

The RACINE MIRROR

free

May 2020

Vol. 12, No. 9

A Reflection of the Positive in the Community

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Dominique Lambright & children

ARTISTO

Injured?



**ONE
CALL...
THAT'S
ALL!**

ATTORNEY
David Gruber

ONE CALL  THAT'S ALL

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The Woman in the Mirror Happy Mother's Day

by Lisa Parham

For all the things we didn't say about how we felt along the way, and for the love you gave and for all the work you've done, we want our mothers to know that we appreciate them. You cared for us as little tots when all we did was cry a lot too. We would sometimes run and fall and get black and blue. We grew up some more and it didn't stop, and now you have become a cop, (lol) to worry about mistakes we'd make you kept us in line for our own sake.

So as we became older, and the stories repeated, you were always there whenever we needed. You guided us and wished us the best. We became wiser and knew we were blessed. So mothers for all of the times we didn't say or express the love we felt for you each and every day, we want you to know that we love you dearly. Mothers read this so you can always see just how much you all mean to us.

To all the moms reading this, thanks for everything, and have a blessed and safe Mother's Day!

Lisa Parham

Lisa Parham
President & Chief Executive Officer

"I feel that we should all work to continue to make Racine a positive atmosphere for our Younger People, Thank you for helping to be a positive influence in our Community."



THE RACINE MIRROR

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OUR MISSION

- To uplift our community by being a reflection of what is positive and good.
- To be a vessel of information through our professional interviews, stories, and editorial perspectives.
- To encourage interaction among diverse walks of life.

OUR VISION

- To retain a love and understanding for our community and it's members.
- To be a positive influence and a profile for faith and hope.
- To endorse individual uniqueness and promote an appreciation for diversity.

OUR VALUES

- Respect
- Integrity
- Positive Development
- Excellence
- Good Stewardship

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Happy Birthday Sherika Parham

Mommy loves you very very much,
high as the sky and deep as the oceans.

I'm such a blessed woman to have
such an amazing daughter.

Continue to soar and reach for the
rainbow because it's all within your reach.

Thank you for allowing me to guide
you through life's journeys and
making me a proud mother.

What I love most about living is that
I get to be your mother and you
make it all rewarding....

When I grow up I want to be just like you!!
(Lol)

Happy Birthday Baby Girl.



A Mother

*Who sat and watched my infant head
when sleeping on my cradle bed
and tears of sweat and affection shed?
My Mother*

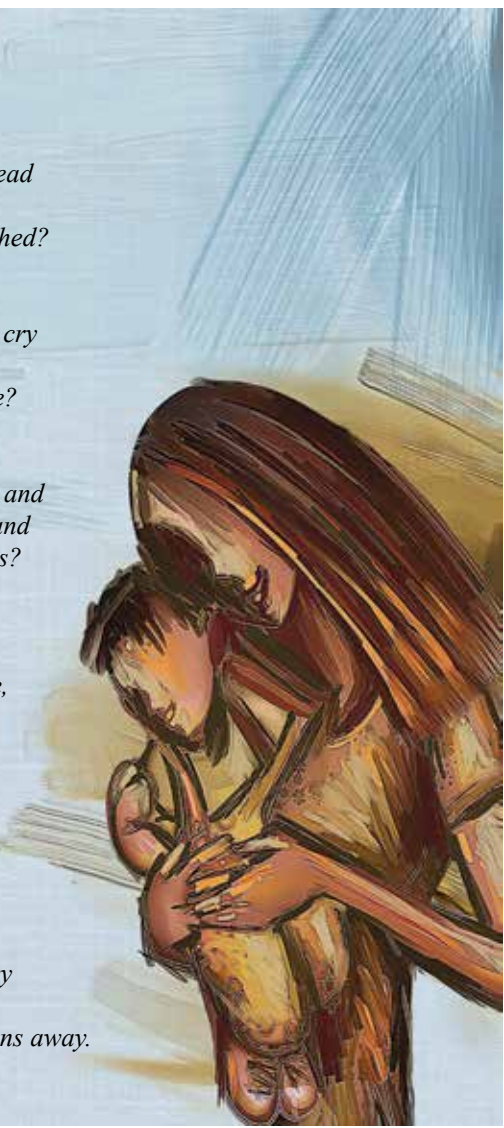
*When pain and sickness made me cry
who gazed upon my heavy eye
and wept for fear that I should die?
My Mother*

*Who taught my infant lips to pray and
Love God's Holy book each day, and
walk in wisdom and pleasant ways?
My Mother*

*And can I ever cease
to be affectionate and kind to thee,
who wast so very kind to me?
My Mother*

*Ah no! The thought I cannot bear,
and if God please my life to spare
I hope I shall reward her care.
My Mother*

*When thou are feeble, old and grey
my healthy arms shall be thy stay
and therefore I will soothe thy pains away.
My Mother*



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- Rehabilitation
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- Outpatient surgery center



Ascension



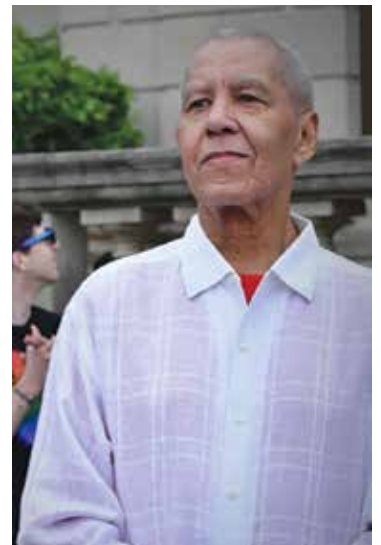
👍👍 If we don't stand for something we will fall for nothing. **In Racine we stand with the future in our hands.** Be counted in the 2020 Census."
 - **Dasheika Kidd,**
 Racine Program Manager,
 Housing Resources, Inc.

2020 CENSUS
RACINE COUNTY
 TOGETHER WE COUNT


The 2020 Census is ongoing and important!

Here's a few trusted voices in our community who are telling it like it is....

"Completing the 2020 Census is especially important for people of color. For decades, communities of color and marginalized groups have been undercounted and underrepresented. You being counted impacts our political representation in Congress, and how much money will be distributed to Racine for priorities you care about like education, housing, and health services. Businesses, housing developers, and others use Census data to decide where to build projects like new affordable housing and where to locate grocery stores. Filling out the Census benefits you, your family, and our community - and it only takes a few minutes. Be counted!" -Carl Hubbard




👍👍 If you like seeing **hungry people get fed**, if you like seeing **kids get books** and education resources, if you like seeing people who need mental health resources **have access to services**, then please **be a hero** and fill out your 2020 Census. 🗣️



- **"Library Nick" Demske & Angela Malone**

2020 CENSUS
RACINE COUNTY
 TOGETHER WE COUNT


👍👍 It sounds simple, **but so much depends on knowing how many of us there are:** our political representation, federal funds for our schools, health care, community programs, & more. Now, **more than ever**, we need to make sure we're counted so **our community gets the funding and the representation** we need! Please do your part to make sure that Racine counts! 🗣️



- **Angelina Cruz,**
 President, Racine Educators United (REU)

2020 CENSUS
RACINE COUNTY
 TOGETHER WE COUNT


👍👍 The census is very important to our community because it's **an opportunity to help so many people and organizations.** Racine is a very unique place to live and we deserve every chance to **receive additional funds** to support the families of Racine.



