

High-end clothing store becomes go-to spot for PPE during the pandemic

By Stacy M. Brown

When Dominick Davis and Steven White united to start the high-end clothing store “Different Regard” in 2011, their vision was to provide domestic and international manufacturing with various products for consumers, corporations, and governments. They accomplished that and quickly became the go-to shop for the perfect tuxedo, stylish dresses, and fashionable accessories.

The testimonials posted on the company’s website, along with a myriad of photos, show much love for Different Regard.

“Best experience I have had with getting a custom suit made,” wrote Stephen T.

Meagan L., another satisfied customer, wrote: “My husband’s wedding tux made by Different Regard was absolutely flawless.”

And this from Victor B.: “Steven and Dominick are forces of sartorial nature. Their customer service is without parallel in the Baltimore men’s fine clothing market. These two young men have brought a certain stylistic panache to Baltimore that was previously sorely missing.”

Then the coronavirus pandemic struck.

Like most businesses, Different Regard wasn’t prepared for COVID-19, which among many other things, pivoted the shop’s fashion brand.

“Our sales decreased by 90 percent, and we had to creatively meet and figure out who was going to be available to work during the pandemic,” Davis recalled.

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Dominick Davis (left) and Steven White, owners of DIFFERENTREGARD

High-end clothing store becomes go-to spot for PPE during the pandemic

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“We had to consider the safety of our team, and we took some time to do research and some development.”

Davis and White hit the ground running. They began to manufacture Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and obtained private and government contracts for the life-saving gear. They donated more than 20,000 facemasks to hospitals in Baltimore and locations around the country.

Different Regard also began selling stylish facemasks to the public, including the popular deep red, red sand, and smoke pleated masks.

“We were able to hire seven additional employees, and we increased our manufacturing and equipment by over 60 percent,” Davis noted.

The overall aim of Different Regard remains the same: to provide affordable luxury clothing for everyone.

According to Davis, the business’s clients are men, women, kids, and nongender who prefer a classic style with a modern edge.

The Baltimore-based clothing brand continues to design luxurious well-tailored garments that are created in-house “for those who have an uncompromising vision of style and quality,” he stated.

“We design for the professional, personal, and social lifestyle. We believe your clothing helps to promote your lifestyle growth. We create not just fashion-forward clothing, but a lifestyle and attitude.”

With the pandemic still raging, Davis said there remains a need to manufacture personal protection equipment while creating job growth, strengthening the community and families.

“Our company was not prepared for COVID-19 to come and pivot our fashion brand,” Davis said.

“The pandemic had us shift our business from how we normally would operate and create another operation overnight. Our whole system and process had to be rebuilt. However, our company is honored to help during our global crisis.



Different Regard Models.

Courtesy Photo/DIFFERENTREGARD

“Our future remains with Different Regard as we adjust to the sudden demand in the manufacturing of PPE.”

We plan to continue developing new products that will aid in Personal Protection Equipment.”

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The Baltimore Times

(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times*, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233. Postmaster send address changes to:

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Fix Our Medical Insurance Dilemma

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Give all Americans the option to buy into Medicare. I've paid into Social Security and Medicare my entire life. I'm still paying to be on plan B and supplemental coverage. I also pay for prescription insurance. I often feel like a coffee coupon from McDonald's would pay for about as much medicine as my prescription card pays.

I no longer pay over \$1600 a month in medical insurance but I still pay about \$450 a month even with Medicare. Nothing is free.

Americans should have the option to buy into Medicare especially if medical insurance will not cover them and they can't afford the sky rocketing premiums. It's also time to get rid of medical supplements and prescription cards. Make Medicare a single payer of the doctor's visits, prescription costs and all the above.

The government has more power to control the cost of big pharmacies and hospital costs. Most medical providers have "one price" but then the "price" they will accept from Medicare. Under President Trump Hospitals will have to display their secret negotiated rates to patients starting in January 2021. This gives you the option to shop around.

I'm all for having medical insurance available. Make it available from state to state. Make it easy for Americans to buy from pharmacies in Canada. Let senior Americans at age 55 buy 20-year term medical insurance plans if they would prefer to do so. Some Americans have no idea how desperate other Americans are when it comes to medical treatment.

Why make it so hard for Americans who do not have access to healthcare? Let them buy into Medicare. If they are unemployed or disabled then give them the Medicaid option. However, this is just more bureaucracy. This system needs to become one.

