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Volunteers Continue to 'Make Change Happen' on Annual Comcast Cares Day



Youth volunteers at Carroll Park in Baltimore City gather up mulch that they placed around trees during Comcast Cares Day on April 30, 2016 during National Volunteer Month. Approximately 6,000 local volunteers pitched in at more than 50 project sites located in Maryland; the District of Columbia; Virginia, West Virginia; and Delaware to improve communities as part of the 15th annual Comcast Cares Day. Comcast Cares Day is Comcast NBCUniversal's companywide celebration of its year-round commitment to service and is the largest single-day corporate volunteer effort in the country. (Story on page 16)

Photo by Andrea Blackstone

Baltimore Times Columnist Long Recovery from Sudden Stroke

By Stacy M. Brown

The statistics are eye opening! Of the 1.5 million heart attacks and strokes that befall Americans each year, about 44 percent of the victims are African-American males and 48 percent are black women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

May ushers in National Stroke Awareness Month, particularly meaningful for the Baltimore Times and its longtime Indie Soul Columnist Phinesse Demps. At 49, Demps continues to recover from a massive stroke that he says caught him totally off guard and nearly killed him.

The stroke occurred on July 15, 2015 as he was wrapping up his regular radio appearance on the Sean Yoes Radio Show on WEAA.

"I was on the phone in my apartment doing the show from there with Sean and I remember him saying that I didn't sound right, that my speech was kind of slurred," Demps said.

The 49-year-old also felt something happening.

"I remembered a commercial from when I was younger that advised people to take an aspirin if they think they were experiencing a heart attack, so I reached for an aspirin thinking that it could be a heart attack," he said.

Eerily, he recalled— almost in slow motion— seeing himself fall toward his bathroom floor and hitting his head. Demps lay helpless for a full day on the floor of his Baltimore apartment.

When he didn't show up for work the next day, Times employee Ida Neal sent two friends to check on Demps and



Baltimore Times columnist Phinesse Demps suffered a massive stroke on July 15, 2015. Now 10 months later, the 49-year-old receives rehabilitation services regularly and has finally returned to work. He has graduated from using a wheelchair to walking with a cane.

Photo by Dena Wane

when they didn't get an answer Neal returned to the apartment, contacted the landlord and convinced him to open Demps' apartment, he said.

"The landlord saw me on the floor and he said he needed me to sit up but I couldn't move and he called an ambulance," Demps said.

Demps was placed in intensive care where he languished for 19 days and with doctors giving him little chance for survival.

Now, about 10 months later, Demps is regularly rehabbing and has finally returned to work. He has graduated from a wheelchair to walking with a cane.

Most importantly, Demps says he has finally realized that he had as much to blame for his condition, it wasn't all time and unforeseen occurrences that simply befell him. It was ignorance.

"I always did everything the right way. I exercised regularly, walked everywhere I went and I ate properly, no meat, I'm a vegetarian. I was in the gym four times a week early in the morning," he said. "I had no previous health problems except a migraine that I'd take an Advil for and close the shades and sleep and it would be better."

Where he failed?

"I wasn't going to a doctor on a regular basis and, in my family, we have a history of high-blood pressure," he said.

"So, you find yourself thinking that it won't happen to you but there's also hypertension in the family and that's a silent killer, it elevated the blood pressure which caused the vessel in my brain to pop."

The importance of knowing one's family history, having regular visits to a primary care physician, checking blood pressure, eating properly and exercise should be on everyone's every day to do list, according to Demps.

"When the doctors see me now they tell me that I'm not even supposed to be here— be alive," he said.

The illness has given Demps a new perspective, even about the recent death of music icon Prince and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

"As black men you have to go to the doctor. Obviously we don't yet know what killed Prince, but at 57 you can't do what you do at 27," Demps said.

"And, when you talk about Black Lives Matter, I don't want to hear that anymore unless you add in the health component because we, as black men, our health has to matter. We have to go to a doctor and many of us don't."

Recent studies have found that one-third of strokes occur in people under the age of 65.

"I have my good days and my bad days," Demps said. "I have short term memory problems, but my long term memory is good."

With 4,000 Facebook friends, Demps received 3,000 notes and read each one.