- **City of Racine 7th District Alder, Maurice Horton** 🗣️

2020 CENSUS
RACINE COUNTY
 TOGETHER WE COUNT

👍👍 Many people think completing the Census just helps fund roads and highways, but **the census does way more than that.** Completing the census helps to fund the education of our youth, provide school lunches and assist with a multitude of other services **needed and utilized** by families and communities.



So, please take the time to complete the Census. Our families and our communities need it and so do you.

- **Tenisha Winn, Community School Specialist, Knapp Elementary** 🗣️

2020 CENSUS
RACINE COUNTY
 TOGETHER WE COUNT

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Photos by Ralph Tunstell



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Includes 2 sides

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Catfish	\$ 11.99
Brisket	\$ 14.99

Deep Fried

Chicken Sandwich	\$ 1.99
Chicken Fingers	\$ 5.99
Chicken Wings	\$ 7.99
Catfish	\$ 7.99



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Appetizers & Sides

Potato Salad	\$ 2.99
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Mac & Cheese	\$ 2.99
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Ages 10 & Under | Includes 1 side

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Cheeseburger	\$ 5.49
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RACINE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

As part of the continued response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Racine County Emergency Operations Center has announced a housing plan to support hospitals, essential workers, and residents with special needs. County Executive Jonathan Delagrave said in a statement: "Racine County has again come together to help ensure our communities are prepared for all scenarios as the COVID-19 outbreak continues to unfold. This plan will help us keep those working on the front lines healthy, ensure our health care systems can provide care to all who need it, and give those with special needs a place to go to prevent further spread of COVID-19."

Gov. Tony Evers today announced a "Badger Bounce Back" plan which outlines criteria for Wisconsin to be able to reopen its economy in phases and includes steps to make sure workers and businesses are prepared to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. In coordination with this announcement, at the direction of the governor, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm issued Emergency Order #31 establishing the process and outlining the phases of the plan.

Confirmed coronavirus cases

United States: 746,625
 Wisconsin: 4,499
 Central Racine County Health Department: 93 confirmed (plus 35 probable); 6 deaths
 City of Racine Health Department: 91 confirmed (plus 30 probable); 4 deaths
 Racine County total: 184 confirmed (plus 65 probable); 10 deaths

Note: Probable cases are symptomatic individuals who have not been tested but presumed positive because they had direct contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Racine County

The deadline for local restaurants to partner with the Racine County Senior Nutrition Initiative to provide meals for homebound seniors has been extended to Friday, April 24. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/69Y6DHY>

Central Racine County Health Department

Central Racine County Health Department is now reporting out data on probable cases as well as confirmed cases on our website. Probable cases are symptomatic individuals who have not been tested but presumed positive because they had direct contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. The data is updated daily at noon Monday through Friday. <https://crchd.com/covid-19>

City of Racine

For the latest information from the City of Racine including counts and demographic information, visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b9WqmKhgFt83MzjxYqEBoQWLb1YuHSMY/view?usp=sharing>

Employees Helping Prepare Emergency Food at Racine County Food Bank

• City employees from our Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department and Library, whose normal duties have been changed due to the pandemic, will be work-

ing at the Racine County Food Bank this week -- and again, in the future, if needed -- to assemble and fill thousands of boxes of emergency food to distribute to local residents in need. City willing to deploy our staff to assist community organizations facing loss of volunteers right now, and to ensure that we meet community needs during the pandemic.

- When: Tuesday & Wednesday, April 21 & 22, 10am-3pm.
- Where: Racine County Food Bank, 2000 Dekoven Avenue, Unit 2 (same building as HALO). Park on the north side of the building. Enter at the orange door next to the overhead garage door.

Advocate Aurora

Advocate Aurora released a statement today on Extended Restrictions on Elective Surgeries and Procedures:

We have a responsibility to care for all patients, including those without COVID-19, and we are committed to safely doing so. As we prepare for the next phase of this pandemic, enhanced testing is critical to ensuring our patients get the right care at the right time while also reducing the transmission of COVID-19. Here are the immediate steps we are taking:

Electives: For the health and safety of our teams and patients, effective immediately, we are extending existing restrictions on elective surgeries/procedures and non-urgent ambulatory visits through Friday, May 15. In the meantime, we are evaluating communities with low prevalence of COVID-19 to explore lifting restrictions.

Testing Priorities: We have doubled our COVID-19 testing capacity and are using data along with CMS and CDC guidelines on testing prioritization. We are expanding testing for emergent and urgent procedures including oncology.

Testing Sites: To operationalize testing for priority groups in a safe and convenient way, we will be introducing, and in some cases reintroducing, drive through testing sites. These testing sites are only for pre-scheduled tests and will not be available for community testing at this time. We are working through a system approach and coordinated process and more details on location and timing will be available next week.

This continues to be a fluid situation. As always, we will evaluate and adjust our policies as needed.

Resources

For Racine County updates on the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit www.racine-county.com/coronavirus. The City of Racine coronavirus webpage can be found at www.racinecoronavirus.org. The Central Racine County Health Department's COVID-19 page is www.crchd.com/covid-19.

For national information on COVID-19, please go to the Centers for Disease Control's website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

You can also find current information on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website, which has guidance that is updated regularly for travel, self-quarantine, and school districts, among other important information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>.

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Land Home Financial Services LLC

by **Dominique Lambricht**

Here in Racine, we have a great residential lending experience you won't forget. I got to interview Gene Turner, who is the Branch Manager at Land Home Financial Services LLC. Gene has been in the Mortgage Business for 22 years and has been very successful in creating an excellent lending experience for those who have trouble getting loans for homes or those who have been denied. A while ago, when Gene started out, a piece was missing in the industry, a segment to help fix those with difficulties in getting mortgages. He conversed with a guy named Mike Bane, and they wanted to build a platform for people who would normally get turned away. This would include those with credit troubles past and present, income obstacles, and lack of down payment options.

When people get denied, there truly is no person to point them in the right direction; they usually get the vague response of requirements that aren't comprehensible. That's why at Land Home, they offer the "preapproval", pre homeownership, consultation, so people know what they need to do and what they already have done to get themselves in good standing. This process has always been in Gene's business, but now he says it has become more of the forefront as the start of the process, instead of seeing if people qualify first, then figuring out why if they don't. Gene's biggest goal is to get people into homes that usually wouldn't be able to. Those people denied by other facilities and helping them get second opinions. People want to find someplace to settle down



in, and if Gene can help them get into their dream homes, he wants to swoop in and save the day.