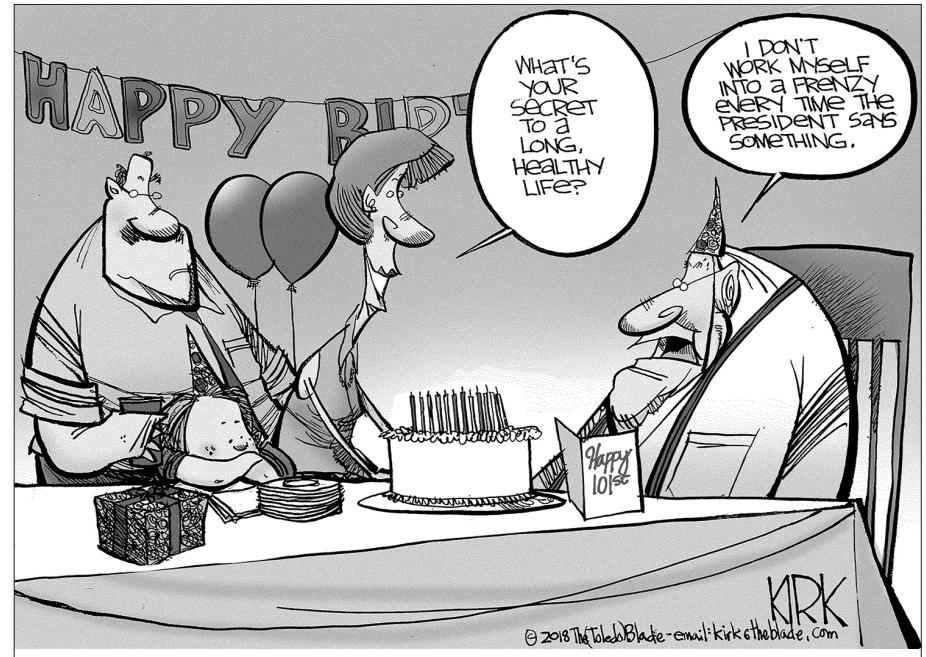
It's also time to make 60 the age that retired Americans go on Medicare. In your late fifties and early sixties Americans have to start going to the doctor more. A friend of mine is waiting until she turns 65 and has Medicare so she can have a badly needed surgery. She needs it now. If she could buy into Medicare she could go ahead and move forward with her needed surgery.

We also need to turn the age back to 65 for collecting full Social Security benefits. American men die by the time they are 76.1 years old. Many die much younger. This is very little time to enjoy retirement. Sadly, many Americans aren't having much of a retirement in their golden years. Many are working longer and spending less time doing what they had hoped to do.

The government wastes our Social Security contributions. They've spent trillions on foreign wars. They now tell us Social Security has been reduced by 25% in a few years. Rich political leaders want to push the age until 70 for you to collect your Social Security. This is not working for the American people. We are working longer with the prospects of collecting less. On top of this, older Americans are having to pay more of their dwindling retirement dollars for medical bills.

Bringing our troops home and spending less money in Iraq, Afghanistan and on rebuilding foreign nations is a start. We can and we must fix our medical insurance dilemma.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is an author and syndicated columnist. To contact him, email: GMollette@aol.com or visit: www.glenmollette.com.



Letter to the Editor

Editor:

President Trump, you have had almost four years to lead the United States and have failed us by your own choosing. Whether it be in foreign policy and domestic policy you have not protected the United States as Commander-in Chief.

Now comes the latest news about your complete disrespect for our military and total disregard for the Covid-19 virus. We the American people have finally borne witness to what happens when they place an incompetent business leader into the Oval Office. Quality of life is not a business decision sir but rather it is a humane choice to be empathetic to those who cannot help themselves.

Joe Biden has that empathy and will

return the United States to the era when we were respected internationally because of how we treat our citizens domestically.

This election is a clear choice between those who have never had it so good and those of us who know we can do better. Joe Biden will lead us there.

Fellow citizens, exercise your right to vote to preserve your sacred heritage, promote your children's future and obtain the blessings of liberty we all cherish.

To restore a sense of decency to the United States rise and vote!

Joe Bialek
Cleveland, Ohio

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Letters to the Editor

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First Presidential Debate an Embarrassment for America

American politics nose-dived spiraled and crashed and burned during what masqueraded as the first 2020 presidential debate.

“You’re a clown!” “Would you shut up, man!” “Everything you say is a lie.” Those were just some of the barbs from Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden who grew irritated by repeated interruptions by President Donald Trump at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Trump, who received a regular rebuke from moderator Chris Wallace, claimed Biden was weak and unintelligent. “Don’t ever use the word smart with me,” Trump railed at Biden.

“There’s nothing smart about you, Joe.”

