

7 OVER SEVENTY

THE NEXT CHAPTER AWARDS

Presented by:



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Honoring those who prove **Impact is Ageless**



OUR ECOSYSTEM

We do our work in three main sectors

DIRECT SOCIAL SERVICES

CREATIVE AGING

REFRAMING AGING

OUR NORTH STAR

We will continue to work toward these enduring purposes

VISION

The vision of Hannan Center is that seniors are respected, valued, empowered to reach their potential and connected to a community of their choice

MISSION

The mission of Hannan Center is to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life for seniors in Michigan

VALUES

Commitment to Healthy Aging
Empowerment
Respect
Innovation



Dear Attendees,

Warm greetings to you all!

It brings us immense joy to welcome you to this special occasion, where we celebrate and honor the inspiring individuals over the age of 70 who dare to age out loud. Not only have they defied age, but they continue to learn, create, and serve their community with unmatched zeal and dedication.

Age is just a number, and our honorees today exemplify this. Their stories remind us of the infinite potential within each of us to bring about change, to inspire, and to create—no matter where we are in life's journey.

In the realm of Art, we are privileged to witness those who have not just created but also taught and developed art that resonates with souls of all ages. Their commitment to expression and beauty is a testament to the timelessness of artistic endeavor.

Our Lifetime Achievement awardees have touched lives and built legacies. Their significant contributions stand as beacons, inspiring others to aspire, achieve, and serve.

The Changemakers among us have looked at our community's challenges and have seen possibilities and solutions. Their innovative approaches and tireless efforts have reshaped our world in incredible ways.

In the category of Civic and Community Leadership, we honor those whose involvement has enriched our community, whose service has uplifted lives, and whose leadership has paved the path for others to follow.

The spirit of Entrepreneurship is alive and thriving in our septuagenarians and beyond. Their businesses, built on passion and resilience, testify that it's never too late to start anew and create an impact.

Our Lifelong Learning honorees are a powerful reminder of the joys of perpetual learning. Their curious minds, always hungry for knowledge and new experiences, show us that every day presents an opportunity to learn and grow.

Last but certainly not least, our Unsung Heroes. They work tirelessly, often away from the limelight, driven by pure commitment to a cause they believe in. Today, we bring them into the light, amplifying their essential work.

In celebrating these individuals, we hope to inspire every community member. To remind each one of us that age does not define our capacity to dream, to act, and to make a difference.

Thank you for joining us in this heartfelt celebration and carrying forward the legacy of these remarkable individuals.

With warm regards,



Vincent Tilford

President and CEO, Hannan Center



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SPECIAL THANKS

2023 70 Over Seventy Selection Committee

Dr. Carolyn Campbell
Brenda Price
Antonia Harbin- Lamb
Michael Madigan
Helen B. Love



BILL MEYER

Entertainment

Bill Meyer is a renowned Detroit pianist that has been sharing his love for music with audiences all over the world for decades. He has worked with such acts as Smokey Robinson, Cab Calloway, Natalie Cole, Savion Glover, and many others.

One of Bill's many notable feats has been working as the music director, conductor and pianist for Motown's own Martha Reeves. He has also done many tours and records with the jazz great Marcus Belgrave. On top of that, Bill recently retired from Wayne State University after being the Music Director for the dance company for almost 30 years!

Bill is still very active in the Detroit music scene, running one of the best jazz jam sessions in the city every Thursday at Bert's Marketplace for almost 2 decades featuring the RGB Trio comprised of world-famous bassist Ralphe Armstrong, drummer Gayelynn McKinney and himself. In addition to that, he has other projects he works with including the Bill Meyer Jazz Group, the Latin jazz group Soneo, the Latin salsa dance band La Inspiracion, and a New Orleans style band the Detroit New Orleans Band.

Bill has also played piano for shows at the Fisher, Masonic Temple, Michigan Opera Theater, and with the Detroit Symphony at Orchestra Hall. He has written, directed and produced shows for musical theater as well as composed and arranged music for TV, film and advertising.

For most people, all of these accolades would be more than enough... but Bill likes to learn and perform outside of the music world as well, including doing his own roofing, construction and plumbing. He is a "do it yourself" kind of guy and is always learning new skills.

If you want the perfect music for your event and do not want to worry at all, look no further than Bill Meyer and his band!



Presented by: 

PROGRAM

OPENING ENTERTAINMENT

Bill Meyer

WELCOME

*Deborah Brouwer, Board President
Vincent Tilford, President and CEO
Marion Hayden, Mistress of Ceremonies*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Art Awards*

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Changemaker Awards*

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Civic & Community Leadership Awards*

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Entrepreneurship Awards*

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Lifelong Learning Awards*

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Unsung Hero Awards*

PRESENTATION OF 70 OVER SEVENTY | *Lifetime Achievement Awards*

CLOSING REMARKS



MARION HAYDEN **Mistress of Ceremonies**

HONOR THE TRADITION, EXPAND THE LEGACY

Marion Hayden is one of the nation's finest proponents of the acoustic bass. Mentored by master trumpeter Marcus Belgrave, Hayden began performing jazz at the age of 15. She has performed with such diverse luminaries as Bobby McFerrin, Nancy Wilson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Geri Allen, Regina Carter, Steve Turre, Lester Bowie, David Allen Grier, James Carter, Dorothy Donegan, Joe Williams, Lionel Hampton, Frank Morgan, Jon Hendricks, Hank Jones, Bobby Hutcherson, Larry Willis, Sheila Jordan, Mulgrew Miller, Annie Ross and many others.

Her creative practice centers around her ensemble Legacy—formed in 2003, Legacy performs original and narrative driven compositional works within the framework of improvised music with an emphasis on diasporic music traditions.

She is a co-founder of the touring jazz ensemble Straight Ahead- the first all-woman jazz ensemble signed to Atlantic Records.

Widely recognized as an advocate for the preservation of cultural and artistic legacy, In 2016 Hayden was honored for her work as a performer and educator with the prestigious Kresge Artist Fellowship- a fellowship and grant award given an elite group of creative artists. This year Hayden received a New Music USA composition grant and in 2022 was honored with the Ron Brooks Award from the Southeast Michigan Jazz Assoc.

2019 Art X Grant and a Creators of Culture Grant for original musical works. She was Artistic Director for a 2018 Knight Arts Foundation Grant encouraging young women in jazz and recipient of the Jazz Hero Award.- a national award given by the Jazz Journalists Association- recognizing people who have made a significant contribution through their artistry and community engagement.

As an arts advocate, Hayden has served as Grant Panelist for the Detroit Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, Art-Ops and the Highland Park Cultural Commission. She also serves as panelist or consultant for South Arts, Detroit Sound Conservancy, Charles Wright Museum of African American History, the Kresge Foundation, Jazz Education Network, Chamber Music America and the McKnight Foundation

A passionate advocate for youth music education, Hayden is the Geri Allen Collegiate Lecturer in the Dept. of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation at University of Michigan and Director of Jazz Bass and Jazz Ensembles at Oakland University. She served as the 2023 Ensemble Director for the Sisters in Jazz Collegiate Ensemble - a part of the Jazz Education Network.

Hayden teaches for Michigan State Univ. Community Music School Detroit and is an educator with JazzEd Detroit. As well, she conducts the Next Gen Ensemble- a performing group showcasing young musicians.

SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSORS



TABLE SPONSORS



Beverly Burns, Holy Bowly, Evan & Jen Ho, and Mary Neff



● **OLDER ADULT RESOURCES**

Support connecting to programs and services for seniors such as Medicare/Medicaid, transportation, food/nutrition, housing, legal services, and mental health counseling. Managed by licensed professionals. Free and confidential.



● **COMPASSIONATE DEMENTIA CARE**



DAYBREAK
at Hannan Center

Safe and secure day program for older adults living with dementia. Social and therapeutic activities. Affordable full and half day options.

● **CREATIVE AGING + WELLNESS CLASSES**

Professionally-led classes that provide social interaction, personal enrichment, and intellectual growth. Fine arts, theater, creative writing, culture-based wellness such as yoga and tai chi, and more.

● **KAYROD GALLERY**

Dedicated to highlighting older adult artists, both professional and amateur, and providing a venue for the community to come together for artistic exploration and discovery.

Aging is a Journey...

**DISCOVER WHAT'S
POSSIBLE AT
HANNAN CENTER**





Congratulations to our **2023 AWARDEES**

ART

Judy Bowman

Patricia Barnes
Jeanne Bieri
Joan Britton
Paul Curtis and Daphne
Means-Curtis
Henry Harper
Shirley Hathaway
Betty McGraw
Gladys Patrick
Julie Sabit

CHANGEMAKER

Honorable Deborah Ford

Frederick Anderson
Karen C. Brown
Linda Campbell
Jessie Francisco
Marjorie Mitchell
Vazilyn Poinsetta
Rev. Joan Ross
Jay Wilber
Chichita Young

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Annie Mae Holt

N. Charles Anderson
Denise Ford
*Orlin Jones
Arthur Park
Maria Peoples
Sidney Rubin
James Shimoura
Maureen Taylor
Gwendolyn Winston

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

David Everette

Billy Fowler
Dr. Pauline Furman
Sharon Harbin
Delphine Harris
Rev. Otis Harvill
Yvonne Knox
Charlene Mitchell-Rodgers
Dr. Jerry Zayid

LIFELONG LEARNING

Carole Green

Adell Dickinson
Michelle Fallena
Nina Flanigan
Laverre Greene
Charles Hiller
Marion Jackson
Vivian Longfellow
Inez Moore
Willie Ruth Thomas

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Maurice Parrish

Daniel Aldridge
Juanita Anderson
Rev. Dee Dee M. Coleman
Garland Jagers
Barbara Selinger
George Shirley
Patricia Williams
Erica Wright
Honorable Robert Young Jr.