The most significant difference between Banks and Home Land is the flexibility in mortgage and lending. For Banks, they can set their own guidelines governed by the federal government, because they set the bar for the banks. They must meet a certain criterion, and they offer other banking services. For Home Land, they look at the governed guidelines and try to be more flexible around those guidelines. They want to help find a more creative way to get people into homes and alternative ways to qualify them and into those homes. And this is done while still being governed by certain guidelines. The lending industry goes after the 20%; Gene goes for the 70%. What that means is lending

platforms don't want to do the tougher business. The 20% are the easy ones to give loans to. While the 70% that Gene works with are the ones that may take some time in getting approved, but he says it's more satisfying. He loves seeing the excitement and surprise on their faces when he can approve them.

Fifty percent of the minority market is denied and get discouraged. They are in the 70% range that Gene works with. They get discouraged because they aren't adequately explained what's needed to get where they need to be. He wants to build a model to buy, and this is the biggest buying market, but this 70% usually walks into a bank to get a mortgage and walks right back out without one. He wants to help people build the steps into getting into homeownership. Gene averages about 5 to 7 loans a month, and about 60 to 80 loans a year. More recently, that number has increased to 8 to 10 loans a month. Gene receives many referrals from past clients and from real estate professionals he has worked with. He also mentioned that the hardest part about the industry is working those guidelines. Sometimes, he has to manually add things into the computer when it doesn't generate an approval when the person has everything, which also leads to manual underwrites.

Gene fights for his clients. He will not say no in the first conversation. He will push back if he has to, and he feels like there is more that can be done to help his client. Land Home is a community type lender without the banking environment, and the down payment system is their own internal program. Banking services have better plat-

forms that most customers need and can use to better help them. This is one of the few reasons choosing Land Home is a great idea. They provide diversified funding options and consistent, superior, personalized service to clients and partners, including homebuyers, mortgage brokers, builders, manufactured and modular home retailers, and real estate agents. Whether you are looking to purchase a home, refinance your current mortgage, or get a reverse mortgage, their expert services can walk you through the process in-person or over the phone.

The staff is actively involved in improving the community by getting hands-on with charities, nonprofits, and organizations to enact positive change and create strong, vibrant communities. Land Home believes in maintaining long-term relationships with customers. They retain close to 90% of the loans they originate servicing over \$5 billion in residential loans, so you don't have to deal with a 3rd party servicer. Land Home's loan officers are nationwide, which makes it easy for you to meet with someone in person when you need help or have questions. They have 7 divisions nationwide and 75 branches. They're licensed in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia. And to top it off, they're a Better Business Bureau (BBB) Accredited Business with an A+ rating. This allows you to have peace of mind that you're getting a great rate. Their interest rates reflect the market, and their loans reflect the service provided.

Gene Turner | Land Home Financial Services LLC | (262) 800-8650 | MountPleasantWI@LHFS.com

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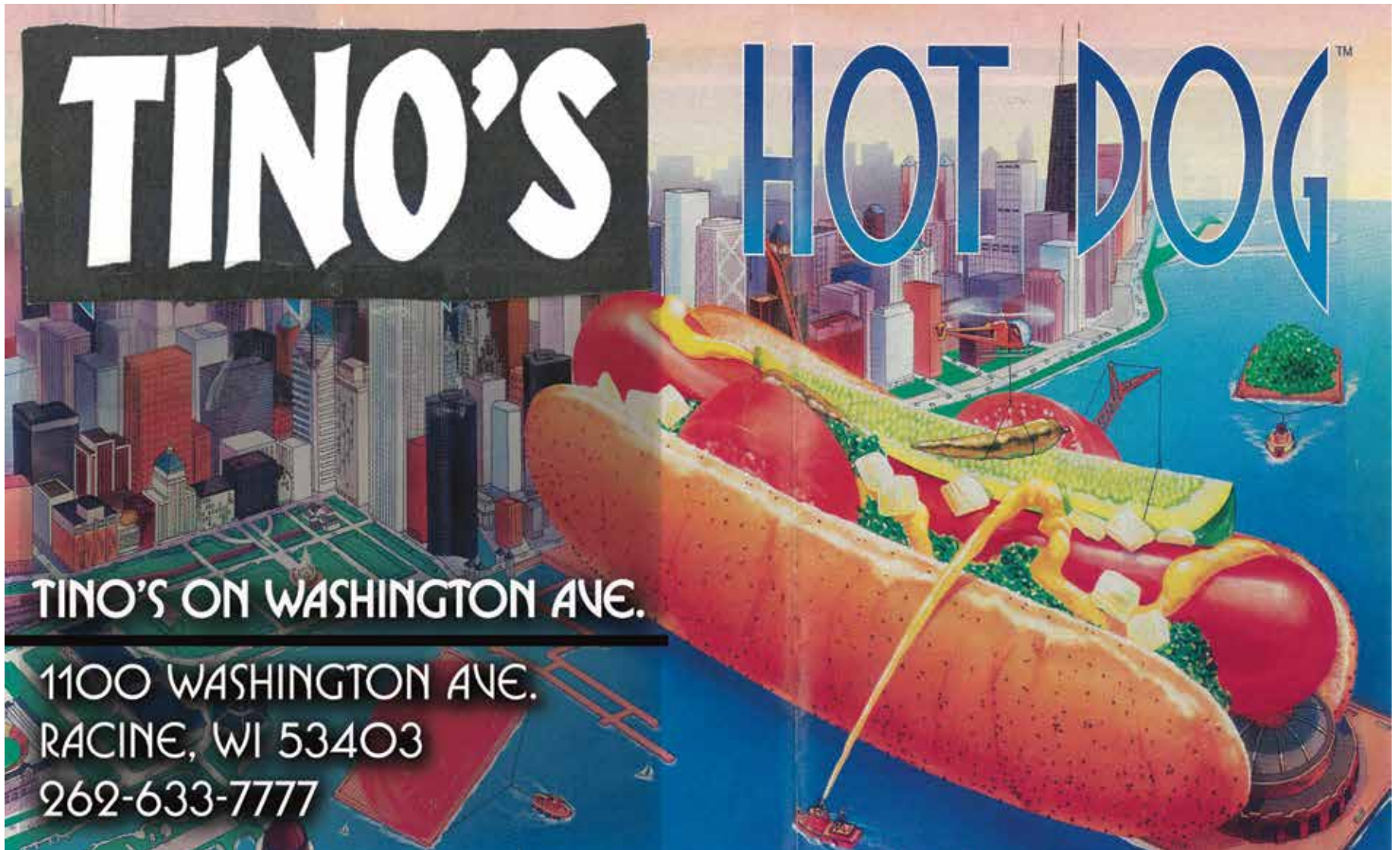
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Big Brothers Big Sisters

Hugh Griffith is making a Big impact by mentoring youth

When Hugh Griffith, former supervisor for the youth and delinquent department for Racine County read a story in the Racine Mirror about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Racine Kenosha's shortfall of African-American male mentors he knew exactly what he needed to do – enroll to be a Big Brother. Today, he is on a mission to change the life of not only his Little, but the Littles younger siblings too.