The president sunk even lower, making accusations that Biden’s son, Hunter, was “kicked out of the military – dishon-

orably discharged – because of drugs.”

Biden reminded the audience of a little more than 100 people – down from an anticipated 900 because of the pandemic – that Trump called fallen military members “losers and suckers.”

While Trump dared Biden to say, “Law and order,” Wallace opened discussions on race. “Are you willing, tonight, to condemn white supremacists and militia groups and to say that they need to stand down?” the moderator asked Trump.

“Proud Boys, stand back and stand by,” Trump reluctantly said in a declaration that fell well short of condemnation. “But,” Trump insisted, “I’ll tell you what, somebody’s got to do something about Antifa and the left.”

Biden also blasted Trump’s handling of the coronavirus.

The former vice president said more than 200,000 people have died, and

some 40,000 people are still contracting COVID each day.

“The President has no plan. He hasn’t laid out anything,” Biden charged.

Trump responded that a vaccine and life-saving treatments might come before the election.

The president again hit out at China, blaming the Far East nation for the virus.

“It’s China’s fault. It never should have happened,” Trump contended.

“We’ve done a great job,” Trump added, accusing the “fake news” of distorting his record on the virus. Trump claimed a Biden administration would have “lost far more people.”

Biden responded: “Get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap and your golf course.”

Later, Trump again refused to say whether he’d leave office peacefully if Biden wins the election.

The ugly match further denigrated when the topic turned to Trump’s income taxes, which he has refused to release them publicly.

A New York Times investigation revealed that Trump had gone 10 of the past 15 years without paying any income taxes, and in 2017 and 2018, he paid just \$750.

The president disputed the report but evaded Wallace’s questions about specifics.

As a successful businessman, Trump offered that he understands the tax code, and others who don’t take advantage of it are inept.

Biden’s campaign released the former vice president’s 2019 tax returns before the debate, which showed he paid nearly \$300,000 in federal income tax last year.

“You are the worse president America has ever had,” Biden told Trump.

New Drug Pricing Executive Order Burdens Patients

By Kenneth E. Thorpe

President Trump just signed an executive order designed to reduce drug prices. Dubbed a “Most Favored Nations” policy, the order pegs Medicare payments for medicines to the prices paid by foreign governments.

This plan would reduce access to today’s innovative medicines and stifle medical progress. It must be shelved. There are much better ideas for reducing prescription drug costs.

Many foreign nations have single-payer health systems that impose strict price controls on new medicines and refuse to cover particularly

expensive drugs.

Patients living in those nations end up with fewer treatment options. Patients in the United Kingdom and France had access to just seven in 10 new cancer therapies between 2011 and 2018. American patients could access to virtually all of them.

The U.S. market operates differently. Insurers compete for patients— often by offering generous drug coverage. Drug researchers are incentivized to develop new treatments, as they know that American patients value innovation. As a result, research companies across the world generally launch their newest

drugs here first.

The executive order will slow medical progress. There are currently 4,500 drugs in America’s development pipeline. These medicines target everything from cancer and HIV to heart disease and asthma. Price controls would inevitably reduce drug firms’ revenues — and leave them less to invest in research and development. This could block the next generation of drugs from ever even hitting the pharmacy shelf.

Medical breakthroughs are constantly making it easier and cheaper for patients to stay healthy. A recent study from my organization, the

Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, found that new medicines could avoid \$6 trillion in healthcare costs and prevent 16 million deaths by 2030.

It isn’t fair that Americans pay so much more than Canadians and Europeans. But policymakers should work to get these nations to shoulder more of the research burden – not import their harmful policies.

Kenneth E. Thorpe is a professor of health policy at Emory University and chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease. This piece originally ran in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

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Baltimore Singer and Actress Give Back to Young Girls

By Stacy M. Brown

Brave Williams is best known for her contrasting sultry, edgy vocals that are layered with intensely relatable lyrics that either make one dance, smile, or high-five their best friend.

The Baltimore-born Williams, who despite her ever-growing fame and professional commitments, continue to mentor young girls in Charm City.

Through her work with Associated Black Charities (ABC), and her philanthropic missions that include mentoring young girls in Baltimore City through the St. Francis Mentorship Program and the Baltimore City Women's Shelter, Williams counts as an avid health advocate and fitness guru who believes in healthy living, mind, body and soul.

"A lot of my giveback comes from the fitness side, and that to me is my gift," Williams said.

"I do a lot of work with kids at Coppin State, and I impressed upon the younger



Brave Williams

generation that they have the energy, power, and tools it takes. I tell them to use it positively, and health and fitness is a perfect marriage in which to show them."

