

HEROES



HOPE 2022



A photograph of Rochelle Riley, a Black woman with short, styled grey hair, standing in front of a large, classical-style building with white columns and a curved facade. She is wearing a light grey, long-sleeved, knee-length tunic over a black skirt. She has her arms crossed and is looking upwards and to the left with a slight smile. She is wearing a large, multi-strand pearl necklace and a watch on her left wrist. The building behind her has a prominent circular window on the left and a set of steps leading up to a doorway on the right.

ROCHELLE RILEY

**Director, Arts and Culture
City of Detroit
Author, Public Speaker**

Former journalist Rochelle Riley calls herself a ‘writer by trade, warrior by necessity.’

After spending nearly twenty years at the Detroit Free Press, Rochelle joined the City of Detroit in 2019 to revive its arts and culture mission – creating a department that had been dormant for nearly 20 years.

Her first major assignment? Create a monument recognizing the lives lost to COVID-19, giving residents an opportunity to mourn. The result was the Detroit Memorial Drive, the city’s largest-ever arts installation. Fifteen funeral processions drove past 924 photo billboards erected around Belle Isle. It received worldwide recognition and was featured during President Biden’s inaugural activities.

More recently, in the fall of 2021, she announced the Detroit ACE Honors to salute lifetime achievement and celebrate those who have given at least 25 years of exceptional service to Detroit arts and culture.

Per Rochelle, ‘I ain’t done yet.’

For more information on Detroit’s arts and culture initiatives, visit detroitmi.gov/ace

JANUARY 2022

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

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MIKE DORSEY

**Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Esteemed We/Detroit Possible
Elder, The Open Door Church of God In Christ -
Detroit**

**Mike Dorsey and his team change the lives of
young people each day by modeling success.**

**Mike is chairman of the board for Detroit Possible,
a community and youth development organization
mobilizing professionals and resources for youth
and their families, plus a network support group
for business professionals and entrepreneurs in
urban and underserved communities.**

**Detroit Possible hosts a Youth Explosion each year
at the TCF Center for students with workshops,
keynote speakers, and various youth resources.
It's a day of connection. The pandemic derailed
the event in 2020 and 2021, leading the team to go
virtual and become more active in the schools.**

**"My faith is everything to me," shared Mike. "I work
to live my life as an example; to be a resource to
help change people's lives."**

***For more information on Esteemed We/Detroit Possible,
visit www.detroitpossible.org***



FEBRUARY 2022

B L A C K H I S T O R Y M O N T H

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY	22	23	24	25	26
27	28				JANUARY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MARCH SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

NATASHA LEE MAXWELL

Founder, Make Your Dreams Come True (MYDCT)
and Being That Girl (That Girl)

Growing up, Natasha Lee wanted to be an entrepreneur. While life took her down a few unexpected paths, she never lost sight of that goal, establishing not one but two organizations aimed at helping women recognize their potential.

Being That Girl (That Girl) arose following the death of her mother, the quintessential 'that girl,' and grew quickly from inspirational t-shirts to empowering sisterhoods.

"It's never the talent or skills lacking, it's the confidence that keeps women from walking into their life completely. You have to be that girl for you," said Natasha.

The organization is focused on mentorship. It celebrates the woman who goes to work every day to save lives or educate children. Natasha lends her name and platform to women to help them elevate.

"Only thing that matters when you show up in a room is that you are yourself."

For more information on Being That Girl,
visit www.iam-thatgirl.com



MARCH 2022

W O M E N ' S H I S T O R Y M O N T H

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY	3	4 EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY	5
6	7	8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY	9	10	11	12
13 DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS	14	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19
20 SPRING BEGINS	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	FEBRUARY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



ALISON VAUGHN
President and CEO
Jackets for Jobs

“What you give comes back to you,” is the mantra of Alison Vaughn, creator of the non-profit Jackets for Jobs. The organization, now in its 22nd year, provides career skills training, employment etiquette and professional clothing to low-income men, women and teens.

Alison’s inspiration to give back came from a tragic personal situation – the death of her sister. Despite the tragedy, she’s thankful those circumstances brought her to take up the cause, helping people on public assistance.

Major retailers including TJ Maxx have sought out the organization to join forces and amplify its impact.

Jackets for Jobs is a Michigan Works! Association affiliate and is in partnership with Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation. This partnership has enabled JFJ to assist more than 30,000 job seekers.

