



## Three Tips for Year-End Giving

With the holidays just around the corner, now is a great time for Dayton-area residents to consider how they can take advantage of tax advantages, boost the impact of their giving and give to vetted organizations this holiday season. These three tips will help.

1. Maximize your tax benefits.

Before writing a check or using your credit card to make a gift, consult with your advisor or The Dayton Foundation to determine if there is a more tax-wise way to give this season. Individuals may maximize tax benefits and increase the amount they are able to contribute to non-profits by utilizing IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions, appreciated stock or "bundling/bunching" to a Donor-Advised Fund.

2. Consider strategies for making a bigger impact through your giving.

Pooling your charitable gifts with others, such as family members or friends, or taking advantage of matching gift opportunities, possibly through your employer or a donation challenge



*Nakia Lipscomb*

offered at a preferred non-profit, throughout the end-of-year giving season are great ways to boost your gift's impact on a cause you wish to support.

3. Do your research. Don't be in a hurry.

Research the cause or organization you wish to support before making your donation. There are more than 9,000 not-for-profits in the Dayton area. By getting to know the organizations that are at work in our community, you can determine which organization best fits your giving goals. Visit the organization's website, research them on candid.org, or call and speak to someone personally at the charity to verify that they are efficient, ethical and effective. Additionally, The Dayton Foundation is here to help you find a

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## The Dayton Chapter NAACP Re-Elects Dr. Derrick L. Foward President

By: LaTonya Victoria

According to History.com, an interracial group of activists came together in February of 1909 to create the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Credit was given to the founding members Mary White Ovington, Henry Moskowitz, William English Walling, Oswald Garrison Villard, W.E. B. Dubois, Ida B. Wells, Archibald Grimke, and Mary Church Terrell.

The NAACP was founded the year after the Race Riots in Springfield, Illinois. It is said that there were numerous riots of this type happening in cities across the country such as New York, Evansville and Greenburgh, Indiana, and even Springfield, Ohio.

This set of events in the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln received more notable press because of its symbolic location and the fact that it is said to have



*Derrick L. Foward*

gone on for months. The press reported that the riots continued through the months of July and August, destroying Black business districts, homes, and killed several in the area. The first President of the NAACP in New York was Moorfield Storey a white lawyer. During this time W.E. B. Dubois served as Director of Publications and Research, and

*Continued on Page 4*

## The Dayton Foundation Approves Basic Human Needs Grants to Local Charities

The Dayton Foundation Governing Board has approved grants totaling \$120,650 to 23 charitable organizations in Greater Dayton as part of the Foundation's Basic Human Needs Grants process. These grants help nonprofit organizations that assist Greater Dayton individuals and families in need of basic necessities, such as food, shelter, clothing and healthcare. The following organizations recently were awarded grants.

Abundant Life Christ Centered Ministries (\$3,000) to assist families with children attending Belle Haven Elementary

with purchasing groceries for holiday meals.

Back to Basics Youth Education Center (\$3,500) to cover transportation costs for Thurgood Marshall High School students participating in the afterschool computer coding and programming classes.

Bottom Line (\$4,000) to provide RTA bus passes and snacks for the college Access Program.

Boys to Men Transitional Home, Inc. (\$3,000)

to provide basic toiletries, hygiene products, medications and transportation for young men ages 8 to 21 living in group homes.

CityHeart Corporation (\$7,500) to support the emergency rental assistance program for residents of Montgomery County, Ohio.

Clothes that Work (\$5,000) to assist in purchasing

clothing and shoes for the Dressed for Success: Reducing Poverty and the Shortage of Job-Ready

Workers program.

Day of Caring Foundation (\$2,000) to purchase hygiene items for disadvantaged people and their families in Greene and Montgomery counties.

Dayton Dream Center (\$5,500) to purchase laundry, hygiene and cleaning supplies for the Suds N'Duds program.

Elizabeth's New Life Center (\$3,500) to provide diapers, wipes and formula to clients of the Montgomery County Women's Centers.

Gem City Gives dba Gem City Diaper Bank (\$6,000) to purchase

*Continued on Page 8*



**The Dayton Foundation**  
*We help you help others.*

## Woman, 53, Has 'Never Felt Better' After Undergoing Pig Kidney Transplant: 'It's Like a New Beginning'



*Towana Looney, 53, who received a gene-edited pig kidney undergoes medical testing at NYU Langone Health on December 11, 2024 in New York.*

Towana Looney, 53, is recovering after undergoing kidney surgery — using the organ from a genetically manipulated pig — on Nov. 25 at NYU Langone Health in New York City

"It's like a new beginning," the Alabama woman told the Associated Press

"To have a working kidney — and to feel it — is unbelievable," she added to the news agency

An Alabama woman "is recuperating well" after undergoing a pig kidney transplant in New York City, per reports.

Towana Looney, 53,

underwent surgery using the organ from a genetically manipulated pig on Nov. 25 at NYU Langone Health following eight years of dialysis, per the Associated Press.

Looney had previously donated a kidney to her mother back in 1999, before her remaining kidney was later damaged — and eventually failed — due to pregnancy complications, the AP reported. She had developed a high level of antibodies, which meant she'd likely reject other organs kidney donors had to offer.

Looney is the fifth American patient to be

given a gene-edited pig organ since 2022 and just the third to receive a kidney, according to the New York Times. Previous patients died within months of undergoing surgery.

Looney — who was discharged from the hospital 11 days after the surgery — is now "recuperating well," per the AP, despite being "temporarily readmitted this week to adjust her medications."

"It's like a new beginning," she told the news agency, adding, "The energy I had was amaz-

*Continued on Page 8*

## Hope to Dream – Greene County Providing Beds for Local Children in Need

On Wednesday, December 18th, United Way of the Greater Dayton Area hosted "Hope to Dream" Greene County event at Morris Furniture Company Corporate Offices, Clearance Outlet and Distribution Center. This heartfelt initiative provided 52 children in Fairborn with a safe and comfortable place to sleep by delivering 48 beds and 4 cribs, complete with mattress, frame, bedding, and mattress protector.

In addition to the beds, each child received a gift package that included books, a teddy bear, Family Gift

Basket from Kroger, and a bookmark resource featuring local support services through United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, including HelpLink/Vets-Link 211, Strong Families, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, ensuring that families have access to ongoing resources for their children's growth and development.

"We planned and organized this initiative to make a difference in the lives of children in Greene County," said Tom Kelley, President, and CEO of United Way of the Greater Dayton Area "It's inspiring to see our partners and supporters come together with financial and volun-



*A group of people that helped make this event possible.*

teer resources to help us reinforce the message that every child deserves a safe

place to dream." "Every child deserves a comfortable place to

sleep. Yet, for many children in our community, the reality is far from this

simple comfort". said Jane Dorley, Executive Director of Fairborn FISH "We look forward to this event every year. The smiles, laughter, and sometimes even tears of happiness we see when children first see their new beds are unforgettable."

This event is made possible through the collaborative efforts of United Way of the Great-

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*Merry Christmas from the Staff at the Dayton Weekly News*



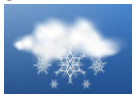
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# Around DAYTON

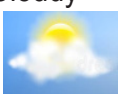
## Miami Valley Weather

Saturday Sunday

Rain/Snow  
High 30  
Low 20

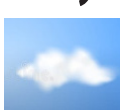


Mostly Cloudy  
High 32  
Low 25



Monday

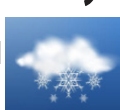
Cloudy  
High 43  
Low 38



## 5 day Forecast

Tuesday

Snow  
High 41  
Low 37



Wednesday

Cloudy  
High 46  
Low 39



600 E. SECOND ST. DOWNTOWN DAYTON

# SHOP FRESH & LOCAL

FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT THE 2ND STREET MARKET

Fridays 11 AM to 3 PM  
Saturdays 9 AM to 3 PM  
Sundays 11 AM to 3 PM

**STOCK UP WEDNESDAY**  
OPEN WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27, 11 AM TO 3 PM

Find everything you need for a healthy, delicious and festive holiday season!

[METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD](http://METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD)

**GREATER WEST DAYTON**

# INCUBATOR

The Greater West Dayton Incubator is excited to share upcoming events and programs from our office and around our ecosystem. If you have any questions, please contact us at [gwdi@udayton.edu](mailto:gwdi@udayton.edu).

Applications are now open for the Urban Elevation Accelerator!

The Urban Elevation Accelerator is here to help Dayton entrepreneurs like access the critical resources needed to elevate your business.

This nine-month program is designed to help underrepresented entrepreneurs start or grow their business with the goal of achieving positive profits and creating a strong foundation for long-term success.

Participants will work with a mix of educators, subject matter experts,

successful entrepreneurs, students, and more—all committed to helping you at every stage of your business development.

Key Program Features:

- Six-week bootcamp (Elevation Academy): Saturdays, February 1, 2025 - March 1 2025, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at The Hub powered by PNC Bank.

- Three months of free mentoring from business owners and entrepreneurs.

- Student consulting on a special project to boost your business.

- Connections to community resources and funding opportunities like the Cultural Capital Micro-lending Program.

- Access to co-working and meeting spaces at The Hub powered by PNC Bank and the GWDI.

- Additional training and classes to support business growth.

- Promotion of your business on GWDI's website and social media platforms.

Program Highlights:

Up to 20 entrepreneurs will be accepted into this competitive program, which encourages you to work on your business instead of always working in it. Partner with the Greater West Dayton Incubator (GWDI) to build your business while accessing resources, education, and support.

Important Dates:

- Deadline to Apply: January 10, 2025

- Notification of Acceptance: January 20, 2025.

## It's the Season of Snow and Ice Programs at DML

Winter is here, and with it, Dayton Metro Library offers several programs with themes of winter, snow, and ice for all ages.

Winter Wonder Time, Thursday, January 2, 4-5 pm, Trotwood Branch: Are you a penguin lover? Curious about owls? Wonder about hibernation? Enjoy stories, songs, and other winter-related activities centered around "Winter Things." (Grades 1-4)

Blizzards of Fun: Snow Art, Snow Science, Snow Animals, Cozy Stories, every Thursday, January 2-February 20, 4-5 pm, West Branch: Enjoy finger painting, hibernating

animal crafts, erupting snow volcanoes, wintery stories, and more. (Grades 1-4)

Book Boogie: Winter Weekend Edition, Saturday, January 4, 10:30-11 am, Huber Heights Branch: Listen to a story and afterwards, there's a dance party! (Families)

Color Me Calm: Winter Bookmarks, Thursday, January 9, 5:30-7 pm, Main Library, Conference Room 1A: This session's project is coloring winter-themed bookmarks. (Adults)

Where the Wild Kids Are - Beach Party, Saturday, January 11, 11 am-12 pm, Northmont Branch: Take a break from the winter weather by dressing in summer outfits, and come to the Library for a beach party! Enjoy summer-themed crafts, music, and more! Registration is required. (Families)

Snow Celebration, Monday, January 13, 6-7 pm, Brookville Branch: Make an indoor snowball launcher, paint with ice, and play snow-themed games. Registration required. (Ages 6-12)

Family Program: Winter Birds, Wednesday, January 15, 4-5 pm, Main

Library, Children's Creativity Space: Learn all about the birds that call Ohio home, and make a bird feeder out of recycled materials. (Families)

Adult Winter Craft: Sock Figures, Thursday, January 16, 6-7 pm, West Carrollton Branch: Make a pair of winter-themed friends out of socks. Supplies are limited to the first 10 attendees. (Adults)

Adult Craft Club: Ice Painting, Thursday, January 16, 6:30-8 pm, Main Library, Conference Room 1A: Use frozen ice and food dye to paint on watercolor paper. Registration required. (Adults)

Glow-in-the-Dark Storytime, Tuesday, January 21, 6:30-7:30 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch: Liven up the dreary part of winter by reading stories about light, dancing with glow sticks, and creating a glow-in-the-dark pictures. (Ages 3-8)

For more information and to register if required, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

### Hope to Dream - Greene County Providing Beds for Local Children in Need... Continued from Page 1

er Dayton Area, with support by Morris Furniture Company Corporate Offices, Clearance Outlet and Distribution Center, Greene County, and Fairborn FISH. Ad-

ditional sponsors include Riverside Research, IUE-CWA, Buckeye Health Plan, CareSource, IH Credit Union, SRC, Joseph & Amanda Jenkins, Help Me Grow, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, Greene County Public Library and Kroger.

#### About United Way of the Greater Dayton Area (UWGDA):

For over 100 years, UWGDA has led a UNIT-



ED community to uplift our neighbors in Montgomery, Greene, and Preble counties. To learn more visit [Dayton-UnitedWay.org](http://Dayton-UnitedWay.org) or call (937) 225-3060.

## RTA Offers Free Rides on Christmas, New Year's Day

The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will be offering free rides systemwide on both Christmas and New Year's Day to help people spend time with their loved ones and celebrate the holidays.

This free service includes fixed-route buses, as well as rides on RTA Connect, the agency's ADA paratransit service. The call center will also be open regular hours. There is still time to catch a ride on our De-

ember bus, which will be on various routes throughout Dec. 31. Santa Claus will be riding two more times this holiday season—once on Sunday, Dec. 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Route 22, and finally on Christmas Eve from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Route 1. The December bus schedule can be found at [www.iriterta.org/holiday-bus-schedule](http://www.iriterta.org/holiday-bus-schedule).

Also, the RTA's historic Christmas trolley will also be on display and giving free rides on Saturday,

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# National

## Critical Race Theory will Continue to be Attacked



Author Ta-Nehisi Coates in 2023.

Black storytellers have historically been our balm and compass, given their ability to help us make sense of the world on a macro level while ensuring we remain conscious of critical elements within our community. As we approach 2025, critical race theory will continue to be attacked, and young peoples' access to pivotal books about the evolution of Black identity will be threatened.

And so, reading these books is a powerful tool for resistance. Amid some solid literature that dropped this year are a few authors who were exceptional at helping us cope, illuminating new paths to understanding ourselves and making sense of the world we experience. Some of these books are critically acclaimed bestsellers. However, the criteria for my list encompass more than accolades from boards comprised of people who don't have the lived experience to validate work meant to entertain and liberate generations of Black people.

And though they all came out in 2024, these eight books are timeless. From romance to history, fiction and nonfiction, and in no particular order, they stood out because they center elements of Black history and culture that often go unexplored in an engaging and digestible way. They help readers view the world differently, offer bold and innovative storytelling, and were written from a place of deep empathy — and they managed to speak to

a specific need in the Black community

### 'Madness: Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum'

With profound empathy, care, and nuance, journalist Antonia Hylton unpacks the history of Crownsville Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Maryland that provided care for Black patients from 1911 to 2004 (it was desegregated in the '60s). Throughout this exploration, Hylton amplified America's long history of abusing Black bodies while simultaneously failing to care for Black minds.

### 'The Day God Saw Me As Black: The Journey to Liberated Faith'

This work from D. Danyelle Thomas is a genre-blending, unflinching rebuke of the influences of white supremacy in the Black church. Thomas uses memoir, critical analysis and theology to offer a clear-eyed analysis of what freedom in the context of spirituality can look like for Black people.