Williams also mentors young girls in the Steve and Marjorie Harvey Foundation's "Girls Who Rule the World" program. The program is

designed to enhance young girls' development and provide a forum to expose them to the benefits and importance of positive self-image, responsible conduct, and respect for self and others through educational achievement.

More than 200 young girls, including those from Baltimore, participate in the program.

"We impress upon these girls that they are not alone, and I've found how encouraging and lasting your words can be," Williams said.

Williams has just completed two movies and a new self-titled debut R&B album. Her first single, "Don't Tell Me No," was released this week and available via multiple streaming and download platforms.

She said the pandemic didn't stop her from filming "The Available Wife," a motion picture that tells the story of a beautiful and successful music CEO's life that's about to crumble in front of her.

"Shooting a movie during the pandemic was different. I didn't know what to anticipate, but we had a great team of people who made certain operations were handled consistently," Williams said. "We had a COVID test every two days, and we practiced social distancing, and only people in certain zones could touch your water bottle if you needed water."

Williams said she learned that individuals are not a product of circumstances, but their decisions.

"I've learned not to give up," she said. "I had a group that disbanded, lost my father two months later, and then my manager from a heart attack. All of that happened back-to-back and left me in shambles and uncertain if I wanted to continue. But I remember feeling like that was a moment for God to make me an honest person. My name is Brave, and he's allowing me to show that I'm brave."



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Readjusting: Best Practices For Managing Your Business's Finances In Today's Economy.

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As a small business owner, the effects of the pandemic may have taken a tremendous toll on your financial picture. Now, as you continue down the road to recovery, you can count on Wells Fargo for the information you need to make more informed and confident decisions.

What are the benefits of developing a relationship with a banker?

One of the best perks of getting to know your banker is the ability to get help tailored to your business as your needs continue to evolve over time. Whether participating in a government loan program or deferring payments on an existing loan, having someone who knows your business and understands your goals makes all the difference. And in times of crisis a dedicated banker helps ensure you're up to date on changes as quickly as possible, addressing your individual questions and concerns.

What are my options in terms of Federal loans and grants?

There are many newly developed programs for businesses to access much needed financing. The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers many options to help businesses through COVID-19, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). If you received a PPP loan, keep tabs on how you spent the funds. This will make it easier to sort out potential loan forgiveness or repayment terms when the time comes. Other loan options offered by the SBA include Debt Relief, Express Bridge Loans, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) designed to help you through economic challenges. You can also review options through the Federal Reserve. Their Main Street Lending Program offers various high-dollar loans with deferred interest.

How can I access additional capital?

Our new Open for Business program supports Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) nonprofits to provide support to small business owners who were hit hardest by the pandemic. Through this program, we're donating \$400 million in PPP processing fees to support minority-owned small businesses. CDFI's are the fastest solution to getting funds in the hands of small businesses who need it most. Contact your local Small Business Development Center to find out more options for grants at the city and state level.

What can I do to pivot my business to maintain cashflow?

You've most likely already made some modifications to how your business operates. We suggest identifying new revenue streams and adjusting your services based on your customers' current needs. Consider expanding your online footprint to be more accessible, or cut unnecessary costs. It's wise to prepare for unpredictability by staying in touch with trends that will impact your business. It's also helpful to measure and track the effectiveness of any operational changes.

To learn more ways we can help you stay Open For Business, visit the Wells Fargo Small Business Resource Center at: smallbusinessresources.wf.com

M&T Bank Shines Spotlight on Local businesses

By Stacy M. Brown

Melody McCrea has worked at M&T Bank for nearly eight years, and her passion for helping customers has never waned. As a relationship manager with M&T Bank's Women & Minority Owned Business Banking group, McCrea said she thrives on providing opportunities that bolster targeted businesses.

"I love my role so much because it's like that thing where your passion meets your everyday job," McCrea told the Baltimore Times.

"My group focuses primarily on women and minority-owned businesses, so we provide resources for them. We're just really intentional about seeking out and providing resources for them."

Among the new initiatives is the M&T Bank Spotlight Shop, where some of the bank's Baltimore-based small business clients are featured.

In 2019, the pop-up shop proved successful, welcoming almost 174,000 visitors and boosting participants' sales and clientele. Since then, officials at the bank have noted that 2020 has brought its own set of challenges, and COVID-19 has significantly impacted small businesses.

While M&T provided capital through PPP loans, the bank committed to an innovative approach to boosting small business beyond providing capital.