UNSUNG HERO

Georgia Crawford-Cambell

Marty Bettinger
Barbara Borreck
Louise Guyton
Gloria Killebrew
Darchelle Strickland Love
Oliver (Ollie) Marcotte
Shelley McIntosh
Phyllis Reynolds
Pauline Ruff
Gwen Swain

**posthumously*



Presented by:



ART

These awardees participate in the creation, teaching and/or development of art. They continue to improve communities by giving them greater access to art, increasing their knowledge of the craft, and creating exceptional work.

CHANGEMAKER

These awardees have created innovative solutions to known challenges within their communities. They are leaders in developing social, cultural, and economic change to improve lives and make lasting change.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

These awardees have fostered a spirit of service in others by maintaining meaningful involvement in civic service. The depth and scope of their work has had a great impact on the communities they serve, and their inspiring commitment and passion to their work continues to bring others into service.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

These awardees will have entrepreneurial spirit and initiative. They will have taken the time to shape ideas into well performing ventures as well as operationalize innovation and demonstrate resilience. Awardees will have either newly entered the entrepreneurship field by starting or supporting a new business or have owned and operated their own business within the last 10 years.

LIFELONG LEARNING

These awardees will have demonstrated a lively curiosity and willingness to study new subjects or have a serious involvement with a specific subject matter. They will treat learning itself as a valued part of life and through it found ways to continuously recreate themselves through personal and/or professional growth. They will have an enthusiastic lifelong commitment to learning.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

These awardees have made outstanding and significant contributions to their communities in their lifetime and exemplify aging in a way that others aspire to experience. These awardees continue to participate in new careers, mentorship opportunities, volunteerism, and other impactful endeavors.

UNSUNG HERO

These awardees have consistently contributed their talents, skills, and support to family, friends, and neighbors with little recognition. They have a deep, tireless, and quiet commitment to service that enhances the quality of life in their communities, and positively influence many circumstances from behind the scenes.

2023 AWARDEES | ART



JUDY BOWMAN: Tara Franey Impact Award

Judy McReynolds Bowman returned to visual art as a full-time profession after retiring from a long career with Detroit Public Schools and, over just the past eight years, has secured a place in the first rank of new American artists. The striking, colorful style of her multi-media collages has become her instantly recognizable artistic signature over the same short time. Judy considers herself a “visual griot.” Her mission is to re-frame what she sees as incomplete narratives of African American life. Her scenes and portraits are rooted in her own upbringing during the 1950s and 60s in Detroit’s East Side and Black Bottom communities, of the actual times and spirit of a culture, of its resilience, style, pride, music and spirituality. An inspired artist as a girl, Judy put her gifts on hold while working and raising a family of ten children. In 2015 she took up art again, found a ready audience in the Detroit art world, and attained broader success soon afterwards. She won the 2018 Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series grand prize at Art Basel in Miami. She is a 2021 Kresge Fellow in Visual Arts. Her ardent collectors, sold-out shows, and A-list prices are ample proof of her immense creative talent and the unique look and desirability of her work. Since turning 70 in 2022, Judy has shown in 14 major exhibitions throughout the United States and received numerous local and national awards. And she’s not done. “I look at artists who worked into their 90s and say, hey, I can still do some stuff, I’ve still got time. It’s not a lot, but it’s enough to do what I need to do.”



PATRICIA BARNES

83-year-old Patricia “Pat” Barnes is a writer and collage artist born in Detroit and now living in Wyandotte, Michigan. As many who have reached her admirable age, Pat looks back on a full range of human experiences and emotions, from the pain and sorrow of losing her husband and son to the joy of years well spent with family and friends, a joy that arises from Pat’s genial nature and sense of humor. Pat is committed to an art-filled life. She explores new visual media by attending classes in drawing, printmaking, painting and mixed media at Wayne County Community College, Hannan Center, and online workshops. But Pat’s real artistic passion is poetry. Her poems are praised for their craftsmanship and polish. She often composes original poems inspired by her colleagues’ paintings. She is an active member of Springfed Arts, the Poetry Society of Michigan, and Downriver Poets and Playwrights. Her collection, “A Cup of Home” was published by Kelsay Books in 2019. Recently, she’s shown her collage work at River’s Edge Gallery in Wyandotte and had a solo show at Color Ink Studio in Hazel Park, and has participated in numerous group exhibits.



JEANNE BIERI

Jeanne Bieri grew up on a farm in Hastings, Michigan, went to Western Michigan University, taught in a two-room schoolhouse in Hopkins, Michigan, and married and moved to Detroit in 1972. She discovered art and artmaking in the 1980s and she was able at last to translate the visual world into her own terms. Jeanne received her Master of Fine Arts in painting from Wayne State University in 1994. While in school she turned her focus from oil on canvas to fiber art. Making art is visual problem-solving and sewing was a flexible way to connect and move ideas and images, both figurative and abstract. Jeanne has taught at the University of Michigan (Dearborn), Wayne State and Henry Ford Community College. She has shown throughout Michigan and the Midwest. She received a Kresge Fellowship in 2017 and was awarded a Michigan Council for the Arts Grant in 2000. Jeanne won the Scarab Club Gold Medal in 2008, 2011 and 2016. She still maintains a studio in Detroit. She has served on the Wayne State University Board of Visitors and the Anton Art Center Board of Trustees, and is a long-time member of the Slippery Weasel Society artist collective.



JOAN BRITTON

Joan Britton, already a professional photographer for over 30 years, began a new career as a painter in 2016, when abstract artist Priscilla Phifer invited her to the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club. Those weekly gatherings of artists, collectors and art lovers inspired her to turn her talent to the media of acrylic and oil paints. She learned landscape and abstract painting under the tutelage of noted artist Michael Horner. This gave her the confidence to plunge into a new fine art practice after age 70. Her award-winning body of photography and landscape work is as inspirational as her go-getter attitude in older age. Joan has exhibited at Irwin House, The Congregation, Hannan Center’s Kayrod Gallery, the Charles Wright Museum, Arts Extended Gallery, the Detroit Historical Museum, and others. She is a longtime collector, having supported more than 30 emerging Breakfast Club artists. In 2022 she co-chaired the Torch of Wisdom Foundation’s Art Extravaganza auction to fund programs in the cultural arts, and has also helped raise money through Matrix Human Services’ ArtWorks Detroit; the NCA Art Party; the Charles Wright Museum Gala.



PAUL CURTIS AND DAPHNE MEANS-CURTIS

Truly a Detroit power couple, attorney Paul Curtis and Judge Daphne Means-Curtis merit this award for the inspiration they have been to many of the young and not-so-young artists of our community and region. They have provided much of this support as members of the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club, and through receptions in their home for the Pierian Foundation, which assists fine and performing artists with financial aid. Paul has been notable in his support for budding artists as young as eight. His purchases give these children a feeling of success and may positively change their lives and futures. As an attorney he has given pro bono counsel and advice to artists as they navigate their careers. Daphne Means Curtis was a judge of the Wayne County, Michigan 3rd Circuit Court. She was appointed to the bench by Governor James Blanchard and in 1990 joined the Detroit Recorder’s Court, which was merged with the County Circuit in 1997. She retired from the court in 2017. Paul and Daphne are serious artists in their own right, and in 2023 had a successful duo show at the Harper Galleries of Art and Interiors in Detroit.



HENRY HARPER

Henry Harper’s co-creation and leadership of the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club (DFABC) is reason alone to honor him in this category. But Henry’s life has had everything to do with art: its history, curation, collecting—the vocation and business and endurance of art. He grew up near the Toledo Museum of Art, where he began forming that depth and breadth of knowledge that he shares with all of Detroit today. He is a certified appraiser, with a career in antiques spanning more than 50 years. At the acclaimed Harper Galleries of Art and Traditional Interiors, he not only inspires and helps build some of Detroit’s most distinguished collections but also provides a gathering place of bright minds, a beacon for art education, and a showcase for emerging artists. Henry’s mission extends to and through the 7,000-member DFABC, a cornerstone of the Detroit art community and one of the only organizations of its kind in the world, where every week scores of local artists present their work, receive feedback, connect with potential collectors and, in many cases, go on to major professional careers. Judy Bowman, this year’s Impact winner in Art, is one of many who rose from the DFABC to international success with Henry Harper’s guidance.



SHIRLEY HATHAWAY

Shirley Hathaway grew up on the east side of Detroit where her creative talents were first recognized in kindergarten. As a teenager and later as a college student she overcame serious medical and domestic crises, as well as extensive physical injuries resulting from an auto accident. She endured more health problems and injuries after beginning a teaching career, and was close to death at one point. But she carried on, teaching until her retirement at age 70, also judging student and professional art competitions and giving free painting demos in the public schools. In 1986 she was the second woman to win the Scarab Club Gold Medal. She earned her master's with honors at age 65. She still teaches adults at her home studio. Now past 80, Shirl continues to exhibit her work in major Detroit and metro-area shows, often by invitation. These include a 100-piece solo show in Southfield and the Michigan Watercolor Society 75th annual exhibition at the Hannan Center. She has taken many top and best of show awards. She is an avid sailor, skydiver, swimmer and world traveler. At 75 she climbed Ireland's Blarney Castle and kissed the Stone



BETTY MCGRAW

Betty embodies the spirit of the Hannan Center. Eleven years ago, after retiring and seeking ways to occupy her newly acquired free time, she signed up for art classes at the Hannan Center. Until then she had never taken an art class and did not even consider herself an artist. However, she immediately demonstrated a talent that continues to grow. She became family and part of the Hannan community. Today she continues to study and practice at the Hannan Center and throughout metro Detroit. She is a member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors and the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club. She volunteers at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Hannan Center. She also runs "Granny Art Camp" for her grandchildren and her artsy friends. She confidently enters exhibitions, sells her art, and frequently places or wins honorable mentions for her work. Betty is the perfect example of Creative Aging. As an exhibitor in last year's Emerge Art Festival, she received the Hannan Center Randall Charlton award for representing so well the Center's mission, "to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life of Michigan seniors."



