



TORCH *of* WISDOM

FOUNDATION, INC

Changing Tomorrow Today™

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| ABOUT US..... | PAGE 3 |
| TOWF FACILITY | PAGE 4 |
| PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE | PAGE 5 |
| FUNDRAISING EVENTS | PAGE 6 |
| CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS..... | PAGE 8 |
| COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS..... | PAGE 9 |
| YOUTH PROGRAMS..... | PAGE 11 |
| FINANCIAL SUMMARY..... | PAGE 12 |
| AWARDS & GRANTS | PAGE 13 |
| CAPITAL CAMPAIGN | PAGE 14 |

ABOUT US

Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc.

21819 W. Nine Mile Road #200 Southfield, MI 48075 | (248) 327-6815

torchofwisdomfoundationinc.com | info@torchofwisdomfoundationinc.com

OUR MISSION

Torch of Wisdom Foundation strives to positively impact the lives of Southeastern Michigan youth and families by delivering academic, cultural, economic, and social programs that create boundless possibilities for future growth and development. We partner with, support and encourage those within the community who share our goal of Changing Tomorrow Today™.

OUR VISION

Torch of Wisdom Foundation is recognized as a leader within the SE Michigan community, fostering educational programming; promoting empowerment and personal and professional development.

THE VALUES THAT EMPOWER US

We believe in Changing Tomorrow Today™ by creating and developing personal and professional opportunities that enrich the mind, touch the soul, and fan the flames of cultural, educational, and economic awareness.

These values fuel us to do the intentional work:

CARING

We possess foundational respect for all by valuing different perspectives and experiences.

COMMUNITY

We believe true community comes through understanding, collaboration, and partnership as we engage with our key stakeholders (youth, families, donors, and community partners).

EQUITY

By embracing inclusivity and cultural sensitivity, we strive to understand the needs of youth and families.

INTEGRITY

We are accountable and hold high ethical standards. We value honesty and transparency with our community partners, donors, volunteers, participants, and one another.

OPPORTUNITY

Through our community grants, programming and events, we provide valuable resources for the people we serve.

TOWF FACILITY



The incorporating Torch of Wisdom Foundation team envisioned acquiring a facility where youth and families could go for educational support, mentoring and recreation. The vision of a facility came to fruition in September 2011.

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. acquired a commercial office building, located at 21819 West Nine Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, which houses the Foundation's office, provides tenancy to DST-SAC and several small businesses. Our facility also has available public space that community members or organizations can rent to host meetings, training sessions and other community events.

To date, the facility manages monthly 60-70 hours of educational seminars and meetings with a direct emphasis on benefitting youth and families. Over 600 individuals pass through the halls monthly, participating in activities focused on enriching the community.



Contact VPtowfplaza@gmail.com for information on our facility and event rentals.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS FRIENDS OF TOWF,

It is my distinct honor to share this report of the Torch of Wisdom Foundation's accomplishments, reflecting on another successful year of programming and progress. After 10 years of service as a TOWF Board member, 2021 brought about a shift in my role as I transitioned from Capital Campaign Chair to take up the helm as President/Board Chairperson. To say that I stand on the shoulders of giants would be a great understatement. I consider it an honor and a privilege to be the sixth person to serve in this capacity, advancing our priorities to deliver upon the Torch of Wisdom Foundation's mission. The past presidents of the TOWF have laid a strong foundation of leadership and it is my pledge to carry on their legacy, fueled by the commitment and support of our incredible board members, dedicated volunteers, generous corporate and individual donors and engaged community partners.



As the COVID-19 global health crisis has continued to drive frequent changes in our everyday requirements and norms, we have likewise continued to respond with agility to meet the needs of our community. We have maximized virtual and hybrid programs and found creative ways to utilize the outdoor space of our community facility to safely conduct programs. We were excited to finally be able to safely come together for in-person programming to recognize community heroes that supported youth and families during these unprecedented times.

