually, I started renting rooms out to people who couldn't afford housing or apartments. It felt good being in business for myself rather than going to a job, and that

could have been me. Every day I remember where I came from and I'm just thankful to God for sparing me," said Williams.

Two years ago, at the age of 23, Williams ran for alderman, even though she lost, she counts it among one of the best experiences in her life.

"I didn't have a lot of support, but it helped to get my name out there. I think it was the right decision for me (continued on page19)

Bregetta Wilson

We've all heard of Darwin's Theory of 'survival of the fittest.' Bregetta Wilson is proof positive that she is not only fit, but despite having to overcome many obstacles in her life, she has managed to not only survive, but thrive.

From the age of 13-18, Wilson was in foster care, while her mother struggled with drug addiction. She also became a teen mom at the age of 17. Wilson became a foster care and child advocate—a platform that has taken her all over the country (and world), advocating for children in foster care and those aging out of the system.

As a 22-year old single mother, Wilson was selected as one of ten young people nationwide to serve a three-month internship to become a foster care facilitator. She traveled across the country speaking and advocating on behalf of issues related to the foster care system. She was

also selected by then-Governor James Doyle, to serve on the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council.

"It's been an honor to take advantage of the many opportunities that have been afforded to me. I want to give back to the people that I know, while supporting people through leadership and training.

"I cherish being a role model to others and helping people understand that you don't have to be a victim of your circumstances," said Wilson.

After aging out of foster care, Wilson attended Cardinal Stritch College and received a bachelor's degree in human services.

Currently, she attends Alverno College where she is pursuing her master's degree in community psychology. She also is home schooling the two youngest of her three children Asyria 15, Raashida 8, and Shyaam, 7). The oldest attends Gold



Bregetta Wilson

Meir High School.

Wilson credits her role model, Chris Lense, for much of her academic success.

"Chris was my first independent living worker when I aged out of foster care. She convinced me that I could go to college; something I never even thought about as an option.

She really inspired me to take advantage of opportunities that I didn't even know were available to me. My sister, Michelle, has also been a great help to me, especially because I was a teen mom attending high school. She paid for my daughter's day care, so I could continue my education—that was huge for me," said Wilson

A certified community health worker, Wilson previously worked

for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin as a Community Health Navigator, going door-to-door in the Metcalfe Park Community providing individuals with resources about medical care, housing, education and other information.

She now provides support to individuals who suffer from development disabilities, are mentally ill or the frail elderly, through Magellan Healthcare.

"I'm an optimist. I want to make an impact on these individuals and provide them with treatment—using holistic methods—coupled with medication and nontraditional methods such as aromatherapy," said Wilson.

Wilson also serves as a women's (continued on page 19)

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Jamila Benson

(continued from page 8)

high school, I was working on my own—doing graphic design for corporate clients,” said Benson.

Things changed drastically for Benson after high school graduation.

“At 18 years old, I got pregnant. Even after I got pregnant, I was determined to beat the odds. I never applied for public assistance; I just worked longer and harder—at the WBHS/M, the Milwaukee Community Journal and the Larson Company. I also enrolled in Alverno

College full-time. I was able to juggle a lot. I would bring my baby to work at the Community Journal and sometimes to school with me. It was difficult, but it made me grow up quickly because I realized I was responsible for my son.

“I became a different person. When I was younger, I didn’t take on responsibility as much as I should have. Having a child taught me a lot about my parents as well. Before becoming a parent, I fought my parents about things, but as I got older, I re-

alized that they were building a legacy for my sister and me. I could easily have gone astray, but I knew I had to be responsible for my younger sister and I had to be a good kid because my parents didn’t need the trouble of me being bad. After becoming a parent, I needed the same thing from my son. I needed him to be a good kid and he was. He is 20 now and he still is a good person,” said Benson.

“I started working way too much. I majored in communications at Alverno, with a minor in art. I learned a lot in terms of communications, public speaking, setting criteria and problem solving, but not so much about graphic design. In fact, after proving my skill level with my graphic design instructor about, I often ended up helping teach the class,” she laughed.

It was during this time that Benson also became heavily involved in the community.

“My graphic design work opened many doors for me and avenues I’ve been able to pursue at the museum. I got involved with the Urban Underground Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals, and George Karl’s Foundation Friends of Hoop, from doing a lot of work with the Milwaukee Bucks. I worked with

Urban Underground and Friends of Hoop for a number of years, coordinating basketball camps and doing historical tours, identifying sponsors, having speakers come in and talk to youth about education and other career options in sports such as sports management and physical therapy,” she said.

Eventually, Benson had to move away from her heavy community involvement to focus more on her booming graphic design business and the museum.

“WBHS/M has been a connector for me. I began to like working at the museum more and more and doing things other than graphic design. I started telling stories, doing documentary work and video editing.

“I did a couple of interviews and people asked me to do more. That’s where the value of the museum lies—being able to move history forward and continuing to document and archive history.

“Working with my dad is tough some days, but the work that I’m doing is completely fulfilling,” Benson laughed.

“Mrs. Patricia Patillo (Benson’s godmother) wanted my dad to produce a video for the newspaper’s 40th anniversary and my dad told me to do it. I did and, after that, for the

first time I could really see myself doing more projects like that for the long term. I had to relearn some things I initially learned in school. The work that I’m doing at the WBHS/M these days is completely different than what I used to do. I continue to do some graphic design, but only if it’s challenging. I don’t have time to do small or unfulfilling projects anymore. If projects don’t grow me, they don’t make sense for me to do,” she said.

Benson now has a three-year-old daughter who accompanies her to work.

“She has her own desk, computer and phone. She works right alongside me. I’m trying to teach my children the business—whether it’s graphic design, video editing or creating an exhibit for the museum. I use all the skills that I’ve acquired over the years to help move the museum forward,” she said.

Benson is not without reputable mentors, whom she credits for supporting and encouraging her along the way; among them, she includes Reuben Harpole, Sherry Hill and Patricia Patillo.

“Reuben amazes me with his encouraging words. Every week he used to come by to bring papers and artifacts he had collected. He’s been

very consistent and I appreciate that. Sherry probably doesn’t know that I look up to her in the manner that I do, but I appreciate her support and guidance.

“And, I can’t say enough about my godmother. She continues to push, challenge and encourage me. Sherry gave me my first Cabbage Patch doll. She taught me about womanhood, and when I’m wrong, she lets me know. I’ve always watched and admired her as a woman, a business person and a leader.

“I never thought I would follow in my parents’ footsteps, but I understand now that a lot of my artistic ability comes from my mother. I have a great appreciation and love for what my father has created. I want to continue that and expand upon it. I want the WBHS/M to become a first-class research facility and museum.

“I want people to come here to get historical information and learn about Black history. I want to tell our stories and continue the legacy. But I also want to be a good mother first and foremost. I want to make sure that my children know they are important, but I also want them to know that the work that we do here at the museum is also important,” said Benson.

Deshea Agee

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in Commercial Real Estate (ACRE) Program to Marquette University in 2004. I was in the first ACRE class, along with business leaders Donsia Stronghill, Vincent Lyles, and James Phelps. Another ACRE graduate I give credit to my success is Alderwoman Milele Coggs,” said Agee.

After completing the extensive ACRE training, Agee received an internship with Pabst Farms Development, a 1,500-acre master plan community in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He stayed in that position for a year learning the real estate industry, leasing, tax increment financing, infrastructure development and land sales. In 2007 he was offered a job with the City of Milwaukee as an economic development specialist, where he served as the Bronzeville Project Manager for seven years.

“This was before Bronzeville was as ‘hot’ as it is now. I learned a lot while helping to reimagine the 21st Century Bronzeville by attending meetings with residents and engaging in marketing the land itself. Using tax incremental funding, we did streetscaping, partially funded the former Inner City Arts Council property renovation, and funded a study of the former Garfield Avenue School that Melissa Goins (ACRE graduate) is currently redeveloping. In later years, I became the ‘commercial property grants guy’, working with projects such as the Midtown commercial district,” he said.

These days Agee has amassed more than 13 years of experience in community development, the past nine of which were at Milwaukee’s Department of City Development. He also served as a liaison to many of the city’s business improvement districts and helped manage the city’s commercial revitalization programs.

Last year, Agee was named Executive Director of the Historic King Drive BID. In this position, he is responsible for recruiting and retaining businesses, managing the BID’s finances and programs, developing resources and interfacing with members of the community. Agee also works to foster real estate developments and promote the amenities of the Historic King Drive community. His unique background enables him to do this successfully.

“In addition to being a graduate of the ACRE program, my experience in radio and marketing have given me a unique vantage point for options that can help businesses succeed in the Historic King Drive BID. Here I am able to look at entrepreneurs’ business plans and provide them with feedback. I provide entrepreneurs with marketing insight to help create a roadmap to assist them once their businesses open. I draw from my knowledge of social media, advertising, and marketing to help them understand the metrics they need to become familiar with, on a weekly and daily basis. At the City level I was careful of the information and suggestions I provided. At the BID level, I can provide these value-added services. Being a real estate broker, I am also able to help property owners and business owners find middle ground in lease negotiations, so it becomes a win-win for everyone,” said Agee.

In addition to his work as executive director of the King Drive BID, Agee also finds time to focus on his faith and lend his talents to his church, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He serves as a trustee, is the current president of the church’s Board of Directors, and serves on boards of property ownership entities of the church.

Agee is excited about future renovation projects that the community will be hearing about soon, one of which may be the old Gimbels-Shuster property, located in Halyard Park.

“Currently we’re only a two-person office. The associate director, Ray Hill, and I are working on ways to create excitement in the area, and to recruit and retain businesses in the King Drive BID. It is great having a Board of Directors at the BID who have different experiences and insights to share. I am also glad to have been part of the early conversations to secure Pete’s Fruit Market to the area, and most recently assisted with attracting Signature Sweets and Rockford Blue Water Grill, to name a few,” said Agee.

While Agee works tirelessly in the community, he credits his family, many of his colleagues at the City of Milwaukee, and his grandfather, Willie Wade, Sr., for always being there to encourage and support him.

“I love my city. I’m a product of Milwaukee’s 53206 zip code. I was born here, and that’s where I came from. There are assets and people who really care, many have been there for me at different stages of my life. I want to be one of those people that pays it forward. Whether it’s helping an entrepreneur, a kid just getting started, or whomever. I want to be that person who inspires others, reaches others and helps them. I hope people see me as that type of person. Let my fruits be seen right here on King Drive and in my neighborhood,” he said.

Antoine Carter

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role is to identify resources and funding within their neighborhood so they don’t have to pay for seedlings or, if they do pay, it’s at a discounted rate. Sometimes neighbors want to use a green space for yoga or zumba, and other times they want gardens. If they want zumba classes, we try to identify instructors in their neighborhood that are willing to provide them. We also work with the community to ensure that one person doesn’t end up doing all the work. We work hard to help them customize the land,” he said.

Carter said that the benefits of replacing vacant land in neighborhoods are numerous.

“It takes a village to raise a child and it’s going to take a village to change the community. We are just one piece of the puzzle working toward that, but there are so many other benefits—nutritional, social (getting people out of their homes, meeting and becoming acquainted with one another), activity and exercise that comes from working in the gardens and, coincidentally, creating a safer neighborhood as residents get to know each other.