GLADYS PATRICK

Gladys Patrick is a visual artist and poet, still active in these arts at age 96. The primary lesson of her life journey is the perseverance it takes to keep doing what you love. Gladys has faced much adversity in her life. She's overcome childhood abuse, alcoholism, and the loss of two of four of her children before their time. While raising and making a home for her family, she used her late-night hours to draw, paint, and write at the kitchen table. In her late 60's she attended classes at WCCCD and Marygrove College, able there at last to explore, create and develop her art and writing. She makes an impact by sharing her poetry with church friends, senior community neighbors, and family. She is the go-to person for people who need an uplifting poem in their lives. Detroit City Councilwoman Angela Whitfield Calloway was inspired by Gladys's poetry on a visit to the Theresa Maxis Apartments where she resides. She vowed to return for Gladys's 96th birthday, and brought ice cream and cake to the celebration. She has since nominated Gladys Patrick for the Detroit City Council's Spirit of Detroit Award.



JULIE SABIT

Julie Sabit is an accomplished and active Detroit artist. She graduated from Southeastern High School in 1950 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology from Wayne State University. Beginning in 1957 she worked in the City of Detroit's Planning Department, eventually becoming the head of the department's Research Division. She served on the board of the Association of Municipal Professional Women (AMPW) from 1975 to 1985. After her retirement in 1990, she received a bachelor's in fine arts from Wayne State and developed a strong technique in figurative drawing and painting. She is a member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters & Sculptors (DSWPS), the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, the Scarab Club and the Anton Art Center, and has exhibited in their sponsored art shows as well as in those of other art groups in and around Detroit. Besides that, she's been the Scarab Club's gardener for over 30 years. Her work has earned many awards, including the Scarab Club Gold Medal. At 90, Julie was the oldest living artist in the 2022 Mighty Real/Queer Detroit exhibition. Also in 2022, she was recognized by the DSWPS as one of its most distinguished members.

2023 AWARDEES | CHANGEMAKER



HONORABLE DEBORAH FORD: *Tara Franey Impact Award*

Hon. Deborah Geraldine Bledsoe Ford is a lawyer, veteran jurist, accomplished artist, certified florist, skilled dancer and baton twirler. She was born to Pro Football Hall of Fame player Leonard Guy Ford Jr. and Judge Geraldine Bledsoe, the first African American female jurist in Michigan history. A graduate of Boston College School of Law, the University of Michigan, and Spelman College, Judge Ford practiced trial law successfully for 20 years. She was first elected in 2004 and most recently re-elected in 2016 as judge for the 36th District Court in Michigan. She brought her experience as a juvenile defender and specialist in family law to the bench and became known as a changemaker, correcting a system she saw as fundamentally unfair to those she served. Her office became known as the "family chambers." She retired from the bench in 2023 and is in the process of returning to private practice. But from girlhood Judge Ford has also been a visual and performing artist. She is a recognized abstract painter with works on permanent exhibition at Hannan Center. Her dance and baton videos, including her 70th birthday performance, may be seen on YouTube and TikTok. And she will realize her childhood dream of competing in a pageant this year as a participant in Miss Senior 2023.



FREDERICK ANDERSON

Frederick Anderson, aka "Fast Freddy"—a nickname derived from his early modeling career—has been a Detroit icon for decades. Five days a week, from 1975 to 1987, Anderson flashed his love of dance and fashion on WGPR-TV's The Scene, the mythic, notorious Detroit urban dance show, while working full-time as an operating room assistant for three area hospitals. Following his run on The Scene, Fast Freddy landed a six-page spread in GQ magazine focused on the colorful, stylish wardrobe that remains his trademark more than a generation later. At 75, he's still in demand as a hustle & ballroom dance instructor, choreographer, model, and professional deejay. He hosts events at Adam Butzel Senior Center, Oak Street Health, and Dedicated Senior Medical Center in Detroit. His classes there focus on upper-body movement and dance steps people can perform at any age. "Every day God wakes me up, I dress up, get out and have a good time," he says. He encourages others to do the same, to keep the faith, have fun, laugh, be happy and always use the gifts they've been given. Fast Freddy Anderson is a vital example of what a lifetime of exercise and personal flair can do for anyone's health and wellbeing.



KAREN C. BROWN

Karen C. Brown is the adjunct professor in the University of Detroit Mercy's Masters in Community Development Program, and a full-time Development Officer for the City of Detroit, and has been a dynamic changemaker for her entire career. For years she has held key executive, fund development and board leadership positions in Detroit's community development sector. In its first 11 years, she served in board leadership roles at Detroit's Ruth Ellis Center. In 2009 she was honored with a Spirit of Detroit Award in acknowledgement of her Outstanding Community Leadership. As the Detroit Public Safety Foundation's director of grants from 2011-2016, she was instrumental in helping the City's Police and Fire Departments secure over \$62 million in government grants. At UDM she teaches organizational development and grant writing, and plays a major role in the creation of The Detroit People's Co-op. She has also earned a 5th degree black belt in Ai Mute Shotokan karate and demonstrates martial arts and self-defense to children and adults. She has two daughters and 3 grandchildren and is a proud 35-year resident of Detroit's Green Acres neighborhood. She is passionate about social justice issues in Detroit and beyond



LINDA CAMPBELL

Linda Campbell is director of the Detroit People's Platform and a founding member of the Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan (EJAM). She earned her master's in public health from the University of Michigan and went on to serve in a variety of senior and executive positions in the nonprofit and government sectors. She was executive director for one of New York City's oldest AIDS service organizations, Minority Task Force on AIDS, and was a senior director at both the Michigan Public Health Institute and the National Center for Health Education. Linda is a founding member of the Building Movement Project, which seeks to support organizations and people through training, tools, and resources. Through the Detroit People's Platform, it uses a community organizing approach to advocate issues of land, food, transit, jobs, governance, poverty and inequality to ensure a just future for all Detroiters. In the past two years, Linda has provided planning assistance to local African American Health Institute initiatives in Michigan. She also applauds Michigan's recent repeal of right-to-work legislation and calls upon leaders to fight for higher wages.



JESSIE FRANCISCO

Jessie was a secretary in the Orthopedic unit at Henry Ford Hospital's main campus for 50 years. After retiring in 2018, she joined TobeMc Senior Daycare on Mack Avenue as Director of Nutrition and Assistant Administrator. She is devoted in her commitment to TobeMc seniors. She prepares delicious, healthy lunches for them, picks them up and drives them to Bible study every week, accompanies them to doctor appointments, and whatever other assistance seniors need to age in health and grace. She is a lifetime member of Friendship Baptist Church in Detroit, is a committed worker in the church and sings with its community choir.



MARJORIE MITCHELL

Marjorie has been a strong advocate for disability rights and universal health care for the past three decades. She became executive director of the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network (MICHUHCAN) in 1992 and has worked tirelessly to increase access to health insurance for Michigan families. Marjorie currently sits on the Boards and Committees for Universal Health Care Action Network Board; Greater Detroit Area Health Council (GDAHC), Consumer Engagement Council; Michigan Consumers for Healthcare (MCH), Steering Committee; Michigan Health Insurance Access, Advisory Council; Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA), Patient Safety/ Keystone Board; Medicare Rights Center, Consumer Action Board; Michigan Voice, Leadership Committee; and Michigan Peer Review Organization (MPRO) Board.



VAZILYN POINSETTA

Vazilyn Poinsetta came to the Warren Plaza Apartments as an entrepreneur and successful businesswoman in the community, and now is president of the Warren Plaza resident council. She has wisely used her position to educate her fellow residents. She has hosted several “lunch and learns” since moving in, with topics like Immune Boosters and Avoiding Toxins. When she decided that Warren Plaza should have a garden, she formed a garden club and continues to lead it today. Among their accomplishments, they have increased the height of the existing raised beds, making them easier to tend and discouraging hungry animals. Vazilyn turned 70 in the fall of 2016 and is now 76. Not long after becoming a resident she moved her mother in with her and cared for her for several years. During Covid she brought food to residents and educated people on how to be safe. She’s hit a few speed bumps on her road to success, but they haven’t stopped her. She has been fearless in her leadership. She is one of Warren Plaza’s most beloved and respected residents and deserves to be honored.



REV. JOAN ROSS

Rev. Joan Ross is a community advocate and systemic changemaker in Detroit, working in community development for over 10 years. Rev. Joan is the founder, executive director and chair of the North End Woodward Community Coalition (NEWCC), a social justice and community development organization that builds power through equitable systems change. Her team at NEWCC gain awareness and cooperation through their WNUC 96.7 FM community radio programming, which produces over 60 percent of its content locally. Through her organization’s Equitable Internet Initiative (EII), residents have access to wireless high-speed internet and digital media. When COVID-19 hit Michigan, Rev. Joan made sure that NEWCC’s EII was free for all with access to it. She plans to partner with the Honnold Foundation to realize her vision for a solar-powered Detroit. And, for many years, she has worked side by side with Gleaners Community Food Bank, distributing food to people who need it in her area.



JAY WILBER

Jay Wilber is a problem solver who has dedicated a 60-year work career to helping others achieve success. During his 41 years at General Motors, Jay served in a number of management roles, including executive director of the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources and Quality Network, director of the Automotive Components Group (now Delphi), and director of labor relations for GM Canada. With a Union counterpart he co-wrote the book *United We Stand* (McGraw-Hill, 1996), to articulate a collaborative path forward towards improving vehicle quality. After retiring from GM, Jay served as executive vice president and chief human resources officer for Revstone Industries, a global industrial automotive supplier. In 2012 Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit appointed him president of their subsidiary, Goodwill's Green Works Inc. which offers asset recovery and recycling services to socially conscious municipalities, utilities and manufacturers. Its earnings support Goodwill Industries' mission to help Detroiters secure long term stable employment by addressing homelessness and educational and personal skill deficits. Today, Jay works as an advisor to the CEO of Goodwill Integrated Solutions, a high-quality industrial supplier, helping its employees and trainees resolve the challenges of physical and developmental disabilities.