“We provide a life-jacket for survival,” Alison proudly proclaims.

For more information on Jackets for Jobs, visit <https://jacketsforjobs.org>

APRIL 2022

H A P P Y E A S T E R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY	11	12	13	14	15 GOOD FRIDAY	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY	18 EASTER MONDAY TAX DAY	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

KORI C. FIELDS

**Founder, High School Glam Suite,
and Product Development Manager
for The Lip Bar, Inc.**

Kori C. Fields believes, “Hope is the unwavering belief that there is always something positive in the world that you deserve.”

Kori strives to instill this sentiment in each girl chosen for her High School Glam Suite program. They are worthy. Kori is using her talents and the talents of those around her to give select Detroit high school girls the ultimate prom experience, nurturing both their inward and outward ideals of beauty and self-image along the way. During the pandemic, the team switched to graduation boxes, outfitting each girl with everything they would need for a successful transition to college.

Through mentorship, workshops and skills training, Kori and her team of professionals use their individual gifts and abilities to expand each girl’s vision of their world, and vision of their own self-worth.

For more information on High School Glam Suite, visit <https://highschoolglamsuite.com>



MAY 2022

H A P P Y M O T H E R ' S D A Y

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 CINCO DE MAYO	6	7
8 MOTHER'S DAY	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 ARMED FORCES DAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31			APRIL SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



PAUL RISER, JR.
Platoon Leader
B.O.M.B. Squad Detroit

Mentoring men is part of Paul Riser's DNA. He started doing so in college via Legacy Associates Foundation and continued through both his work at TechTown Detroit and as a platoon leader for B.O.M.B. Squad Detroit.

B.O.M.B. – Bring Our Men Back – Squad is a ministry that allows men to de-mask, bond, and work and commit to a journey that's guided by the 33 years Jesus Christ spent on earth. The organization's goal is to provide a safe space for men to talk about weaknesses, challenges, worries and concerns in a place that is 100 percent confidential.

How fitting that Paul is a board member of the Motown Museum, as his father and mentor was a producer and arranger of music for Motown Records – one of the legendary Funk Brothers.

"It was important to 'give my Dad his flowers while he's here,'" said Paul. He is doing so today by creating a documentary to honor his father's legacy, his impact on both music and Detroit.

*For more information on B.O.M.B. Squad,
visit www.BombSquadDetroit.org*

JUNE 2021

H A P P Y F A T H E R ' S D A Y

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 BLACK MUSIC MONTH	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16	17	18
19 FATHER'S DAY JUNETEENTH	20	21 SUMMER BEGINS	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JERRY ANN HEBRON

**Executive Director, Northend Christian CDC
and Oakland Avenue Urban Farm**

After retiring for a second time, Jerry Ann Hebron's heart – and her Mom – compelled her to serve. After much consideration, the Oakland Avenue Urban Farm was born.

The North End was and remains a neighborhood where many people are food insecure. Jerry's organization not only nourishes neighbors' bodies but brings people together and nourishes their souls.

Under Jerry's leadership, the farm has grown to a 6+ acre greenspace that offers a farmer's market, youth mentoring, workforce development, cooking exhibitions and various other resources to the neighborhood. In 2022, they hope to open a garden center, community library and possibly a bed and breakfast.

The best part? "Legally, we've taken steps to assure the land will belong to this community for the next 100 years, with a portion dedicated to food production," said Jerry.

"We're here to be a service to the people – it drives our work."

*For more information on the Oakland Avenue Urban Farm,
visit www.oaklandurbanfarm.org*



JULY 2022

H A P P Y I N D E P E N D E N C E D A Y

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				1	2
3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 NATIONAL PARENTS DAY 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

JEDONNA DINGES

Member

**Grosse Pointe Park Citizen Advisory Board
for the Grosse Pointe Police Department**

JeDonna Dinges was thrust into the role of activist after her next-door neighbor hung a Ku Klux Klan flag in his window facing her home. It was not the first time her neighbor had confronted her, but the most blatant.

When the police failed to respond, her plight went viral, and JeDonna began her fight for people of color to have representation in her predominantly white Grosse Pointe Park community.

“Everyone has a right to live with their family in peace. I won’t let anyone take that right away from me,” JeDonna said.