The year 2021 also brought us to the end of our five-year Keep the Torch Burning Capital Campaign. Through the support of our generous donors we were happy to make the final payment on our mortgage. As we look to the future, we will evaluate the investments needed to expand the reach of our community facility to maximize our support of families and youth. I am exceptionally thankful to the board of directors for the confidence placed in me to lead this phenomenal organization and increase our reach, building upon the legacy that has been established by those who came before us.

With a blazing spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly A. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

BEVERLY ALLEN

President/Board Chairperson

FUNDRAISING EVENTS



2021 CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

In 2021, The Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. continued to provide effective programs and community support despite being in the midst of a global pandemic. We held our 12th Charity Golf Classic at The Links of Novi, with tremendous support from over 130 attendees. Your continued support and generous donations will help to benefit families and youth in low-to-moderate income households participating in the Foundation's educational programs and scholarships.

The Foundation members look forward to seeing you again at the Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. 13th Charity Golf Classic event on June 24, 2023, at the Links of Novi.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

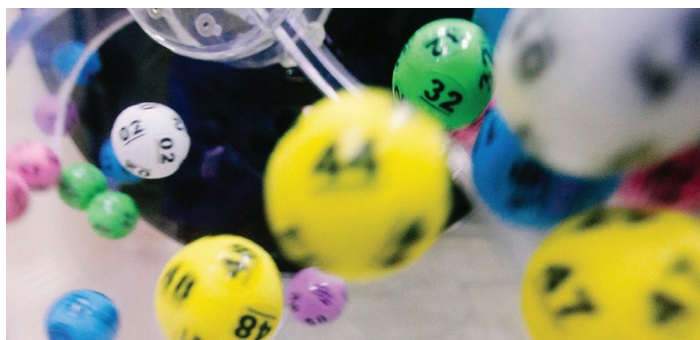
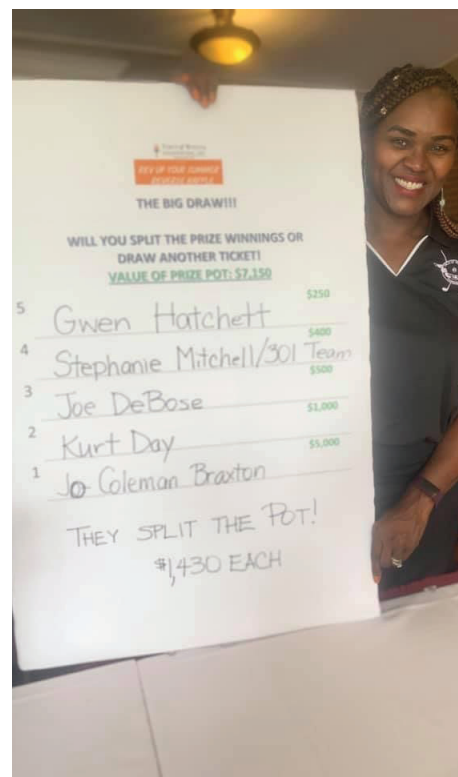
2021 REVERSE RAFFLE

In tandem with our 12th Golf Classic, The Torch of Wisdom Foundation hosted its 2nd Reverse Raffle. The Reverse Raffle is a “high odds” raffle in which for 2021, only 200 tickets are sold for \$150 each. In this raffle, all tickets are drawn with small \$50 cash prizes distributed along the way.