This year, the Spotlight Shop moved online, and more than a dozen of the state's small businesses are featured on M&T Bank's Virtual Spotlight Shop on a rotating basis. Currently, Hersh's of South Baltimore is featured.



M&T Bank Spotlight Shop

Shoppers are driven to the website through digital advertising to generate more revenue and strengthen the vitality of the participating businesses. M&T also plans to live virtual stream concerts, featuring homegrown musicians to attract visitors.

"This year has been really tough because you know the pandemic and these circumstances, so what we did was we made the Spotlight Shop, virtual," McCrea stated.

"Not only do these businesses have so much exposure through the Baltimore area but throughout our entire footprint," she said.

"They are really exposed to new potential customers, which is really, really cool. It's just another way that M&T can support our businesses during these difficult times."

The Spotlight Shop's mission is to shine a spotlight on Baltimore's local businesses and create a space for the

community. The shop was open for six months, and every two weeks, a new small business would take over the shop to sell their products and promote their brand. While things looked a little different this year, M&T Bank officials said they are proud to continue that mission virtually and highlight even more of some of the best businesses that Baltimore has to offer.

"I was just so excited to hear that we were able to pivot this and make it virtual because last year was such a great

year for so many small businesses," McCrea proclaimed.

"To get so much more exposure and to be able to do that again this year virtually I feel like we're impacting even a larger portion of the community that is so, so important to me, and I'm grateful and happy to work for organizations who care about what's important."

Visit the virtual spotlight shop at <https://www3.mtb.com/spotlightshop>.

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Nonprofit leaders provide Chromebooks for students locally, nationally

By Andrea Blackstone

After a new academic year began for students across the U.S., amid the corona virus pandemic, virtual learning in school districts presented challenges which ranged from lack of broadband connections and system outages to Chromebook shortages. One Virginia resident and nonprofit leader has been saving the day for families who were still in need of devices for online learning. Gerald Moore Sr., founder of Mission Fulfilled 2030, has been hitting the road to deliver technological gifts to help students who still do not have them. Although Moore's primary nonprofit mission is to inspire, educate and activate 100,000 black boys in technology by 2030, he is currently serving a wide student population.

"When the pandemic first hit, and schools shut down in March, we were able to pivot from our live offerings and partner with the (Gerald Moore Online) Technology School for Black Boys and launch a successful online computer science program. This actually presented some challenges as we began to get feedback from parents in disadvantaged and underserved communities that they did not have the necessary equipment to participate," Moore said. "Therefore, I began to think about ways that we could create a program to address this need as a future offering of Mission Fulfilled 2030. My thinking was to create a technology fund to support families and kids in need."

Moore's timing was impeccable.

When a second grade teacher working in Baltimore City contacted Moore, after being referred to him by one of his colleagues, he was able to lend a technological hand.

"I knew at that moment I needed to act swiftly to help these children and families. Therefore, I purchased 10 Chromebooks for the students in Mrs. Payne's class," Moore said. "Once I engaged those students, I realized that I needed to step it up and I created the 'Chromebooks for Kids Tech Fund Challenge' fundraiser."

Trivia Payne, a first year teacher who works at Sinclair Lane Elementary School, teaches 100 percent virtually, roughly six hours daily. The educator remarked that on the first day of school, she received calls about students not



On Sept. 12, 2020, Rachele Moore, left, and her husband, Gerald Moore, Sr., right, distributed free Chromebooks for youth to participate in virtual learning. Gerald Moore's nonprofit is called Mission Fulfilled 2030. Sinclair Lane Elementary is located in Baltimore, Maryland. Photos: Andrea Blackstone

having a working laptop, or for some, no laptop at all at home.

"At the time there were at least 10 of my students out of 21 who did not have an appropriate device," Payne said. "We received 10 Chromebooks, and our young guys received a signed copy of Mr. Moore's book. All of the students received a gift bag with some other fun items. His (Moore's) plan is to deliver printers and headphones to the students who received laptops."

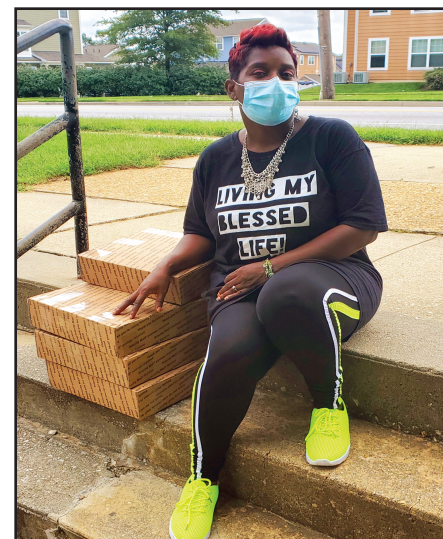
Payne explained that her students had excellent attendance, but the Chromebook gifts removed their challenge of not logging on properly, due to not having appropriate equipment.