The results? This past year, Grosse Pointe Park hired its first Black police officer in the history of the department. And, equally as important, JeDonna was invited to sit on the police department’s Citizen Advisory Board.

She accepted the invitation.



AUGUST 2022

B A C K T O S C H O O L

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY	
28	29	30	31		JULY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 SEPTEMBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

MARVIN SKIPPER
CEO
Youth Are Bigger Than Life

Marvin Skipper grew up in the inner city of Detroit playing basketball – it was his passion. When a heart condition ended his high-school basketball career, Marvin refocused his energy on his second love, helping families; families that mirrored his own growing up.

His organization, Youth Are Bigger Than Life, strives to enlighten the underprivileged, inner-city youth in areas that will develop their social, economic and professional skills, providing tutoring, workshops and mentorship. During the pandemic, the organization expanded its focus to food availability, staging a 'Covid-19 Grocery Giveaway,' helping more than 700 families in need.

Marvin advises anyone who's looking to start a non-profit organization to look within. "Do things from the heart," he said. "Don't look for things in return. Be a blessing to other people and you'll be blessed as well."

For more information on Youth Are Bigger Than Life, visit www.youtharebiggerthanlife.com



SEPTEMBER 2022

H A P P Y L A B O R D A Y

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6	7	8	9	10
11 PATRIOT DAY NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 AUTUMN BEGINS	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



KAREN BUSCEMI

**President and CEO
Detroit Sewn, Inc.**

Karen Buscemi is a solution-seeker, and that's exactly what she was called on to do when COVID hit the U.S. in 2020. She took her sewing factory in downtown Pontiac and almost overnight converted production to manufacture masks and other PPE equipment for area hospital systems in need.

"It wasn't even a decision," Karen said. "When the hospitals contacted me, I could hear the desperation in their voices."

Her solution-seeking didn't end there. As her healthcare system production started, so did the requests from nursing homes, daycare centers, police departments, and members of the general public, also in desperate need of masks. In response, Karen received permission to use the space next door to her factory to open the Michigan Mask Donation Center.

Thanks to Karen and her team of volunteers, many essential workers had the protection they so desperately needed.

***For more information on Detroit Sewn,
visit www.detroitsewn.com***



OCTOBER 2022

B R E A S T C A N C E R A W A R E N E S S M O N T H

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 COLUMBUS DAY	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 HALLOWEEN 31	25	26	27	28	29

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
President and CEO
Orchards Children's Services

‘Mission’ is an action word, according to Michael Williams, President and CEO of Orchards Children’s Services. At Orchards, its mission is to provide quality services to children and families primarily throughout the Southeast Michigan community, but services are offered across Michigan.

“We work to allow children to have a viable and uplifting childhood.” said Michael. “We want them to see themselves as they are today and benefit from the support that we give them. It’s about serving the children and families trusted to our care.”

In addition to its focus on foster care and adoption, during his more than 15-year tenure Michael has restructured Orchards’ programming to include preventative family preservation models, education, and workforce development initiatives. While COVID had a drastic effect on the organization’s connectivity, the team persevered.

“It’s essential we foster high-quality relationships to build a better society.”

For more information on Orchards Children’s Services, visit <https://orchards.org>

NOVEMBER 2022

H A P P Y T H A N K S G I V I N G

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ALL SAINTS' DAY	2	3	4	5
6 DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS	7	8 ELECTION DAY	9	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
27	28	29	30		OCTOBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

A photograph of Ken Donaldson, CEO of the Black United Fund of Michigan, sitting at his desk. He is wearing a blue suit and tie, smiling at the camera. His hands are clasped on the desk. Behind him is a computer monitor displaying a website with a circular graphic. On the desk in front of him is a nameplate that reads "KENNETH W. DONALDSON PRESIDENT & CEO". To his left is a bookshelf filled with books and a framed certificate. To his right is a desk with a keyboard and a mouse. The desk is dark wood and has a reflection of Ken on its surface.

**KENNETH DONALDSON
CEO
BLACK UNITED FUND OF MICHIGAN**

The Black United Fund of Michigan (BUF of Michigan) began as an incubator program, providing funding for other non-profit organizations. Six years ago, however, under the leadership of Ken Donaldson, the organization made a pivotal move, transforming to focus on youth empowerment – expanding and enhancing services through collaborative partnerships to help those people in the community most in need.

Ken is the visionary of this organization, with a love for people and positive social change; a relationship maker.