### 'Undiplomatic: How My Attitude Created the Best Kind of Trouble'

Author Deesha Dyer, who was social secretary in the Obama administration, shares her journey from community college to the White House. Dyer shares stories — inspiring, raw and captivating — about accompanying President Barack Obama on life-changing trips while secretly contending with imposter syndrome. Readers will walk away comforted by the unexpected familiarity of her story — and with tools for how to see ourselves as capable and deserving.

### 'Hood Wellness: Tales of Communal Care From People Who Drowned on Dry Land'

described the debut series focused on Black inventors: "This one is so thrilling — it's all about Black inventors who shaped history. Each month, kids dive into a fun and interactive online course with physical tools and games that highlight groundbreaking Black inventors, from the genius behind the modern traffic light to pioneers in medicine and technology. Did you know a Black inventor perfected the recipe for ice cream?"

Dr. Anndretta shared her vision for the project: "We are not only teaching history — we are working with families to spark innovation and confidence in the next generation. As both a parent and an educator, I wanted children to have more than just videos and digital learning. With Thrive Culture Box, kids

Tamela Gordon's book is highly recommended reading for any Black woman with a thirst for realistic self-care that goes far deeper than a spa day. With grace, unmistakable love for her community and a clear understanding of the transformative power of being there for each other, Gordon offers a blueprint for how to create a solid support system.

### 'The Air Between Us'

This book burst on the scene at the top of the year and set the Black romance genre on fire. In this captivating and thoughtfully crafted story by Shameka S. Erby, she pushes back against a one-size-fits-all approach to romantic partnerships and Black love by creating complex and relatable characters in a fulfilling and healthy polyamorous relationship.

### 'Beyond Policing'

Philip V. McHarris, a Yale alum and professor of Black studies at the University of Rochester, used meticulous research and precise analysis to present a compelling argument for a country without policing. His work breathes hope into the possibility of community-based alternatives for crime and is an essential resource for anyone bold enough to reimagine what justice in America can entail.

### 'Black Women Taught Us: An Intimate History of Black Feminism'

Jenn M. Jackson's love letter to Black women brings the contributions of Black feminists to the forefront of history. Readers will find hope, joy and a path forward, even in the darkest times, etched within the stories and analysis Jackson bestows us with.

### 'The Message'

Easily one of the decade's most important books, Ta-Nehisi Coates' "The Message" cautions readers about the dangers of believing the historical myths that shape our worlds. It's a resounding call for self-examination and an unflinching, honest declaration about writers' responsibility.

## 12-Year-Old Girl Writes Book to 'Help Others Overcome' After Experiencing Racism



Saily Bah, author of "Rise Above: How to Turn a Negative Situation into a Positive One," is pictured with her parents.

When Saily Bah, a 12-year-old Black girl from Iowa, experienced racist incidents as a fifth grader in school last February, she came home feeling hurt, her mother recalled.

"Within a span of a couple of days, there was an incident in class where kids were saying racist things -- that Black people can't do certain things and saying words like the N-word," Saily's mother Rohey Sallah told ABC News. "[Saily] was very disturbed and told them you shouldn't talk like that."

A couple days later, racist language was directed at Saily on the playground, Sallah said, promoting the then-11-year-old to open up to her parents about her experience.

"She was really upset and she was crying, asking, 'Why do people think it's OK to do this? Why do they think Black people are different?'" Sallah said.

As the middle schooler processed the experiences with her family, she decided to channel pain into purpose by writing a speech about why racism is wrong -- one that would inspire Saily to become an author and share her message more widely in the form of a book.

Saily, who wrote and illustrated "Rise Above: How to Turn a Negative Situation into a Positive One," reflected on her ex-

perience in an interview with ABC News Live Prime's Linsey Davis.

"I had felt horrible at the time," she said, recounting the racist incidents that she experienced.

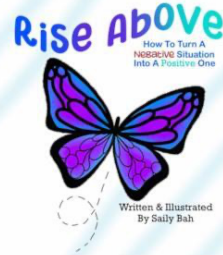
"I thought that I was going to just bottle my emotions up, but I decided that I was going to help people," she added. "I want to teach people that it's OK to speak up and find your voice and advocate for this type of stuff."

Sallah said that Saily initially wrote a speech about racism that she shared with her teacher and the principal of the school.

"My message to you is, never ever let someone tell you you don't belong somewhere based on what you look like or believe," Saily wrote in her speech, a copy of which was shared with ABC News.

"If you want to turn on your light and make sure it never burns out, you have to first make sure that you are positive you will never extinguish someone else's light," she continued in the speech. "We all have different cultures, different mindsets. But we are all human beings, and we deserve to be treated that way. The same God that created you is the same God that created me."

According to Sallah, after reading Saily's speech, her teacher nominated her for an award because she turned a negative experience into a positive one.



Though Saily did not get the opportunity to read the speech to her classmates, Sallah said she was still committed to sharing her message wider.

Reflecting on her experience, Saily told Davis that she realized that the issue of racism is "universal" and she wanted to empower others to speak out when they see it or experience it, which is why she decided to write her book.

US schools still struggle with segregation 70 years after Brown v. Board of Education

Reflecting on writing and illustrating "Rise Above," Saily said that the process "brought me some joy" during a challenging time.

Asked if she plans on writing another book in the future, Saily said that if she feels that she needs to speak out about anything else, she will "definitely jump into action."

"I just want to help people overcome things," she said. "And know more about things that need to be brought to [our] attention [rather] than just being brushed aside."

## Two Mompreneurs Collaborate, Launch New Thrive Culture Box for Black Children

Nationwide -- Parents and other family members can now give children ages four and up the gift of learning and celebrating Black culture. Two Los Angeles-based moms, Dr. Anndretta and Stacy Kirk, who are leaders in cultural education and technology respectively, have teamed up to create Thrive Culture Box. This innovative subscription service delivers a monthly activity box designed to help children and families explore Black culture and uplift communities together. Subscribers can expect a new box delivered each month, accompanied by instructional videos and lessons.

Stacy Kirk, co-creator of Thrive Culture Box,

described the debut series focused on Black inventors: "This one is so thrilling — it's all about Black inventors who shaped history. Each month, kids dive into a fun and interactive online course with physical tools and games that highlight groundbreaking Black inventors, from the genius behind the modern traffic light to pioneers in medicine and technology. Did you know a Black inventor perfected the recipe for ice cream?"

Dr. Anndretta shared her vision for the project: "We are not only teaching history — we are working with families to spark innovation and confidence in the next generation. As both a parent and an educator, I wanted children to have more than just videos and digital learning. With Thrive Culture Box, kids



Dr. Anndretta and Stacy Kirk

use their hands and exercise creativity with physical materials as well."

Dr. Anndretta brings years of experience teaching Black Studies and Performance Studies at institutions including UCLA, USC, and CSU East Bay where she currently teaches and earned tenure last year. Across these cam-

pus, a recurring question from her students was: "Why wasn't I taught this sooner?" In response, she began developing solutions for young Black learners and their families. Her first initiative, Black Arts and Performance Summer Day Camp launched in 2019 and has drawn families from as

far as Nevada. The camp remains in high demand, with 2025 registration already open.

The Thrive Culture Box was born from the need for a scalable solution to meet growing demand. Stacy Kirk, a tech entrepreneur and advocate for diversity in education, brought her expertise in business

strategy to the project. As the founder of QualityWorks, she emphasized the importance of accessibility: "It's not just about having a great idea—it's about making it accessible to as many people as possible. Thrive Culture Box is built with that in mind, ensuring any family, regardless of location, can teach their kids about Black history and culture. It's about expanding the impact."