Although Moore plans to return to Sinclair Lane Elementary School, the expanding national need for tools to participate in distance learning also led him to serve students beyond Baltimore. Students who reside in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County and Texas have benefited from Moore's "Chromebooks for Kids Tech Fund Challenge" fundraiser. After Moore

provided the first ten chromebooks, he challenged his network. A federal government contractor was the first company to answer Moore's call to action.

"Semper Valens Solutions is proud to support this very important and crucial mission. Being able to help bridge the technology gap in underserved communities at a time where so many students do not have access to technology, is critical for the success of virtual schooling. As we deal with unprecedented times, we all need to come together to support our communities in any way that we can," a statement on the company's website said. "The Chromebooks For Kids initiative is a great step in showing that support."

To date, Moore's nonprofit reportedly raised a little over \$13,000 for this cause and has served 20 children in need. A second company recently matched Moore's donation of 10 Chromebooks. Funding is still needed to support the initial challenge of serving 100 youth and additional students.



Trivia Payne sits alongside Chromebooks that were provided for ten of her students who needed them.



Gerald Moore Sr., right, speaks to a student about scholastic achievement, after giving a Chromebook and gifts to him.

"The cost to do this is approximately \$35,000, but considering the need, this will be a program that we will continue to run as a goal of Mission Fulfilled 2030 to equip kids in need," Moore said. "Therefore, we will continue to run this fundraiser year-round."

To participate in the fundraiser, please visit www.missionfulfilled2030.org and click the donate button. Families in need with students in the U.S. who are in grades K-12 may apply for Chromebooks via a case for support form via <http://bit.ly/mf2030-cfs>.

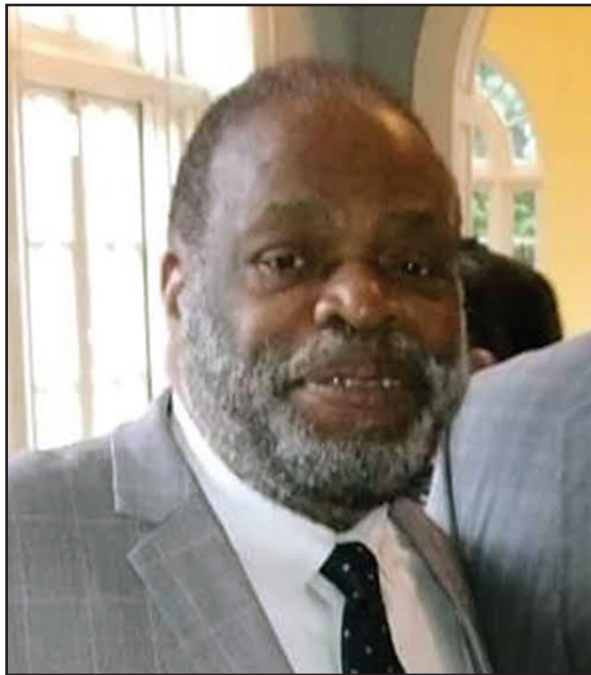
Preakness 145 to include Introduction of The George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes

(Baltimore, Md) —In addition to crowning a Preakness champion at Old Hilltop this year, 1/ST today announced it will celebrate the life and legacy of George E. Mitchell with the introduction of “The George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (GII). A tireless community advocate for Park Heights, Mr. Mitchell’s contributions will be recognized this year and for years to come during the Preakness celebration.

Mr. Mitchell’s three children as well as other family members will be in attendance to present the trophy to the winner of the first-ever “George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes (GII)”.

Post time for the race is 4:41 p.m., and will be part of NBC’s national broadcast coverage from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 3.

George E. Mitchell was a longtime leader and champion for the Park Heights community. Born in Florence, South Carolina, Mr. Mitchell moved to Baltimore shortly after his first birthday. He graduated from Mergenthaler Vocational-



George E. Mitchell
File Photo

Technical High School in 1972 and Morgan State University in 1976. He then served in the U.S. Army and earned a master’s degree at Saint Leo University.

Mr. Mitchell was one of the first Black partners of a Golden Corral franchise. He was also a licensed real estate agent. From 2017 until his passing in July 2020 at the age of 65, Mr. Mitchell oversaw operations of the Langston Hughes Community, Business and Resource Center, which houses a food pantry, library and computer lab as well as youth and adult programs and services including those for literacy, education and workforce development.