CHICHITA A. YOUNG

Chichita A. Young is a trained vegan chef, a health advocate and owner from 1998 to 2002 of Motif Naturals Vegetarian Catering, the first restaurant in Detroit and Michigan to specialize exclusively in vegetarian, vegan and macrobiotic foods and desserts. Chichita has been a vegan for 38 years. She studied macrobiotic and vegan cooking and healing modalities with some of Detroit's top holistic practitioners. She was responsible for preparing all vegetarian entrees at Elwin and Company in Royal Oak. From 1989 to 1996, she was vegetarian chef for Dr. Jewel Pookrum's lecture/brunch series at Perfect Health Institute in Detroit. At the same time, she was a personal chef for individuals with health challenges. In 2000 she began holding classes and events focused on homeopathic practices for health-conscious individuals. She has taught cooking at Wayne County Community College and currently teaches at Hannan Center. From 2005 to 2015 Chichita served as 23rd president of the Detroit Association of Women's Clubs, Inc. She won a Belle Isle SOUP grant in 2017 and produced the Herb Walk and Talk at the Belle Isle Nature Center.

2023 AWARDEES | CIVIC & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



ANNIE MAE HOLT: Tara Franey Impact Award

Annie Mae Holt is a retired educator who continues to teach. She volunteers for AARP facilitating outreach and education programs helping older adults to learn more about the resources that are available through AARP. She leads fraud watch programs and conducts outreach on Social Security. She is also an AmeriCorps member through Hannan Center. She is a mentor to her grandchildren, guiding them through their college and professional careers. Annie Mae continues to make an impact by supporting the work of the Rosedale Park community, serving as a Detroit Police Commissioner, and faithfully advocating for the needs and concerns of older citizens in Detroit.



N. CHARLES ANDERSON

As a nonprofit executive and community leader, uplifting communities and advocating for positive change, N. Charles Anderson has left an indelible mark on countless lives and has set a high standard for exemplary civic leadership. This began with his presidency of the Charlotte, NC, NAACP Youth Council and has extended through his most recent role as president and CEO of the Detroit Urban League. He has spearheaded transformative programs to correct pressing challenges in the areas of education, employment, and social equality, and created opportunities for underprivileged and underserved populations. He has skillfully guided and inspired countless young minds. Through radio and television initiatives like “Talk to the People” and “Experience!”, he has provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and progressive ideas. He has given skill and time to other organizations including the National Urban League, New Detroit coalition, Connect Detroit, New Center Community Services, Detroit Alliance for Fair Banking, Health Alliance Plan, and University Cultural Center Association. He is recipient of the Wayne State University Distinguished Alumni Award and the American Human Rights Council Spirit of Humanity Award. He shows no signs of slowing down.



DENISE FORD

Denise Ford was recently selected by the Detroit Lions as the No. 1 Lions Fan of the Year, not only for her dedication to her home NFL team but also for her community service to seniors and families. Her \$15,000 in prizes included serving as official representative of Detroit Lions fans at Super Bowl LVII in February 2023, where she met Lions all-time great Barry Sanders. She appears on the “Fan of the Year” commemorative cover of Sports Illustrated’s February 2023 edition. More importantly, Denise will graduate this winter from Wayne State University at age 70 with a bachelor’s degree in African Studies. She is executive director of Saving Our Kids (SOK), a 35-year-old nonprofit organization that has provided free sporting event tickets to over 1,000 kids and families. She hosts annual in-house tailgate parties for seniors and charter bus trips for families. She took a group of seniors on a Detroit Princess Riverboat cruise in May 2023 to help her celebrate her 70th birthday.



ORLIN JONES

Orlin Jones was the unofficial historian of Conant Gardens, where he lived for 90 years, and of Pershing High School in that eastside Detroit neighborhood. His stories about them arose from a deep passion and dedication. He was a successful athlete at Pershing and in the Marine Corps. He could name every family in every house in Conant Gardens. He frequently took his elderly neighbors to the store and to eat, and picked up prescriptions for them. People of all ages and occupations visited him to talk, staying sometimes for hours. He always had a picture, memoir, newspaper article or yearbook to support his stories. His collection of photos has been included in several books and exhibited at the Detroit Historical Museum twice and at the Charles Wright Museum in 2019. Orlin was one of eight authors of the book “Conant Gardens: A Black Urban Community, 1925-1950” (The Conant Gardeners, 2001). The networking breakfast he organized in 1975 for Black salaried GM employees is still held every first Saturday in December at Sinbad’s. In 1980 he spearheaded Pershing’s 50th anniversary celebration at Cobo Hall. A mural of Orlin is expected to be completed at the Farwell Recreation Center in summer 2023.



ARTHUR PARK

As a nonprofit executive and community leader, uplifting communities and advocating Arthur Park has a lifetime of work in the realm of peace and justice. He is active with the Swords and Plowshares Gallery housed at Central Methodist Church in downtown Detroit, where he is the chair of the Peace and Justice Committee, a multi-denominational committee. He is working on a Harriet Tubman memorial project for Grand Circus Park.



MARIA PEOPLES

Maria Peoples has been a catalyst for positive and lasting change in the west side of Detroit for over 25 years. She is cofounder of P.E.E.P.S, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and educating youth. She also is confounder of Senior Connect, a community program designed to address health and wellness issues for seniors who meet twice monthly. A retired educator, Maria continues as a leader in her church and as a successful entrepreneur. She is associated and involved with the Skillman Foundation, the Good Neighborhood Initiative, Hannan Center, Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance, Perfecting Church Missions Ministry, Weaver Arts Academy and Franklin Park Community Association. An avid crafter, she shares her art with seniors through activities that combat the detriments of loneliness. These participants show increased vitality and remain active in their best years. Maria also secures funding for Senior Connect through direct donations from businesses, community associations and individuals. She continues to inspire neighborhood residents of all ages with her long list of volunteer work, partnerships and support.



SIDNEY RUBIN

Sidney Rubin first made his mark on the community as a confectioner and toy manufacturer, eventually being elected City Councilman and then Mayor of Keego Harbor. He demonstrates the importance of building and preserving African American and Jewish relations through his bipartisan friendship with former U.S. Representative Brenda Lawrence. He also has been a strong advocate for enhancing mental health resources in the state of Michigan, and serves on the board of Hope Network. Sidney paved the way for his son Jeff Rubin to co-found Dylan’s Candy Bar and become CEO of his own company, ITSUGAR. His work and advocacy are the biggest source of inspiration for his grandson Adar Rubin in his own activism. At the Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee Detroit, Adar created the Jewish Black Learning Unity Experience (JBLUE) fellowship to promote engagement and education in many different fields for young Jewish and African American high school students, with Pershing High School being the first school to adopt the program.



JAMES SHIMOURA

In 1983 James Shimoura helped found the American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), an Asian American civil rights organization created to fight for justice for Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old American draftsman of Chinese descent who was bludgeoned to death in 1982, in a racially motivated assault, by two white autoworkers who thought he was Japanese. (His killers were sentenced to three years' probation for their crime by the Michigan court and found not guilty on federal civil rights violation charges). In June 2022, James chaired the Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance & Rededication in Detroit, including four days of film screenings, public art, performances and panel discussions. He has been a civil rights hearing referee for Michigan Department of Civil Rights and was a member of the Higher Education Commission during the Clinton Administration. He continues his advocacy as a lawyer handling many cases of discrimination and harassment complaints arising from the Asian American community, many of them pro bono cases.



MAUREEN TAYLOR

Maureen Taylor is a social worker and community activist dedicated to providing food, clothing, shelter, light, heat and water to those in need. She has served as chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights organization since 1993, and was elected treasurer of the National Welfare Rights Union in 1994. Taylor defends recipients of public aid at the Michigan Family Independence Agency in case disputes, and serves as the program director for the Detroit NFI Community Self Sufficiency Center, a program that works to assist chronically unemployed persons in the Detroit Central Empowerment Zone. She, and previous 70 Over Seventy honoree Marian Kramer, are the Dynamic Duo. You will seldom see one on the battlefield for justice without seeing the other by her side. Both presently sit on the board of the Michigan Welfare Rights organization.



GWENDOLYN WINSTON

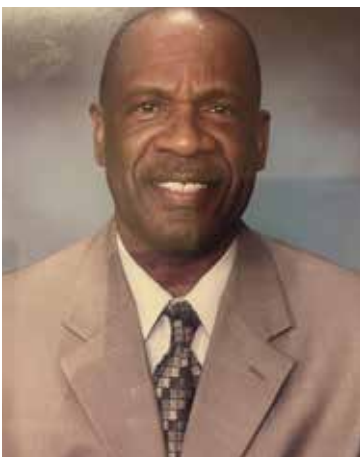
Gwendolyn Bailey Winston is a founding member and executive director of Wisdom Institute. She was born and raised in Detroit and attended Detroit schools. She earned a master's in public administration from Central Michigan University. She began her fight against systemic racism, white supremacy, and gender injustice in her 20s and rose as a voice advocating for her community. Wisdom Institute began in 1999, seeded and conceived by African American women who were first generation students at Detroit's Lewis College of Business, to elevate awareness on multiple causes that impact African American women and girls. At the same time, Gwendolyn founded "G. Bailey Winston Enterprise" as the Institute's funding source. She then focused on developing an Everyone Counts Detroit Street Team, to get Black women to the polls in 2020. She activated Passing the Torch Preserving the Flame Project with women artists-advocates. Gwendolyn steered Wisdom Institute toward a "power with" concept, partnering with more than 60 organizations to advocate for voter protection, electoral power and water affordability, and reproductive justice. In 2023 Wisdom Institute began to address birthing rights and improvement of Black maternal health outcomes.

2023 AWARDEES | ENTREPRENEURSHIP



DAVID EVERETTE: *Tara Franey Impact Award*

David Everette has been a property developer, landlord and employer in the Oakman Boulevard, Ewald Circle area of Detroit for over fifty years. As a strong believer in family, community, and the perpetuation of strong community values, he fiercely supports the principle of quality, reasonably priced housing for working-class Detroiters. His commitment to this idea has helped establish Ewald Circle as one of the most desired rental communities on Detroit’s west side. In addition to developing and maintaining outstanding housing, he has mentored and managed dozens of young people in the business of property management, cultivating in them the many skills necessary for the proper upkeep and maintenance of homes and rental properties. A lifelong, proud Detroiters who believes in its people, David states that a community is only as good as the people who live in it, and they deserve the best living opportunities that can be provided. David Everette and Everette Ewald Enterprises have endeavored to accomplish exactly that for the people of the Oakman Boulevard, Ewald Circle neighborhood.



