

HEROES & HOPE 2025

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CHARLES THOMAS JR. Founder and CEO RESULTS Mentoring

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ଓ ୧୨ Charles Thomas Jr. began his outreach as a coach in Detroit's Police Athletic League where he saw students doing phenomenal on the field but struggling off, much like himself when he was younger. He started visiting players at their schools and in their homes to make sure chores and schoolwork were getting done, providing mentoring and tutoring services.

RESULTS Mentoring – Reaching Every Student Using Love, Training and Support – was born.

The program is constructed in three phases – in school student mentoring, a 6-week redirection camp and then mentoring and monitoring for life. "We never touch a life and walk away."

Since the program's inception, Charles has served more than 3,500 kids including his own son who likely will one day take over the program.

"Anyone who cares about the future has to care about young people."

Ι	DECEMBER 2024								
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JANUARY

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

FEBRUARY 2025

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			NEW YEAR'S DAY			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	EPIPHANY					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY				INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

KAMILIA K. LANDRUM Executive Director NAACP Detroit Branch

Growing up in Detroit, Kamilia K. Landrum observed many disparities among communities. This motivated her to focus her career on community service and youth engagement. In her role with the NAACP Detroit Branch, Landrum focuses on eliminating barriers in health care access, economic sustainability, criminal justice, education and civic engagement for underserved populations. She is committed to uplifting others through volunteerism and mentorship.

Landrum emphasizes the importance of leaving room for new opportunities and approaches her work with a strategic mindset. Landrum provides hope and guidance to those in need, striving to represent her community positively and inspire lasting change for a brighter future.

JANUARY 2025

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FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2025

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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						NATIONAL Freedom day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GROUNDHOG DAY					EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				DIGITAL LEARNING DAY	VALENTINE'S DAY	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	PRESIDENTS' DAY					
23	24	25	26	27	28	

THE HONORABLE JUDGE SHANNON A. HOLMES Executive Presiding Judge Specialty Courts 36th District Court

Judge Shannon A. Holmes has devoted her life to delivering justice with compassion. Holmes believes that addressing the root causes of crime is essential for community prosperity. In her role, she strives to see the individual behind the offense and then works to support his or her potential. "Instead of judging, I help guide them toward recovery," she explains.

Led by the mantra, "Not perfect, just chosen," Judge Holmes approaches her work with humility and determination, committed to making a positive difference in the lives of those who come before her. Passionate about providing second chances, Judge Holmes says hope is about striving forward despite obstacles.

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MARCH

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Women's history Month begins
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			ASH WEDNESDAY			INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	ST. PATRICK'S DAY			SPRING BEGINS		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	NOTES				
	CESAR CHAVEZ DAY					

DENISE BROOKS-WILLIAMS Executive Vice President and CEO Care Delivery Operations Henry Ford Health Systems

Denise Brooks-Williams defines heroism as selflessly supporting those in need, a principle she applies in her daily life and work. Guided by the philosophy, "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48), Brooks-Williams strives to spread hope and kindness throughout her community.

In her role with Henry Ford Health Systems, Brooks-Williams oversees market strategy, hospital operations, surgical services, and emergency departments. Her leadership ensures impactful, quality care that reflects her commitment to making a meaningful difference. While her role allows her to implement broadreaching changes, it also comes with challenges-balancing numerous responsibilities and ensuring resources meet the community's needs. Brooks-Williams strives to meet these challenges each day by remaining focused on delivering compassionate and effective healthcare leadership.

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APRIL

MAY 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		APRIL FOOLS' DAY				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PALM SUNDAY		TAX DAY			GOOD FRIDAY	PATRIOTS' DAY
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EASTER	EASTER MONDAY	EARTH DAY				
27	28	29	30			

DR. PORTIA LOCKETT Founder and CEO Azel Bennett Foundation

Dr. Portia Lockett defines a hero as someone who advocates selflessly for the well-being of others. It's what she has become for so many in the community in the wake of the loss of her son, Azal Benne. Dr. Lockett founded The Azal Benne Lockett Foundation in 2022 to support individuals in their grief, offering healing and guidance.

Driven by her faith, Dr. Lockett launched the "Permission To..." series during the foundation's first year. These events help people grieve, heal, and move forward after loss. The foundation also provides education, counseling referrals, financial aid, and support for funeral services via its website (azalbennelockettfoundation.org).

To Dr. Lockett, hope means trusting in the unseen and being a beacon of light for those in their darkest moments. Harnessing her own experience, she helps others navigate their pain and find their way forward.

AzalBenneLockett Foundation CONTACT (844) 922-5435 AZALBENNELOCKETTFOUNDATION.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/ AZALBENNELOCKETTFOUNDATION AZALBENNELOCKETTFOUNDATION.ORG

	APRIL 2025								
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MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				MAY DAY	NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	CINCO DE MAYO	NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MOTHER'S DAY						ARMED FORCES DAY
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	MEMORIAL DAY					

WILBUR BRANDON HUGHES III President & CEO Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery

"A hero is often defined as someone who helps others without seeking personal reward." To those who know Wilbur Brandon Hughes III, President & CEO of Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery, it's a fitting description for the man who has maintained the final resting place of hundreds of Detroiters for almost four decades.