A 30-year career with the County, and an innate desire to help our community; especially African-American boys, has bought new purpose to his life.

Griffith said, "When I worked for the County I saw firsthand, what happens when delinquent males do not have role models in their lives." The results are risky behaviors, poor grades in school, high school dropout, crime and incarceration. Many gravitate to gang culture.

In most cases, poor behavior and bad choices are deferred when a male role model or father figure is present in a young boys life. "This type of involvement is paramount," he said.

Parents call upon Big Brothers Big Sisters to enroll their school-aged sons and daughters in the free program for many reasons. They see the potential in their child fizzling-out . . . They know that as a single female they can't teach their son how to be a man. . . They are working two to three jobs and don't have time to

spend with the child. . . The other parent is absent in their child's life . . . just to name a few.

There are also problems that we prefer to ignore. Poor parenting skills, lack of education, poverty, substance abuse, and mental instability. All of the above are factors that can get children sidetracked and prohibit them from reaching their potential.

As a corrections supervisor, Griffith saw these issues far too often. "When parents are too young to have kids, you basically have kids raising kids. When parents have no education, no work experience and no college education, kids have a problem understanding what it takes to be successful," he said.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters mentorship program ignites the potential in children (Littles) through empowered mentors (Bigs). The nonprofit organization creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth facing adversity.

Griffith is one of a handful of BBBS African-American mentors in our area. Holding a bachelor, master's and a high degree of commitment, he is in this for the long haul. "He is doing a fantastic job helping his Littles succeed. I wish more men of color would volunteer to be a Big. There are dozens of precious little minority boys waiting for a mentor. A couple hours a month can completely change the



involve reaching out to the school to make sure they are on the same page. "It's very rewarding being able to make a difference on this level. In fact, being a Big Brother is very, very rewarding for me," Griffith said.

It's so rewarding that when he met his Little Brother, he discovered that there were younger siblings in the household too. He questioned, "How can I just want to work with one kid, when there are three in need of support? It did not seem fair when I spend time with one sibling, and he returned home happy, while they stayed at home."

To solve this dilemma, He "jumped in to help all three boys!"

Always thinking ahead, his goal is getting the siblings to realize their unique gifts to the world. "Over time, I think their gifts have gotten lost," he said.

He's on a mission to open their eyes, and doors of opportunity for them. Their eyes and outlook is beginning to unfold. One child's grades are on the rise and he envisions attending college one day. The child told Griffith, "Wait a minute. I never knew I could to this!"

Griffith said, "I'm swelled with joy when my Little talks about attending college now. It's my dream that he will attend one day." To prepare for college, the Little spends time beyond the classroom learning

trajectory of a young child's life; something desperately needed in our community," said Sonya Thomas, BBBS executive director.

Griffith has a plan of action to ignite the potential in his Littles. It's a child-parent wholistic approach where they all set goals and strive to achieve them. At times he has been confronted with barriers at home and school, but he knows that "success takes time." For example, it may

(Continued on page 29)

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HEALTH: 5 Tips on How to Combat Loneliness During Social Distancing

(StatePoint) As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, many people are staying in their homes to help prevent the spread of the disease. Feeling lonely from time to time is natural, but this unprecedented time of social distancing could lead to increased loneliness.

There are some easy ways to feel connected to others, even when you aren't seeing them in person. Consider these tips from Dr. Doug Nemecek, Cigna chief medical officer for behavioral health.

- Use technology... but not too much. Social media is a favorite and easy way to stay connected to family and friends, but too much use can leave you feeling lonely. Cigna's 2020 U.S. Loneliness Index found that 72 percent of very heavy social media users identify themselves as lonely. Balance technology use with disconnecting and taking time for yourself. Use real-time interactions with others, like video chats, to build meaningful connections and limit time spent passively scrolling social media. Read a book, take a walk or do a puzzle after screen time. It may help you feel more connected when you spend time online.

- Join a virtual club or group. There are plenty of resources available to find virtual book clubs, craft communities or even fitness challenges. You can start a new hobby, learn a skill or find others who are interested in the same things as you, remotely. Once the guidelines for social distancing are lifted, you'll have new friends you can meet in person.

- Spend time outdoors. Simply leaving your house to take a jog around your neigh-

borhood or to walk your dog a few blocks could improve your spirits, refreshing you for the next time you virtually connect with others.

- Ask those you reach out to how they're really doing. How you connect with those in your network makes a significant difference in how lonely you feel. People tend to feel less lonely when connecting on a deeper level. Cigna's study found that those who do not feel they have close relationships that give them emotional security and well-being have an average loneliness score of nearly 15 points higher than those that do. When video chatting with friends, ask them for their most honest response when you ask how they're doing. Everyone will likely feel better for it.

- Rethink working hours. We spend approximately 90,000 hours at work over our lifetime, so how we spend that time will play an important role in how we feel overall. Improving your work-life balance and connecting with colleagues can reduce loneliness. Your employer may also benefit from you feeling less lonely. Lonely employees are less productive, produce lower quality work and miss more days of work. So, talk to your boss about slight changes you can make to how you spend your working hours. This could help you feel less lonely and benefit your company.

Being unable to spend time with others in-person will likely cause many of us to feel lonely, but there are ways to help lessen those feelings during this challenging time.

New Tax Parcel Notification Service

Residents can sign up to receive tax notifications by text or email

Racine - Racine County Register of Deeds, Connie Cobb Madsen, along with Racine County Treasurer, Jeff Latus, announced today a new notification service for Racine County residents.

The service will allow individuals to sign up for notifications by text and email regarding tax parcels in the Racine County Tax System.

The following notifications will be available for subscription:

1. "Tax Bill Payment Is Being Processed" - This notification will be generated after a receipt for payment has been received for processing by the County Treasurer.
2. "Tax Bill Has Been Created" - Subscribers will receive a notification 24 hours after tax bills are calculated and published for web viewing.
3. "Tax Bill Is Marked As Delinquent" - A notification will be sent that a tax bill is delinquent 24 hours after the County Treasurer marks the bill as delinquent.
4. "Tax Bill Installment Payment Is Due" - Subscribers will receive a notification that an installment payment is due if the full amount has not been paid in the 1st or subsequent installments.