BILLY FOWLER

Billy Fowler is a living example of the creed of Muhammad Ali: “If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it—then I can achieve it.” His story is that of a man who dreamed of one day owning his own company. After gaining 20 years of experience in the aerospace industry he did exactly that—he made use of a small business incubator program, purchased used equipment and started Nondestructive Testing (NDT) Facility, Precise Test Lab, Inc. (PTL), all the while continuing to work at his full-time aerospace job. After a year he had little to show for his efforts, but took the chance of going after a big customer and landed Boeing Corporation. From there, PTL became certified through the National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program. In 2004, at the age of 56, Billy left his employer and moved PTL from the incubator into a new, custom-built 15,000-square-foot facility with state-of-the-art equipment. In 2022, when he was 74, his company became part of the new Blue Origin space shuttle program. He and his wife, Dr. Vonnie Fowler, are the first African American business couple in this exciting field.



DR. PAULINE FURMAN

Many individuals—especially African American men and women—haven’t the resources to care for their mental health. Consequently, important aspects of their lives may be fractured. Dr. Pauline Furman, a psychotherapist with a successful 32-year practice, provides mental health services to individuals, couples and families through her Center for Individual and Family Counseling, Inc. She has helped thousands to mend their wounds, strengthen their bonds, and enrich their relationships so that they can cope and function more effectively. She generously provides on-site psychological first aid to those affected by death on the job, homicides, suicides, and robberies. Her patients range in age from 3 to 100. Dr. Furman serves as vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the Judson Center in Royal Oak MI and will assume the chairmanship in 2024. She is involved in her church and community in many other significant ways. She’s won the Spirit of Detroit Award and the Woman of Excellence Award from the Michigan Chronicle. She is the author of “When God Shows Up on the Couch” and producer of “Matters of the Heart” on WADL-TV. She continues to practice and to mentor young counseling trainees.



SHARON HARBIN

A leader in the real estate industry, Sharon B. Harbin has made a major impact through her commitment to promote homeownership and raise awareness of the importance of creating and sustaining wealth through real estate. Sharon has been involved in commercial and residential valuation for over 40 years. She founded The Harbin Group, Inc., a full-service appraisal, consulting and acquisition firm, in 1978. She is the first black woman to earn the status of Member, Appraisal Institute (MAI), and now serves on the Appraisal Institute’s board of directors as well as on the Appraisal Relief Foundation committee. She is also a real estate broker. Sharon’s clients include banks, corporations, municipalities, utility companies and private property owners. Her appraisals have contributed to major metro Detroit projects including the Gordy Howe Bridge, Comerica Park, Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport, Victoria Park, and others. She is a Distinguished Toastmaster of Toastmasters International and an experienced public speaker. She is the author of “Appreciate Your Real Estate: Creating and Sustaining Value,” and is at work on her third book. She is president of the Motor City Doll Club.



DELPHINE HARRIS

Delphine Lyn Harris has been an entrepreneur her entire life. She is a third-generation business owner and loves every minute of it. She began as an independent consultant for Swarovski Touchstone Crystal and now is partner and board member of Soothing Salve; an image consultant for girls, boys, women and men; and an investor in the companies Novatech and Onpassive Internet. She’s in the process of opening a daycare. Delphine was educated at Northeastern High School and Detroit Business Institute. Before striking out on her own, she has been a stenographer, computer programmer, regional office manager assistant, statistical office manager, food/recovery coordinator, and municipal property tax processor & counter clerk. She’s a dynamo outside of work. She’s led a monthly one-hour prayer group for 15 years; she’s performed liturgical dance for 20 years; she’s a volunteer usher at the Fox Theater and the Detroit Grand Prix; she’s been a Pistons cheerleader and a commercial actress; and she’s the author of “Recovery” and “Beauty for Ashes.”



REV. OTIS HARVILL

Otis Harvill grew up in a family steeped in entrepreneurial spirit. He was the first to open an Alabama Style Chicken in the city of Detroit, Harvill’s Alabama Style Chicken. He failed to trademark the “Alabama Style” brand, however, and therefore lost customers to other chicken and fish places that went into business using that name. He was forced to sell his restaurant but then started a company that produces and sells Alabama Style Seasoning, which is available in many grocery stores and, incidentally, in some of those other Alabama Style restaurants. Mr. Otis Harvill is also Rev. Otis Harvill, and leads his own flock of parishioners at Doers of the Word Ministry.



YVONNE KNOX

Yvonne Knox was President of J.D. Knox for thirty-five years. She organized her company after becoming the second woman McDonalds franchisee in the State of Michigan and the first black woman in Michigan to own a McDonalds Restaurant. As the result of her work ethic and commitment to her community, she has received numerous recognitions and commendations, including the Spirit of Detroit Award and the Ronald McDonald Community Service award. Yvonne received her Bachelor of Arts degree and her Master of Education degree from Wayne State University. She was an Assistant Principal for the Detroit Public Schools before becoming her own boss. Yvonne is a member of several business and community organizations, including the YWCA, the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Gamma Phi Delta and the 400 Study Club. She is also a member of the First Congregational Church of Detroit, where she serves as chairperson of the trustee board and on the board of directors of BABES World (Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies).



CHARLENE MITCHELL-RODGERS

Charlene Mitchell-Rodgers is a two-time Emmy Award winning TV news anchor and reporter for over 18 years. She founded her own public relations, advertising and marketing agency, Media Consultants, in 1988. She is notably creative in assisting other businesses, especially small businesses and individuals, to market their products and services. She projects excitement and commitment to solid quality when representing her clients. She's been a radio talk host at 910 AM Superstation for over 6 years and has interviewed more than 350 business owners and local entrepreneurs. She has received the Women of Excellence Award from Real Times Media, is listed in Who's Who In Detroit, and has been recognized in Metro Detroit as well as Black Enterprise. Since turning 70, Charlene started Connect 4, a nonprofit organization, with a group of professional women, to distribute new clothing, household goods and non-perishable food items to needy families in the Detroit and Pontiac area. They accomplished this during the Covid-19 pandemic. At 70, she continues her radio talk show with business owners and entrepreneurs.



DR. JERRY ZAYID

Dr. Jerry Zayid of Michigan Foot Docs is a practicing podiatrist in Commerce MI, with over 40 years of experience treating geriatric foot conditions. He is a pillar of his community. As an entrepreneur, he founded and owns Affinity Home Care Agency which has served the home health care needs of Southeast Michigan seniors for 22 Years and has continued to grow through his vision and leadership. Dr. Zayid has been consistent with his passions, including simply to be around his immediate family and nephews and nieces.

2023 AWARDEES | LIFELONG LEARNING



CAROLE GREEN: *Tara Franey Impact Award*

Amazingly, at age 82, Carole Greene continues to learn and stay on top of technology. Retired from a career in the office of the Wayne County Register of Deeds, she regularly takes online classes, then uses technology to learn about resources that will help her, her family and community. She also volunteers at the 11th Precinct, Neighborhood Police Community Relations. She's always looking for ways to assist others, all while tirelessly supporting her life partner who lives with dementia. She'd had the dream to return to Wayne State University to complete her bachelor's degree. But once her partner's condition was diagnosed and then worsened, her increased responsibilities as caregiver and guardian made that dream difficult to pursue. Carole turned to the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and began taking evidence-based Caregiver Support classes to learn about the disease and the importance of self-care. She quickly moved to apply what she learned and found the time and energy to complete her degree, which she did. She continues to care for her partner, and when able continues to volunteer with the Detroit Police in her neighborhood.



ADELL DICKINSON

Education has always been essential in the life of Mother Adell B. Dickinson. From her girlhood, the neighborhood library was a weekly family outing for bonding and enrichment. One of her mottos is, "Books are our friends. Books can take you places that you have never imagined and teach you things you didn't realize you wanted to know." She has served as a Church Mother for many years, providing nurturing and guidance through study. She has developed several leadership training programs and inspired women to greatness through conferences in the USA, Europe, and Africa. She trains young women and girls as well, instilling in them a love for learning, studying, and application. Mother has continued to pursue academic excellence and advanced studies. She has received numerous certificates of completion for training programs in theological studies and counseling. She graduated from Great Lakes Christian College at age 72 (the oldest graduate ever at the time) with a degree in Family Life Education. The New Pentecostal Church, Inc. has named a scholarship in her honor. This lifelong learner and educator is 84 years old. There is no end in sight as she plans her next adventure.



MICHELLE FALLENA

Michelle Fallena is well known to the entire Hannan Center community: visitors, staff, participants, caregivers, volunteers, artists, and tenants. If you've visited the Center in recent years, you've likely been greeted by Michelle, then seen her zipping around, to deliver a message, wash a dish, straighten a painting, lay a perfectly decorated table, or another of the hundred things she does to help our community here thrive. For many she is the embodiment of the spirit of Hannan, and a testament to its place in the community. But her interest and energy extend far past Hannan. Michelle has been a resident—and champion—of downtown Detroit for decades, and in recent years has raised her voice on behalf of seniors, determined to make sure that the heart of the city stays safe and accessible to its oldest residents. She's a board member of the United Community Housing Coalition and a goodwill ambassador, volunteer and event coordinator for many of Detroit's major annual festivals and celebrations. She's a columnist for local publications, a cookbook author and novelist, a curator and decorator, an active member of her church community and the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, and a world-class ballroom dancer. A Renaissance woman in the Renaissance City.