He also served as president of Neighborhoods United, an organization made up of several community associations organized to help bring positive change to Northwest Baltimore.

Mr. Mitchell was a passionate advocate for keeping the Preakness in Baltimore and was an important contributor to the passage of the *Racing and Community Development Act 2020*.

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HTP Homes, Inc. announce ‘Building Second Chances’ crowdfunding campaign for at-risk youth

By Stacy M. Brown

It’s estimated to cost about \$38,000 per year to incarcerate an individual in America, a sum that includes a cell, three meals per day, perhaps a work assignment behind bars but no educational or life skills training to prepare prisoners for successful re-entry.

Further, young people of color tend to receive longer prison sentences, which effectively wipes out a large portion of their lives, meaning they’ll receive little to no job training and education.

One organization is seeking to change the narrative.

HTP Homes, Inc., a minority and woman-owned tax-exempt entity, provide skills-based on-the-job training in construction trades for jobless young adults from 17 to 24. Those include formerly incarcerated returning citizens.

The nonprofit began a crowdfunding campaign to help secure grant money from the USA Today/Gannett A Commu-



*HTP Homes, Inc., founder
Aaron Thompson*



*HTP Homes, Inc., founder
Claudia Jones*

nity Thrives program, which supports projects that contribute to community building with a preference for those impacting historically underserved individ-

uals and groups. The more than \$2 million initiative allows organizations to apply to raise money for a specific project.

Those chosen, work to raise money through a crowdfunding campaign, making them eligible for more than 100 grants.

More than a dozen grants are set for distribution ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000. With support from donors, HTP Homes seek to raise the \$64,500 needed to launch its skills training initiative in Baltimore. The “Building Second Chances” fundraiser will close on Oct. 16, 2020.

“Here people can make a difference. It may sound small to people, but it’s something that can grow; each one, teach one,” said Raymond P. Lewis, the principal at RP Lewis & Associates.

“We have a goal of \$64,000, but think of what they can do with \$164,000,” Lewis noted. “We are the richest country in the world with the largest number of inmates, and most are of color, and they never get a chance at an education or to vote.

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BIDEN HARRIS

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25th Anniversary Fannie Lou Hamer On-Line Awards Reception— October 6

By Stacy Brown

Six Annapolis area women and one local man are set to receive honors at the 25th annual Fannie Lou Hammer Awards Reception scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Anne Arundel County, this year's ceremony takes place virtually and is free and open to the public.

The honorees are: Patricia Bradford, Octavia Brown, Emma Buchanan, Joseph Donahue, C.J. Meushaw, Delegate Shaneka Henson, and Toni Strong Pratt.

Bradford works as Family Self-Sufficiency & Homeownership Manager for the Annapolis Housing Authority, where she manages 83 families and households, promoting and assisting them to become self-sufficient and homeowners.

Brown, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Certified and the founder and lead clinician of the Urban Institute for Mental Health, specializes in racial trauma therapy, trauma-informed care, cognitive behavioral therapy, and behavioral modification.

Buchman, the deputy director of March On Maryland, is a community activist and an unapologetic anti-racist who has organized myriads of marches and racial justice events.

Donahue, a private practice lawyer, won a landmark case earlier this month against the city where 15 clients living in Annapolis's subsidized housing were awarded \$900,000 because the landlord failed to maintain their apartments adequately.

Meushaw also counts as an activist and dedicated member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). She's recognized as a core organizer in the SURJ chapter in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County because of her tireless work encouraging other white people to live out the SURJ values.

Henson, a delegate and community activist, has faced racism, sexism, and countless negativity, but MLK Committee officials said she's never backed down and has proven a real fighter for civil rights.



Patricia (Venus) Bradford
Family Self-Sufficiency & Homeownership Manager for the Annapolis Housing Authority



Octavia Brown
Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Certified; founder and lead clinician of the Urban Institute for Mental Health



Emma Buchanan
Deputy Director of March On Maryland; Community Activist



Delegate Shaneka Henson
Delegate and community activist



C.J. Meushaw
Member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).



Toni Strong-Pratt.
Co-founder of "Desire," a social group that focuses on drug dependencies and co-dependencies within Annapolis.

Strong-Pratt co-founded "Desire," a social group that focuses on drug dependencies and co-dependencies within Annapolis.

She has been critical in organizing food giveaways and distributing Harm Reduction materials throughout the city during COVID.