To sign up for this service, please go to the Racine County Tax Inquiry Website and click on "subscribe": <http://ascent.racinecounty.com/LandRecords>

Unfortunately, the City of Racine properties will not be eligible for the service at this time due to data incompatibilities. For information on the City of Racine properties, please contact the City of Racine.

Additional inquiries can be addressed to Kimberly Christman, Real Property Lister at (262) 636-3626 or email landdescription@racinecounty.com.



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Emergency Rooms Prepared to Safely Treat Patients

Ascension Wisconsin physicians say not to delay in seeking emergency care

[Glendale, WI] - For people experiencing symptoms of a heart attack, stroke, mental health or other acute illness or injury, a hospital emergency room is still the safest, most appropriate place to get care. If someone is experiencing a life-threatening emergency, difficulty breathing, or warning signs of a heart attack or stroke, they should not delay, but go directly to the emergency room or dial 911.

Even though hospitals are caring for patients with COVID-19, clinicians want to reassure the public that individuals who need emergency care should not delay treatment. An emergency is still an emergency. Ascension Wisconsin hospitals and emergency rooms are well prepared to safely care for people with symptoms of heart attack, stroke and other serious conditions.

"We are seeing a concerning drop in the number of people coming in for serious non-COVID-related issues," said Dr. Gregory Brusko, Chief Clinical Officer, Ascension Wisconsin. "Staying home, ignoring the symptoms and suffering out of fear of COVID-19 is a risk people shouldn't take with their health. Timely treatment is critically important for achieving the best outcomes and lessening the risk of complications. We are prepared and set up to safely treat patients who require emergency care. No patient should delay their care in an emergency."

Ascension Wisconsin hospitals are equipped to safely protect patients from potential exposure to COVID-19 while taking care

of their chest pain, stroke symptoms, traumatic injuries, emotional and mental health and any other acute medical or emergent surgical needs. Separate intake and care areas, waiting room distancing, staff screening, ongoing use of personal protective equipment, as well as extensive safety and sanitization protocols, are in place to ensure all patients are cared for in a protected environment. Ascension Wisconsin continuously monitors guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and adjusts safety practices and safeguards accordingly.

"It's critical to go to the ER if you are experiencing symptoms like pressure, tightness, pain, or a squeezing or aching sensation in your chest or arms that may spread to your neck, jaw or back; shortness of breath; or nausea or lightheadedness, as these all may be signs of a heart attack," said Dr. Beth Griffin, Emergency Medical Director, Ascension All Saints Hospital. "The types of symptoms that required emergency care in the past still require emergency care now. Our hospitals and catheterization labs are still treating patients suffering heart attack and stroke, and we are taking the utmost precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Ascension providers also encourage individuals who have pre-existing conditions to continue their routine care to stay healthy. Call your primary care provider or specialist first to discuss whether an online visit is an option for your care. If you can't talk to your regular doctor, or if you need care more

quickly, you can talk to a doctor 24/7 through Ascension Online Care. Ascension Online Care offers video visits for urgent care using your smartphone, tablet or laptop. No insurance is required. Visit ascension.org/onlinecare to learn more.

If clinicians identify changes in a person's health, they can help them better manage it or decide where and how a person might need to be seen and treated. However, if someone is experiencing a life-threatening emergency, difficulty breathing, or warning signs of a heart attack or stroke, they should

not delay, but go directly to the emergency room or dial 911.

About Ascension Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, Ascension operates 24 hospital campuses, more than 100 related healthcare facilities and employs more than 1,300 primary and specialty care clinicians from Racine to Eagle River. Serving Wisconsin since 1848, Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic and social distancing, for the first time in over 50 years the **2020 Juneteenth Celebration will be canceled.** As we adjust to the new normal we look forward to bringing back Juneteenth in 2021.



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6 Ways The \$2 Trillion Stimulus Package May Help You

by Yvette Stewart

In response to the severe economic fallout stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, a record \$2 trillion fiscal stimulus package was enacted at the end of March. The wide-ranging CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act is designed to help ease the financial hardships many Americans are facing. You may be wondering what, if any, economic relief is available to you. Here are some possible ways you may qualify for support.

#1 – Direct payments to many Americans

The CARES Act includes a provision to send most Americans direct payments of \$1,200, or \$2,400 for joint filers, plus \$500 for each child. The amount of the payments will be reduced for those with higher incomes. For individuals filing taxes as singles, the reduced amount begins at an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$75,000 per year and is completely phased out at \$99,000. For joint filers, the reduced amount begins at \$150,000 and payment is eliminated at \$198,000. Your AGI will be determined by your 2019 tax filing (or 2018, if 2019 is unavailable). These payments will primarily come via direct deposit within weeks, but when you actually receive the rebate may vary depending on your circumstances.

#2 – Enhanced unemployment compensation

For those collecting unemployment benefits, the federal government will bump up your weekly benefit by \$600 for up to four months. Laid off workers who file



self-employed individuals who often don't qualify for coverage.

#3 – Penalty-free distributions from retirement accounts

If today's circumstances require you to tap your workplace retirement plan or IRA to meet current financial needs, you may have more flexibility to do so. Affected, eligible participants in workplace retirement plans and IRA owners can take an aggregate distribution in 2020 of up to \$100,000 from all retirement accounts without incurring the usual 10% early withdrawal penalty. The affected participant or IRA owner (including a spouse or dependent) would need to either be diagnosed with COVID-19 or experiencing adverse financial consequences that meet a broad-set of COVID-19-related criteria.

Income taxes will still apply to the distribution but can be spread out over three years. You also have the option to refund your retirement accounts any or all of the distribution within three years of the initial withdrawal and adjust your tax liability accordingly.

#4 – No required minimum distributions in 2020

for unemployment would usually need to wait a week to receive benefits. However, the act now allows for that week to be funded by the federal government. Benefits are also extended to

Those who are required to take minimum distributions (RMDs), can ignore RMD rules this year. RMDs for 2020 are suspended for certain defined contribution plans and IRAs to help retirement accounts try to recover from stock market losses. Check with your tax advisor about other options you may have related to RMDs.

#5 – Tax-deductible charitable contributions

As a result of the 2017 tax reform, the vast majority of taxpayers lost their ability to choose itemized deductions due to a dramatic increase in standardized deductions. That eliminated the ability for many to write off charitable contributions on their taxes. The new CARES Act allows for a \$300 above-the-line deduction for charitable contributions made to 501(c)(3) organizations for taxpayers who take the standard deduction or those who itemize. The deduction applies to cash contributions. The changes go into effect beginning in the 2020 tax year. The tax savings may be modest, but it helps.



#6 – A break for those with student loans

All federal student loan payments are deferred until September 30, 2020. However, you need to contact your loan provider and inform them that you plan to pause payments as allowed under the CARES Act. There are additional benefits for borrowers and grant recipients as well, so check with your loan provider or school administration for more information.