Families interested in joining can subscribe at ThriveCultureBox.com

For updates, follow the brand on Instagram at @thriveculturebox and find instructional videos and lessons on YouTube at YouTube.com/@thriveculturebox

# Classified

### Legal Notice

#### 2025 Annual Budget

Copies of the 2025 Annual Budget adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in Montgomery County, Ohio, are available for public inspection in the office of the Chief Financial Officer at 4 South Main Street, Dayton Ohio 45402.

#### 2023 Annual Financial Report

Copies of the 2023 Annual Financial Report of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in Montgomery County, Ohio, are available for public inspection in the office of the Chief Financial Officer at 4 South Main Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402.

Ms. Mary Kay Stanforth  
Chief Financial Officer  
Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority

### GD 24-70 New Hire Background Checks

The Greater Dayton (RTA) is seeking bids for a five (5) year contract to provide comprehensive background check services for new hire applicants. It is imperative that all individuals employed by RTA are thoroughly vetted to ensure the safety and security of our operations and the communities we serve.

### The Dayton Chapter NAACP Re-Elects Dr. Derrick L. Foward President ... Continued from Page 1

he wrote The Crisis. The Crisis is currently the official publication of the NAACP and is still in publication today. There are 2,200 chapters across the country.

In May of 1915, the Dayton Chapter of the NAACP was formed. The first local President was Charles C. Furrow. I had the pleasure of sitting down with the newly re-elected 34th President of the NAACP Dr. Derrick L. Foward at the Dayton office of the NAACP. We spoke about his long tenure and some of his accomplishments. I was given a tour and introduced to many that were hard at work on a Friday afternoon. I was surprised at how many different offices and rooms the Dayton NAACP housed.

Dr. Foward began his career of activism many years ago by becoming involved in his neighborhood association. Within two years of being involved in the neighborhood association he became the President in 2004, and he is still the President today. Dr. Foward then got involved in Congressman Tony Hall's Advisory Council and started meeting several Politicians. Dr. Foward told the story of how he was inspired many years ago by Fred Strayhorn who was the Keynote

speaker at his sister's graduation celebration in 1999. Dr. Foward saw that they were about the same age and was inspired by Fred and his efforts.

Dr. Foward is currently in his 18th year of being President of the NAACP. Dr. Foward said, "I would like to pay homage to all the other 33 Presidents that preceded me. I had the pleasure to serve under four different Presidents... It gave me an opportunity to watch their management and leadership styles. I learned a lot and I was able to see how I wanted to go to market and lead the organization after taking a good look at how each one of my predecessors lead the organization." Dr. Foward has been elected ten times.

Dr. Foward considers himself a servant leader who does not mind getting his hands dirty. In his 18 years of service to the NAACP, he has left the organization with a whopping \$227,000 in surplus dollars as of October of this year. With the money the NAACP made they provided good financial stewardship over the funds that have been provided to their organization within these 18 years. Dr. Foward shared that the funds that they made have been used for \$88,465 in scholarships, \$120,338 to fund the NAACP's youth programs. The Little John Jr. Council is for ages 1-13. The Dayton Youth council for ages 14-17. This group also works with young adults under twenty-five if they are still in college. The Move Foward Thurgood High School Chapter is based out of Thurgood Marshal High School. These programs teach leadership skills and community service. The vision is that ultimately the youth in these programs will one day be "the one's leading this organization in the future," stated Dr. Foward.

To date under the leadership of Dr. Foward, they have raised 3.3 million dollars from a fundraising standpoint. Dr. Foward has personally raised \$317,147 in membership money. There are 432 people who have become fully paid life members. Additional notable accomplishments under Dr. Fowards watch are registering 6,142 people to vote and Investigating 359 civil rights cases. Dr. Foward advocated for body cams and helped with the search for the police chief and is working hard to build a good relationship with Chief Kamran Afzal.

Before Dr. Foward became President, he wanted to fulfill the dream of the Civil Rights Act of sixty-four by capitalizing on the second A of the NAACP which stands for Advancement. The Advancement of colored people. Dr. Foward expressed, "It was that vision that was laid on his heart many years ago." During his 18 years as President Dr. Foward provided the organization with three core goals. To inform people about what we are doing. To Educate people on issues that matter most. To Empower individuals to make better decisions on their daily journey of life. These core values have been adopted as the organization's global goals. Dr. Foward shared a few things about what makes his long-standing tenure a little different. Dr. Foward explained that "Early in my administration, I implemented a proactive civil rights agenda. By way of our monthly community-based meetings which occur on the fourth Monday of each month. This was part of my strategy from the beginning. Dr. Foward continued, "I felt why aren't we educating people on their human and civil rights. People felt we were to march in

the protest and yes that is what the NAACP was to do, ... but we needed to do even more...to educate the public and to better help others prepare so that you might be able to manage some of these issues on your own and not have to go to the NAACP. We needed to educate the people so that they could cut down on the number of cases that we needed to investigate." Dr. Foward told of how after having the monthly meetings complaints went down by 50%. They have helped educate 31,723 people so far and have 6,376 online activists who follow the meetings online.

Dr. Foward served under 3 Presidents and he watched many people coming in for assistance, I asked Dr. Foward why he originally wanted run for President, he said, "He wanted to be part of something that is built for the road ahead and decided to run for President because he saw a great need for ..Wanted to be focused on the road ahead." When asked what his proudest moment was in criminal justice, Dr. Foward talked about an investigation that he spearheaded that led to the arrest of two of the highest-ranking law enforcement officers that headed up the public affairs division around 2013. Dr. Foward replied, "From a health-care perspective it is when the Corona Virus hit, and I started hearing about the number of Black people that were dying at a significant ate. I called together our health commissioners, some doctors and held an online forum to educate the public about the Corona Virus epidemic. I think that by us doing it early on, it minimized the number of Black people that died."

I asked Dr. Foward how the public could become more involved. Dr. Foward replied, "It is important to know and understand your personal and civil rights. To come to the community meeting that the NAACP holds on the fourth Friday of the month. It is important to be involved in your community. It is important to be able to voice your concerns. If you are not going to meetings then you are not going to know what is going on in the community. You will not be able to understand the body of work that our Standing Committee Chairs do for us and in the community. You will just be accepting what they give you."

You can reach the Dayton Chapter of the NAACP by calling (937) 222-2172. If you are interested in getting more information on the Dayton Chapter of the NAACP, you are encouraged to attend their monthly meetings. To volunteer you can email a resume to naacpdayton3181@sbcglobal.net.

# Editorial & Comments

## Something to Consider: Responding to Hardships

By: Brenda Cochran  
Contributing Writer

Most would agree that there are countless numbers of people who are experiencing many challenges which in time can be seen as very difficult hardships which greatly affect those who are experiencing them.

There is no question that living with hardships can be very difficult, sometimes they can bring positive outcomes such as lessons and personal growth.

Everyone experiences negative occurrences in life and most of them are not long-lasting, there are however, some that have a lasting effect that often continue to give even more challenges for not only individuals, but organizations as well.

When we think of the kinds of hardships we could experience, research has shown that most of them can fall into four categories:

The first is Personal Trauma-Many times unexpected and often shocking personal trauma is generally an experience you can't control and that causes feelings of confusion or loss. This could be anything from the corona virus pandemic to a death in the family to surviving a car crash.

Discrimination and Injustice: Whether it occurs in the workplace or another part of your life, when a person experiences discrimination or injustice is one of the most common hardships. This involves a wide range of subtle and overt intentional and



Brenda Cochran

unintentional behavior and actions that can cause long-lasting and negative consequences.