"It was like reading my own eulogy," he said. "It's wrong for me to put my family and my friends through this. We, as black men, have to do a better job taking care of ourselves."

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Guest Editorials/Letters

HUD funding changes to hamper efforts to end city homelessness

By John J. Schiavone

On May 2, 2016, a funding announcement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) drew little attention in the local media, but will have reverberations for years to come for Baltimore City's efforts to end homelessness. HUD announced the second phase of its annual awards for homeless services to jurisdictions throughout the country. Unfortunately, Baltimore City fared very poorly in this funding competition. Only two of 20 existing projects were awarded funding in this second phase—a devastating loss of \$3.8 million in funding for Baltimore City. Gone in an instant were commitments for annual funding that had been in place, in many cases, for decades that have helped thousands of people out of homelessness and into self-sufficiency and stable housing. The loss of these resources will significantly impact citywide efforts to end homelessness by reducing housing options for the most vulnerable citizens who are homeless. The result will be increased homelessness, and longer shelter stays due to less turnover of shelter beds, straining services that were already stretched thin before these cuts.

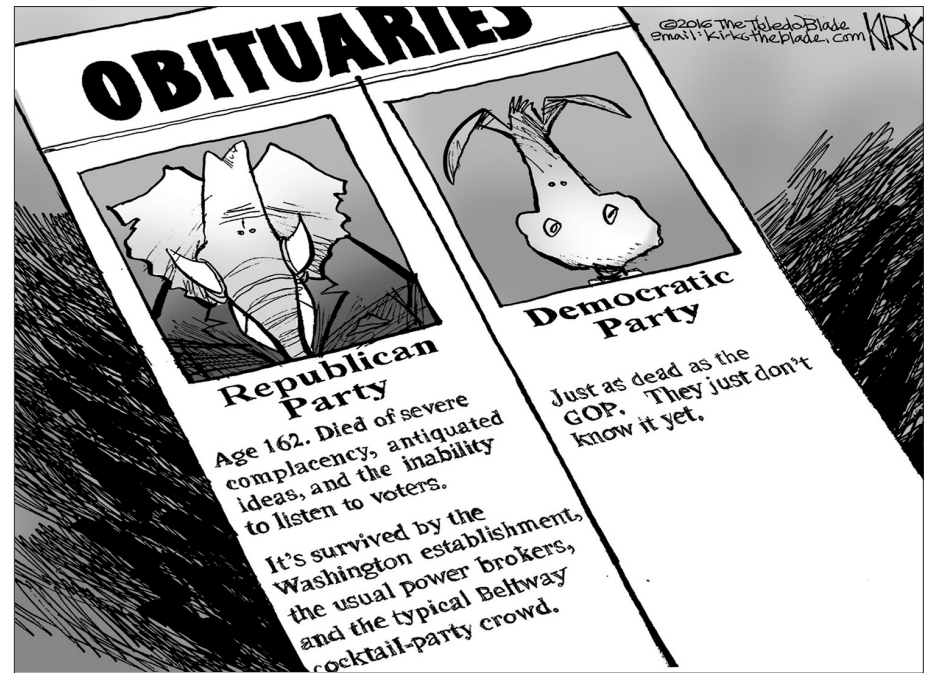
How is it that Baltimore lost such a substantial amount of funding, especially given that HUD actually substantially increased the available funding nationwide and many jurisdictions across the country actually gained funding? The reason is a lack of a clear vision and direction in Baltimore City, and insufficient efforts to lead change. In recent years, HUD has made it clear that local jurisdictions would need to reallocate funding from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing programs. To encourage this shift, HUD gave permanent and rapid re-housing housing programs clear priority in its funding notices and increased the competitive nature of the funding process overall. Many cities and states moved swiftly to adapt to this new approach in order to be competitive. Unfortunately, Baltimore City did not, and the result is that we have lost \$3.8 million in vital homeless resources to other jurisdictions—resources that will be very difficult to get back in future years. It's a severe loss that the city can ill afford at this time.