“There’s even some evidence that property values near community gardens are higher than neighborhoods with vacancies or nothing on the land. Some groups get caught up on the food benefits, but there are so many other ancillary benefits. I have the advantage of seeing the full spectrum of the gardens where—a year before—someone may have been killed on the vacant land and now it’s a community garden where children play, and people laugh and support one another,” he said.

Carter said that one of the coolest parts of his job is driving around town and seeing the 25-30 projects that he has played a role in starting.

“That empowers me to do my job more effectively and help find residents as many resources as I can. I get paid to do this work, but they don’t, yet they devote their days, evenings and weekends to this. I value that. I try to do whatever I can to make things as easy as possible for them and if I can get them the resources they need to do what they do, I’m going to give it my all,” he said.

A recent graduate from the African American Leadership Program (AALP), Carter is a long way from the career he once envisioned, but he has no regrets.

“I want people to remember me as someone who added swag to any project he jumped into. There are a lot of groups that parachute into a neighborhood and tell them what they need. I like to think that I am a person who came and listened. That’s good enough for me,” he said.

And, it’s certainly good enough for the neighborhoods he’s helping and the more than 95 community gardens that he oversees.

Arleta Cobb Slaughter

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pervisor allows me to stretch the curriculum to expose the young people to such things as college tours and youth summits. I recently held a youth summit with some 65 participants that focused on making healthy choices for a brighter future. I also developed a summer leadership program where students go through training to teach their peers and earn a stipend over the summer.

“They are able to use their stipend to assist with their school purchases. We also provide career exploration field trips. One year students were able to learn from people working in the field of law,” she said.

In addition to her work at MCC, Slaughter enjoys volunteering with the Neighborhood Children’s Sports League of Milwaukee (NCSL), where she works with Robert Reddic, head coach of the Steelers. She has been part of this organization for more than 15 years. Currently she is the Marketing and Recruitment Specialist for the team. Slaughter is a self-starter and she knows exactly what needs to be done to bring success to the team. Every year she assists with their carwash fundraiser and helps with recruitment. Her efforts have a positive impact on the young and adolescent boys as they find ways to cope with the external pressures of society.

Recently Slaughter was recognized by the Milwaukee Business Journal as one of its “40 Under 40” recipients.

A newlywed, Slaughter met her husband at Christian Faith Fellowship, where they both sing in the choir.

“My husband is the most OPTIMISTIC man I know. He’s loving. I love how he loves and I enjoy learning from him. He definitely has my best interests at heart, as he motivates me to continue to walk in greatness. I love him so much,” said Slaughter.

Slaughter credits her ‘village’ for being supportive and encouraging role models. Among them, she includes her brother and her parents, Arlene Cobb and Dwight Cobb.

“My brother is an excellent single father. He is a hard-worker, who strives to instill great morals and values in his son. He is also thriving in the field of information technology. He is the best brother a sister could ask for. He is a blessing! And, I can’t forget about my parents. My mother is a strong woman. Through adversity she still smiles and does not allow her handicap to define her! And, finally, my father has always been a hard-worker. He has such a big heart! Not only does he help his family, he selflessly volunteers his time to NCSL and has been a part of the organization for 28 years; helping to make our community a better place for young boys and girls,” she said.

Slaughter is determined to make a difference in her community, but she sees a need for more millennials to work together.

“I want to be remembered for the difference I made in the lives of young people. I have had the privilege of working with young people for 18 years. I am very passionate in the efforts I put forward to help serve and contribute to young people. I want people to remember my gifts and talents. I want people to remember my smile and the warmth they felt when there was an encounter. I want to leave (this earth) knowing I was part of making my community a better place.

“There are many problems facing our community, and among them is the lack of diversity and segregation. If we could find a way to embrace every race and collaborate with each other, our community could be GREATER! Millennials must continue to create events to bring our community together as a whole. Let’s learn to celebrate and embrace one another,” she said.

Joaquin Altoro

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“I worked as a telemarketer for a mortgage company. It was during this time—the early 1990s—that I discovered I had the gift of gab. I became interested in closing real estate deals, so I started working as a loan officer. I also noticed that there was a disconnect between the people we were serving and the lenders—that is, none of the bankers and lenders were people of color,” said Altoro.

“Most of the people of color who worked in banks at that time, worked on the retail side, so I decided that I would fill a void. By then, I identified very closely with the African American community because I had become a good student of the community.

I started to understand who they are, when and where they purchased consumer goods, and realized that my understanding this demographic could help me successfully serve them in real estate, business and finance,” said Altoro.

For a while, Altoro worked for a banker who consistently tried to pigeonhole him into catering exclusively to the Latino community. After a while, he decided to start his own business.

“I didn’t want to cater to just one group of people. I had grown to understand other markets such as the Asian, African American, and LGBT communities, and realized that this knowledge was a valuable commodity. There were only a handful of people of color in the banking community who had decision-making positions when I first started; one of them was Ken Little.

After speaking with him, I realized there was an opportunity for me to create value for myself and cater to underrepresented markets. At the same time, I began to appreciate that my purpose was not just closing deals and getting business, but that I had a responsibility to these communities to be at the table discussing how we can engage with and help improve these communities economically,” said Altoro.

“In my travels, I noticed that there is a difference between Latino commu-

nities here and in other cities. Chicago has a vibrant Latino community, where grocery stores and other retail outlets thrive by supporting the ethnic culture. We didn’t have those businesses in Milwaukee, so I knew it was important for me to be at the table to help bankers better understand these markets. I have lived, bled and breathed in these communities. I spent money there and completely immersed myself into these communities, and it has been beneficial to me building influence there,” said Altoro.

Altoro was self-employed in the real estate finance for 18 years, focusing on commercial and residential loans, until the recession hit in 2008.

“I couldn’t finance because banks were closing left and right, so I had to return to the corporate community to find work. I was nervous about working for a company, but my network was golden. I had built great relationships, but I ended up accepting employment with a bank that was not as committed to the community.

Fortunately, though, through that job I met someone from my current employer—Town Bank. At the time, they were interested in opening up banks in Milwaukee and they gave me the responsibility and trust to help them grow in this community. We have been successful here, growing, understanding the nuances of this market and its various neighborhoods, and demonstrating our commitment to this community,” said Altoro.

Altoro, who started in the finance industry at the age of 17, has now been in the industry for almost 25 years. He has not only become an expert in commercial real estate and finance market, but has rolled up his sleeves to become a part of the community he serves.

His vast list of organizational affiliations and members include: City Plan Commissioner for the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation Board—Board of Directors, Forward Community Investments CDFI—Board of Directors, Walker’s Point Association—Board of Directors and Vice President, Chair of New Market Tax Credit Advisory Committee for Forward Community Investments CDFI, and Public Policy Forum Board of Trustees.

He is also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, serves as Loan Committee member of the American Indian, African American, Hispanic and Hmong American Chambers of Commerce, and he is an alumni of the African

American Leadership Program at Cardinal Stritch University, just to name a few of his organization affiliations.

Now at the top of his game, Altoro stands ready to help build a better future for Milwaukee.

“The generation that came before me, did not necessarily do a good job of reaching out to our generation. I don’t blame them; it’s a reflection of how they grew up.

“They didn’t share much because they were not taught to do that. We are the unspoken generation. We have a lot of potential, but I think we need more mentoring. My father wasn’t around much when I grew up, so I didn’t really have a male mentor. Mom was great, she was a tough cookie but she could not teach me how to be a man. I could have used that growing up,” said Altoro.

These days, Altoro is most proud of the intimate professional network he has garnered. He celebrates the fact that he can easily walk among various circles without trepidation about being around people who are different.

“Genyne Edwards encouraged me to get involved with the African American Leadership Institute run by Cardinal Stritch. I was one of the only non-African Americans to go through that program and it was great. It continues to be important for me to immerse and integrate myself into other ethnicities. I’m not trying to be like anyone else; I just want to learn about others, provide resources and share knowledge with them,” he said.

Ultimately, Altoro wants to be responsible for the growth of the commercial corridor in Milwaukee.

“I see the opportunity in this city—especially in underserved areas—and if I help facilitate some of those opportunities, then I’m doing my job. I hope the rest of the city can begin to see the potential and reinvest in the community,” he said.

A self-proclaimed ‘foodie’, Altoro and his wife are raising their blended family of five children. “I love exposing my children to everything I talk about,” he said.

Altoro exudes passion for his job, his city and his family, and it is evident by the success he has achieved, and the recognition and rewards he continues to amass.

Tiffinie Cobb

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heshe graduated in May of this year.
Prior to graduating, Cobb was selected as one of 11 individuals to participate in the Graduate Education Diversity Initiative with the American Evaluation Association, a fellowship whose purpose is to diversify the field of evaluation with people of color and traditionally underrepresented groups. The ten-month program places students in organizations where they receive hands-on training in program and organizational evaluation. Cobb was placed in at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

“This really interests me. I enjoy having the ability to hold organizations and entities accountable to do what they say they are going to do. Many times I see organizations in the central city that are supposed to be helping, but it’s not reflected in terms of change in the community or among the residents. I get to ask those hard questions and hold organizations accountable. My work at the grassroots level and now my work at the evaluation level really complement each other,” she said.

In addition to her tenure at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Cobb also works part-time doing evaluation and research with a national organization, comprised of about 450 non-profit human-serving organizations.

Cobb is working in a field that is traditionally underrepresented among people of color, but these days she is confident of her ability.

“As a person of color in this field, you have to know your job, what you’re representing and be able to explain the data, because people will question you. You can’t just present the data; you must be able to interpret it. Thankfully, I have a network of individuals that support me,” she said.

Cobb credits her father for being one of her biggest supporters and mentors. “On a personal and professional level, my father is the only person within my family that I was able to go to for guidance. I’m always seeking out mentors, but overall I can’t really say that I’ve had the kind of guidance that I desired. Once I entered my master’s program, I had a little more support from my academic advisor and professors, although because of the lack of cultural diversity, there were very few persons of color. These days, though, when I look back over my life and realize how far I’ve come—without guidance—I have developed the confidence that I need, and the faith, to keep going,” said Cobb.

Since she has had to pave her own way, Cobb is making sure that her brother who just started college doesn’t have to make some of the mistakes that she made.

“My brother just finished his time in the Air Force and he is pursuing his bachelor’s degree. I’m glad to see it and happy to be able to mentor him. Because I’ve been where he is now, I can support and encourage him, and offer solutions. I can have conversations with him that no one had with me, and I can guide him on his journey. I’m grateful that I can help set the footprints for him as he pursues higher education,” she said.

With her eyes toward a better and brighter future, Cobb feels prepared to tackle the future and whatever it brings.

“Millennials have a lens and a view that the generations before us, don’t have. We have the knowledge that has been passed on to us from our mothers, fathers, and grandparents. That’s something we bring to the table. Our generation thinks outside the box, where sometimes older people may not have the innovation or creative lens to take on certain issues to solve some of the problems we face today. We are a generation of action. We have the information. The conversations have been had numerous times and now we are at a point where we just want to take action. I recently attended an event where Dr. Angela Davis was the speaker. She said, ‘you (millennials) are in a position to learn much more and see further because you stand on the shoulders of your ancestors.’ That’s what I want to do. I want to inspire others to make change, take action and progress—whether it’s at the community level or just motivating and striving to do more and be more,” said Cobb.