Mistakes and Failures: Such mistakes can be technical professional, ethical, or strategic – such as a produce malfunction, a poor hiring decision, a loss of credibility, or a collapsed venture. It can often feel difficult to bounce back from these failures, especially if they're larger in scale, tied to a deeper workplace culture or issue, or far-reaching in their impact.

Career Setbacks: Some-time times career setbacks are unavoidable or out of control. It could be organization-wide layoffs, a freeze on hiring or promotions, a company reorganization, or a wide array of less severe, but significant events.

Here are some ways to respond to hardships;

- Build relationships: Connect with loved ones and friends for support,
- Take care of yourself: Make time for rest, exercise, and wellness.
- Use Your sense of humor. Try to do things that

make you laugh.

- Set small goals

Even though they are difficult to endure, hardships can also bring gifts and lessons learned.

Dayton African Elders Council Nation  
Builders and Warriors Present  
**KWANZAA 2024**





**UMOJA/UNITY- First Day of Kwanzaa**  
Thursday, December 26 from 6PM to 8PM  
New Hope Lutheran Church, 2000 Catalpa Drive

**KUUMBA/CREATIVITY - Sixth Day of Kwanzaa**  
Tuesday, December 31 from 6PM to 8PM McClendon Institute, 2100 West Dr.  
Martin L. King Drive at the corner of John McClendon Way

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**50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL (1975) KARAMU YA IMANI**  
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# Education

## Renowned Educator Releases His 14th Book for School Leaders



Baruti K. Kafele

Nationwide -- Baruti K. Kafele, a bestselling author and award-winning educator of more than 35 years who was also a former Principal of inner-city schools in New Jersey for almost 15 years, has released his newest thought-provoking book entitled *What Is My Value INSTRUCTIONALLY to the Teachers I Supervise?*. In this book, he turns his attention to instructional leadership — a crucial, complex, and sometimes neglected facet of leading a school.

Principal Kafele contends that the primary purpose of supervising teachers is to help them continue to improve in the classroom so that all students have the support and skills they need to succeed. For principals and assistant principals, in particular, it is easy to be so inundated by the non-instructional aspects of the work that the instructional side — including instructional coaching—suffers. This has an adverse effect on the entire school. Just as the quality of teaching directly affects student outcomes, there is also a direct correlation between instructional leadership and student achievement and well-being.

The book, which is available on Amazon, is structured around 10 self-reflection prompts to help the reader answer the question that the title

poses: What is my value instructionally to the teachers I supervise? This powerful resource offers illuminating stories about and practical strategies for focusing on the instructional side of leadership to improve teacher pedagogy and enable student achievement to soar.

About the author One of the most sought-after school leadership and classroom equity presenters, Principal Baruti K. Kafele is impacting America's schools. During the past 35 years, he has received more than 150 awards and has delivered more than 3,000 conference and program keynotes, professional development workshops, parenting seminars, and student assemblies.

In addition to writing several professional articles for popular education journals, he has authored fourteen books, including seven ASCD best sellers.

A former teacher in New Jersey, he was selected as the district and county teacher of the year. As a principal, he led the turnaround of four different New Jersey urban public schools, including Newark Tech, which was three times recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of America's best high schools.

For more information and/or to book him as a speaker, visit his official website at [PrincipalKafele.com](http://PrincipalKafele.com)

## Plan Now for Special STE(A)M Programs at DML

Dayton Metro Library has unique STEM/STEAM programs planned for January that include special guests from partner organizations around Montgomery County:

Rockets, Planets, and Telescope  
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery will be on hand to help kids put together a basic telescope. Additionally, participants will learn how rockets work and dis-

cover the scale of major objects in the solar system using everyday objects. (Grades 1-4)

Thursday, January 2, 10-11 am, Vandalia Branch

Thursday, January 23, 4-5 pm, E.C. Doren Branch

Tuesday, January 28, 4-5 pm, Trotwood Branch

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead: Exploring Textiles

A guest from Montgomery County Extension 4-H will drop by to teach

young scientists about the science behind textiles: how they are made and where they can be found. Registration is required. (Grades 1-4)

Every Tuesday, January 7-February 25, 4-5 pm, Huber Heights Branch

Stargazing For All

With telescopes provided by Five Rivers MetroParks, enjoy a magical evening of stargazing under the night sky with Park volunteers. Dress

warm for the weather! Registration is required to receive weather updates. (All Ages)

Monday, January 27, 6:30-7:30 pm, Miami Township Branch

For more information, to register if required, and for a list of additional STE(A)M programs, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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MIAMI VALLEY URBAN LEAGUE

THE EQUITY CENTER



## Arts & Entertainment

### Explore the Art of Music at DML

Dayton Metro Library will host Dayton Performing Arts Alliance (DPAA) in Woodwind Quintet: The Art of Music.

Ideal for students in grades 4-12, this program

is a multimedia presentation that pairs music with paintings, architecture, and sculpture. With help from members of the Dayton Philharmonic, students will learn how visual arts

and music connect.

Two sessions are available:

Monday, January 6, 4-4:45 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch

Monday, January 27,

4-4:45 pm, West Branch

Registration is not required. For more information, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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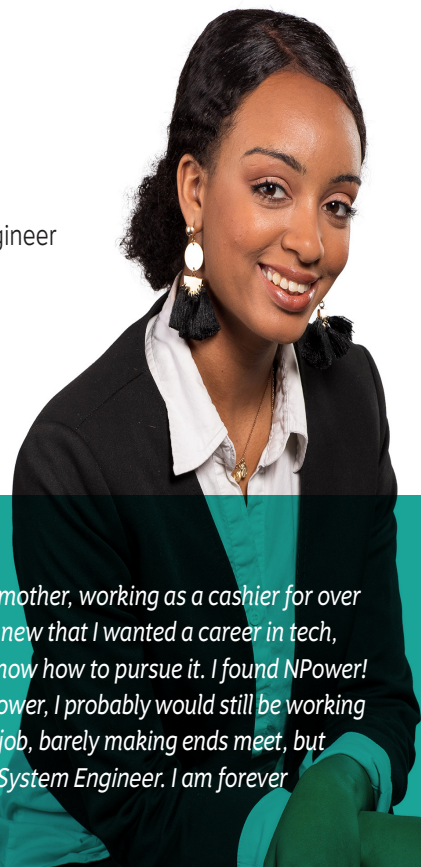
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Worship Service - Sunday 8 AM & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School - Sunday 10:30AM

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**FAX: (937) 222-7336**

**SUNDAY**  
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
AM Prayer Meeting.....9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study.....11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Bible Study.....11:00 a.m.

**Pastor Cory J. Pruitt**  
1501 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Dayton, OH, 45412



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**Rev. Gerald A. Cooper, Pastor**

937-268-6729 ~ Office      937-267-9804 ~ Fax



**SUNDAY**  
Church School      9:00 a.m.  
Worship Services      10:00 a.m.


**WEDNESDAY**  
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**THURSDAY**  
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Fax: 937-223-8872  
Email: greater\_allen\_ame@att.net



**Church Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.**  
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.  
Women's Bible Study - Monday.....6:30 p.m.  
Noonday Bible Study - Wednesday.....12:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study - Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.



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Toll Free: 1-844-679-9343  
email:bcfchurch@swohio.twcbc.com

**Rev. Dr. William E. Harris, Jr. Senior Pastor**

Sunday Service.....9:30 a.m.  
Church School - Sunday.....8:45 a.m.  
& Wednesday.....1:00 p.m.  
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every  
Wednesday starting at.....6:00 p.m.