Hughes became CEO of Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery in 1988. It was seemingly predestined – his grandfather, Dr. Robert Greenidge, was an initial investor in the park and helped purchase the land for it in 1925 at a time when Black families were often excluded from other cemeteries. Dr. Greenidge later served as Board Director.

As the cemetery observes its centennial in 2025, Hughes proudly continues the family legacy of strong leadership. To future generations, he offers this advice: "The first generation often works hardest to ensure success. Each generation must strive to improve upon that foundation and always aim to achieve more than the last."

DETROIT MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY

Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery was organized in 1925 to serve the rapidly expanding post-war Detroit black popuation. Concerned with the indignities ind poor quality of service received by the black community, several distin~ guished Detroiters established the cemetery to provide reasonably priced and dignified burials. This was the first black-owned and operated business of its kind in the state. Its incorporators, included Charles Diggs, a mortician and acknowledged founder, and Dr. Aaron Toodle, a druggist and first president. By careful management the cemetery corporation survived Great Depression and expanded into financial services. Famous inventor, Elijah McCoy, is buried here among doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, and business, civic and political lead

MAY 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	JUNE
1819202122232425262728293031	DETROIT MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY - CENTENNIAL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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BLACK MUSIC MONTH BEGINS						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
PENTECOST						FLAG DAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
FATHER'S DAY				JUNETEENTH	SUMMER BEGINS	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JERRY BOYKIN Founder We Are One Community Unity

Jerry Boykin and the I'm a Blessing family have been feeding the homeless in Detroit for 14 years – never missing a Wednesday.

His organization, We Are One Community Unity, is more than the sandwiches he shares: it's a calling. He lives by its motto – *"I am a blessing."*

BLESSIN

"I know it's not me who's doing this. It's God who's doing this, giving me the team, the finances. I'm thankful."

The organization is predominantly self-funded. It's kept by alive by Jerry and others who help. Each time Jerry questions whether he can continue, someone in the community comes through and he is out there for another week. His goal is to address immediate needs, foster togetherness and make a lasting impact.

"Wednesdays are my best days of the week. We show people compassion and love, that's all they really need."

	JUNE 2025								
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JULY	

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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					INDEPENDENCE DAY	
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NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY						

Times Square MEN'S CLOTHING

RE



ELDER ALGERNON BARTELL Founder Times Square Mens Clothing Fashion Entrepreneur & Pastor

Algernon Bartell believes in bringing back unity in the community. The 100 Men in Suits event, created by Bartell, is a fashionable parade held along Detroit's Historic Avenue of Fashion to celebrate style and mentor the men of tomorrow.

Inspired by The Met Gala, the event encourages men to dress their best, showcasing elegance and dispelling stereotypes. The annual event features a red carpet and judges selecting the best-dressed participant, who wins a custom suit from Bartell. He emphasizes mentoring younger men and believes that dressing well can boost confidence.

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AUGUST

NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
	WORLD				
	HUMANITARIAN DAY				
25	26	27	28	29	30
	WOMEN'S				
	EQUALITY DAY				
	4 11 18	4 5 11 12 18 19 HUMANITARIAN DAY	4 5 6 11 12 13 18 19 20 HUMANITARIAN DAY 20 25 26 27	4 5 6 7 11 12 13 14 18 19 20 21 25 26 27 28	Image: A state of the stat

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ALEXA AND JOHNNIE TURNAGE Co-Founders, Black Tech Saturdays

Alexa and Johnnie Turnage define a hero as someone committed to their mission, selflessly serving others and inspiring change. As co-founders of Black Tech Saturdays, the Turnages are committed to their own personal mission to empower Black individuals in the tech space. Through training and events, the duo aims to improve access to technology and close the racial wealth gap.

Alexa and Johnnie see hope as a powerful resource, believing the future belongs to the community. Their events, including the Detroit Digital Empowerment Summit, foster inclusion and innovation and are aimed at diversifying the tech industry. Coaching and mentoring are core values of their business, and they work regularly with emerging talent, offering guidance to help young people navigate their careers and make their mark on the industry.

As part of their efforts to provide access to technology, the Turnages have donated 500 laptops to community members. Their efforts exemplify a commitment to breaking down barriers and creating a more diverse and equitable tech ecosystem.

AUGUST 2025									
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SEPTEMBER

BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

OCTOBER 2025 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LABOR DAY					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS' DAY				PATRIOT DAY		
14	15 NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH	16 NATIONAL HEROES' DAY NATIONAL IT PROFESSIONAL'S DAY	17	18	19	20
21	22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



SOLOMON KINLOCH, JR. Pastor, Triumph Church

"Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy. That message was woven through my upbringing and by my pastor in my church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit. We're never here to just be. We're planted to be a blessing."

Under Pastor Kinloch's leadership, Triumph Church has seen extraordinary growth, now occupying eight campuses and hosting fourteen weekly services for more than 35,000 members (and counting).