TYRA (MC FARLAND) EILAND

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trying to be in love and was sick of hiding it. One day I got on my knees and cried out to God. I felt as if I was sinking. I didn’t have anyone else to look to but God and from that moment on, my life changed.

“Trust me, this was not an overnight transformation, but the more I loved and praised God, I saw Him move in my life. Now that Milwaukee is home, I want to be able to help other teen girls grow spiritually as I have. I want to see them build their confidence, love themselves and achieve their dreams,” said Eiland.

These days, Eiland credits her pageantry days for helping her build a better relationship with her mother and creating an overall awareness of mental health issues.

“I appreciate my mother showing me the ‘dark side.’ She has to be strong throughout her obstacles. My childhood was a beautiful fight, perfectly illustrated by God.

“Pageantry was the beginning for me. I didn’t realize the extent of all the transferrable skills I would acquire, such as professionalism, self-identity, community awareness, organizational and overall confidence as a woman. Now, I really appreciate the ancillary benefits of participating in the world of pageantry,” said Eiland.

Eiland’s professional life has also come full circle. She is a Community Relations Organizer for the Milwaukee Bucks.

“The Milwaukee Bucks’ Corporate Responsibility Department works closely with the League to ensure that the NBA Cares Initiative is well represented locally. The Department also works to grow the Bucks’ brand within the state by creating programs for front office, partners and alumni to get involved.

“It’s rewarding for me to give back to my city. I work with our alumni players to engage them in various initiatives that they are passionate about in different communities. When I first started, we had two alumni who regularly engaged with Milwaukee, and now we have eight. Some players don’t think about their post-career options. It’s gratifying to be able to work with the alumni and find ways for them to engage with and give back to the community,” said Eiland.

Eiland is reflective about her future and wise beyond her years. She is eagerly anticipating the next leg of her journey.

“My spirituality is the foundation for enduring anything. God has confirmed it and I fully understand what my purpose is on this earth. God had patience with me, even when I veered off the path of righteousness. He kept me through it all.

“I could have gotten lost in all that I went through, but He has kept me. I’m in His grace and want to be obedient in terms of how He wants me to use my talents and testimony as I move forward,” said Eiland.

Now married and the mother of a ten-month old daughter and two stepchildren, Eiland continues to pursue her passions—community development and empowering young girls.

“I am the daughter of Mount Zion. I walk with queens but never lose the common touch,” she said.

Nepherterra Estrada Best

(continued from page 10)

Milwaukee and Charlotte, though Charlotte is home.

“When I graduated from college, jobs were scarce in Charlotte and I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do or where I wanted to live, so I returned to Milwaukee to regroup. I had earned a bachelor’s degree in communications and aspired to be a newspaper reporter, so when an opportunity presented itself with the West Bend Daily News, I took it. I figured that this was the path God wanted for me—to return home and launch my career from here.

“I am thankful that I came back home to Milwaukee after graduating. Milwaukee has been a blessing to me in my professional and personal life. There are definitely tons of opportunities here,” she said.

As fate would have it, just as Estrada-Best was getting on solid footing and settling into her niche as a news reporter a new twist occurred. A friend called to tell her that the firm he worked for was looking for a good writer and asked if she would be interested in working in public relations.

“The switch from print journalism to public relations was a transition I never thought I would make. In college, I was required to take a few public relations courses as prerequisites for my major, and I did not like them. In journalism we used to call public relations the ‘dark side,’” she said with a laugh.

“Even though I was leery, when my friend told me the salary, I became more interested, agreed to interview for the job and ended up getting it. Transitioning from the newsroom to public relations was relatively easy for me. And now 15 years later, I’m still practicing public relations which is something I thought I would never do,” said Estrada-Best.

She later went to work for a larger public relations agency, where she met two other Black women working in the industry.

“There were not many Blacks in public relations—especially in Milwaukee—so this was a great experience for me. After a few years, the three of us decided to start our own agency—Mosaic Communications—and the rest, as they say, is history. This year, the agency she started with Kathy Gaillard and Johnna Scott celebrated its 13-year anniversary. Gaillard retired in 2007 and moved to Virginia.

In 2008, Estrada-Best, who had kept in contact with her college mentor,

Lauren (Bridgeman) Fields-Bowers

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Milwaukee.

“My family is here and we are a close knit family. That was the primary reason why I returned to Milwaukee to start my career. I’m definitely open to living in other places at some point, but I will be here for a while,” she said.

“One of the biggest challenges for millennials is that many don’t want to stay in Milwaukee because they believe there are not opportunities for them here.

“In fact, most of my friends have moved away. Milwaukee is what you make of it. I believe there are growth opportunities here; you just have to seek them out,” said Bridgeman.

When Bridgeman initially returned to Milwaukee, she worked as the associate director of communications and planning for the Center for Self-Sufficiency, a nonprofit organization that offers programs and resources to enable

Ashley Hines

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MCW; Tiffany Frazer, MPH, Program Manager, Office of Global Health also at MCW; and Shontra Powell, Executive, and Dionne Shaw, co-founder and Executive Director of Lead2Change, Inc.

“Early on, Dr. Willis, mentored, invested in me, and provided me with intentional and varied learning opportunities. Tiffany has been a ‘go-to’ person and has provided me with a tremendous amount of guidance and support. Shontra is an executive in Milwaukee who has encouraged me in both my personal and professional life.

“She has inspired me to preserve harmony or work-life-balance, and presents an excellent example of what this harmony looks like. Dionne is my longest standing mentor. I have known her since I was 14 years old and I credit her having a significant impact on my professional development,” said Hines.

Working at the MCW and being instrumental in establishing the Office of Diversity and Inclusion has been extremely fulfilling for Hines.

“It’s been a growth-filled journey. Three years ago, I joined the team tasked with leading MCW’s diversity and inclusion training effort. This leadership experience demonstrated my passion and skillset in this work and eventually led to creating the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

“The office is charged with strategically embedding diversity and inclusion practices and policies throughout the organization and serves staff, faculty, trainees and community,” she said.

Hines has received several awards and distinctions, including the 2010 Mil-

Lyah Holmes

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waukee Black Women’s Network Well-Willed Women, the 2015 President’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the 2017 Milwaukee Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Award.

Currently, she is enrolled in the African American Leadership Program at Cardinal Stritch University and the MCW Leadership Academy through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Always involved in the community, Hines serves on the 88Nine Radio Milwaukee Cultural Commons Steering Committee, as board Co-Chair of Lead2Change, Inc., a youth leadership organization committed to empowering and inspiring youth to be catalysts for change, and is the Program Director of the Covenant Youth Mentoring Program at Christian Faith Fellowship Church. She recently served as the inaugural board Secretary for the African-American Breastfeeding Network.

Hines believes that her purpose is to equip communities to create spaces where everyone feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to contribute. Years from now, she wants to know that some of the strategic goals she and her team at MCW developed were accomplished.

“I want—especially for those underrepresented in our community—to feel connected and engaged. Recently, I had the chance to hear Dr. Angela Davis speak at Marquette University. She reminded us that this sort of work takes time.

“I understand that when you commit to impacting cultural change, it doesn’t happen overnight. I just hope that people see my heart in the work that I was doing,” she said.

Hines sees a future where there will be significantly more people of color in faculty positions, clinical leadership, and administration, and as trainees in the field of healthcare. She is determined to do her part to see that future fulfilled.

Professionals, Milwaukee Chapter National Black Nurses Association, and School for Early Development & Achievement (SEDA) at Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI).

Holmes is committed to giving back to the community and working with younger people to help improve their lives.

“I give my time to several organizations, particularly those where I have a unique niche in the community. I welcome opportunities to serve as a mentor to younger youth.

“They are able to see me and ask how I got to where I am, and that’s empowering for them. It’s a pleasure to work with organizations that help raise scholarship dollars to give graduating students opportunities to go to college,” she said.

Ultimately, Holmes has dreams of continuing her career and education to help eliminate some of the health disparities that people of color face. She would like to use her clinical experiences to pursue another degree in epidemiology and one day work for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

“I want people to know that I was not only dedicated to the pursuit of my dreams and career, but also to sharing the talent and skills that I’ve acquired with my community,” she said.

had an opportunity to make a move back to Charlotte, NC, to help form another agency, Pride PR. Today, Mosaic Communications and Pride PR have a strategic alliance and Estrada-Best divides her time between servicing clients in Milwaukee and Charlotte. She is also able to bring some of the innovative ideas from Milwaukee to Charlotte and vice versa.

“I am blessed to be able to have businesses and clients in both markets. It has placed me in a unique position to leverage opportunities and identify gaps. That’s actually how Milwaukee Small Business Week was born. Charlotte had been celebrating National Small Business Week for years and I realized Milwaukee wasn’t participating in this national celebration. I saw it as a huge opportunity to celebrate Milwaukee’s thriving small business community so I co-founded Milwaukee Small Business Week. We approached the Mayor, got his buy-in, the support of the City’s Office of Small Business Development and a number of sponsors and partners, and in May we celebrated the City’s 6th Annual Milwaukee Small Business Week,” she said.

Estrada-Best also met her husband, Kendric, in Charlotte and they have a five-year old son, Bryson.

“Kendric is an alum of Johnson C. Smith as well, although we didn’t really know each other when I attended. He remembered me from college, but I didn’t remember him. We met in 2009, shortly after I moved back there. It was cool because we knew some of the same people and immediately connected over our college experience,” she said.

While she now considers Charlotte as her home base, Estrada-Best thinks fondly of Milwaukee.

“Milwaukee is facing some of the same challenges as other cities across the country. I definitely think that lack of employment and educational options are two of the city’s greatest challenges, but I also see them as opportunities.

“Young people can help by continuing to bring fresh ideas to the table, infusing innovation into the city, and identifying creative ways to address some of these problems. Sometimes we throw money at problems, trying to do the same things, over and over, and it does not work. I look forward to seeing younger leaders come in, step up to the plate and shake things up. This could be the perfect time to do that in Milwaukee,” said Estrada-Best.

As for the future, Estrada-Best wants people to remember her as a woman of faith who tried to make a difference and have a positive impact in her hometown and beyond.

“That’s what drives me. I want to inspire and help young people, and bring them along as others have brought me along. I am enjoying transitioning from mentee to mentor and paying it forward. So many people have invested their time and resources in me, it’s only fair that I do the same for others,” she said.

families to become stronger and more self-sustaining.

For the past three years, she has been employed by ManpowerGroup as a proposal manager, charged with assisting sales teams to develop proposals to secure business for the company.

A newlywed, Bridgeman married James Fields-Bowers last October.

“We met at a holiday party called the Talented Tenth, which is comprised of all the African American organizations in Milwaukee. I was there representing the Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals, and he was there with the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers (WAAL),” she said.

Bridgeman has certainly found her niche in Milwaukee. She continues to be involved in her church—now a member of Vessels of Honour, where her husband’s father pastors. She also volunteers with various organizations such as City Year, Junior Achievement of Wisconsin, the Next Door Foundation, and Vision Forward—all organizations that align with ManpowerGroup’s mission of putting people to work and getting them job-ready.

“Giving back—paying it forward—and being engaged socially and culturally are important. Milwaukee offers many opportunities for that,” she said.