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**Reverend Rockney Carter, Senior Pastor**

**Sunday**  
Church School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Tues. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.

**Other Ministry**  
email: rockney.carter@gmail.com  
1684 Earllham Drive • Dayton, OH 45406

**Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**  
401 S. Paul Laurence Dunbar St. - Dayton, Ohio 45407  
Rev. Xavier L. Johnson, Senior Pastor  
937-222-4373 - Office - Email: offices@bmbcdayton.org




**SUNDAYS**  
Church School      9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship      10:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study      12:00 noon  
Word & Worship      6:30 p.m.

Bethel services are aired on DSTV Time Warner Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. Time Warner Cable 992

**ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Services Each Saturday:  
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Morning Worship      11:00 a.m.  
Mid Week Prayer Service      7:00 p.m.  
Dr. William T. Cox, Sr., Pastor

**SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3801 Fairbanks Avenue  
Office: 937-268-6711 Fax: 937-221-8040



**Rev. Dr. Marcettes Cunningham, D.Min., Pastor**  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday  
Prayer/Bible Study, 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Evening Prayer, 6:30 p.m.

**Dixon United Methodist Church**  
1691 Infirmary Rd. - Dayton, OH 45417



Church Phone:  
(937) 835-3366  
Email:  
Dixonumc1691@gmail.com  
Website:  
Dixonumcdayton.org

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Midweek Bible Study- Wednesday.....  
6:00-7:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
Prayer Meeting - Saturday.....10:00 a.m.  
Text In Prayer Request 1-888-646-9678



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# Religion

## Join the Day of Caring Pancake Brunch to Support the Homeless and Hungry

The Day of Caring Pancake Brunch is celebrating over 30 years of community giving in Dayton, and you're invited to take part in this cherished tradition! On Sunday, February 23, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Shiloh Church, United Church of Christ (5300 Philadelphia Dr., Dayton) will host the annual brunch to benefit those in need.

For just \$7 per adult and \$5 per senior or child under 12, guests can enjoy a hearty breakfast featuring hot sausages,

pancakes, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, and orange juice. The event provides a warm and welcoming environment to connect with fellow community members while supporting a meaningful cause.

100% of all ticket sales go directly to help those experiencing homelessness and hunger in the Dayton area. This event is part of a broader effort to provide vital resources and services to individuals and families in need.

Don't miss the chance to be part of a tradition of

caring that has been giving back to the Dayton community for over three decades. For more information and a list of additional event locations, please visit [www.dayofcaring.us](http://www.dayofcaring.us).

About Day of Caring  
For over 30 years, the Day of Caring organization has been dedicated to supporting the homeless and hungry in the Dayton area through events like the Pancake Brunch. This community-driven initiative ensures that all proceeds go directly to help those in need.



**DAY OF CARING 365**

**Pancake Brunch**  
Benefiting Local Food Banks

**Shiloh Church**  
Living the Word by Serving the World

## Shiloh Church, United Church of Christ Announces Special Christmas Eve Services

Shiloh Church United Church of Christ invites the community to celebrate the joy of Christmas at their special Christmas Eve services on December 24, 2024. The church will offer three unique services to honor this holy season, each designed to provide meaningful worship and fellowship for all ages.

Family Service at 4:00 PM  
The evening begins with a family-friendly service at 4:00 PM, perfect for all ages. This service will feature a special message for children and families as they gather to celebrate the birth of Christ. The warm and welcoming atmosphere ensures that everyone can share in

the spirit of Christmas together.

Combined Concert at 8:30 PM  
At 8:30 PM, Shiloh Church will host a combined concert, bringing together music and worship for a joyful celebration. The concert will feature a variety of musical selections, including both choral and instrumental performances.

Candlelight Service at 9:00 PM  
The night concludes with a beautiful Candlelight Service at 9:00 PM. This serene service will include moving scripture readings, hymns, and a special candlelight ceremony to symbolize the light of Christ entering the world. Join us to experience the true meaning of

Christmas.

All are welcome to attend these services and join the Shiloh Church community in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you are seeking a family-friendly experience, a festive concert, or a moment of quiet reflection, Shiloh Church, United Church of Christ has a service to suit your needs.

Event Details:  
Family Service: 4:00 PM  
Combined Concert: 8:30 PM  
Candlelight Service: 9:00 PM  
Location: Shiloh Church United Church of Christ, 5300 Philadelphia Dr., Dayton, OH 45415  
For more information, please contact the Shiloh Church Office at 937-277-8953

## Voices for Peace Holds Prayer for Victims of Gaza-Israel Crisis

About Shiloh Church U.C.C.  
Shiloh Church United Church of Christ is a vibrant, welcoming congregation in Dayton, Ohio, committed to serving the community and sharing the message of Christ's love. With a rich history of worship, outreach, and fellowship, Shiloh Church offers a place where all are invited to grow in faith and make a difference in the world. Shiloh Church is Open and Affirming ([openandaffirming.org](http://openandaffirming.org)).

Local religious communities came together this weekend to hold a moment of prayer for the ongoing Gaza-Israel crisis.

Members of the Fazl-Umar Mosque and other community groups in attendance Sunday night called for peace, highlighting the violence that has taken place towards innocent civilians.

European diplomacy steps up calls for ceasefire  
People in attendance at

the event, organized by Voices for Peace, also explained that the crisis has been traumatizing for Muslims living in the United States.

"It is definitely very disturbing for us. It's something that has really touched our heart," said Usama Rehman, the prayer leader at the mosque at 637 Randolph St.

Doctors demand ceasefire in Gaza  
A principal teaching of the mosque, said Rehman, is that members have "love for all and hatred for none." Teachings such as these, and their faith are what leaders at the mosque will hold onto as they continue to call for peace going forward.



# Sports

## Baseball Hall-of-Famer, All-Time Stolen Base Leader Dies At 65



SAN FRANCISCO -- Major League Baseball's all-time stolen base leader Rickey Henderson died at the age of 65, according to his family, per the Athletics. Henderson passed away on Friday, according to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

"It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of my husband, Rickey Henderson," the Henderson family said in a statement from his former team the Athletics.

"A legend on and off the field, Rickey was a devoted son, dad, friend, grandfather, brother, uncle, and a truly humble soul. Rickey lived his life with integrity, and his love for baseball was paramount. Now, Rickey is at peace with the Lord, cherishing the extraordinary moments and achievements he leaves behind."

Across his illustrious 25-year MLB career, spanning from 1979 to 2003, Henderson played for nine teams and most notably retired as MLB's all-time stolen base leader (1,406) and all-time runs scored leader (2,295).

The 1990 American League MVP is regarded as one of the best lead-off hitters in the sport's history and the greatest base stealer of all-time, a feat highlighted by leading the AL in stolen bases 12 times.

"For multiple generations of baseball fans, Rickey Henderson was the gold standard of base stealing and leadoff hitting," MLB commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement.

"Rickey was one of the most accomplished and beloved Athletics of all-time. He also made an impact with many other Clubs during a quarter-century career like no other. Rickey epitomized speed, power and entertainment in setting the tone at the top of the lineup. When we considered new rules for the game in recent years, we had the era of Rickey Henderson in mind

"Rickey earned universal respect, admir-

ation and awe from sports fans. On behalf of Major League Baseball, I send my deepest condolences to Rickey's family, his friends and former teammates, A's fans and baseball fans everywhere."

Henderson began his professional career with the Oakland Athletics after being drafted by the franchise in the fourth round in 1976.

He quickly made his mark, earning All-Star honors in his first full MLB season in 1980, after stealing 100 bases to break Ty Cobb's longstanding AL record of 96 that had withstood for over 65 years.