NINA FLANIGAN

As an educator, Nina Flanigan has long devoted her life to seeing students from elementary school to college grow and prosper. She is an accomplished teacher, administrator and musician. She’s earned degrees in Music Education from Ball State University and in Early Childhood Ed from Marygrove College. She has continued her studies in Administration at Michigan State. Music has always been a major part of Nina’s life. She began playing woodwinds as a young girl, and plays today at age 78, in two orchestras and three chamber ensembles. She also directs her church’s bell choir. As an elementary school music instructor, she made it her mission to ensure that every student had access to an instrument from the beginning of the term, whether or not they owned one. She is a nurturing teacher, dedicated to seeing all thrive. She is passionate about mentoring integral educators as well and, as adjunct professor, supervises student teachers and their placements. Nina’s orchestra and ensemble performances to this day are opportunities to learn and perfect her craft. In her remarks to audiences she always reminds them that “music is for lifelong learning.”



LAVERRA GREENE

For Laverre Greene, her undergrad degree was just the beginning of a life of learning in adulthood. She has taken the opportunity to learn how to navigate older adult life through evidence-based classes provided by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging. And she participates in the various other courses and workshops available in her community.



CHARLES HILLER

Charles (Chuck) Hiller has a master’s degree from Wayne State University in Performing Arts and a degree in Television Production. Before retirement, he taught Vocal Music for 52 years, with 42 years in the Dearborn School District. Hiller is a past president and chief negotiator for the Dearborn Federation of Teaching. During the 1980s he sang the national anthem at Detroit Tigers games. After retirement, he produced television programs for the City of Dearborn for ten years. Since moving to Allegria Village, he has remained very busy volunteering his time and talent as council president of the Protestant Congregation, choir leader of the Thursday Night Vespers Program, former choir director of the Resident Concert Choir, and co-host of “The Sports Guys,” television show on the resident-run Allegria community TV station. Chuck Hiller returned to Comerica Park for the Tigers 2023 home opener in April and was featured on the jumbotron while there.



MARION JACKSON

Marion (Mame) Jackson, Ph.D., has a rich, varied life. She traveled to Baffin Island in the northern Canadian territory of Nunavut numerous times over several years and learned the ways and the art of the Inuit people. She became an expert in Inuit art. Later, she and her colleague Barbara Cervenka, O.P., created CON/VIDA, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting understanding for the diverse cultures, traditions and history of the Americas expressed through popular art., in particular the folk art of Brazil and Peru. In 2011, Mame and Barb co-curated the art exhibition, “Bandits and Heroes, Poets and Saints” at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. Following that exhibition, the National Endowment for the Humanities selected the collection to tour the United States for seven years. Currently, Mame and Barb are attempting to find a permanent home for it in its native Brazil. Mame serves on the board of the Wright Museum. Her warm, welcoming personality and rollicking laugh make her a treasure in the Lafayette Park community.



VIVIAN LONGFELLOW

In 2000, at age 68, Vivian Longfellow was active in the art fair circuit where she displayed and sold her watercolor color paintings and prints. She was also attending classes taught by Carl Kamulski—now retired—and taking workshops to further her skills as a painter. Since 2010, off and on, Vivian has been taking art classes with Martine MacDonald at Wayne County Community College. At the time of her first class there she was 78 years old. She has just finished Spring and Summer classes at WCCCD at the age of 91 and has enrolled for more classes in the Fall. A longtime resident of Taylor, Vivian is very active in several art groups. She continues to exhibit her work, winning well-deserved awards and accolades. When asked why she was still taking classes, when she has been making art as a professional for close to 70 years, Vivian answered that there are things—like drawing portraits—that she wants to learn how to do better. She remains curious about all kinds of art and artists, and is eager to try new artistic techniques. Vivian embodies the true definition of a lifelong learner.



INEZ MOORE

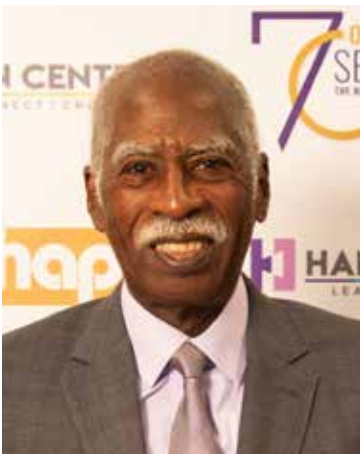
Inez Moore has seen society change and evolve over the 103 years of her life. Her wide range of experiences include being part of a traveling bridge club, owning a salon in her younger years, and serving in her church at the local and state level, in Michigan and Florida. She also worked as a commissions clerk for Michigan Employment Security and was promoted to a regional managerial position for her hard work and dedication. She has held the position of state church mother, one of high personal respect as a mother figure, who helps organize services to women within the church and in the community, for more than 40 years.



WILLIE RUTH THOMAS

A native of Wrightsville GA, Willie Ruth Thomas migrated north to Detroit from her girlhood home in Jacksonville FL in the early 1960's. She got her first job at Hudson's, then went to work at Ford Motor Company as a Power Sewing Machine Operator. She's resided in the same northwest Detroit home now for more than 60 years. It wasn't until the age of 75 that Ruth realized her dream of higher education, receiving an associate degree in mental health from Wayne County Community College District, where she became known as the Campus Mom, and later pursuing a Bachelor of Arts at Marygrove College. She serves on the Wayne County Election Commission and as a mentoring Grandmother to students at WCCCD. Ruth's faith has served as her foundation through a life of tragedy and loss. Her mother died at age 40. She lost three of her five children to childhood illnesses. Her first husband died in a drowning accident, and her second husband passed in May 2020. But she hasn't lost her zest for life, and remains active, sharing stories of perseverance and that you're never too old to receive an education.

2023 AWARDEES | LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



MAURICE PARRISH: Tara Franey Impact Award

Maurice Drue Parrish has spent much of his life in service to others and to the cities of Chicago and Detroit. A child of recognized intelligence and potential, he earned high grades and athletic distinction at Chicago's prestigious St. Ignatius School, then attended the University of Pennsylvania and earned his master's in architecture at Yale. He began his career in the Chicago city planning department and rose to lead the city's building department at age 37. In 1989 Maurice brought his architectural and planning abilities to Detroit as deputy director of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). By the early 2000s he was executive vice president and interim director, the first Black person to head the DIA. During that time he led the historic building's massive renovation and organized successful new artistic shows and events. He made the DIA accessible to everyone, especially young people, from chess players to the Mosaic Youth Theater, where he served as board chairman. After retiring from the DIA, he directed the opening of the United States Capitol's new visitor center and went on to oversee other iconic American architectural projects. In 2018 Maurice returned home to Detroit, where he continues to enjoy his children, grandchildren, and many creative interests. To every endeavor and aspect of life, Maurice Parrish has brought a brilliant mind, and a dedication to cities, art, and people.



DANIEL ALDRIDGE

Reverend Daniel Webster Aldridge, Jr. was born in 1942 in Harlem, NYC, where he mixed and mingled with baseball players such as Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella of the Dodgers, and Monte Irvin of the Giants. He lived across the street from tennis star Althea Gibson. In his own words, "There were musicians, there were singers. Harlem was very down with cultural people." He moved to Detroit after attending school in Tennessee, and has made his living primarily as a musician. He was involved in arranging music for the 1996 Summer Olympic games in Atlanta GA. He is featured on the album Detroit Jazz City, a compilation that simultaneously spotlights the past and present of American jazz while also serving to benefit Focus:HOPE. Daniel is interested in philosophy and African American history and culture, and has fought for civil rights, equality and social justice for six decades. His contributions are unique. After the uprising of 1967, he formed the mock tribunal of the three police officers involved in the notorious Algiers Motel incident. He's worked side-by-side with Rosa Parks and Julian Bond. He is a principal convener of the Dorothy Height Movement for Gender Peace.



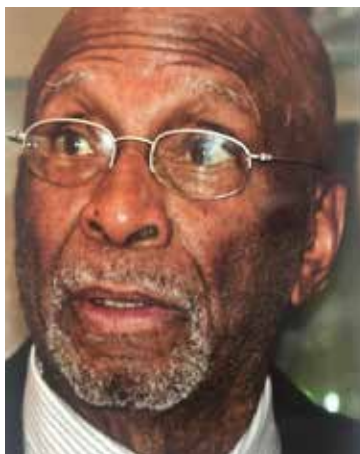
JUANITA ANDERSON

Juanita Anderson is an award-winning producer, documentary filmmaker, photographer, film programmer and media educator, born and raised in Detroit. Her career of more than four decades has been concerned with the cultural and social histories of people of African descent, and with the voices of communities too seldom represented on the screen. She has mentored multiple generations of filmmakers and media professionals and brought film and media artists of color to prominence. Juanita won seven Emmys heading two of the longest running African American community television series, Detroit Black Journal and Say Brother. She launched 15 independent and local television station projects into national PBS distribution. She executive produced the 1988 Academy Award-nominated documentary feature, “Who Killed Vincent Chin?”, which was selected for preservation by the National Film Registry in 2021. Juanita co-founded the National Black Programming Consortium (now Black Public Media). She’s held many arts and entertainment leadership positions, advancing the purposes and success of the National Conference of Artists and strengthening the Independent Television Service’s commitment to diversity. She currently heads the Media Arts and Studies programs at Wayne State University where she has been a faculty member since returning to Detroit in 2003.



REV. DEE DEE M. COLEMAN

Rev. Dr. Dee Dee M. Coleman has shattered barriers including the pastoral glass ceiling as the first woman to lead Russell Street Missionary Baptist Church and to head the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity. She has served as pastor of Russell Street for 24 years. In this role she mentored and supported the training of female Baptist ministers, many of whom now serve as senior pastors in their own churches. Rev. Coleman led her own nonprofit, Wings of Faith, which has had a high success rate in providing comprehensive services for returning citizens, including employment and counseling, and has been modeled by the Michigan Department of Corrections. Rev. Coleman continues to impact her field as a model for younger clergy, both male and female, who continually seek her advice and counsel. She is also sought out by government and corporate leaders, based on her track record of conducting business with dignity and in order. She plans to retire from serving as senior pastor at Russell Street at the end of 2023, but she will continue on in service as pastor emeritus and in the community, in the field of social justice.