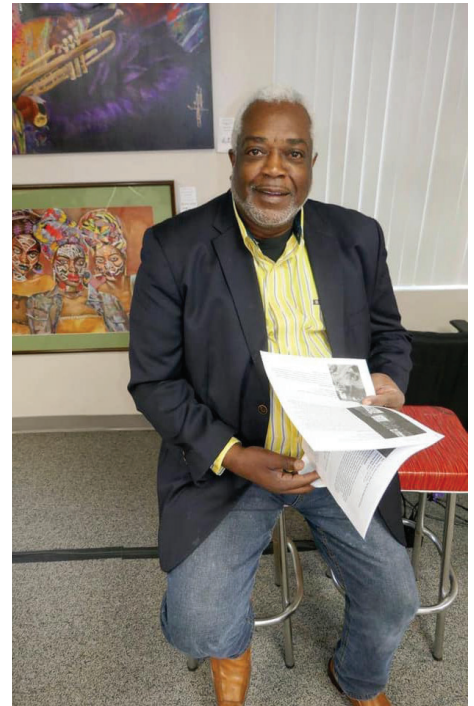
When five tickets remain in the raffle drum, the five ticketholders have the opportunity to share the cash prize pot or have another ticket drawn to eliminate a ticketholder. If even one of the five finalists refuses to split the cash prize pot, another ticket is drawn to reduce the number of finalists by one! The process continues until all finalists agree to split the prize or one finalist wins the grand prize. Sounds complicated? Not really but keep in mind, you want your ticket to be one of the last tickets drawn! This raffle offers lots of energy, anticipation and excitement to be one of the five ticketholders left in the raffle drum!

Our net profit was **\$20,495!** 197 tickets of the 200 available tickets were sold enabling multiple \$50 cash winners. The decision of the five prize winners was for everyone to enjoy the winnings so they collectively decided to split the \$7,150 cash prize pot (each receiving \$1,430).

Our top prize winners were Jo Coleman, Joe DeBose, Kurt Day, Gwen Hatchett, and Stephanie Mitchell/301 Team. The Reverse Raffle will return in 2023 to pair with the 13th Charity Golf Classic.



CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS



TOWF CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation again partnered with the phenomenal founders of the Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club (DFABC) to present the 4th Annual Art Extravaganza event, September 18-26. Art Extravaganza is a cultural arts program designed to educate the community about collecting original fine art to build future wealth while supporting Metropolitan Detroit artists.

The program kicked off on September 18 with a hybrid (live and virtual) educational seminar titled "Creating Generational Wealth Through Art Collecting." We were honored to have Izegebe N'Namdi from N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art moderate the panel discussion with a spirited conversation about the art world and collecting journey. Guest panelists included collectors Sharon Gamblin, Nas Sorrell, and Todd & Carla Tinsley-Smith.

The online auction started the next day and ran for one week. Art lovers previewed the juried artwork during two "Preview Days" leading up to the live auction, which closed out the 2021 Art Extravaganza on September 26 at the Torch of Wisdom Plaza. We were thrilled to welcome our 2021 Honorary Chair, Ms. Vivian Pickard, who helped build momentum for the auction, which drew over 120 bidders from across the country, purchasing 85% of the art. Proceeds from the auction benefit community enrichment programs.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS



HONORING LOCAL HEROES

The 10th Annual Honoring Local Heroes “Black No-Tie Awards” affair was nothing short of amazing. Held at the historic Roostertail, this signature gala celebrated the accomplishments of community leaders who share a common vision. We celebrated those in the community whose work aligns with our 2021 theme, “Carrying the Torch: The Power of Now.”

Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence served as Honorary Chair, and Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II and Assistant Secretary of State Heaster Wheeler were Honorary Co-Chairs. Guests enjoyed live entertainment by our friend Kimmie Horne and Detroit’s “Urban Violinist” Kym Brady.

We honored several heroes who made outstanding contributions to our community, including Governor Gretchen Whitmer, who received the Trailblazer award for her leadership during the 2020 global pandemic. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson accepted the Icon award for her tireless work during the pandemic and the 2020 presidential election.

We awarded three leaders in the community for the exemplary strides they made in the areas of community enrichment, and cultural arts, scholarship:

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT HONOREE

Devon Buskin, founder and president of the Detroit City Lions Youth Club

CULTURAL ARTS HONOREE

Tamara Hawkins, owner and director of The Zone Dance Center, LLC.