In an earlier round of funding, Baltimore City was able to secure additional money for 55 permanent supportive housing units designed to serve chronically homeless individuals. However, this is small consolation for failing to protect existing resources, many of which serve homeless women and families. Baltimore should have preserved its existing funding and gained even more funding in this competition. The cumulative loss in housing units and homeless services for the 18 programs that were defunded will dwarf the 55 units gained in the earlier round of funding.

Over the last several months, out of wide-spread recognition that the Baltimore City's governance, structure, and approach for homeless services was not functioning at a competitive level, the Journey Home Board of Directors (the local board for homeless services in Baltimore) has undertaken a planning effort to re-imagine the leadership, governance, and grantee operations that are currently housed in Baltimore City government. The goal is to create a more effective, unified, and coordinated entity for ending homelessness in Baltimore. With the severe blow dealt by these HUD cuts to local homeless services, this planning effort must now take on new urgency. Hopefully, this effort will result in bold and innovative thinking, and dramatic changes to how homeless services are governed, managed, and supported here in Baltimore City.

Baltimore City is in serious danger of backsliding in its efforts to make progress in ending homelessness. We as a community can't afford that. It is time for new leadership; a better structure; more open and transparent communication; greater collaboration; increased local funding for homeless services; and broader involvement by homeless services providers; businesses; civic leaders; government agencies; and the philanthropic community to finally and definitively make homelessness in our community a thing of the past.

John J. Schiavone is president and CEO of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, and a member of the Journey Home Board of Directors



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: Europe Under Attack

Since WWII Europe has welcomed tens of millions of Muslims from Africa and the Middle East who replaced the murdered Jews of Europe.

Germany leads the way, allowing one million Muslims to enter in 2015, and plans to bring in one million more in 2016. This will swell its Muslim population to five million.

France has six million Muslims, the U.K. over three million and Spain over one million.

The burgeoning Muslim populations in Europe live in urban depressed and lawless areas, which are spawning grounds for crime and terrorism. Germany recently experienced a night of terror when young Muslim men attacked German Christian women. Sweden has reported a sharp increase in rapes of Swedish Christian women by Muslim men. Great Britain, France and Belgium

have suffered terrible Islamic terrorist attacks killing and wounding many people, and the Muslim influx has increased anti-Christian and anti-Jewish incidents.

Studies show many young Muslims believe suicide attacks are justified, including 42 percent in France; 35 percent in Britain; 29 percent in Spain; and 22 percent in Germany.

Surprisingly, the U.S. young Muslims are at 26 percent. As Muslim populations increase due to immigration and high birth rates there will be increased attacks and calls for Sharia law.

The United States should reflect on the European problems and Islamic attacks in Europe and this country, and rethink our immigration policies to help bolster our security by keeping out any people who might conduct Islamic terrorist attacks.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission. Your letter will not be published without the required information. Please send your letter by regular mail to: Letters to the Editor, The Annapolis Times, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD. 21218 or email: btimes@btimes.com

Community Health Centers:

Fulfilling promise of ACA, eliminating black health disparities

By Dr. Patricia Maryland
NNPA News Wire Guest Columnist

One hundred one years ago, Booker T. Washington penned a letter to the editors of America's leading black newspapers. In it, he contended that health, more than any other measure, was the single most important aspect to achieving progress and parity for African-Americans.

In April, we remember Washington's call to action, celebrate the gains that have been made, and renew our shared commitment to the work that remains during National Minority Health Month. And as our families, neighborhoods, churches, schools and businesses band together to tackle the many barriers that still impede minority health, there are no nobler warriors to be found than those in our community health centers.

Indeed, community health centers (CHCs) serve some of the nation's highest-risk, most medically vulnerable populations, with more than 70 percent of patients living below the federal poverty line. And more than two-thirds of the

patients who seek care at CHCs are members of racial or ethnic minorities. In 2014, Hispanic patients made up 34 percent of the health center population, and African-Americans accounted for 23 percent.

That's why when it comes to reducing disparities and truly reclaiming black health, CHCs are our best chance for success and our brightest hope for equity.

New Orleans and part of Ascension, the nation's largest not-for-profit health system— is working to combat the diabetes epidemic at the local level. Its Diabetes Prevention Program is delivering targeted interventions to at-risk individuals, with the goal of reducing participants' body weight by seven percent and increasing their physical activity to 150 minutes per week, by providing educa-

boast a lower average cost per patient, per day than other physician settings, saving the American healthcare system an estimated \$24 billion a year.