Bridgeman is determined to pay it forward because of people—like the Patillos—who helped her along the way and, through it all, she is equally committed to putting God first in all that she does.

waukee Black Women’s Network Well-Willed Women, the 2015 President’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the 2017 Milwaukee Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Award.

Currently, she is enrolled in the African American Leadership Program at Cardinal Stritch University and the MCW Leadership Academy through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Always involved in the community, Hines serves on the 88Nine Radio Milwaukee Cultural Commons Steering Committee, as board Co-Chair of Lead2Change, Inc., a youth leadership organization committed to empowering and inspiring youth to be catalysts for change, and is the Program Director of the Covenant Youth Mentoring Program at Christian Faith Fellowship Church. She recently served as the inaugural board Secretary for the African-American Breastfeeding Network.

Hines believes that her purpose is to equip communities to create spaces where everyone feels safe, valued, respected and empowered to contribute. Years from now, she wants to know that some of the strategic goals she and her team at MCW developed were accomplished.

“I want—especially for those underrepresented in our community—to feel connected and engaged. Recently, I had the chance to hear Dr. Angela Davis speak at Marquette University. She reminded us that this sort of work takes time.

“I understand that when you commit to impacting cultural change, it doesn’t happen overnight. I just hope that people see my heart in the work that I was doing,” she said.

Hines sees a future where there will be significantly more people of color in faculty positions, clinical leadership, and administration, and as trainees in the field of healthcare. She is determined to do her part to see that future fulfilled.

Professionals, Milwaukee Chapter National Black Nurses Association, and School for Early Development & Achievement (SEDA) at Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI).

Holmes is committed to giving back to the community and working with younger people to help improve their lives.

“I give my time to several organizations, particularly those where I have a unique niche in the community. I welcome opportunities to serve as a mentor to younger youth.

“They are able to see me and ask how I got to where I am, and that’s empowering for them. It’s a pleasure to work with organizations that help raise scholarship dollars to give graduating students opportunities to go to college,” she said.

Ultimately, Holmes has dreams of continuing her career and education to help eliminate some of the health disparities that people of color face. She would like to use her clinical experiences to pursue another degree in epidemiology and one day work for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

“I want people to know that I was not only dedicated to the pursuit of my dreams and career, but also to sharing the talent and skills that I’ve acquired with my community,” she said.

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Legals

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY DIVORCE-40101 Case No. 17FA003536

In Re: The marriage of Petitioner: KHADIJAH ARABIYAT and Respondent: SHHAB ARABIYAT THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT: You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a Petition for divorce or legal separation against you.

You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Petition within 40 days from the day after the first date of publication.

The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at:

Clerk of Court Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. ROOM 104 Milwaukee WI 53233 and KHADIJAH ARABIYAT 1303 N CASS ST APT 312 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202.

It is recommended, but not required, that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Petition within 45 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Petition, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Petition.

A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of §948.31, Wis. Stats., (Interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents setting forth the percentage standard for child support established by the department under §49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under §767.511(1m), Wis. Stats., are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

You are notified of the availability of information from the Circuit Court Commissioner as set forth in §767.105, Wis. Stats.

§767.105, Information from Circuit Court Commissioner.

(2) Upon the request of a party to an action affecting the family, including a revision of judgment or order under sec. 767.59 or 767.451:

- (a) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall, with or without charge, provide the party with written information on the following, as appropriate to the action commenced: 1. The procedure for obtaining a judgment or order in the action. 2. The major issues usually addressed in such an action. 3. Community resources and family court counseling services available to assist the parties. 4. The procedure for setting, modifying, and enforcing child support awards, or modifying and enforcing legal custody or physical placement judgments or orders. (b) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall provide a party, for inspection or purchase, with a copy of the statutory provisions in this chapter generally pertinent to the action.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE: 7-13-2017 By: KHADIJAH ARABIYAT 017-203/7-28/8-4-11-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV6021

In the matter of the name change of: KELLY JOANN KOBIELUS By (Petitioner) KELLY JOANN KOBIELUS NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: KELLY JOANN KOBIELUS To: JAX RAYMOND KOBIELUS Birth Certificate: KELLY JOANN KOBIELUS

IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. REBECCA F. DALLET ROOM 403, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 21, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-24-17 BY THE COURT: HON. REBECCA F. DALLET Circuit Court Judge 017-202/7-28/8-4-11-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV006095

In the matter of the name change of: LOGAN WAYNE WOODARD By (Petitioner) ROMELIO FERRUSQUIA and By (Co-Petitioner) BLANCA ELVIRA FERRUSQUIS NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: LOGAN WAYNE WOODARD To: LOGAN WAYNE FERRUSQUIA Birth Certificate: LOGAN WAYNE WOODARD IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. MARSHALL B. MURRAY ROOM 208, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 31, 2017 TIME: 3:00 PM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-20-17 BY THE COURT: HON. MARSHALL B. MURRAY Circuit Court Judge 017-201/7-28/8-4-11-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV006112

In the matter of the name change of: DEREK CRAIG BROCK By (Petitioner) DEREK CRAIG BROCK NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: DEREK CRAIG BROCK To: DEREK CRAIG HARRIS II Birth Certificate: DEREK CRAIG BROCK IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. REBECCA F. DALLET ROOM 403, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 24, 2017 TIME: 10:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-21-17 BY THE COURT: HON. REBECCA F. DALLET Circuit Court Judge 017-200/7-28/8-4-11-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005764

In the matter of the name change of: SARAH HELEN ESPARZA By (Petitioner) SARAH HELEN ESPARZA NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: SARAH HELEN ESPARZA To: SARAH HELEN LYRATA Birth Certificate: SARAH HELEN ESPARZA IT IS ORDERED:

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. JOHN DIMOTTO ROOM 401, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017 TIME: 9:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-12-17 BY THE COURT: HON. JOHN DIMOTTO Circuit Court Judge 017-199/7-28/8-4-11-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005763

In the matter of the name change of: MAX EDWARD JEFFREY SHEPPARD By (Petitioner) MAX EDWARD JEFFREY SHEPPARD NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: MAX EDWARD JEFFREY SHEPPARD To: MAX EDWARD JEFFREY LYRATA Birth Certificate: MAX EDWARD JEFFREY SHEPPARD IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. JOHN DIMOTTO ROOM 401, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017 TIME: 9:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-12-17 BY THE COURT: HON. JOHN DIMOTTO Circuit Court Judge 017-198/7-28/8-4-11-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV006098

In the matter of the name change of: MARIAH GUZMAN-NOWAK By (Petitioner) KAREN MARIE SHILLING and By (Co-Petitioner) GERALD JOHN SHILLING NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: MARIAH GUZMAN-NOWAK To: MARIAH GRACE SHILLING Birth Certificate: MARIAH GUZMAN-NOWAK IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. JOHN DIMOTTO ROOM 401, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 29, 2017 TIME: 9:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-20-17 BY THE COURT: HON. JOHN DIMOTTO Circuit Court Judge 017-197/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005908

In the matter of the name change of: ERICK PULIDO-MORALES By (Petitioner) CRISTINA PULIDO MORALES and By (Co-Petitioner) GILBERTO TORRES NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: ERICK PULIDO-MORALES To: ERICK TORRES PULIDO Birth Certificate: ERICK PULIDO-

MORALES IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. STEPHANIE G. ROTHSTEIN ROOM 404, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 25, 2017 TIME: 9:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-20-17 BY THE COURT: HON. STEPHANIE G. ROTHSTEIN Circuit Court Judge 017-196/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV006094

In the matter of the name change of: TIANRUI REN By (Petitioner) TIANRUI REN NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: TIANRUI REN To: RAY REN Birth Certificate: TIANRUI REN IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. STEPHANIE G. ROTHSTEIN ROOM 404, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2017 TIME: 9:15 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-20-17 BY THE COURT: HON. STEPHANIE G. ROTHSTEIN Circuit Court Judge 017-195/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV006031

In the matter of the name change of: SCOTT ALLEN REUTER By (Petitioner) SCOTT ALLEN REUTER NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: SCOTT ALLEN REUTER To: SCOTT ALLEN GENKE Birth Certificate: SCOTT ALLEN REUTER IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. MARSHALL B. MURRAY ROOM 208, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 31, 2017 TIME: 2:30 PM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-19-17 BY THE COURT: HON. MARSHALL B. MURRAY Circuit Court Judge 017-194/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005662

In the matter of the name change of: KAIVON LOUIS GREEN By (Petitioner) KELLY ROCHELLE ADAMS and By (Co-Petitioner) DAVE LOUIS ADAMS NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: KAIVON LOUIS GREEN To: KAIVON LOUIS ADAMS Birth Certificate: KAIVON LOUIS GREEN IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. GLENN H. YAMAHIRO ROOM 402, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 17, 2017 TIME: 9:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-10-17 BY THE COURT: HON. GLENN H. YAMAHIRO Circuit Court Judge 017-193/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005730

In the matter of the name change of: MARCHEA TALAYA REDIC By (Petitioner) MARCHEA TALAYA REDIC NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: MARCHEA TALAYA REDIC To: MARCHEA TALAYA BRICE Birth Certificate: MARCHEA TALAYA REDIC IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. DAVID L. BOROWSKI ROOM 206, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 17, 2017 TIME: 10:00 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-10-17 BY THE COURT: HON. DAVID L. BOROWSKI Circuit Court Judge 017-192/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005838

In the matter of the name change of: CEDJRIONNA DAYVION JONES By (Petitioner) KARA KARVELL WITHERSPOON NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: CEDJRIONNA DAYVION JONES To: CEDJRIONNA DAYVION WITHERSPOON Birth Certificate: CEDJRIONNA DAYVION JONES IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

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Judge's Name: HON. ELLEN R. BROSTROM ROOM 413, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 29, 2017 TIME: 9:30 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-13-17 BY THE COURT: HON. WILLIAM SOSNAY Circuit Court Judge 017-191/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005861

In the matter of the name change of: KAMARI LAMOUR TERRY By (Petitioner) KIEVIANA LAIQUE TERRY NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: KAMARI LAMOUR TERRY To: KAMARI LAMOUR SHOLAR Birth Certificate: KAMARI LAMOUR TERRY IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK ROOM 415, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 31, 2017 TIME: 8:30 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-17-17 BY THE COURT: HON. TIMOTHY WITKOWIAK Circuit Court Judge 017-190/7-21-28/8-4-2017

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING Case No. 17CV005743

In the matter of the name change of: YOLANDA HADESA ROBINSON By (Petitioner) YOLANDA HADESA ROBINSON NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: YOLANDA HADESA ROBINSON To: HADASSA YOLANDA ROBINSON Birth Certificate: YOLANDA HADESA ROBINSON IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: HON. DAVID L. BOROWSKI ROOM 206, PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 17, 2017 TIME: 10:30 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin. Dated: 7-11-17 BY THE COURT: HON. DAVID L. BOROWSKI Circuit Court Judge 017-189/7-21-28/8-4-2017

Jennifer L. Johnson

(continued from page 11)

of the night studying, but my grades didn't reflect that.

"I wanted to quit so many times, but I felt the weight of those individuals who were encouraging and rooting for me—my parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts and friends. That kept me going. I wanted to succeed, but as importantly, I also did not want to let them down. They were counting on me," she said.

Johnson found some saving grace in one of her professors who became a mentor.