In 1982, the "Man of Steal" further cemented his legacy as the greatest base stealer in MLB history after the left fielder stole 130 bases to break Lou Brock's major league single-season record of 118.

"My impact on the game was going out there and making things happen," Henderson told MLB.com in 2009, according to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. "To me the most important thing was stirring things up and scoring some runs so we could win a ballgame."

A 10-time All-Star and two-time World Series champion, Henderson finished his career with a .279 batting average, while amassing 3,055 hits and 297 home runs, and 1,115 RBI's.

He was inducted into Cooperstown as a first-ballot Hall of Famer in 2009 after receiving 94.8 percent of the Baseball Writers' Association of America vote - which ranked as the third-highest percentage at the time.

"I still cannot believe I've lost one of my favorite teammates and great friend Rickey Henderson. Rest in peace," Hall of Famer Dave Winfield said of his former teammate in a post on Instagram.

Henderson played for nine teams in his career, including the Oakland Athletics, New York Yankees, San Diego Padres, New York Mets, Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Angels, Seattle Mariners and

Toronto Blue Jays.

"Rickey Henderson was a dream to hit behind as a teammate and a nightmare for a catcher as an opponent. He was one of the most generous, hysterical and gracious human beings. He will be sorely missed. Prayers for his soul and family," said Mike Piazza on X, a former teammate of Henderson's with the New York Mets.

Hailed as the greatest Oakland Athletics player in the franchise's history, the Coliseum renamed the playing surface to "Rickey Henderson Field" in 2017. In the Athletics' final home game at the Coliseum this past season, Henderson and former teammate Dave Stewart threw out the ceremonial first pitch to mark the end of their 57 seasons at the iconic stadium.

In November, Major League Baseball owners approved the A's relocation to Las Vegas, following in the footsteps of the NFL's Raiders, who left Oakland for Nevada in 2020.

"Rickey Henderson is one of the greatest baseball players of all time," the Athletics said in a statement. "His on-field accomplishments speak for themselves, and his records will forever stand atop baseball history. He was undoubtedly the most legendary player in Oakland history and made an indelible mark on generations of A's fans over his 14 seasons wearing the Green and Gold.

"For those who knew him personally, Rickey was much more than a franchise icon and a Baseball Hall of Famer. He was a friend and mentor to every player, coach, and employee who passed through the Oakland Coliseum or played a game on the field that came to bear his name.

"We are shocked and heartbroken by his passing. His loss will be felt not only by A's fans but also by baseball fans around the world. The entire A's organization sends its sincere condolences to Rickey's family and loved ones at this time."

## Kettering Welcomes 22nd Annual Flyin' to the Hoop Basketball Invitational

The City of Kettering proudly welcomes the 22nd annual Flyin' to the Hoop Basketball Invitational at Kettering Fairmont's Trent Arena from January 17-20, 2025. This prestigious event has become one of the nation's premier high school basketball showcases, bring-

ing top talent nationwide to our community.

The four-day event features an exciting lineup of games showcasing exceptional high school basketball programs and future collegiate and professional stars. Trent Arena provides the perfect venue for this nationally recognized

event, which traditionally draws thousands of basketball fans, college scouts, and media representatives to Kettering.

Fans are encouraged to explore Kettering between games and visit our local restaurants and shops, which help make our community special.

### Three Tips for Year-End Giving... Continued from Page 1

legitimate charity that is doing the work you care about.

Three Tips for Year-End Giving By Nakia Lipscomb

Dayton Foundation Senior Director of Develop-

ment Offers Three Year-End Giving Tips to Boost Impact

The end of the year is a busy time for everyone. Please know that The Dayton Foundation is here to help. For more infor-

mation about how we can help you help others, visit our website at [www.daytonfoundation.org](http://www.daytonfoundation.org) or call (937) 222-0410.

## Garden/Plant Programs at DML

Dayton Metro Library programs can help patrons with planning and preparing their spring garden or tending to their houseplants.

Learn About Garden Safety, Kettering-Moraine Branch, Friday, December 27, 2-3 pm: A Montgomery County Master Gardener and a local firefighter/paramedic will be on hand to discuss basic garden safety. This is an information session only.

Family Program: Plant an Herb Garden, Main Library, Children's Creativity Space, Wednesday, January 8, 4-5 pm: Create a small indoor herb garden to take home - perfect for

beginners or seasoned gardeners.

Planning a Garden, Vandalia Branch, Thursday, January 9, 6:30-7:30 pm: Want to plant a garden but don't know where to start? A Master Gardener can help. Registration is required.

Invasive Species, Kettering-Moraine Branch, Friday, January 10, 2-3 pm: An OSU Agricultural and Natural Resources educator will discuss invasive plant species in Ohio.

Healthy Houseplants, Miami Township Branch, Tuesday, January 21, 2-3 pm: An OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer will teach patrons how to

get those houseplants to thrive in the winter with the right soil, pot, water, and light. Registration is required.

The Basics of Houseplants, West Carrollton Branch, Monday, January 27, 6:30-8 pm: An OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer will discuss correct potting methods, insect control, sunlight exposure, and more.

For more information and to register if required, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

## 20 Person Kidney Donation Chain Performed at Ohio State



COLUMBUS — The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Comprehensive Transplant Center performed 20 surgeries over two days, giving the 10 recipients a new lease on life.

People on the kidney transplant list can often wait years for a match. Donor transplant chains work by pairing a person in need of a kidney who has a living donor that is not a compatible match with another donor/recipient pair so the recipient receives a compatible organ.

The Wexner Medical Center was able to transplant 10 healthy kidneys to 10 people in need of a kidney, Ohio State says.

"This is one of the country's largest single

institution living kidney donor transplant chains completed in one week," said Kenneth Washburn, MD, executive director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center and director of the Division of Transplantation Surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. "Big chains like this one allow us to help a large number of patients in a short period of time. The resources needed to complete an event such as this is a testament to the commitment of the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center to enhancing and extending patient's lives through organ transplantation."

This 20 person transplant chain has been in the works since October, according to Ohio State.

"People with kidney failure can live for a long time on dialysis, but the treatment can be hard on the body and limit quality of life," Amer Rajab, MD, PhD, surgical director of kidney transplantation and clinical professor of surgery at Ohio State College of Medicine said. "Once the organ transplant is complete and the new kidney starts working, time and time again our patients tell me how good they feel. This is thanks to our donors, our heroes."

This transplant chain is believed to be one of the largest single institution chains in the nation.



# Health

**Woman, 53, Has 'Never Felt Better' After Undergoing Pig Kidney Transplant: 'It's Like a New Beginning'...**  
*Continued from Page 1*



**Photo of a scientist sorting through oocytes as they prepare them for an injection of genetic modifications.**



**Pigs are pictured in temporary cages as they wait for embryo implementation from genetically altered pigs.**

ing. To have a working kidney — and to feel it — is unbelievable.”  
Cell Biology & Nuclear Transfer Senior Research scientist, Lori Sorrells, sorts through oocytes as they prepare them for an injection of genetic modifications at the Revivicor Laboratories.  
“You don’t know if it’s going to work or not until you try,” she admitted, per the outlet.  
Looney — who is expected to return home to Gadsden, Alabama in three months, according to the AP — told the N.Y. Times that she’s “never felt better” in an interview before she was readmitted to the hospital.  
“I used to do one task, sit down and take a rest, then go do another task. Now I multitask!” she added to the outlet of her time on dialysis — a treatment that removes extra fluid and waste from your blood when your kidneys are unable to.

wait for embryo implementation from genetically altered pigs, at Revivicor Research farm  
Never miss a story — sign up for PEOPLE's free daily newsletter to stay up-to-date on the best of what PEOPLE has to offer, from celebrity news to compelling human interest stories.  
Scientists are now “genetically altering pigs so their organs are more humanlike,” the AP reported. The outlet adds that more than 100,000 people remain on the U.S. transplant list, many of whom are waiting for a kidney. According to USA Today around 5,600 Americans die every year waiting for a human organ to become available.  
Looney's kidney “came from a pig with 10 genetic edits” and was “provided

by Revivicor, a subsidiary of United Therapeutics Corporation,” per the N.Y. Times.  
“This could completely change the math of end-organ failure and what that means in terms of the likelihood of getting a transplant,” Montgomery — who has had a heart transplant himself — told the outlet.  
“Xenotransplantation [the transplantation of living cells, tissues or organs from individuals of species into another species, per the National Institutes of Health] is about eliminating that gamble.” he added.  
NYU Langone Health didn't immediately respond when contacted by PEOPLE for additional updates on Looney's recovery.