SCHOLARSHIP HONOREE

Ralph C. Bland, CEO of New Paradigm for Education and Superintendent of Edison Public School Academy

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

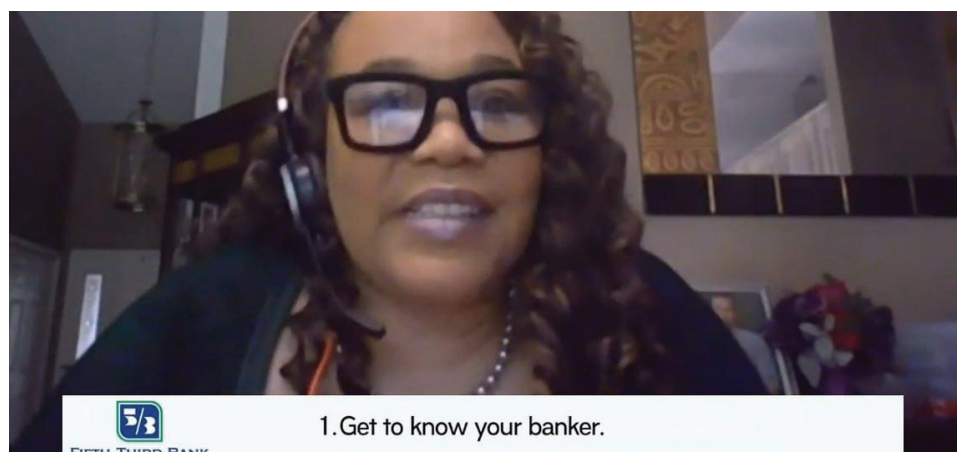


ECONOMIC EDUCATION SERIES

Small Business Saturday 2021 was a success for the Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. On Saturday, November 27, we hosted a “Small Business Showcase and Food Truck Rally” as part of our Economic Education Series, a financial literacy program sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and executed in partnership with the Southfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The day featured some great activities, including a Business Banking Workshop titled “Getting Your Pitch Ready,” followed by a Small Business Saturday virtual watch party on Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live. After these morning activities, the public was invited to a Food Truck Rally at the Torch of Wisdom Foundation Plaza, featuring JJ's Fish & Shrimp, Dirty Rice, and D'Vine Cookies.

In addition to the Small Business Saturday event, the Economic Education Series includes a series of free workshops, panel discussions and other events focused on empowering individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to help them make informed and effective decisions with all their financial resources.



YOUTH PROGRAMS



Preparing youth of today to
lead the workforce of tomorrow

THE LEARNING NETWORK (TLN)

In 2021, The Learning Network resumed virtually with our largest class to date– 22 students! Participants from across SE Michigan, tuned in each week for our 6-week signature programming including career panels, budget and finance talk, dress for success sessions and ultimately our group business brand presentation better known as “The Innovation Pitch”; whereby community leaders and executives served as judges to identify the businesses in which they would invest.

We were able to culminate the program and celebrate our students with a drive-by celebration including local leaders. As always, students were able to “earn while they learn” where they receive a stipend each week along with an opportunity to earn over \$2,500 in awards and cash prizes!



Self-Awareness + Giving = Philanthropic Mindset

WISDOM WARRIORS PROJECT (WWP)

Wisdom Warriors Project is a bi-monthly program from November-April that targets high school girls. The program aims to help girls build a philanthropic mindset through workshops focused on three pillars:

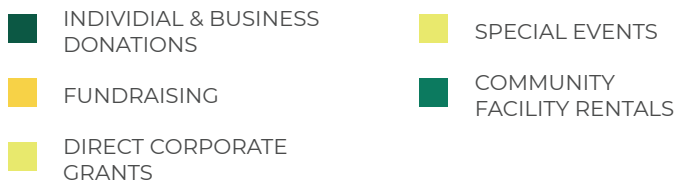
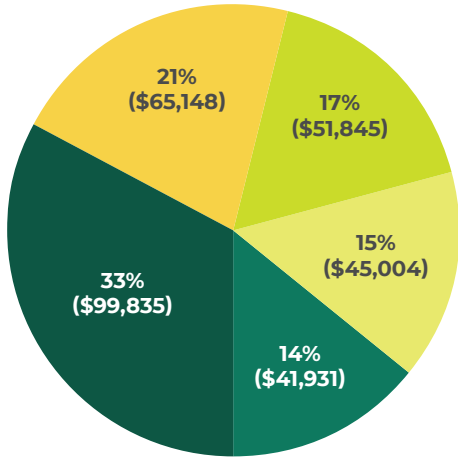
1. Who Am I?
2. What Obstacles Must I Overcome?
3. How Do I Leverage My Time, Talent and Treasure to Make a Difference in the World?