"During my second year of law school, I started going to my professor for help during her office hours. She and I began meeting every Friday and she would give me practice exam questions. I would work on my responses and she would review and correct them with me.

"That helped improve my grades drastically. She was one of only three Black professors at the law school and she wasn't much older than me, which enhanced our connection.

"She encouraged me and told me that I could do it, but helped me understand that it would take a lot of work," Johnson said.

Johnson pushed through and graduated from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2014. After graduation, she decided that she wanted to live in Chicago and practice law there because she loved the city; she spent an entire summer in Chicago while she interned with the Cook County Public Defender's office while in law school. Johnson studied for the bar for two months, took it and failed.

"It was a very emotional time for me, but I decided to retake the bar and, instead of studying for the Illinois bar, I decided to study for Wisconsin. I studied smarter, had a lot of support and took the exam in February of 2015.

"April 2nd of 2015 was one of the best days of my life because that's the day I found out I'd passed," said Johnson.

"However, I didn't start working full time as an attorney until January of 2016. In the interim, I worked as a Traffic Law Clerk with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office," she said.

Currently Johnson is employed with Legal Action of Wisconsin as a Staff Attorney. She works under a grant provided by ResCare, Inc. that helps to remove barriers to employment for individuals who receive food stamps.

"Typically the clients I work with are able-bodied individuals, who face barriers that prevent them from securing employment, such as suspended driver's licenses, active warrants or inaccurate criminal backgrounds. I try to eliminate those barriers for them so they are able to get to work.

"Some of the more challenging aspects of my job are the legal barriers I encounter. For example, some of my clients have convictions on their record stemming from the 1980s, and because the laws were different then, they are not expurgable. On the other hand, when I can help clients expunge their records, it's rewarding because they are most appreciative.

"I know that I'm helping them to become employable. They no longer have to rely on the government, and despite what people may think, most of my clients don't like relying on the government for assistance," said Johnson.

Johnson initially planned to get her law degree and follow the 'brain drain' of moving out of state.

"I took it as a sign from God when I failed the Illinois bar—that I'm supposed to stay here and help my people. I felt an obligation to pay my dues here to help people, just as so many have helped me over the years—at least for now," she said.

Johnson is also co-founder of BLOW-Milwaukee, along with Krystle Perry. BLOW stands for Build communities, Learn together, Overcome differences, and achieve Wellness.

"At some point, we have to do more than just party. The vision with BLOW is to have a good time, but give something back to help make our community stronger and wiser.

"I hope it is able to thrive because this initiative is unique. People don't expect to attend events where they can create vision boards or see local vendors showcasing their products," she said.

As to the future, particularly as it relates to millennials, Johnson feels it's time for her generation to step up to the plate.

"I see first-hand that there is not enough diversity in local government. I also believe that it's time for our generation to start holding more leadership positions. We are open and more understanding.

"It's time for a fresh set of eyes to look at laws and how they are impacting people. And, while I'm learning to never say 'never,' I don't think I'll ever venture into politics, but I will certainly support those who do," she said.

The future is bright for Johnson. She's demonstrated her ability to persevere. She is determined and committed, and she self-describes, among her traits, as being 'a fighter for the underdog and empathetic to those individuals who are deemed marginalized in our community.'

Kaylin Jones

(continued from page 12)

After graduating from Bradley Tech High School, Jones went on to earn a bachelor's degree in biblical studies from St. Martin's College and Seminary. She is currently enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, working on another degree in Community Education.

In addition to her work at SSNC, Jones is co-chair of The Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Coalition; she serves as a crisis stabilizer with the Human Development Center, and is the Assistant Program Director for the Milwaukee Spartan's Basketball Program.

Recently her work took her to Alexandria, VA, where she facilitated a workshop on youth anti-marijuana campaign at the Communities Anti-Drug Coalition of America Conference (CACAA).

At the end of the day, Jones' roots remain firmly planted in the spiritual foundation her grandparents instilled in her.

"I am heavily involved with ministry in my church. I oversee the arts and children's ministries. I attend Vessels of Honor Church and I was one of the first recipients of a scholarship that they offer, which is enabled me to pursue my degree in ministry," she said.

Jones can't say enough good things about Silver Spring Neighborhood Center and the significant role it has played in her life.

"It's a safe place. It was when I was younger and it's a safe place now for whatever youth need. For me, it satisfied my need to belong. For some of today's youth, it's a place for them to get away from their home environment. It's different for everybody, but the relationships that we build and the programs that we offer

at the Center, remain the same—it is based on building kids up so they make the right choices. We constantly tell our youth that they are great, beautiful, and that they deserve the world.

"The proof is in the pudding. I'm 27 years old. I don't drink or smoke, and I practice abstinence—not because they were telling me sex was wrong—but because they built me up to expect that I deserve the best in life. I can't accept anything less than the best because of what the people at Silver Spring Neighborhood Center instilled in me," she said.

Jones also gives props to the former executive director, Anthony McHenry.

"He just left SSNC, after 17 years, for another position. He is the father figure that I never had. He is my mentor; the person who hired me at the Center, nurtured me, and took me under his wings. He was my guide—personally, spiritually and all of that," she said.

She also credits her maternal grandparents for being role models.

"When I reflect on my life, I look at my grandparents and know that that's the life I want. They have always lived a life of service. My grandmother was a nurse and she volunteered at a clinic. My grandfather was a volunteer firefighter. They are good, loving and caring people who always find time to help others," said Jones.

As for her future, Jones said that she would like to see more millennials collaborating on various projects in the community, and she wants to be a part of that collaboration.

"I'm hopeful for Milwaukee. I know there are many millennials doing great things in this city—there's so much that needs to be done in one of the most racially desegregated cities in the country.

"We need to do a better job of establishing partnerships and working together so that we can do even more. I see some of that happening and the outcome is amazing. I would like to see it continue and expand," she said.

"No matter where I go, what I do or where I'm at economically and geographically, I will always strive to emulate the life of service that my grandparents demonstrated. I always want people to feel that I was here to serve—not just youth—but the community overall," she said.

“Black newspaper publishing is a thankless job. You don't do it for self-enlargement. You do it because we understand that the community would experience a major void without a vehicle to communicate our issues...a voice for the otherwise voiceless.”

—Quote by MCJ Publisher Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo in the June 15, 2016 edition of the newspaper.

Legals/Classifieds/Public Notices

NOTICE

Milwaukee Public Schools will receive sealed quotations for furnishing all labor, tools, equipment and materials necessary, including public liability and property damage insurance to perform all work necessary and incidental to the **Parking Lot Access Control System at Division 1 - 8th St. School**, 609 N. 8th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233 & **Division 2 - Bryant School**, 8718 W. Thurston Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53225 until 1:30 PM on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at the Division of Facilities and Maintenance Services; 1124 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233; to the attention of: Mark Bethel, Project Specialist of Design and Construction.

There are no requirements for HUB, COIN & Student Employment / Participation requirements for both divisions. The plans and specifications, quotation requirements and guidelines may be obtained 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of bid documents. Plans and specifications may also be viewed online at A/E Graphics, Inc. @ www.aegraphics.com.

A pre-bid walkthrough for the site will be held on Tuesday, August 08, 2017 at 9:00 AM. Meet at Bryant Street School's main entrance first then immediately after to 8th Street School.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to waive informalities.

Darrienne B. Driver, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

11380535/08-1-8-15

OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Office of the Milwaukee Public Schools, DIVISION OF FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, 1124 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 1, 2017.

Sealed proposals will be received at 1124 North 11th Street, directed to the attention of Mr. Mark D. Bethel, Project Specialist for the Division of Facilities and Maintenance Services, pursuant to Section 119.52(3) Wisconsin Statutes, until Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 1:30 PM, in accordance with plans and specifications for the following work:

All contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) are subject to the current livable wage rate, in accordance with the City of Milwaukee Ordinance 310.13. Per 2015 WI Act 55, prevailing wage rate laws have been repealed for all MPS Construction Projects beginning January 1, 2017.

BID GUARANTY TO ACCOMPANY BID: MPS Bid Bond, Certified or Cashier's Check: 10% of Contractor's Base Bid.

PROXIMITY CARD ACCESS CONTROL INSTALLATIONS BID PACKAGE V

For Divisions 25-30: Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts, Walker, Alcott, Curtin, Manitoba, & Zablocki School

The HUB requirements for this project are 0%

The COIN requirements for this project are 0%

The minimum Student Participation requirements for this project are:

Paid Employment: 200 Hours
Educational Activities: 0 Hours

Deposit for Drawings and Specifications: \$25.00
MAILING CHARGE: \$35.00

The bidding documents may be obtained 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of bid documents for pick up. Plans and specifications will be loaned to a prospective bidder upon receipt of the deposit listed, which deposit will be returned upon surrender of the plans and specifications in good condition. Bid documents must be returned only to A/E Graphics, Inc. Plans and specifications may not be examined at the Facilities and Maintenance Services' office or at A/E Graphics, Inc. Plans and specifications may also be viewed online at A/E Graphics, Inc. @ www.aegraphics.com.

Each proposal shall be for a fixed lump sum.
The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to waive informalities.

Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals at the bid opening through sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids. The following TDD number is available for the hearing impaired for questions prior to bid opening, (414) 283-4611.

Darrienne B. Driver, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

11380037/08-1-8-15-22

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL TO PUBLISH LEGAL NOTICES IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

The Milwaukee Community Journal, Inc. has expanded its services to the greater Milwaukee community with the publishing of legal notices in the Weekend Edition. As a qualified provider of the publication of legal notices, MCJ will serve city, county and state offices for publishing community notifications. Such notifications include:

- Public Hearings
- Public meetings
- Election notices
- Divorce proceedings
- Name changes
- Publication of Summons when personal services cannot be made to defendants
- Notice of auction of unclaimed storage or property
- Probate Notices
- Foreclosure Sheriff's sale notice of creditor listing of property for sale
- Other general legal and public notices

About Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) WEEKEND EDITION

The Milwaukee Community Journal Weekend Edition is published weekly. Each week, MCJ Weekend focuses on different subjects, HEALTH, PERSONAL, FINANCE, FAMILY, MEN AND WOMEN. Our Weekend Edition now includes the publishing of records designated by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for publication of legal notices, with added value in the Wednesday edition. The Weekend Edition is a public newspaper of general circulation that complies with the laws of Wisconsin relating to publication of legal notices. MCJ Weekend Edition has published weekly over ten years, in the state of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County. We have a paid circulation of approximately 89% of our circulation, weekly. And our actual paid subscribers is over the 1000 required by State Statute.

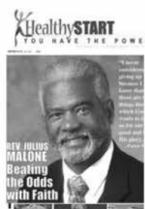
About the Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ)

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) is a quality news organization published throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. Established in 1976, the Milwaukee Community Journal has advanced the plight, struggles and victories of minorities in Wisconsin, with a passion for building community. The MCJ accentuates the positive, analyzes the negatives and advocates to seed success. The Milwaukee Community Journal's stockholders are Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo (95%) and Mikel Holt (5%) respectively; and is current in filing by the State of Wisconsin, effective 9/2016.