This is a time when you want to be sure to balance decisions that address your short-term financial obstacles with your long-term financial plan. Touch base with your financial advisor to discuss your situation and best strategies to cope with this challenging time.

Yvette M. Stewart, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Brookfield, WI. She specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 14 years. To contact her, visit www.ameripriseadvisors.com/yvette.m.stewart, email: yvette.m.stewart@ampf.com. PH: 262-901-1540. Ameriprise Financial Services, 16650 W Bluemound Rd, Suite 800, Brookfield, WI 53005. She resides in Racine, WI. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2020 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.


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Real Life, Real Faith: Ruts

by Lauren Lamoreaux

Ruts. Yes, ruts. We all get into them. And some are worse than others... But some can actually be good; think of irrigation ditches. I find that so many times in my day-to-day, I get into many, many ruts. You would think a few hours isn't enough time to get into a rut, but it is with some things. And anything can produce a rut.

I was watching MythBusters the other day as Kari, Grant and Tori tried to use dental floss to break out of jail. Of course I thought right away, 'no way, now how, no chance.' But after hours and days of running floss across a steel bar, there was a noticeable rut! Now, the method of flossing was mechanized and there was a ton of control over the experiment, but it still proved plausible. Amazing: dental floss had carved a rut into a steel bar.

A while back, I got a new computer and the transferring of music and data, while simultaneously learning the new system became very time-consuming. I found my normal daily activities had started suffering and my children were eating lunch at 1:00... all because of this particular rut I had gotten myself into. Thankfully, the music got transferred, and the data... well, the data is still in progress--slow, painful progress, but at least it isn't sucking my time away like the spoiled child that data transfer usually is.

All this got me thinking along the lines of ruts and how useful or useless they can be in our lives. It seems the things we can fall into that are not beneficial are the things that are made of the softest substance--easily rutted. And the things we should be happy to fall into habits with are made of steel--and we only have some dental floss to make the impression.

Living a life that is full of genuine faith is a great example of one of those steel bars.

We can go to church, get pumped up by some explosive worship time, or a dazzling teaching from the pulpit, but the real test comes when our feet hit the pavement: We get in our car and someone cuts us off while throwing out expletives and gesturing wildly; the company where we worked for 15 years decides it doesn't need us anymore; someone whom we loved decided they didn't love us back anymore; the list goes on. And it seems that these are the places where we can get stuck... in a rut. The soft, pliable substance that each of these trials are made of allows for many people to get lost in their own little ruts--some for many years.

I believe that with God, all things are possible; even climbing out of the canyons we have carved over the years from clinging to the hardships and strongholds of life, and turning back to triumphing and living victoriously in Him, is possible. In my life, in my faith, I pray that I will cling only to what is good and pleasing to my Savior, Jesus Christ. This is what living a real life, with real faith, is all about: looking for the positive and beautiful areas in our lives and growing in these things, not in negativity and sadness.

There is one thing that MythBusters has taught me: it IS plausible. It takes hard work, determination, and precision to make those ruts, but it CAN be done. So this is my goal: to 'make dental floss ruts in steel bars,' by living a useful and productive life with a lasting impression on the world around me. On my dying day, my life won't be defined by the hardships I've endured, but by the lifestyle of real faith that I lived. I want to trust in God's word, when He says that He has plans to prosper, and not to harm me. I want to trust that I am making a difference in the lives of those around me.

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You, we all can have it by:

♥ Making our health, body and immune system as healthy and strong as it can be;

♥ Helping others do the same---neighbors, family, friends, workplace, community groups/organizations that

♥ Minimizes infecting one another and is taking social responsibility.

Note, important: It’s not only about whether you get a virus, disease or not, but HOW WELL CAN YOUR BODY FIGHT and move it out of your system. Just how good or not is your health and immune system.

Furthermore, having a weak, useless immune system can be due to POOR HEALTH, NUTRITION AND DIET and not just a compromised immune system because of some preexisting condition.

Just look at the sorry, dreadful state/condition our health is in (2 in www.maxfulfillment.com/healthpurpose/).

So, the hearts above must be taken seriously and implemented, and become a reality and part of our lives. How?

By taking action, doing something with the Action Steps below for Getting Healthy and Strong and maximizing VIRUS, DIS-



EASE PROTECTION.

Think of the Action Steps below as a menu; start with any two or three. See if you can team up with someone, and who might want to complete the same one (s) as you!

1 Start or continue exercising. For example, in a week, walk fast around the block every other day or walk up and down stairs 4X, or take the stairs instead of the elevator 3X times (SMART goal).

2 Eat healthier, such as 2 more salads a week and/or fresh fruit with breakfast or for dessert 2x a week (SMART goal).

3 Drink a glass or two of water more a day (SMART goal).

4 Take multi-vitamin, vitamins, minerals, supplements your particular health and body needs. (That may call for Health, Nutrition, Checkup www.maxfulfillment.com/healthcheckup/.)

For example, take a multi-vitamin and

7 Vitamin D drops daily (SMART goal).

5 Strengthen, build up your immune system applying, using one of the immune system tools or resources in www.maxfulfillment.com/healthresource/.

6 Learn something new or make a change or improvement or remove a block/barrier or excuse. See 4 in www.maxfulfillment.com/healthmodel/.

7 Give your health a gift it deserves---a fresh, new start www.maxfulfillment.com/healthnewyear/.

8 Have a Health, Nutrition, Diet Checkup www.maxfulfillment.com/healthcheckup/.

9 Do something with the HCT Getting Started Menu in www.maxfulfillment.com/healthbooklet/.



10 Help others with their health that helps you with yours. Do you know that making and keeping an agreement with someone else rather than yourself can be easier and more rewarding?! See 6 in www.maxfulfillment.com/healthmodel/.

11 Participate in Health community service or ministry www.maxfulfillment.com/healthministry/.

12 Other, what would you add, suggest or would like?

*** Note: You can use SMART Goals, action plans or behavior contracts and other change agents (www.maxfulfillment.com/healthresource/) for achieving your chosen Action Steps to Get Healthy and Strong, and maximize VIRUS, DISEASE PROTECTION.

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Real Talk Therapy: Put It On

by D. White

Last month I told you to shake it off but please don't get upset when I tell you to put it on. Let me explain for those who may be thinking why doesn't he make up his mind? While at the NAACP National Convention in Baltimore, MD after a riveting motivational speech one of the hostesses said, "Let's get it on." I appreciated the sentiment but I'll be content to just put it on. Well what exactly is it that you need to put on? You need to put on any and everything that is fruitful for your cause. First of all, you do have a cause don't you? The Bible says to put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11-18). Remember that the physical armor is a metaphor for spiritual warfare. Protect your loins with truth, your breastplate with righteousness, your feet with the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword. If you really pay attention you will notice that all of the armor outlined in the Scriptures except for the sword is for defense? The only offensive weapon is the sword, the word of God (Eph. 6:17). Let us consider this briefly.