This year's cohort included eight participants who decided to focus their fundraising efforts to positively impact mental health and awareness along with drug abuse for youth. The Wisdom Warriors raised \$2,000 and combined with a 100% match by the Foundation they were able to award \$2,000 to each of their chosen charities, Pennies4Girls and The Power of Girlhood. The Wisdom Warrior Project worked with many sponsors including the Women of Ford and Nike Foundation to achieve our programmatic goals.

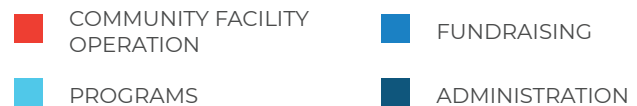
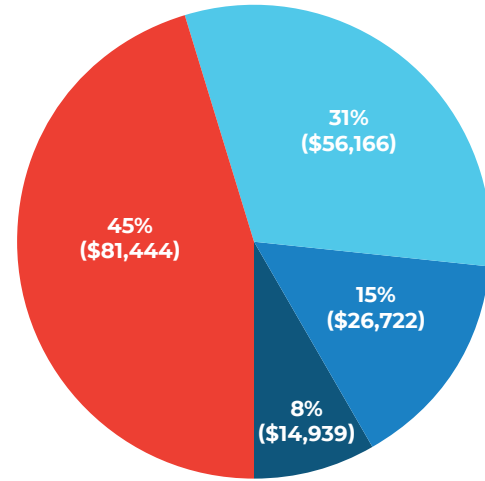


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE BY CATEGORY



EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



HOW TO DONATE

The Torch of Wisdom offers several additional methods for you to make your generous donation:

- **Mail:** You can mail your donation to Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 2787, Southfield MI 48037. The check should be made out to Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. On the memo line, please note any special recognition or designation.
- **Bill Pay:** You can also set up an automatic recurring payment through your financial institution's Bill Pay mechanism. Please note any special recognition or designation in the payment description
- **Mobile Banking:** You may also make donations to the Torch of Wisdom Foundation Inc. using Cash App (\$towfinc) or Zelle and PayPal (info@torchofwisdomfoundationinc.com). Please note any special recognition or designation in the payment description.
- **Stocks, Bonds & Estate Giving:** These options are tax wise because they generally offer tax savings. You may avoid paying capital gains on the increase of their value. Also, you may receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value at the time of the donation. Please consult your financial advisor concerning the benefits.

For further information or for answers to questions regarding your donation, please call (248) 327-6815 or email us at info@torchofwisdomfoundationinc.com.

AWARDS & GRANTS

2021 COMMON GRANT AWARDS

Grant applications are considered twice a year. Applications must be postmarked by May 15th or November 15th. Southfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. received the Common Grant award in November 2021 for their Scholarship Awards and Expungement Clinic Fair.

2021 COMMUNITY AWARDS

Each year, board members nominate five to seven non-profit organizations whose mission and/or purpose align with the Torch of Wisdom Foundation's mission to support Community Enrichment, Cultural Arts and Scholarship, and/or COVID-19 impacted organizations and community. This year, we awarded \$5,000 to the following organizations:

- **\$1,000** - Black Legacy Advancement Coalition (BLAC) Man to Man Project
- **\$1,000** - The Imagine Mentoring Program of Michigan (I.M.A.G.I.N.E.)
- **\$1,000** - Mittens for Detroit (MFD)
- **\$1,000** - Services To Enhance Potential (STEP)
- **\$1,000** - The Twelve Days of Christmas, Inc. (Detroit Chapter)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

| HARRELL HEROES (\$10,000) | POWELL PARTNERS (\$5,000) | STANSBURY SUSTAINERS (\$2,500) | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Beverly Allen Venus J. Brown Rita Dandridge Charles Harrell II & Lisa M. Harrell-Randon S.A.C.r.e.d. 61 Fifth Third Bank | Beverly Allen Deborah Baber Rosita C. Brockington LaSonja S. Campbell Roxanne L. Chatman Delores Sykes Cotton Yolanda N. Durfield Felicia R. Hunter Constance Joseph Denise LeDoux Ella L. Lee Lisa Love-Wright Sherri Nimpson Jewell S. Owens Gwendolyn L. Powell Steven & Lynn Rose LaRuth Shepherd Tenacious 20 Leonora D. Thompson | 63 J.E.W.E.L.L.S. (in Memory of Monique Parnell Phifer) Beverly Allen Beverly Allen-Cousin Tonja Ancrum Elise Andrews Donna Bell Alisa Bridges Tia Corbett Kim Dantzler Debra DeBose Rhonda E. Fowler Bobbie Hayes Goodrum Marcia Griffin Sherry Hicks Ursula Lincoln Tawnya Morris Priscilla Phifer | Leah Murray Holston Kecia Millender Thurman Monique Parnell Phifer Kimberly R. Rogers Nora Sharpley Carolyn Parnell Stansbury Letha Ann Steward Joyce L. Suber LaShawn Taylor Toya R. B. Thomas Candice Turner Lynn Turner Ce'Ann Yates |
| BOGGS BUILDERS (\$1,000) | TORCH LIGHTERS (\$500) | DURFIELD DASHERS (\$250) | |
| Beverly Allen Nikhol Atkins Tiana K. Baker Paulette E. Boggs Loretta N. Brown Kimberly O. Calloway LaSonja S. Campbell Dianne B. Cross Joseph M. DeBose (in Memory of Jeanne DeBose) Gloria Hardy Arian Hargrove Joan Howard Carolyn I. Isaac Angie Jenerette L. Maxine Jones Sandra Lawson Marsha Lewis Whitney Boggs Lewis Stephanie C. Mitchell Deltrine Moore Gladys Moore Dana Pittard Dr. Angela M. Rogers Joann Stephens Katrina Studvent Joyce L. Suber Rosemary Williams | 63 J.E.W.E.L.L.S. Beverly Allen Anika Corbett Benecia M. Cousin Debra DeBose Monica L. Easterling LaTonya Edwards Latasha Gray Brenda Grays-Holley Laeki D. Hester LaToya Henry Michele Jackson Ernita D. Johnson Karin Johnson Willa Johnson Carole Lenton Portia Lockett Dr. Shondra L. Marshall Shirley McClain Donna R. Millhouse Patricia Millender Tracie Miller Dr. Tyloaha Parker Pam Perry Janiece Powell Rhonda Simon Kenson Siver Lorana Stewart Ciarra Walker Elizabeth Whittaker-Walker Joslyn Witherspoon Davis | Beverly Allen Candyce Allen Christina Bolden Brigitte Burley Kimberly O. Calloway LaSonja Campbell Delores Sykes Cotton Beverly Allen-Cousin Rita Dandridge Daniels Family Debra DeBose Yolanda N. Durfield Verchema Flood Rita K. Foster Pamela Fowlkes Daryl & Margot Gilliam Athena Grant Marcia Griffin Sherry Hicks | Felicia R. Hunter Ernita Johnson Tiffany Jones Constance Joseph Kenyatta Juniel Shirley McClain Dorine Miller Oneika Mobley Patricia Moncrease Lisa Montgomery Netina Anding-Moore Drake Phifer Regina Poole Valarie Preyer Rhonda Simon Lauren Walker Adrienne Watts Danita Wimbush Arlene Young |
| MEMORIAL DONATIONS | | OTHER DONATIONS | |
| Jeanne DeBose Memorial Monique Parnell Phifer Memorial Janiece Powell Memorial | | Aetna Foundation Steve Carnegie Dianne France Brenda Gatlin Gaylotta Murray Lynda Ronie | Southfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. James and Wanda Stokes Cordell Wood Patricia Whitlow Angela Whitaker-Payton |