Dr. Robert Montgomery of NYU Langone Health and Dr. Jayme Locke — Looney's original doctor — worked together on the transplant. It was eventually approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after Looney first applied in April 2023.  
“To see hope restored to her and her family is extraordinary,” Locke said, per the AP.  
“This was in many ways her only option,” the doctor added, per the N.Y. Times.  
Despite knowing the risks, Looney said, “OK, where do I sign?,” adding Locke warned her of the dangers and the fact that the operation was “new ground.”  
Pigs are seen in temporary cages as they

Moving from Uganda to the United States brought changes I couldn't fully understand until I experienced them. It was more than just new faces and places—it was an introduction to a new world of people, each bringing a unique piece of themselves. Growing up in Uganda, I knew the warmth of shared language and traditions, where everyone around me felt familiar. In the U.S., I learned that diversity adds a layer of richness to life that I hadn't expected. Living in both places, I realized that each person's culture, language, and story add something special,

making our communities stronger and more beautiful.  
Diversity isn't just about what makes us different; it's what gives us the chance to truly connect. When I first arrived here, small things surprised me, like hearing different languages at school or learning customs from friends. But each of these experiences taught me something new about the world. I realized that embracing diversity isn't just about noticing differences but seeing the beauty in them. Every new perspective has helped me understand the world in ways I couldn't have on my own. I learned that diversity is like a

**The Dayton Foundation Approves Basic Human Needs Grants to Local Charities...**  
*Continued from Page 1*

diapers, pull-ups, wipes, menstrual products and other items for clients of the Diaper Bank.  
Good Shepherd Ministries (\$7,500) to assist in upgrading essential kitchen appliances used in recovery houses and ministry activities.  
Grace Urban Development Corporation (\$5,500) to provide uniforms and weekend food bags for low-income families attending Louise Troy Elementary.  
Latinos Unidos en Dayton (\$6,000) to purchase coats for Latin Americans newly residing in the Miami Valley.  
Ohio's Hospice of Dayton Foundation (\$7,500) to purchase a Centrella Smart+ bed for patients staying in Dayton's Inpatient Care Center.  
Operation Homefront (\$5,250) to purchase 75 gift cards to help support holiday meals for military families.  
Planting Seeds, LLC (\$7,500) to purchase adult beds, mattresses and box springs to assist families in the local community.  
Rebuilding Together

Dayton, Inc. (\$7,500) to provide furnace maintenance services for older adult homeowners within Montgomery County.  
St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Mary's Conference (\$2,900) for the removal and replacement of an old freezer to support the St. Mary Dayton Food Pantry.  
St. Vincent de Paul – Mary, Help of Christians (\$7,500) to assist with rent, rental deposits and utilities for people living with financial hardships in the 45324 zip code.  
The Risen Empowerment Resource Center, Inc. (\$4,000) to purchase removable shelves, refrigerators and supplies for the Community Food Pantry in Trotwood.  
Troy Church of the Brethren (\$4,000) to provide laundry supplies to individuals participating in the free Laundry Outreach program.  
We Care Arts (\$7,500) to purchase daily food and hygiene supplies for the artists.  
Wesley Community Center (\$5,000) to purchase hygiene products for

low-income individuals through the Food Distribution Center.  
To apply for a Basic Human Needs Grant from The Dayton Foundation, please visit <https://www.daytonfoundation.org/grant-opportunities> or contact Karen Gruenberg, Community Engagement program officer, at (937) 225-9928.  
About The Dayton Foundation  
The Dayton Foundation has been the trusted charitable giving resource for thousands of individuals, families and organizations since 1921. Ranked among the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.37 billion in grants since its founding, with current assets from all funds exceeding \$1.12 billion. For more information about The Dayton Foundation, visit [daytonfoundation.org](http://daytonfoundation.org) or follow the Foundation on Facebook, X or LinkedIn.

## Be a Holiday Hero — Give the Gift of Life

**O-Negative Blood Needed; Donate at the Dayton Donor Center Dec. 23 – Jan. 4 and Receive a \$25 Electronic Gift Card**

One meaningful way to celebrate this season of giving? Become a holiday hero and save lives through blood donation.  
Dayton residents can donate at Versiti Blood Center of Ohio's Dayton Community Blood Center between Monday, Dec. 23, and Saturday, Jan. 4, and receive a \$25 electronic gift card redeemable at over 250 retailers nationwide as a token of gratitude.  
All blood types are needed, though O-negative is currently the greatest demand. Blood donation commonly supports victims of traumatic accidents, cancer patients and those undergoing an organ transplant.

“Donating blood is a wonderful way to share your holiday spirit and give the most precious gift,” said Tracy Morgan, Vice President for Donor Services at Versiti Blood Center of Ohio. “One donation, which takes less than an hour, can save as many as three lives.”  
Give the ultimate gift and turn the holidays into a time of hope: Walk-ins are welcome at the Dayton Center — bring your family and make it a holiday outing! — or make an appointment by calling (937) 461-3220. To register online and learn more about blood donation, please visit our website at [versitidayton.org/blood-donation](http://versitidayton.org/blood-donation).

Holiday Blood Drive Details  
Versiti Blood Center of Ohio's Dayton Community Blood Center  
349 S. Main St., Dayton, OH 45402  
Monday, Dec. 23 – Saturday, Jan. 4  
Hours  
7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23 and 30  
7 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 31  
CLOSED Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1  
7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2  
7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3  
7 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4

## My Journey with Diversity - Baraka Jackson



**Baraka Jackson**  
bridge, connecting people and ideas that might otherwise never come together.  
One of the most important things I've learned is that diversity teaches empathy. When I think about the people I've met here, I notice how much we all have in common—our dreams, our struggles, and our hopes for the future. Whether I'm with friends

from Uganda or new friends here, we all want to feel seen and understood. Embracing diversity means we don't just accept each other's differences; we value them. Each story I hear reminds me that we're all part of something bigger, a shared world that's richer because of our differences.  
Living between two worlds has also taught me to be curious and open. In Uganda, I learned the language, foods, and traditions of my home. Here, I've started learning about other cultures and new ways of looking at life. Trying new foods, hearing different languages, and listening to friends' fam-

ily stories has given me a new sense of curiosity and a feeling that the world is so much bigger than any one culture. Diversity has taught me that every new experience is a chance to grow and understand each other a little better.  
Looking ahead, I feel hopeful for a world that fully embraces diversity. I imagine communities where people see each other as equals, where differences bring us together rather than set us apart. When we celebrate diversity, we build stronger, kinder communities. We're able to solve problems and create a future that reflects everyone. If we keep building these bridges and learning from each other, I believe we'll find that diversity isn't just a part of life—it's what makes life extraordinary.