Prior to David's victorious combat with Goliath he asked the rhetorical question "Is there not a cause (1 Sam 17:29)?" David had a purpose even before he took his position. As the story goes, not only was David victorious for the cause of Israel but he ultimately became King of Israel. Do you not realize that a person often does the work before he or she actually holds the official position? Even though David was just a young shepherd boy the respect and responsibility that he demonstrated was worthy of a King. He was re-



sponsible by letting God guide him into battle. Conventional wisdom tells us that a little shepherd boy wouldn't dare stand a chance against a mighty giant, but David said, "The battle is the Lord's (1 Sam. 17:47)." He was respectful by refusing to harm the current king, Saul,

when Saul because of jealousy, had an army out seeking David's precious life. David had respect for authority and because of that he refused, although he had opportunity, to lay a destructive hand on the Lord's anointed (1 Sam. 24:1-10).

What do you need to put on? Put on the right mind. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil 2:5). Trust that God will protect you because in his divine word God says that no weapon formed against you shall prosper (Is. 54:17). Put on a good attitude. Somebody said that attitude is everything. The fact of the matter is that your attitude determines your altitude. There is not a depth you cannot conquer or a height that you cannot reach if you have the right attitude. Another great speaker at the NAACP convention, Linda Clemons, said, "Whatever you think on the longest becomes the strongest in your life." The Bible tells us to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good (Phil. 4:8). The Apostle Paul said, "I can

do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13 NKJV)." With the right attitude and God in your life you can ultimately put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53). Last but certainly not least put on humility. When you humble yourself God will exalt you (Luke 14:11). What do you need to put on? Put on the whole armor of God. The armor is part of the plan for your protection while you defend the truth of God's holy and divine word. Actress Bresha Webb said, "Proper planning prevents poor performance." David defeated Goliath because he planned properly and put on a profoundly perfect performance (1 Sam. 17:49-50). That's why he only needed one stone to conquer Goliath. David holds the record for the best shooting percentage of all time; 100%. Think about it. Now put it on!



Darrell Anthony White Woodard is a school counselor in Kenosha and a Gospel preacher at the Southside Church of Christ and Hampton Avenue Church of Christ in Milwaukee. To schedule a consultation or speaking engagement, please make your request via email: darrellwoodard@rocketmail.com or phone: (847) 287-5842. Linked In: www.linkedin.com/in/dr-darrell-anthony-white-woodard-32387837/ Facebook: Acrostic Therapy.

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THE PRAYER CLOSET

MAY 2020

And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. (Matthew 20:30-31)

Today's verse talks about two blind men that no one really paid attention to. No one gave them much of a chance — but Jesus did! All through scripture we see that He had such great compassion and mercy, everywhere He went and He still has it today.

Maybe you feel like life has overlooked you. Maybe you feel like the people around you don't really see what you are going through. Today, know that God sees you. He'll never overlook you even when people overlook you. He is good and no matter what has happened in your life, remember that His mercy endures forever.

Notice what these men did — they called on Jesus. Even when people tried to quiet them, they called even louder. They had confidence that He would hear them and you can have confidence, too! Be bold and step out in faith, call on Him and trust that He sees you and hears you and He will have mercy!

Father I thank You for Your mercy and grace. Today I have the confidence to trust and call on you. Thank you for hearing me in Jesus Name. Amen.

Apostle Charles C Jones D.D.
Presiding Apostle of the
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Racine Theatre Guild Announces “Bye Bye Birdie” Cancellation

RACINE, WI – The Racine Theatre Guild (RTG) Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel “Bye Bye Birdie,” the first performance of their upcoming 83rd season. With the cancellation of this musical, it will give RTG more flexibility for rescheduling their postponed shows.

On March 19, RTG announced their temporary closure due to COVID-19 and the postponement of the remaining performances of their 2019 – 2020 season. “Bye Bye Birdie,” scheduled to run July 17 – 26, 2020, would have opened their 2020 – 2021 season. Postponed performances include:

- Jean’s Jazz: Donna Woodall Trio & Ivy Ford Band – originally scheduled for March 21
- “Akeelah and the Bee” - originally scheduled for March 27 – April 5
- Jean’s Jazz: Eric Jacobsen Quintet –

originally scheduled for April 11

- Signature Spotlight: The Golden Age of Broadway – originally scheduled for April 18
- “Mamma Mia!” – originally scheduled for May 8 – 24

“Although it was a tough decision to cancel ‘Bye Bye Birdie,’” Douglas Instenes, managing and artistic director stated, “it will give us the chance to direct our resources into rescheduling the shows that were cast and in rehearsal when we announced our postponements.”

RTG will continue to monitor the situation for more developments and plans may be adjusted over time. Although RTG is temporarily closed, email, mail, and phone calls will be answered throughout the week. Call (262) 633-4218 with any questions or for more information.

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Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic and social distancing, for the first time in over 50 years the **2020 Juneteenth Celebration will be canceled.**

As we adjust to the new normal we look forward to bringing back Juneteenth in 2021.