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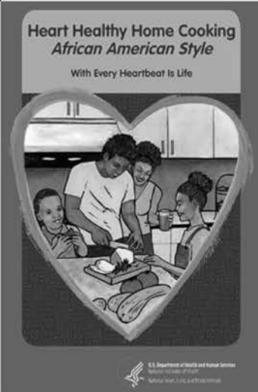


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Pub ID: 08-3792

Publication Date: 5/2008
Format: Book or Booklet

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Alderwoman Chantia Lewis

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earning her degree from Alverno College, but she also got married and now has three children of her own. As of last year, she also became an ordained minister, under the leadership of her pastor, Robert Randolph, Senior Pastor of Kingdom Faith Fellowship Church.

"In addition to my mother, Pastor Randolph helped cultivate me over the past eight years. He has really been a great mentor; showing me processes, how to handle certain situations, and most of all showing me what a great leader looks like. I really credit him for the integral part he's played in helping me understand leadership. I didn't appreciate what leadership meant in its entirety—cultivating myself and building up other leaders, until working with him. His guidance helped shape who I am now. Running for political office is by far the hardest thing I've ever done, and without that grueling preparation, I would not have been able to last," she said.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Ald. Lewis has lived in the ninth aldermanic district for more than ten years, where she is a small business owner, along with her husband, Anthony, and her three 'secret weapons,' Jireh (her oldest son), Jeremiah and Makayla.

"My children are my biggest fans. They knocked on doors with me, and did it with such innocence and pride, that I couldn't help but be putty in their hands. I was so proud when they talked to people. My oldest son told me, 'I don't really like politics or doing doors, but for you, mom, I will because I believe you are supposed to be the alderwoman.'

She believes that getting the community involved is one of the primary ways to solving community problems.

"These are our roots. We are part of this city, so we're not going anywhere. If everyone leaves, there will be no one left to help rebuild this city. If we have the mentality to get what we can and bail, it's almost like eating at a restaurant and not paying. We enjoyed the food, but didn't think enough of it to pay for it.

"So it's up to us, and if we as a community don't see that we have some level of responsibility to make this a great city like it once was, then we all fail. Every city has its issues, so on the flipside, people who leave find out that some of the same issues that they left behind, exist in other cities. So, why not stay, cultivate and redevelop the area you grew up in.

Apart from her commitment to the ninth aldermanic district, Ald. Lewis has been a board member with 9to5 Wisconsin, an organization that fights for social justice, and she was recently appointed to the 9to5 national board. For more than five years she has worked as a youth and adult trainer with her nonprofit organization One Step At A Time (OSAT), to help individuals develop the necessary skills to not only survive the current job market but to thrive as well.

Ald. Lewis' segue into politics came about at the casual nudging of friends who believed in her potential to lead and bring about real change.

"I was attending Alverno College at the time, and I think people were getting annoyed with me because I was always complaining about the state of the community.

"One of my friends said, 'you need to do something about it since you're so passionate about it.' She handed me a card from an organization called EMERGE Wisconsin, which helps prepare people to make changes, and the rest, as they say, is history," said Ald. Lewis.

EMERGE Wisconsin prepares women for leadership by identifying, training and encouraging women to run for office, get elected and to seek higher office. Participants undergo an intensive, cohort-based six-month training program.

"I expected politics to be challenging, and it has been nothing short of that, but it has also been greater than what I thought. I feel like I'm in my niche. I'm still learning, but having the passion and the drive to do this work and the vision I see for this community is nothing short of great. This is exactly what I'm supposed to be doing, this is my purpose," she said.

Milwaukee is glad that Ald. Lewis has found her niche and thankful that residents can look forward to a better and brighter future because of Ald. Lewis' passion, perseverance and commitment.

LaToya Sykes

(continued from page 12)

"As a kid, you can't dream something if you've never been exposed to anything outside your environment. Kids must have possibilities modeled to them to help them believe in themselves and become successful. I knew that I was left on this earth to help individuals understand and realize their possibilities," she said.

Sykes brings more than 15 years of nonprofit leadership to her role as President and CEO of Our Next Generation, a nonprofit agency that provides academic tutoring, enrichment programming, and social support to hundreds of students in the heart of one of Milwaukee's most challenged communities.

The organization has documented tangible results, including better grades, higher high-school graduation rates, improved self-esteem, and positive attitudes toward the future.

She previously served as Associate Director of College Goal Sunday Program at the YMCA of the USA in Chicago, IL.

Sykes also worked as the Director of Outreach and Access Awareness for Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and, in 2012, founded Dampier & Canady LLC, a consulting firm that helps organizations improve performance through strategic planning, project management, community engagement and development services.

"While working at Milwaukee Area Technical College it became clear to me that students who looked like me were defaulting on the student loans because of a lack of financial literacy. Growing up, we never talked about money at home, because we didn't have any.

"My mom was getting a welfare check to take care of three kids so, at some level, she had to figure out how to budget, but money and budgeting were not conversations you had at

home. "I approached Great Lakes – as they were the Guarantor for MATC – and shared with them that I noticed that financial literacy was a missing piece and wanted them to start addressing that with students at MATC so they would become better stewards of their dollars.

"Through the partnership with MATC, Great Lakes ended up recruiting me to work with them to create their new division – Outreach and Access and Awareness – where I helped to develop communities committing over \$46 million in funding, support and resources for college outreach and access programs and professionals," said Sykes.

Not only is Sykes passionate about her work at ONG, she is equally passionate about and engaged with greater Milwaukee community. Currently, she serves as on the boards of Zonta International, and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Board of Trustees, and the President's Advisory Board at Carroll University. She is also a member of A-LEGO (African American Ladies Empowered to Grow Opportunities) and The Milwaukee Chapter of the Links, INC.

"All of my work has been related to providing opportunities that help people with their abilities in the future. The thing that is consistent in my career is that I want to make sure I am giving back in a substantive way to expose others to those things that I may not have had access to growing up," she said.

But, with all that she does, she is most proud of her 'babies' at ONG.

"It's an honor for me to be working with children in a building that is ten blocks from where I grew up and lived. Many of the kids we support don't have resources. I get to talk to the ba-

Sean Lowe

(continued from page 12)

to his current position. In addition, he was recently appointed to the National Urban League Young Professional's Executive Leadership Team, where he serves as the National Membership Recruitment and Retention Chair.

Lowe is responsible for running the organization's national membership committee and handles all the membership chairs on the national board to improve the Urban League's membership locally and nationally.

"The MULYP focuses on leadership development, which is something that is very important to me. From a professional and volunteer standpoint, I believe we have a responsibility to make sure we're helping those who come behind us, as well as honoring those who have paved the way for us. This is my way of giving back to the community and encouraging others to do so. In addition, working with the Urban League has enabled me to build my network ten-fold," he said.

Among the challenges facing Milwaukee, Lowe sees issues of education and poverty as key concerns that must be addressed.

"We must make sure that our young people who are in school understand the importance of education and that it is their path to personal and professional success.

They must have a good education to become stable in the future, and we must make sure that we mentor them along the way. We have companies that recognize the importance of this and are taking steps to help—Northwestern Mutual and the Milwaukee Bucks—among them.

The construction projects that these companies are undertaking are huge

Krystle C.M. Perry

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mental health treatment."

"In my experience, I saw the cycle of untreated mental health. In particular I witnessed young girls dealing with the pressures of adolescence, teen parenting and the inability to cope with their lives, while witnessing older adults taking advantage of them as a result. I've witnessed incest and rape being labeled "teen pregnancy." In my work, I was able to help individuals navigate those uncomfortable situations through youth programs and facilitating group discussions at New Concept Self Development Center where, I volunteered as a brief family therapist," she said.

Perry is the daughter of June Perry, co-founder of New Concept Self Development Center, so it's not surprising that she was not only able to advocate for herself and others, but engage in peer-to-peer counseling and group facilitation, having been exposed to their merits most of her life.

After high school, Perry briefly attended Marquette University before enrolling in Tennessee State University, where she majored in psychology. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in organizational development at Alverno College.

"Mental health has affected the Black community in unprecedented numbers and, for the most part, it has been either ignored or the people who suffer have been labeled as criminals and drug addicts. This is due, in part, to the fact that in some cultures, mental health treatment is thought of as a weak approach to help," said Perry.

Perry knew that she wanted to find a way to become a champion of those struggling with mental health issues. During college, she eagerly participated in forums and discussions that provided outlets for anything related to the topic, often sharing her own story. Fresh out of college, Perry's life came full circle when she went to work for New Concept Development Center.

After five years of working at New Concept, she accepted employment with the Veteran's Administration, adjudicating claims for veterans and helping them secure compensation for illnesses acquired while serving in the military duty or training, and assisting with pension claims. Again, she was able to utilize her advocacy skills to work on behalf of veterans.

"I loved helping veterans, but the work became unfulfilling and somewhat exasperating. Sometimes navigating through bureaucratic red tape becomes cumbersome, so I needed to find employment that allowed me to fulfill my need to help people directly," said Perry.

Perry now works as Project Manager at Northwestern Mutual, supporting African American advisors who work with the African American market and advisors of every race, culture and background to be comfortable working in the African American Market. She feels that she is helping the staff, clients and advisors do their jobs meet the needs of their clients, and so she's more fulfilled.

Aside from her full-time employment, Perry—along with one of her best friends, Jennifer Johnson—co-founded an organization that is making a powerful impact in the Milwaukee Community. BLOW, which stands for Build communities, Learn together, Overcome differences, and achieve Wellness. With those principles in mind, they combine having fun, networking and connecting with others to find solutions to some of the problems Milwaukee is facing.

"We like to say, it's partying and socializing for a purpose. Both Jennifer, an attorney, and I worked in areas of social justice—she in law, and me in community service and mental health. We wanted to identify a way for 30-somethings to have fun, socialize with others, but with some meaning behind it. We were weary of going out to party, socialize and network simply to have

formation with their parents. In essence, they become stewards of information, because as they share this information with their parents, they expose them to possibilities," she said.

While Sykes didn't have that kind of mentorship growing up, she does credit her grandmother and uncles for encouraging and supporting her.

"My grandmother, Minnie Lee Dampier, put forth a lot of hope and dreams into my life as I was growing up.

"I was the first grandchild. She always told me that I could do anything that I wanted to do. Then, my five uncles have supported every aspect of who I am as a woman.

"My father was incarcerated practically my entire life, so they have been the men in my life. They were inspirational and they told me I was beautiful and smart.

"They provided hope and all the other stuff that a young Black girl needs. We have struggled a lot but my family is supportive. They push me ahead every day, even when I feel that I have not lived up to their potential.

"I want these kids—my babies and others—to see their options and realize that they are not their circumstances. They have the capacity to change the world for the better," she said.

And, so do you LaToya Sykes. She is doing just that every day—one baby at a time.

and vital to strengthening the city's economic growth," he said.

While Lowe is hard pressed to point to any real mentor relationship early on in his life, he credits Ranell Washington for helping him during college.

"Ranell is a young, up and coming professional in the city who cares about the community and wants to see a strong environment for other young professionals here.

"I must also give credit to Kamilah Williams-Kemp, who is my mentor at work. Our mentor relationship just sort of happened. She is definitely my 'go-to' person for sharing my career goals and aspirations. I value the sound advice she imparts," he said.

Lowe believes that Milwaukee's future is bright and he has remained here to be a part of the city's vision.