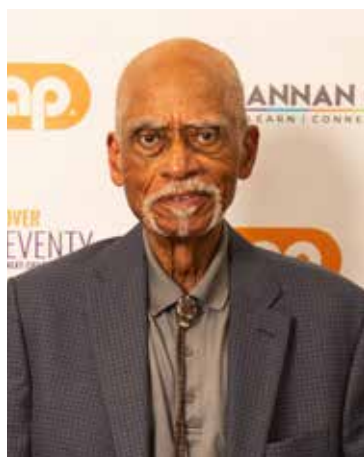
GARLAND JAGGERS

Garland L. Jagers is a historical advocate, change agent, writer, editor, poet, social worker, and executive. He began his social work career as a family case worker with the city of Detroit Welfare Department. He worked for change in the structure of the social welfare system, helping develop service strategies more in line with the actual experience of clients. His and others’ advocacy in this area led to the founding of the National Association of Black Social Workers. He continues to push for improvement in social work education, practice, and research, locally and nationally. As executive director of the national Black United Fund, Jagers petitioned the U.S. Congress and won the right for federal employees to donate to the BUF and other Black nonprofits. He has written poetry for periodicals and was the editor of a social nonprofit’s monthly newsletter, “For My People.” He’s written a manual on leadership development and four books, including three published after he turned 70. Their various topics represent his breadth of interests and experience: Catholic dogma, development of a professional association, and ethics in social work and business. Currently, Jagers is busy developing Senior Citizen Housing and a commercial strip on Detroit’s East side.



BARBARA SELINGER

Barbara Selinger is founder and artistic director of Detroit Dance Collective. For 43 years this professional modern dance company has performed Barbara's profound and powerful choreography and bridged cultures through inclusive community outreach programs. Barbara is an advocate of dance as a potent means of artistic, intellectual, emotional, and physical communication that can change lives. The creator of more than 100 dance works, she has proven herself a pioneer in contemporary dance and a model for other dance artists and companies. She has introduced and taught the art of dance to children, youth and adults of all abilities. In collaboration with visual artists, poets, storytellers, musicians, and designers, she presents innovative concerts, lecture demonstrations, classes, workshops, and educational programming. Barbara is a 6-time recipient of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Creative Artist Grant, Wayne State University's Arts Achievement Award, Teacher of the Year Awards, and is a nominee for the Governor's People's Choice Award for outstanding Michigan artist. At age 78, Barbara Selinger continues to focus her attention on creating choreography that is unique to the issues of the day, and has not lost a step in inspiring and nurturing her dancers



GEORGE SHIRLEY

George Shirley is an internationally renowned operatic tenor and master teacher. In his 50-plus-year career, he has sung more than 80 roles around the world. George Shirley was born in Indianapolis, IN and raised in Detroit. He graduated from Wayne State University in 1955 with a degree in music education. He subsequently became the first Black member of the United States Army Chorus. He was also the first African American to teach music in Detroit high schools. He is the first African American tenor to perform a leading role at the Metropolitan Opera, where he remained for eleven seasons as a leading artist. In 1968 he won a Grammy for his performance of Ferrando in the RCA recording of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. He has served as a master teacher in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Intern Program, and on the Aspen Music Festival and School faculty for ten years. Since 1987 he has been on the faculty of the University of Michigan (UM) School of Music, Theatre & Dance, currently, at age 89, as Joseph Edgar Maddy Distinguished University Professor of Music. The George Shirley Vocal Competition is held annually at UM. At age 81 George Shirley was awarded the 2014 National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama. He received the William Warfield Award in 2019 for his dedication to the advancement of African American classical vocalists.



PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Dr. Patricia Richardson Williams seems to have unlimited talent. A native Detroiter, Patricia has volunteered, mentored others, and helped launch new careers, among many significant contributions to her community. She holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Wayne State University. She began her work life as an educator in Detroit Public Schools. She taught language arts and also was a reading specialist. Her second career is as a performing artist. As a lyric soprano, she has sung with Michigan Opera Theater (now Detroit Opera) in Verdi's *Aida*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, and other productions. She's been featured as a concert soloist at formal and social occasions in Detroit, in Michigan, and abroad. She has sung with a number of noted choirs including The Gospel Music Theater and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Chorus. In her '70's Patricia completed her master's in Bible Studies and recently earned her Doctor of Ministry. She serves as an evangelist in the community, hosting prayer breakfasts, fellowship services and ministerial retreats. She uplifts children as a playwright, producer, director and vocal instructor in their workshop productions.



ERICA WRIGHT

In 1976 Erica Wright quit her job at the IRS and founded the Westside Cultural & Athletic Club, becoming its first executive director. This all-volunteer organization serves the neighborhood of W. Grand Boulevard and W. Warren Avenue with numerous community -building and success-building programs and activities, including adopt-a-grandparent, baseball, softball, flag football, conflict resolution, arts and crafts, summer youth employment, peer mentoring, African American History, scholarship search, annual community cleanup and picnic, educational table games, family softball, Halloween party, teen club, youth-staffed soup kitchen, and fun and educational field trips. Former participants have gone on to careers as police officers, pharmacists, superintendent of River Rouge public schools, sheriff’s deputies, bus drivers, teachers, social workers, superintendent of Virginia public schools, automotive workers and business owners. Many come back to volunteer their time. At 78 years old, Erica Wright continues to nurture those in need who are her neighbors and is still a spiritual mother to those who are incarcerated.



HONORABLE ROBERT YOUNG JR.

Robert P. Young, Jr., is the retired chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He served 18 years on the Court, including as chief justice from 2011 to January 2017. As chief justice, he promoted initiatives to measure judicial performance, track public satisfaction, adopt best practices, streamline court processes, expand public access, increase efficiency, and boost the productivity of trial courts. Before he joined the Michigan Supreme Court, he was a judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals. After retirement, Judge Young served as vice president and general counsel at Michigan State University (MSU). He’s served on the boards of many charitable groups and has been a trustee of several educational institutions. Judge Young is former chair of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce and an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School and MSU Law School. Young is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the Association of Black Judges of Michigan. He serves his community in many ways, often focusing on causes related to children. He is the author of several law review articles and is published in Michigan Civil Procedure and The Detroiter.

2023 AWARDEES | UNSUNG HERO



GEORGIA CRAWFORD-CAMBELL: Tara Franey Impact Award

A retired State of Michigan division administrator, currently practicing as a licensed clinical social worker, Georgia Crawford-Cambell is a tireless advocate for the aging, their caregivers, the homeless, the hungry and the poor. She is a past member of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging, where she advised the Governor and Legislature on policies and services to assist older adults. She is currently a member of the Michigan Selective Service System, having been appointed by the President of the United States in 2019. Georgia attends Oak Grove AME Church in Detroit, where she serves on the Women’s Ministry and as a Church Connector, and has served previously as chaplain of the Courtesy Ministry. She is a volunteer advocate for the homeless and underserved at Core City Neighborhoods, Inc. She is community liaison for Winship Community Association, where she follows up with city officials on residents’ issues. She mentors other social workers preparing for private practice, and students seeking academic scholarships. She advises the community on aging and caregiver resources via social media and video. She has paid for caregiver support for seniors who could not afford it. She motivates and lifts others to their highest potential.



MARTY BETTINGER

Marty Bettinger is the quintessential Unsung Hero. For the better part of his career he worked for the Taylor Public School system, maintaining school buildings, driving school buses, and delivering mail within the system. But he's not defined by his job title or career. Marty has given back in numerous ways to others as a volunteer in his church. When floors need cleaning or hallways need painting, he's been there to do it. When a bus or van driver is needed to shuttle students to and from activities, even in other states, he's been there to take the wheel. He also applies his creativity and artistic skills to crafting props and designing elements for kids programming. Marty is loving, patient, kind and wise, always lending an open ear to individual or group issues, then offering sage advice or caring counsel to those in need of it. He's funny and witty, always interjecting a dad joke or cliché. He takes great joy in making other people smile or laugh. If you want him, look behind the scenes. He's almost always there, planning, working, and trying to make his community the best it can be.



BARBARA BORRECK

In her 10 years as a resident, Barbara Borreck has become the unsung hero of Allegria Village. Shortly after she arrived, she began volunteering with the Wellness Program and remains an active member of Resident Wellness Committee, advocating for programs like the annual Walking Challenge, which she coordinates for over 100 resident participants, and the community's Longest Day Event since it was started. She's been a driver in the 10-year fundraising success of the NuStep, Inc., All-Day Relay event to benefit Alzheimer's at Allegria Village, soliciting resident participation and creating beautiful promotional and informational materials. She stays for the whole event every year! She has helped facilitate other one-off wellness programs such as Tour Michigan, Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, AV Triathlon, Spring into Fitness Challenge. Barbara continues to use her creative talent and expertise in spreadsheets, marketing, and promotion to continue the growth and excellence of the Allegria Village Wellness Program. She puts in hours that equal a full-time job and asks for no recognition. Age cannot slow her down. Hundreds of residents of her community have benefitted over the years because of this.



LOUISE GUYTON

Throughout her lifetime, Louise has made an impact on the lives of countless people through her commitment to various causes and organizations. A graduate of the University of Detroit, she began her professional journey at Comerica Bank, holding various positions over 44 years, rising to vice president of Public Affairs. She was particularly dedicated to community reinvestment and financial inclusion. Her pivotal role in managing the bank's Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) program resulted in six consecutive CRA "Outstanding" designations. In retirement she is president of New Hope Nonprofit Community Development corporation, treasurer of Detroit Community Health Connection, a trustee of Greater Burnette Baptist Church, and a board member of 3 Noble Hands. In 2014 she founded the Greater Works Foundation to address the physical, social, economic and educational needs of low-income individuals and families. She has served on numerous boards, including The Heat and Warmth Fund, Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation, and Detroit Community Health Connection. She is an active lifetime member of the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Louise Guyton has consistently made a difference without seeking recognition or accolades.