"In honoring these women with the Fannie Lou Hamer Award, we honor the best in ourselves. These women each have made our city, county, and nation better," Carl Snowden, the chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, told the Baltimore Times.

The awards that bear Hamer's name recognize local women from various racial backgrounds who, while not necessarily household names, have excelled in their chosen field while working diligently to improve civil and human

rights in the region, Snowden added.

"Mrs. Hamer was a feminist and a civil rights heroine, and each year, on the eve of her birthday, Marylanders pause to honor this Mississippian, a sharecropper, who shared a passion for economic and social justice," he said.

The honorees will join the ranks of more than 100 notable local citizens, including Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Administrative Law Judge Tracey Warren Parker, and former Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer.

Speakers will include Congressmen John P. Sarbanes and Anthony Brown, Mayor Gavin Buckley, and County Executive Stuart Pittman.

Tickets are free at:
<http://www.mlkrmd.org/flh25>. For more information at 443-871-5656.



Joseph Donahue
Private Practice Lawyer
He will receive the Allen Hillard Legum Civil Rights Award

HTP Homes, Inc. announce ‘Building Second Chances’ crowdfunding campaign for at-risk youth



Left to Right: Aaron Thompson HTP Homes CEO with trainee Wendell Watson
Photos Courtesy of Claudia Jones



Left to Right: Aaron Thompson HTP Homes CEO with trainee Al Jalloh

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“This is a very holistic and training and education program, and we want this to be a call to action, not just for this fundraiser, but to support this organization as a whole.”

HTP Homes, Inc., founders Claudia Jones and Aaron Thompson noted two ways to win: by garnering the most individual donors or by the most money raised. HTP Homes would win \$5,000 by amassing the most individual donors, and up to \$25,000 by raising the most money.

“This fundraiser will support our skills training initiative in Baltimore City, which is even more important during the

current global pandemic when resources for at-risk youth and justice-involved residents who rely on these programs are especially limited,” Jones stated.

“HTP Homes is working to lift communities in Baltimore that have been left out during times of economic recovery. We represent the underrepresented, and meeting this fundraising goal will be a huge step towards achieving our mission.”

Thompson noted that he’d been assisting young, at-risk, and formerly incarcerated individuals for decades. “I own a construction company, and I’ve hired at-risk young and formerly incarcerated men, and I’ve worked with them,”

Thompson said.

“Some have gone on to own businesses, and it’s an extremely successful program.”

Thompson added that the impetus came about because of his son, a police officer who worked with at-risk youth and gang members and would encourage them to call Thompson.

“I couldn’t hire everyone, but I hired as many as I could,” Thompson said. “But, that is what led to us starting a nonprofit.”

Jones said they’re attempting to get the word out to everyone.

“Folks can go on the fundraising website and donate what they can so that we

can help at-risk youths in Baltimore and returning citizens,” she said.

For more information on the fundraiser and donate, visit <https://acomunitythives.mighty-cause.com/story/Htphomes>.

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Annapolis Town Center to host Fright Nights: A Drive-Through Event This Oct.

(October 1, 2020) Annapolis, MD - Committed to the continued growth of their property as a community epicenter, Annapolis Town Center announces their first annual Fright Nights. A total of five evenings in October will provide a full schedule of Halloween-themed fun for the entire family to enjoy. Promising a safe environment for mesmerizing, interactive, and nostalgic experiences.

With two accommodated time slots per night for arrival, guests will check-in at The Haunted House located next to The Green to receive their complimentary concessions and pre-filled trick-or-treat bags for the kids. Cars will then follow, one-by-one, through the fog-filled path leading to the interactive Haunted Alleyway Experience and end at the drive-in movie lot for a thrilling featured film. A total of six movies will be shown across the five evenings, providing an even balance of family-friendly and adults-only nights. Experience a mix of classics and newer favorites like: The Ring, Casper, US, Hocus Pocus, Hotel Transylvania, and A Nightmare on Elm Street.



Guests are encouraged to take advantage of the many dining options on property during their time at Fright Nights. Order before the film and pick-up your meal for a one-of-a-kind dinner and a movie experience at the Center. Adult-only showings will also feature a beer garden with live music by DJ Crawdads and beverages provided by Vintage Views: A Wandering Bar prior to the start of the featured film.

Given the ongoing concern for public health and safety, the Town Center remains committed to providing the community with opportunities to safely gather and make lasting memories. All guests are required to wear masks anytime they exit their vehicle and continue to practice proper physical distancing.

In order to uphold proper safety protocol, tickets will be limited and guests are required to pre-purchase them online.

For a full calendar of upcoming events, check out VisitATC.com. Follow along on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates.

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