"I want to play a role in leading a team of professionals who want to really grow, not just personally and professionally, but have a strong sense of giving back to the community. There are a lot of millennials and Generation Xers—we have almost 200 members in the MULYP—who are doing what they can to give back to not only help the Urban League's mission, but promote the City's vision. And, for those who are not giving back, but want to, please send them my way.

"I truly care about Milwaukee and I want to make a difference in the community. Milwaukee is definitely a great place. I don't see myself moving out of this city in the foreseeable future.

"Milwaukee is just beginning to turn the corner in many ways—there are some great things happening here. For example, under Dr. Driver's leadership, our school system is getting better. We have the revitalization that's occurring in downtown Milwaukee that will provide more job opportunities in underserved communities as additional revenues flow into the city. I see Milwaukee's long-term vision and I want to stay here and be a part of that," said Lowe.

fun and without having made meaningful connections, so we began using social media to do some research to find out some of the things other people and organizations were doing," said Perry.

BLOW held its first mixer in 2014. One of the unique aspects of the gathering was that attendees were provided with laminated cards, listing current event topics on policy, entertainment, media etc. to get them talking to each other and building meaningful relationships. If people were on the phone or engaged with their technology, they forfeited a card. The individuals that had more cards at the end of the evening were eligible for door prizes.

BLOW also wanted to engage with nontraditional fundraising initiatives, to help nonprofit organizations, so that partnered with teen groups and others to donate items such as toiletries, deodorant, soap and sanitary products to Sojourner Truth and other homeless shelters. They also donated coats, clothes and blankets to shelters. Overall, some 500 people have participated in BLOW events.

Initially BLOW held monthly events, but with both co-founders busy with their careers, they have transitioned BLOW's major initiative into an annual fundraiser called "Denim and Diamonds" The purpose of this event is to bring awareness to some of Milwaukee's strengths (denim) and demonstrate how the community can shine (diamonds).

"We don't just hold this event each year and move on; we engage people to come out and express the vision that they have for themselves and the community over the course of the year and, the next year, we actually revisit where we are with our vision," said Perry.

Perry admits that she has had some spectacular help and advice throughout her life from some of Milwaukee's elite. She counts among her mentors Dr. Howard Fuller, Dr. Jeanette Mitchell, Genyne Edwards, Ronald Adams, Tammy Belton-Davis, and, of course, her mother, June Perry. She also admits that, early on, she wasn't fond of living in her mother's shadows because she wanted to make a name for herself on her own merit, but she has come to accept that she can do that, while using her mother's name as an entrée.

"After going through Cardinal Stritch's African American Leadership Program, the leaders and coaches they provided helped me realize that I could be my own person AND capitalize on the asset of being daughter to my well known and very accomplished mother. They showed me that I could use my mother's name to gain access—something I can appreciate now—that other people in other cultures have been able to appreciate and capitalized on. I learned that this great privilege has great value, so there's no reason for me not to use it. I can accept that now, because I understand that, while I gain access using my mother's name, it's up to me to earn my stripes," she said.

Looking toward the future, Perry's vision for Milwaukee is to find ways to affect more positive change in the Black community.

"If I can help people communicate better and thrive, instead of survive, I would be satisfied with that. I would like to be remembered as someone who helped bring awareness and solutions to the mental health and poverty issues in our community. The family structure is falling apart and that's due to a myriad of things—Black men and women not being aware of their tremendous ability to be great leaders, mental health treatment (or lack of it), hopelessness, poverty and depression. People don't really know or understand that they can receive mental health treatment; there's still a stigma attached to seeing a therapist that is false. I want to see that stigma removed. I have a therapist and it's nothing to be ashamed of; we need to take care of our mind, just as we take care of our bodies, to cope with the everyday stresses of being Black and everything else normal people must deal with. I feel we are late to the party of seeking treatment for the ailments we cannot see," she said.

Perry is doing just that while she simultaneously takes care of her ten-year-old son, Jace, with the help and support of her family and friends.

Alderman Khalif Rainey

(continued from page 12)

County's second district. In a special election, he defeated Ravae Sinclair, an assistant state public defender, for the District 2 seat covering part of Milwaukee's north side. Ald. Rainey earned 62% of the votes in his first election bid.

During his two years of service as a county board supervisor, Rainey championed the Milwaukee County's living wage ordinance, authored its voter registration program, and was the author of the legislation that created Milwaukee's first Office of African American Affairs (receiving a unanimous vote) – an office that will be tasked with improving the quality of life for African American Milwaukeeans.

"Study after study, news article after news article, cite Milwaukee as the worst place in the country to live as an African American person. In order to flip the script on Milwaukee's shameful infamy, every policy decision we make should be guided by the question, 'How will this address our racial disparities?'" Ald. Rainey said.

As county supervisor, Ald. Rainey urged the Wisconsin legislature to allow 16-year-old students to vote in their school board elections with a resolution to amend the state constitution. He made efforts to allow teens to pre-register to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles, when they receive their driver's license.

He pushed for a living wage for Milwaukeeans and spearheaded the effort to have about \$1 million dollars allocated to improve and update McGovern Park. Wanting to make it the crown jewel of the north side, Ald. Rainey also erected the new "Chess in the Park" summer program for Milwaukee youth.

Jonathan Spence

(continued from page 12)

working as a contributor to Carmelo Anthony's popular lifestyle blog called ThisIsMelo.com. He also writes poetry and is an apprentice/teacher at Yoga To the People.

"I love my life in New York. It's fast-paced, and there's always something happening. Brooklyn has always been home to me because I have relatives here that I visited even when I lived in Milwaukee. My grandfather was born in Louisburg, North Carolina, but raised in Brooklyn, NY (the late Judge Clarence Parrish), so it's great to have family both here and in Milwaukee.

"I'm sure if I lived in Milwaukee, I would enjoy the same lifestyle that I have in New York, surrounded by artsy people—it's just more of a melting pot here in New York and things move really quickly," he said.

And Spence hasn't stopped moving since he got to New York. He quickly connected with individuals entrenched in the fashion, arts and entertainment industries, and his circle continues to broaden. Being ongoing, adventurous and enthusiastic, has served him well.

"I moved to New York to immerse myself in the vibrant arts community. I didn't necessarily want or expect to make a living in this industry, but I wanted to be surrounded by people who were in either the arts or part of that community. I enjoy museums, fashions, art, entertainment, and seeing people and things that I haven't seen before," said Spence.

Spence closed the Third Annual Brooklyn Nightlife Awards with the original poem, "Fritto Lay." After years of performing in many dramatics competitions he debuted a new poem in Lime Hawk Journal 2015 Winter Issue called "Pancakes, Yoga, & Drag" which documents his journey of understanding and contentment. He also is the winner of the Bowery Poetry Club's The Poet in New York.

Not being shy and taking risks have certainly helped Spence amass an impressive network of connections and friends. He recalls how he had long admired a well-known fashion photographer and, quite by accident, ended up interning with him for a while.

"I was exposed to New York's Fashion Week because when I first moved here, I met this highly acclaimed fashion photographer and asked if I could work with him. He told me to bring my camera and meet him at the Lincoln Center during Fashion Week.

"I wasn't sure if he was kidding or just being sarcastic, but I took a chance, got my camera and showed up. As it turned out, he wasn't interested in attending the shows, so he gave me his tickets to Fashion Week, while he photographed the people outside Lincoln Center who were coming into the show. That was my indoctrination to Fashion Week," said Spence.

At the time street style was a trend and one that suited Spence just fine. He enjoyed creating and sporting what he refers to as 'wearable art.' People began taking his picture and he quickly became 'a name.' Spence has been featured in Vogue and other publications, which has helped ramp up his network of makeup artists, photographers, models and other creative aficionados.

Spence regularly returns to Milwaukee to visit his mother and friends, but does not expect to move back to the city permanently.

"There are opportunities for millennials in Milwaukee, but sometimes you have to create the kind of environment you want, wherever you live; whether entrepreneurs or graduating from medical school. In Milwaukee, as with any other city, once you connect with people you can trust, the sky is the limit in terms of what you can do. You just have to be open to things. The location doesn't matter; there is danger everywhere. Everything is relative. Most of my friends are artists—in various genres—and I have become their chosen family," he said.

Spence said that when he lived in Milwaukee, he frequently traveled to Chicago and developed an impressive network of people in the arts community there—many of whom he interviewed for a blog he authored at the time.

"That was seven or eight years ago, before social media platforms such as Instagram. I also met people by commenting on various things on social media and, before you knew it, you had a conversation thread going and you could develop relationships with and collaborate with people online. So, it's irrelevant where you live—the Midwest, other countries, or in New York. You can build a network through social media, no matter where you live," said Spence.

As for his future, Spence said that he hopes to continue working in real estate and teaching yoga, but his passion will always be the arts. Currently he is building a portfolio of photographs that he plans to publish in a book or use to create T-shirts.

Spence's future is as bright and vibrant as the wearable art he once created and his finely tuned poetic voice will no doubt tell stories of love, pain, oppression and life for generations.

Aronica V. Williams, MD

(continued from page 12)

said Dr. Williams.

Even though she is enjoying a career doing what she loves, Dr. Williams has not given up on her love of music. She continues to identify venues in which to perform.

"I play the violin once every couple of months or so—mostly at churches or weddings. It gives me an opportunity to maintain my musical skills, and it's something I enjoy," said Dr. Williams.

Among those individuals in her life that she looks up to for mentoring and encouraging her are her parents (George W. Williams, III and Dr. Agnes Virginia Williams), Dr. Sandra Underwood, and Dr. Tito Izard, the Chief Executive Officer of MHSI.

"My parents were always great proponents of education, and they have always been involved in my life. They are educators—both from Tennessee. They migrated to Wisconsin in the 60s to become part of the integration of the school system. They originally moved to Beloit, then to Milwaukee. My mother continued to teach and my dad became an advocate for teachers' rights. Though my father has now retired, my mother continues to work at the collegiate level. I think it's pretty cool that she earned her PhD when she

Bianca Williams

(continued from page 13)

to run for political office, even though I didn't win, the experience really taught me a lot. When you do the right thing, it comes back to you," she said.

Williams, who owns six houses, started a nonprofit organization 2-1/2 years ago and just recently held an open house. A Cry For Help Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization that was founded to help individuals who are homeless, disabled, have been victims of sex trafficking or bullied because they are transgender. She provides personal hygiene items, housing, food, clothing and community resources to these individuals. Currently she houses six girls who were part of human trafficking and three transgender boys.

"It's the best feeling I've had in my life to do this--helping others. It's been difficult, there are a lot of organizations out there with more name recognition, but many of them are not touching the lives of these people. We all know what's going on in the streets, but some people are either blind or don't care. It is often difficult for young people like me to do things because we don't get the support we need. I have to really sacrifice to do the things I want to

Bregetta Wilson

(continued from page 13)

circle facilitator, through a grant provided by Walnut Way.

"As a facilitator, we support women in the Lindsay Heights area and Milwaukee community by hosting circles with women from different walks of life. We use a lot of holistic practices to support women. Some of these women feel that they are stuck in their lives. Some are in abusive relationships or have problems with work. They lack confidence in themselves, so we try to connect with these women through Facebook and word-of-mouth," she said.

Wilson said that, so far, it's been rewarding to work with and support these women. Typically 5-10 women attend each 'healing circle.'