In 2021, BUF celebrated its 50th year, engaging with more than 70 community partners to provide impactful training for youth in uncommon areas such as aviation, financial literacy, and the medical field.

“Our programming impacts these kids like you wouldn’t believe,” said Ken.

“You have passion and a calling. When a calling connects to your passion, that’s what it’s all about – you’ve got to fulfill it.”

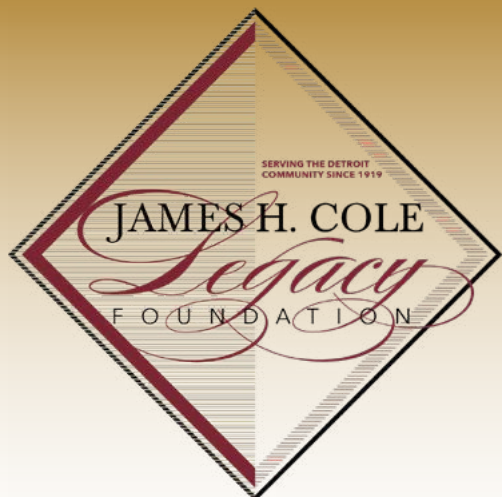
For more information on Black United Fund of Michigan, visit www.bufmi.org/ #partnershipforimpact

DECEMBER 2022

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY SU MO TU WE TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3
4	5	6	7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 HANUKKAH BEGINS	19	20	21 WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 KWANZAA BEGINS	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE





THE JAMES H. COLE LEGACY FOUNDATION

Every act of kindness matters.

The James H. Cole Legacy Foundation, established during our centennial year, is founded on the principle that every act of kindness matters. The individuals featured in this year's calendar exemplify that principle.

From meeting community needs during the pandemic, to standing up for basic human rights, to investing in the emotional and spiritual health of our youth, these individuals are true heroes in every sense of the word. They've given of themselves to make our community, and the world at large, a better place to be.

We're proud to honor these 2022 Detroit heroes.

And we're doing our part. We are serving our community through our Legacy Foundation and the Love Thy Neighbor initiative. We've partnered with other nonprofit organizations to:

- Donate money toward the financial assistance of young women with children who are getting their college degree.
- Provide a VIP, fine-dining experience to women and children struggling with homelessness. Donate meals to local Detroit front-line workers, first responders, and emergency services employees, including firefighters and police.
- Give backpacks filled with necessary school supplies (notebooks, pens, calculators, hand sanitizer) and masks as well as a food gift card to area students.
- Recognize Metro Detroit's unsung heroes through our 12 Days of Giving, making financial donations to the nonprofit of their choice in their honor.

We're proud to have received a Bronze Stevie Award in 2021 in recognition of our Foundation's support of local students and appreciation of our hard work serving the most vulnerable among us.

For more information on ***The James H. Cole Legacy Foundation*** or to sign-up to receive updates visit ***www.jhcfoundation.org***

THE JAMES H. COLE HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC. STAFF

Turæ Allie	William Crawley	Bettye Harper	Secyl Johnson	Cornell Moseley	India Ramsey	Joseph Thomas
Joseph Anderson	Colette Davis	Rufus Hatcher	Richard Junious	Shelia Murrell-Oden	Cherise Redrick	Bob Thompson
Jacqueline Arthur	Holly Davis	Raymond Hornbuckle	Belinda Loggins	Rimmon O'Neil	Shelvie Rose	Gail Washington
Alexis Akins	Frank Day	Loretta Hughes	Charles Longmire	Rimmon O'Neil Jr.	Robert Royster	Fred Watkins
Winifred Brown	Deshawn Dozier	Guwain Ingram	Etoyia Magee	Scottie Nieves	Nathan Shaw	LaToya Williams
Cynthia Burnside	Christina Fritz	Bruce Jackson	Lorenzo Massey	John Odum	Sylvia Simms	Wallace Williams
Brian Christian	Jake Gaines	Erik Jackson	Brenda Meeks	McArthur Phenix	Carmen Stewart	Justin White
Jerome Christian	Brian Gary	Joanne Johnson	Tamara Mitchell	Kenneth Pierce	Rod Stinson	
			Wilson Moore			

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Photography: Kennette Lamar, Annistique Photography; Layout and Design: LaTanya Orr, Selah Branding and Design*



JAMES H. COLE

HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.