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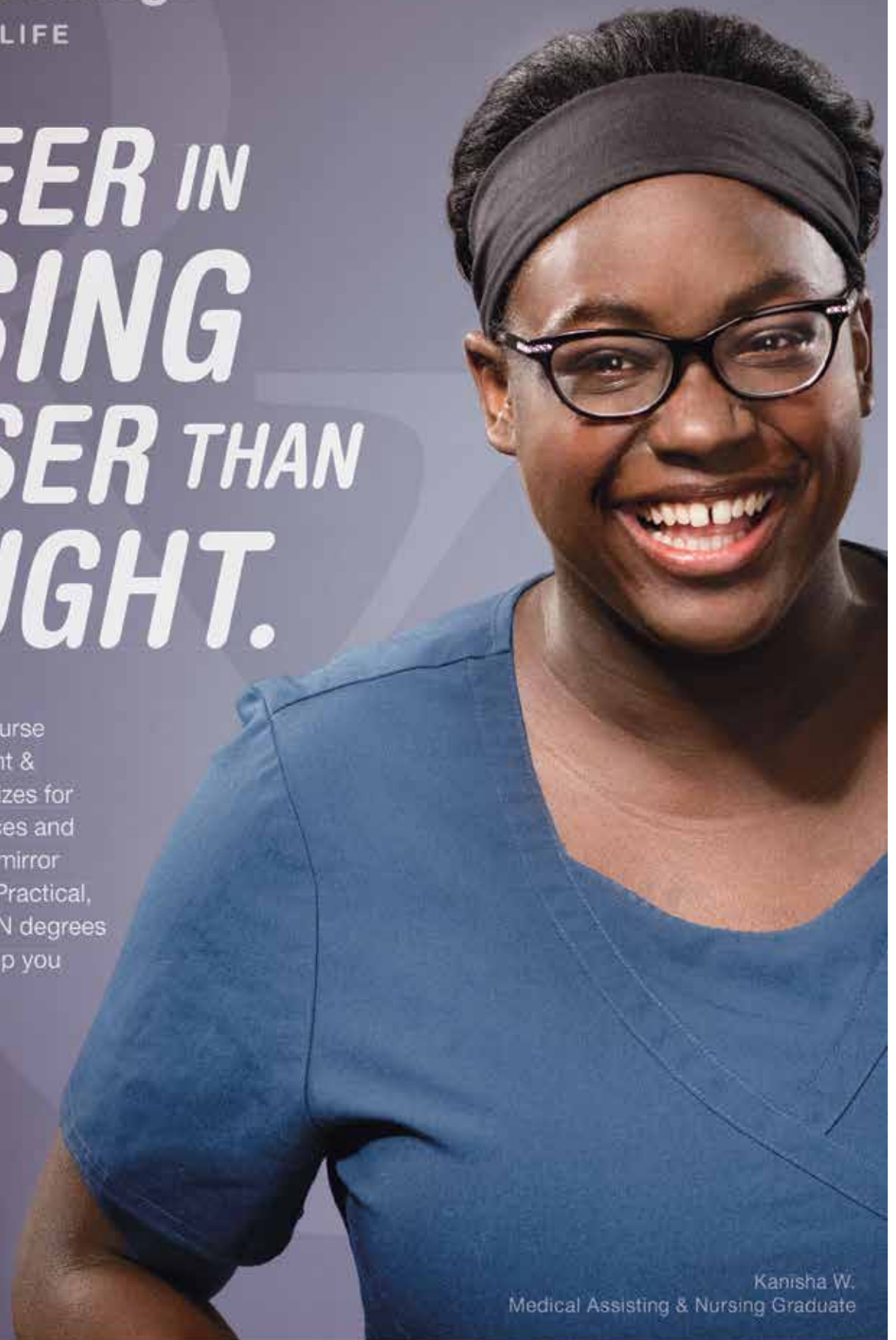
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Happy 18th Church Anniversary to Pastor Evans & Family



The Greater Mount Eagle Missionary Baptist Church would have originally have celebrated their pastor's and 1st families 18th year anniversary inside the sanctuary of the church. However due to COVID-19 Safer at home order they decided to do a parade/drive by in front of Pastor Keith T. Evans' home. This event took place Sunday, May 3rd, 2020, starting from the church at 929 State St., Racine, WI.

About 40 cars or more trailed each other

through the city. Balloons, streamers, banners & posters decorated various vehicles. This was exciting. Cars were parked 2 blocks wrapped around their neighborhood. We as parishoners honked our horns as we grew closer and closer to our destination. Neighbors came out and helped participate in this joyous celebration. And man was it a joyous celebration! First Lady Tonya Evans thanked us as tears of joy ran down her face. In a statement she said, "We thank each

and every member of Greater Mt. Eagle for everything. All that you have done and will continue to do keeps the Evans family humble. Love is what it does."

Again congratulations Pastor Evans and family for a job well done 18 years of dedicated commitment to us the Body of Christ, Greater Mt. Eagle, where we are a God-glorifying, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled church.

Photos by Ralph Tunstell.



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Big Brothers Big Sisters

Continued from Page 11

and expanding his knowledge.

Another brother has a learning disability and has never done well in school. However, with Griffin in his corner, he is now being tested for an IEP. “I am confident that once this test is done, he will be placed in the right learning environment, and things will turn around.”

“Up until now, he has only experienced frustration in the classroom, due mostly from embarrassment and failing.” Now that his mother understands why her son is struggling, we are all taking drastic measures to change things through the education system, he said.

“It’s so important to have parental involvement, I can’t say that enough,” he added.

Prior to exposing the Littles to his agenda, he asked them what they wanted to do. This was done to earn their trust. They asked to eat at a nice restaurant. He took them to Red Robin for gourmet burgers. They asked to visit an arcade. He took them to an arcade. Another asked for new clothes. He obliged. After gaining their trust, he asked them for something – “Will you agree to work harder?”

Griffith is not just talking-the-talk, he’s walking-the-walk. For starters, he plans to take them to tour the University of Wisconsin at Madison so they can experience a big campus and all its glory and resources. “I want them to see college life at its best, because education is the key to opening

doors to their future.” he said.

He is striving to boost their self-esteem and their self-worth and showing them that there is a world that’s bigger than their neighborhood and city. Future outings will include an overnight trip to Chicago to see the Shedd Aquarium and other museums, as they have never ventured beyond Kenosha.

When asked, “What are you getting out of this?” Griffith answered, I want to help these kids achieve life’s possibilities – and their greatest gifts. “Right now, they don’t know what their possibilities are. They don’t even understand what their gifts are.”

He concluded, the greatest gift you can give anybody is to help them unlock and value their God-given gifts. Furthermore, the contributions don’t have to be financial, they can be your time. “It’s especially rewarding to know that spending time with a youth every other week, can change their life.”

Griffith currently works as a medical social worker for Kindred, a home healthcare agency. Here, he helps patients get discharged due to their medical assessments. After 30 years in corrections, he changed jobs because he wanted to extend his career experiences.

He’s still reaching back. Obviously, he has not lost his passion for helping youth.

To register to be a Big Brother of Big Sister visit www.beabignow.org or call (262) 637-7625.

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Society's Assets Staff Member Wins Statewide Award

Eppy Smith, an Independent Living Coordinator at the Society's Assets Elkhorn office, was named the Wisconsin Advocate of the Year and received the Relentless Badger Award from the Independent Living Council of Wisconsin. Eppy advocates for people with disabilities of all ages. She works with her consumers on issues ranging from housing to community access and assistive technology. Eppy has 24 years of service with the agency.



Agency Programs and Services Continue with Some Changes

Society's Assets offices in Racine, Kenosha, and Elkhorn continue to maintain office hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Staff will receive phone calls and emails but not walk-in/unscheduled visitors.

Specific department procedures are also in place.

- The Independent Living Services department can help with advocacy, home and vehicle modifications, planning for life after high school, peer support, aging in place, and benefits counseling. The assistive technology and equipment loan programs are closed until further notice. This also means that we are not accepting donations of equipment or products.


- The Representative Payee program is not accepting visitors, so all checks for current clients will be mailed. We are

still taking referrals for services. Interested? Contact Social Security to request our help with budgeting your benefits and paying your bills.

- The Home Care/Home Health departments are still taking referrals. Our healthcare professionals are following best practices to prevent the spread of infection. We can help additional individuals who need assistance with activities of daily living when they recruit family members, roommates, or friends to provide care and be paid.

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