GLORIA KILLEBREW

Gloria Killebrew showed integrity, compassion and a human touch in important positions with the City of Detroit and the Wayne County Department of Public Services. But of all her many professional and business affiliations the most important is being a friend to those who call her “my friend.” Gloria delivers food to the sick and shut-in of her community, and provides transportation, not only to healthcare appointments but also to the hair and nail salons whose services are so important to many seniors’ self-esteem. Gloria’s husband lived as a heart transplant recipient for 24 years until his death in 2021; she was beside him as caregiver during his final illness. In her grief she continued to support the friends and neighbors who depended upon her. Gloria is the mother of two sons, grandmother of five, and great-grandmother of one. She attends and serves on the bereavement committee of Unity Baptist Church. Though currently caring for a hip replacement patient and a stroke patient, she still finds time for political organizing work. 70 is just a number for Gloria. As she says, “I will continue to be a blessing to others as long as I can stand and have breath in my body.”



DARCHELLE STRICKLAND LOVE

As executive director of Bridging Communities, Inc, Darchelle Love has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedication, making a profound difference in the lives of older adults and families in Detroit. In her role at Bridging Communities she excels in strategic planning, project management, process improvement, budget management, and organizational development, strengths developed over a career of leadership in both the public and private sectors. Darchelle has served as deputy city manager for the City of Berkley, where she was notably instrumental in spearheading community engagement, leading ballot initiative campaigns, and securing vital funding for city operations. She gathered extensive experience in executive support roles for three Detroit mayors and as a management consultant for a major Michigan health insurance provider. Darchelle has set ambitious goals for Bridging Communities, focused on improved services, senior independence, housing stability and healthy communities. Under her guidance the organization’s legacy of distinctive service to older adults and families in Detroit has flourished.



OLIVER (OLLIE) MARCOTTE

A graduate of the UM dental school, Ollie Marcotte practiced for 40 years while teaching at the dental school and participating in professional societies. In his work life he focused on relationships, especially those with patients. He brought that philosophy to Fox Run Senior Retirement Village (FRV) in Novi, in 2015. In 2016 he ran for and was elected to the FRV Resident Advisory Council, representing the more than 1,300 residents to FRV management. In the FRV Veterans Club he worked to create a space where the many military veterans living there could feel useful and recognized. He has managed audio and video presentations in the FRV in-house studio and performing arts center. A creative man of many talents, Ollie likes to build things, is an amateur photographer, has redesigned his kitchen, loves to cook, and has co-founded FRV’s annual Pinewood Derby of miniature soapbox cars. These interests keep him active in the FRV Hobby Shop, Camera Club, Entertainment Committee, History Club and Astronomy Club. He co-founded the Men’s Social Discussion Group and designed an off-campus directory as a member of the New Resident Orientation Committee. Now in his 85th year, Ollie Marcotte exemplifies the Unsung Hero.



DR. SHELLEY MCINTOSH

Dr. Shelley McIntosh often says, “Education chose me.” This statement drives her commitment to children and her actions on their behalf. For over 20 years she served as national youth director in the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church where she led a successful children’s community called Mtoto House, based on the concept of African communalism. Her book entitled, Mtoto House: Vision to Victory—Raising African American Children Communally, is based on this experience. She earned her doctorate in Education at the University of Houston at age 52 and went to work there as an assistant professor in the Department of Urban Education, also serving as director of Field Experiences. Returning to Detroit, she became principal of Winans Academy of Performing Arts, building a team-based, positive school culture there. She continued as a certified Wayne RESA English Language Arts Coach, working with teachers to improve their instructional delivery methods. Since turning 70, Shelley created an on-line course and webinar on reading instruction, published two of her five books, and received the Heroes of the Diaspora Mary McLeod Bethune Education Award, and the “Observing I Award” from Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Chapter.



PHYLLIS J. REYNOLDS

Phyllis J. Reynolds is a healthcare hero with a 40-year work history in that industry, beginning as a surgical registered nurse and rising through progressively responsible organizational roles to vice president and Chief Nursing Officer. Throughout her career and in retirement, she’s regarded herself as a “people person”, caring deeply about their welfare, and willing to help wherever needed. Her commitment and dedication are manifest in numerous recognitions and achievements, including Who’s Who in Black Detroit, the Spirit of Detroit Award, finalist for the Oakland University Nightingale Award, and a Detroit Chamber of Commerce Leadership Detroit XI graduate. During the COVID 19 pandemic she spoke out on the advantages of vaccination and served as a resource for protective equipment and supplies. In retirement Phyllis remains involved in her community, providing medical advice and referrals, career guidance, job placement assistance, and related professional development advice. Phyllis’s willingness to share her time and talent is founded on Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”



PAULINE RUFF

Pauline Ruff has been an asset to her community for over 20 years through her volunteer work for neighborhood beautification and by informing and assisting neighbors with blight reduction and other efforts that promote safe and healthy communities. She provides information as well as transportation, food, connections to resources; house cleaning, house sitting, etc., to many of her neighbors, young and old, through her church affiliation and community outreach efforts. Pauline’s commitment has not diminished with age and declining health. She was nominated for this honor after stepping in to assist caregivers of a next-door neighbor living with dementia, diabetes and sleep apnea. Pauline kept the patient socially connected and his care team advised of his compliance with medications and health care appointments. When another neighbor found her brother-in-law dead in his house and was overwhelmed by the ensuing responsibilities, Pauline was there to give emotional support as well as assistance with cleanup and related tasks that follow a person’s unexpected death at home. Few people other than Pauline would roll up their sleeves and do this kind of thing.



GWEN SWAIN

Gwen Swain is first and foremost a child of God. She is a mother, grandmother and about to be a great-grandmother. Her husband of 48 years, founding Pastor Carl Swain of True Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, passed away in 2019. She continues active at the church, where she serves as treasurer and secretary as well as on the women's auxiliary Board that she herself organized in 1986. Gwen is also an active member of Grandparents Parenting Again & Kinship, where she supports older adults who have taken grandchildren and other children into their homes for care; and she promotes the mission and work of Healthy Black Elders, where she serves on its Community Advisory Board. She finds time in her busy schedule to lead sewing classes for men, women and children at the Farwell Community Center. She is a community activist, dedicated to keeping her neighborhood safe and protected. Gwen is always in demand but always does what is needed with a smile on her face and graciousness in her heart. She lives the words of Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You."



A Special Congratulations
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HANNAN CENTER STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE

Vincent Tilford - *President and CEO*

Vincent Grzywacz, CPA, JD - *Chief Administrative Officer*

Rebecca Gillespie - *Director of Development and Communications*

LaTrell Bell - *Manager of Volunteer Services*

Paul Jirasek - *Executive Assistant*

Helena Eubanks - *Building Manager*

ARTS AND CULTURE

Richard Reeves, Jr. - *Director of Arts and Culture*

Pat Baldwin, SDC - *Manager of Beyond U*

ZENA BAUM SENIOR SERVICE CENTER/SOCIAL WORK

Melissa Draughn, LMSW - *Director of Social Work*

Sue M. Probert, LMSW - *Community Outreach Coordinator*

Rob Haynes - *Program Manager, My Neighborhood Connections Program*

Belinda Croft, BSW - *Daybreak Program Manager*

Jason Hollingshed - *Daybreak Program Lead Assistant*

Akinia Brooks - *Daybreak Program Assistant*

Portia Ross-Morehead - *Daybreak Program Assistant*

Boycea Robinson, LLMSW - *Social Worker*

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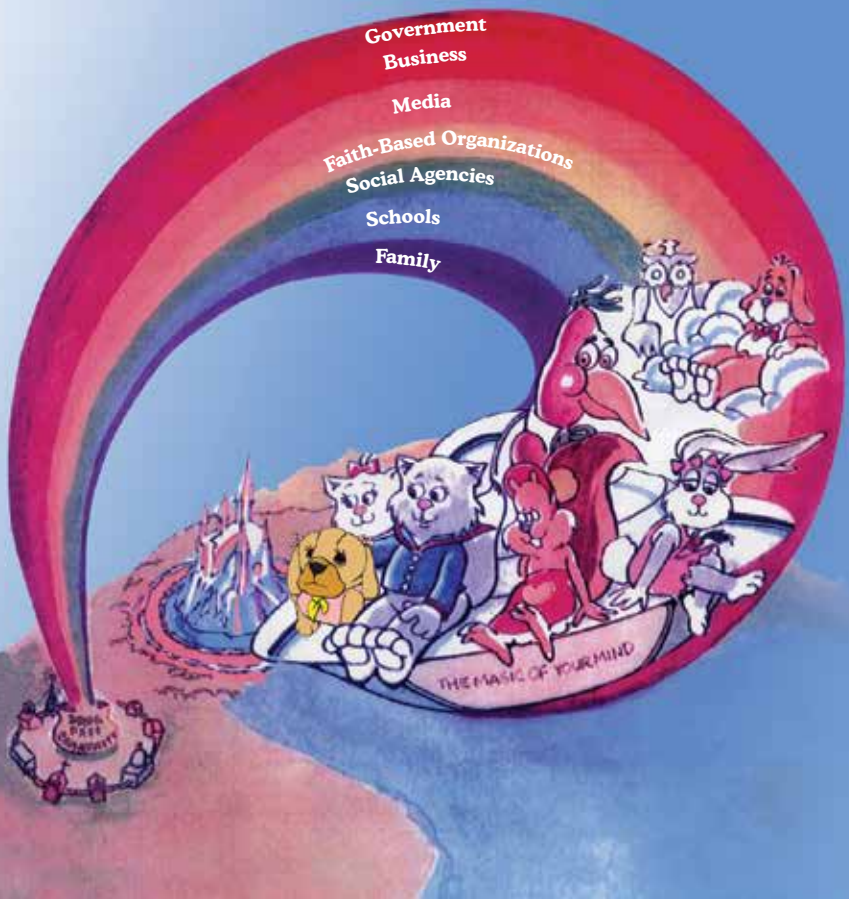
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