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL: \$325,000

PLEDGES: \$315,952

COLLECTED THROUGH 04/30/2022: \$257,489

GAP TO CLOSE: \$9,048 (as of 04/30/2022)

On September 4, 2011, the Foundation acquired an 11,000 square foot community enrichment facility located at 21819 W. 9 Mile Road, Southfield, MI. The facility provides access to public meeting space, educational seminars, and other community events with a direct emphasis on building strong communities and families.

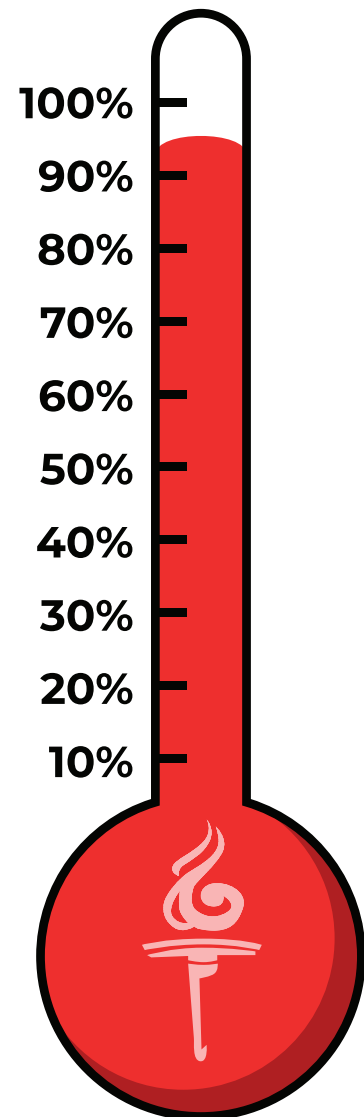
In, April 2017, the board launched a five-year capital campaign entitled "Keep the Torch Burning" to raise \$325,000 to extinguish the mortgage on the community enrichment facility and initiate capital improvements to further support the development of relevant programs and the offering of grants/scholarship to deserving individuals and organizations in alignment with our Mission. Through the generosity of our donors, facility improvements have been made and we completed the full extinguishment of our mortgage in November 2021.

We extend sincere appreciation to Public Service Credit Union (PSCU), our mortgage partner for extending the financial support to acquire our facility and special thanks to Nora Sharpley, retired PSCU board member for her pioneering efforts in assisting us to secure the financial relationship.

Time to celebrate!! Burn the Mortgage Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, August 14th at the Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. Plaza for our donors.



GOAL!





2021 TOWF CORPORATE SPONSORS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Avis Ford | \$1,000 | Golf Sponsorship |
| Comerica Bank | \$2,000 | HLH |
| Fifth Third Bank | \$25,000 | Economic Education |
| Huntington Bank | \$2,000 | Signature Event - HLH |
| Meijer Southfield Store | \$1,000 | Golf Breakfast - Sponsor |
| Milagro Realty Group | \$500 | Golf Outing |
| Links Inc., Renaissance Chapter | \$1,000 | Art Auction |
| LM Manufacturing, LLC | \$500 | Golf Outing |
| Northland Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep | \$500 | Golf Outing |
| State Farm Foundation | \$2,500 | Cyber Grant (matching funds for volunteer hours) |
| Yolanda Durfield State Farm Agency | \$500 | Golf Outing |
| Women of Ford | \$20,000 | Youth Programs |

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beverly Allen, Board Chair

Yolanda N. Durfield

Oneika Mobley

Deborah Baber

Sherry Hicks

Drake Phifer

Orlando T. Bogins

Leah Holston

Kimberly Rogers

Rosita Brockington

Felicia Hunter

Steven S. Rose

LaSonja Campbell

Ernita Johnson

LaShawn Taylor

Sheena Daniels

Whitney Lewis

Kimberly Owens Calloway,
ex officio