With this growth, the church is able to exponentially increase the impact of its earthly mission, to give back to the community. This includes scholarships for teens, providing tens of thousands of free meals and free community workshops to promote healthy financial, mental, physical and spiritual living. During the COVID crisis, the church provided tablets to hundreds of students to address the digital divide.

"Whatever we expect from other people and from this place, we need to become a prototype of it ourselves." NATIONAL PASTORS APPRECIATION MONTH

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

NOVEMBER 2025

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY 2 3 1 4 GLOBAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH 5 7 8 9 10 11 6 WORLD MENTAL INTERNATIONAL DAY WORLD TEACHERS' DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD HEALTH DAY 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 COLUMBUS DAY NATIONAL BOSS' DAY INDIGENOUS SWEETEST DAY PEOPLES' DAY 22 23 19 20 21 24 25 NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 26 27 28 29 30 31 HALLOWEEN

SEPTEMBER 2025

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CASS TECH... #1 SECOND TO NON GO BLUE!

LISA PHILLIPS Principal Cass Tech High School

"A community needs people to give back to thrive. If we have any inkling of success ourselves, it is our role to pass it on. A cycle of love, a cycle of giving a cycle of caring."

Lisa Phillips has made it her mission to help her students thrive. And the work she does comes from her heart, giving, young people the opportunity to fulfill their dreams and meet their goals.

Under her leadership, Cass Tech has a graduation rate of 99% and a college entrance rate of 98%. Over the last 15 years, Cass Tech seniors have earned well over \$500 million in scholarships and grants.

"Someone helped me and put me in this position so that I'd be here to help thousands of others throughout my career. I'm committed to making an impact in the lives of our youth."

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NOVEMBER

NATIONAL EDUCATION MONTH

DECEMBER 2025 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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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					ALL SAINTS' DAY
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	ELECTION DAY				
10	11	12	13	14	15
	VETERANS DAY				
17	18	19	20	21	22
	NATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR DAY				
24	25	26	27	28	29
			THANKSGIVING DAY		SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
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JASON HEADEN Co-Founder, Auxano Capital

Jason Headen is dedicated to housing and community development in the city of Detroit. Since 2009, Headen has focused on affordable housing and revitalization. His passion for housing stems from personal hardship—his family lost its home when he was six years old, igniting his drive to create stability for others.

As part of their commitment to uplifting the community, Headen and a partner acquired an 8,000-squarefoot commercial building in their childhood neighborhood in 2019. Looking forward, he aims to address Detroit's housing shortage by expanding affordable homeownership and developing multi-family housing that fosters inclusivity.

Inspired by Nipsey Hussle's motto, "The marathon continues," Headen remains focused on long-term, sustainable change. He's dedicated to helping reshape Detroit's landscape and providing families a place to call home.

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DECEMBER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

 JANUARY 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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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

Making a difference every day.

The James H. Cole Legacy Foundation's mission is to provide opportunities for economic empowerment, assist underserved children and schools, and support people who serve to make Detroit a great place to live. Every year, the Foundation highlights iconic heroes who go the extra mile to make a difference in the community. The individuals featured in this year's calendar truly take this mission to heart.

From teaching the community the technology of tomorrow, to serving food to the homeless, to helping those who are less fortunate, these individuals are real heroes, and we thank them for their daily dedication to serving their community members.

We're proud to honor these 2025 Detroit heroes. As our heroes have offered their support, so have we. We're serving our community through our Legacy Foundation and the Stevie Award winning "Love Thy Neighbor" initiative. We've partnered with other local nonprofit organizations to do the following:

- Reward students during the back to school season with backpacks, school writing and reading supplies to ensure success within the Detroit Public School systems.
- Collect and donate toys for a Christmas drive for children at a local Detroit homeless shelter.
- Curate a relief effort through which 500 food donation boxes were distributed to the community, including several nonprofit organizations and local neighbors of our W. Grand Blvd. location.

Each of the individuals featured in this year's calendar has been chosen because of the impact he or she has made on the community. They are the embodiment of Heroes and of Hope, sharing their passions and talents to enrich our world and improve our society. They make a difference each day, and we thank them.

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

Alexis Akins Aaron Al-Raheem Joseph Anderson Jackie Arthur Stephanie Beauford Winfred Brown Aurelio Caldwell Brian Christian Jerome Christian Elder Shedric Clark Durrell Coleman William Crawley Colette Davis Holly Davis DeShawn Dozier Dorian Ellis II Christina Fritz Jake Gaines Brian Gary Arielle Griggs Brejon Hollis Loretta Hughes Guwoin Ingram Bruce Jackson

Erik Jackson Andrea Jackson-Rhinehart Renee Johnson Belinda Loggins Etoyia Magee Lorenzo Massey Brenda Meeks Tamara Mitchell Claire Monroe Cornell Moseley John Odem Sheila Oden Kenneth Pierce India Ramsey-Scott Brenda Redden Cherise Redrick Robert Royster Sylvia Simms Fred Smith Carmen Stewart Joseph Thomas Bob Thompson Jacqueline Warfield Gail Washington Fred Watkins Justin White Dannell Williamson Allen Wilmore A'Rita Young-Parks