"We don't just have them come to one circle and leave them hanging. They can continue to connect with us through a messaging app because we want to support them in an ongoing manner. These circles are not just for African American women, but all women of color," said Wilson.

Wilson may not have had a charmed life early on, but she has successfully turned life's lemons into lemonade and her impressive resume and experiences bear that out. For example, last October she traveled to Cuba to spend a week learning about their health system and how she can bring some of their practices back to Milwaukee.

"In Cuba, they have a zero infant mortality, they have cures for diabetes that we don't have and their mental health services are holistic. It's a communist country, but their medical education and programs are progressive. They are a very poor country, but they have unique health practices that could

be in her 60s," Dr. Williams said with pride.

Dr. Williams is also proud of the fact that, growing up, her parents took in a number of children whose home lives were not conducive to their educational advancement.

"My parents have always been advocates for children's education. I only have one biological sibling (brother), but I have a number of other siblings that my parents took into our home," said Dr. Williams.

When asked why she returned to Milwaukee to pursue her career when so many others are headed to destinations like the one she left, Dr. Williams stated that Milwaukee is her home, and there is a strong need for people who are invested in changing the city.

"Milwaukee will always be home. Even when I was away, I spent a lot of time returning to this city. We need people who are truly invested in making change or some of the gains will only be temporary," she said.

In terms of some of the challenges she sees for Milwaukee, Dr. Williams said that one pressing concern is in the area of employment.

"There has to be organizational change in order to attract and retain millennials. There is a lot of turnover in various careers based on what individuals like and dislike. We have to provide opportunities that broadly consider various perspectives—from the employee and employer. We must also make sure that millennials feel welcomed and that we, as employers, are open to recommendations for changes. On a personal note, I would like to see more of a commitment from people who say they are invested in the community actually making a positive impact in the community," she said.

Dr. Williams is certainly making her impact in the Milwaukee community by investing her time and talents in the place she calls home.

do, but I believe God has something better for me, so I'm not giving up. I refuse to let these girls go back out into the streets, into the hands of a pimp," said Williams.

Support has come from high profile individuals like Dana World-Patterson and Martha Love, both of whom have spearheaded much of Milwaukee's battle against sex trafficking.

"These girls that I'm trying to help could have been me. I made it out of bad situations and I want to help others get out. I wish someone had done this for me. I read a quote once by Harriet Tubman where she said, "I could have brought more if they had known they could be free." If these young girls and men would accept what I'm trying to do, it would become a better Milwaukee for everyone.

"As Black people, we need to make room and start grooming and preparing millennials for what's next. Tomorrow is not promised. If our community leaders would start grooming the next generation, we could be in a better place. We can take Milwaukee to the next positive level and be on the map for movers, shakers and thrivers. We also blame other races for this and that; but we hold each other back. We don't support each other because we're too scared that someone will get more than we have. If we come together like other cultures, we'll be more powerful," said Williams.

Williams may be young, but she is street-smart, mature, determined and confident of her purpose. Her message to youth and other millennials is simple: "You can be whatever you want to be if you put your mind to it. Don't give up!"

benefit Milwaukee, such as their gardening, planting and food infrastructure. I would like to help support and implement some of those things in the Walnut Way community as we reach out to the community," she said.

Wilson sees mental health as one of the major problems in Milwaukee's central city community.

"It's not really talked about, and people try to sweep it under the rug. It's important that we start addressing these issues and look at where the funding is going. The neighborhood issues in some areas and mental health go hand-in-hand. If mental health concerns are not addressed appropriately, the community is not healthy. Moving forward I want to focus more on the community by addressing mental health. There are children suffering and families who don't have support systems, that are struggling," said Wilson.

"I'm trying to help people learn how to embrace their flaws and gain confidence to accomplish their goals. Just because some of these people are living in poverty, does not mean that they don't have goals. I want to get at the root of these issues and sometimes I feel alone in my thought process, but this is my vision for how I want to help people. I have had to overcome a lot and I use testimony as an example to people—just because you're in the system, does not mean that you can't defy the odds," Wilson said with passion.

"I have failed. I have not always succeeded and that's okay, but I'm grateful to those who stood with me, encouraging and inspiring me to continue on this journey," said Wilson.

In addition to working and homeschooling her two children, Wilson finds time to engage in the community through a variety of organizations, including the Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth, the House of Kings and Priests, and a host of other organizations that help foster youth and families who age out of foster care.

"My foot will always be in that space (foster care). My passion is helping the community at large, in my new role, I get to do just that and then some. In addition to helping those in the community see the best in themselves, my heart will always be advocating for youth in foster care and those aging out," said Wilson.

And we are grateful that this millennial is there...doing just that!

OPEN LETTER TO OUR READERS

Milwaukee Community Journal is an actual brick and mortar building, not just an online entity. I was downstairs reviewing our equipment in the storage office and it's like visiting a museum. Old relics, equipment, computers, software and past editions illuminate 40 years journaling the history of change.

Since our origin in 1976, we've moved with our audience. Today our readers are predominantly millennials, 18-40 years of age, shakers and movers, the buyers! They are buying homes, cars, raising families. They are eating "fresh," active in politics, exercising and partying.

Our readers find us in print, with our twice-weekly editions in tenured retail outlets, churches and selective distribution spots. But they also read us online at milwaukeecommunityjournal.com We're in this to win this!

We're dynamic....crisp clear....interactive...and to be honest - exploding with information that you want to read!

We're perfect for new and established advertisers! We want more local interaction and community written articles. We want to offer more millennial access to a proven community source.

This is who we are. But one thing is still deep on our hearts, and that is you've got to join our team. You're the community part of the Milwaukee Community Journal. Let's build together!

Speech Thomas, The Milwaukee Community Journal, Milwaukee's Largest African-American Newspaper

2017-18 Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Recipients

UNDERGRADUATE 1ST YEAR



Anna Dannecker
Emerson College
Major: Comedic Arts
\$2000 Scholarship



Bria Meeks
Grand Canyon University
Major: Nursing
\$1000 Scholarship



Helen Fetaw
University of Pennsylvania
Major: Health & Societies
\$1000 Scholarship



Essence Owens
Fisk University
Major: Business Marketing
\$2000 Scholarship



Tatyana Pearson
Hampton University
Major: Sports Management
\$1000 Scholarship



Quinton Thomas
University of Dayton
Major: Mechanical Engineering
\$1000 Scholarship



Malik Johnson
DePaul University
Major: Cello Performance
\$1000 Scholarship



Elise Ashley
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major: Political Science
\$2000 Scholarship



T'Yanna White
Marquette University
Major: Accounting and Information Technology
\$1000 Scholarship



Mackenzie Robertson
Air Force Academy
Major: Biology/Premed
\$1000 Scholarship



Morgan Harlan
Northwestern University
Major: Economics and International Studies
\$2000 Scholarship



Shaqueda Jenkins
South University
Major: Pharmacy
\$2000 Scholarship

UNDERGRADUATE 2ND YEAR



Alexandria Brown
Hampton University
Major: Psychology / Spanish Minor
\$2000 Scholarship



Jonathan Morris
St. John's University
Major: Business
\$2000 Scholarship



Kayla Johnson
Medical College of Wisconsin
Major: Medical Doctor
\$2000 Scholarship



Patrick Iyasele
University of Pittsburgh
Major: Biomedical Engineering
\$2000 Scholarship



Chiara Sanders
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major: Biomedical Engineering
\$2000 Scholarship



Patricia Walker
University of Kentucky
Major: Pharmacy
\$2000 Scholarship



Olivia Osunkwu
Marquette University
Major: Biomedical Sciences
\$2000 Scholarship



Alethia Tilford
Howard University
Major: Communications and Spanish
\$2000 Scholarship



Dameron Weathers
Nova Southeastern University
School of Osteopathic Medicine
Major: Osteopathic Medicine
\$2000 Scholarship



Nathanael Washington
Nova Southeastern University
Major: Sports Business Management
\$2000 Scholarship



Brian Mays
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Major: Real Estate Development and Economics
\$1000 Scholarship



Jazmin Chainey
University of Kentucky
Major: International Studies
\$1000 Scholarship



Aaron Wilder
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Major: Geography
\$2000 Scholarship



Dameron Weathers
Nova Southeastern University
School of Osteopathic Medicine
Major: Osteopathic Medicine
\$2000 Scholarship

A Legacy Lives on

Oza Holmes

Role Model and Mentor
Breast Cancer Care Expert
Nurse Navigator in the Community
Eased Patients' Journeys



Through friendship and understanding, she improved health in our communities

Oza never had breast cancer, never even had a family history, but she had a great passion. Her support for her patients went beyond the clinic. She helped found the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin's Breast Care Center and went on to earn many leading roles in breast cancer care at organizations including Aurora Sinai and After Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD). Many who have found friendship and understanding in their journey have Oza to thank.



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A Legacy Lives On

For decades, Milwaukee breast cancer patients have known the name Oza Holmes, a registered nurse who worked for decades with breast cancer patients in the Milwaukee area.

Anyone who found friendship and understanding at the African American Breast Cancer Support Group since its beginnings in 1993 has Oza Holmes to thank.

Anyone who benefitted from the care at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin's Breast Care Center since its founding in 1990 has Oza Holmes to thank.

Holmes passed away at age 66 in May 2017. Milwaukee Community Journal, the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Cancer Center and other colleagues honor and remember the impact she made and legacy she left on so many individuals, families, communities and organizations.

Holmes never had breast cancer, never even had a family history, but she had great passion for and commitment to the cause.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. Nearly 5,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2017 in Wisconsin alone, according to an estimate by the American Cancer Society. In Milwaukee and around the country, African American women have higher rates of death from breast cancer compared to other populations.

Holmes helped establish the Breast Care Center at what was then Milwaukee County General Hospital. She went on to lead breast cancer care at organizations including Aurora Sinai Medical Center and After Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD).

"Oza was the nurse you always aspired to be," said Anna Purdy, a nurse practitioner at the Breast Care Center. She and Holmes were the center's founding staff nurses, working with Alonzo P. Walker, MD, current center director and surgical oncology professor at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Purdy described Holmes as a role model and a mentor. Holmes was extremely knowledgeable and resourceful, and she had vast cancer care experience and many contacts in the community. "Oza always went out of her way to make her patients' journey easier," Purdy said.

Holmes was a nurse navigator, meaning her support for her patients went well beyond the clinic. She visited them in their homes, she facilitated community support groups and she was out in churches and schools educating people about breast cancer detection, screening and awareness.

"Everybody knew Oza Holmes because of her involvement in the community," said Bonnie Anderson, a nurse manager at Milwaukee Catholic Homes who worked closely with Holmes for decades.

Holmes was Anderson's first nurse mentor when Anderson was diagnosed with breast cancer 25 years ago, and together they started Nurses Affecting Change, a program that provides breast health education and clinical breast exams at community programs and events.

Holmes also helped create the African American Breast Cancer Support Group. At the time, this group for African American women and men with breast cancer was the first of its kind in the city of Milwaukee.

The group still exists today, and has been renamed the Oza Holmes African American Breast Cancer Support Group, and Anderson helps facilitate. Surely the name Oza Holmes will never be forgotten. Through all of those whose lives she bettered throughout the greater Milwaukee community her legacy will live on.



Oza Holmes

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- Milwaukee Times
- Milwaukee Community Journal

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