CHCs are so effective because they are deeply rooted in a sense of place. We know that where we live, work and learn matters just as much to our health as our family medical history, and health centers are often situated in the heart of minority neighborhoods. The fact that CHCs are so embedded in the areas they serve— they're even governed by a board of patient-directors— often makes them better positioned to address the unique needs of racial and ethnic minority populations. As providers and public health officials continue to wrestle with the challenge of delivering culturally relevant care, community health centers present accessible and ideal locations.

The Affordable Care Act continues to provide quality coverage to those who need it most, and community health centers remain a key player in carrying out the promise of healthcare reform. As we observe National Minority Health Month, we're called to celebrate community health centers for their impressive outcomes and commit to their future success. Investing in these innovative models of care means supporting health strategies that work, are safe and leave no one behind.

Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer of Ascension Health.

“This supportive and holistic approach provides a promising model to advance minority health. Studies show that CHCs perform especially well when it comes to providing timely preventive services for vulnerable populations and managing chronic illnesses that disproportionately affect minority communities, such as hypertension and diabetes.”

Not only do these sites provide vital access points to clinical care, regardless of a patient's ability to pay, they also address the less visible, but equally important social determinants of health. In a coordinated effort with social service agencies and local nonprofits, CHCs work to alleviate food and housing insecurity, provide education and job training, and connect patients to proactive financial planning services.

In Louisiana, for example, the Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO)— a system of community-based health centers throughout greater

tional sessions on nutrition, physical activity, managing stress and overcoming barriers to health. DCSNO is also partnering with local organizations to provide vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets.

This supportive and holistic approach provides a promising model to advance minority health. Studies show that CHCs perform especially well when it comes to providing timely preventive services for vulnerable populations and managing chronic illnesses that disproportionately affect minority communities, such as hypertension and diabetes. They also

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Mary Harvin Senior Center Opens One Year After Fire

By Ursula V. Battle

A gospel choir sang “We’ve Come this Far by Faith,” as Reverend Dr. Donte’ L. Hickman, Sr., senior pastor of Southern Baptist Church; Governor Larry Hogan; and other community leaders celebrated the opening of the Mary Harvin Senior Center on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

The ribbon cutting was part of the festivities for the grand opening of the Mary Harvin Senior Center. The ceremony took place on the one-year anniversary of a tragic fire, which destroyed the development on April 27, 2015, during the riots. At the time of the blaze, the project was 45 percent complete.

“I remember seeing the fire on the news and rushing out here,” recalled Baltimore City Housing Commissioner Paul T. Graziano. “It was a tearful event and very sad. I want to thank Pastor Hickman, Eric Booker and other community leaders who had the faith to persevere in the face of adversity. It is just a wonderful example of what we can do if we all work together. We have seen blight turn into beautiful new homes.”

With immediate and strong support from the State Department of Housing and Community Development, Baltimore Housing, and the project’s financial partners, Hudson Housing Capital and Capital One Bank, The Woda Group, Inc., moved with determination to reconstruct the project after the devastating fire. After restarting construction, the Mary Harvin Senior Center was completed 69 days ahead of the scheduled completion date.

Located at 1600 N. Chester Street, the Mary Harvin Senior Center is a \$15 million development project that replaced a blighted block with 61 units of high-quality, affordable senior housing, along



(Left) Maryland Governor Larry Hogan; Reverend Dr. Donte’ L. Hickman, Sr., Senior Pastor of Southern Baptist Church; along with other elected officials and community leaders at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mary Harvin Senior Center located at 1600 N. Chester Street in East Baltimore. (Right) Community residents and members of Southern Baptist Church were among the hundreds who attended the Grand Opening.

Photos by Ursula V. Battle

with counseling and job training space.

“I am happy,” said Pastor Hickman. “Our vision has been to restore. I am happy about the tenacity, the resilience and the partnerships that went into rebuilding after the fire. The fire shed a tremendous light on a community that has suffered and experienced so much disinvestment. But we praise God that none of those obstacles prevented us from moving forward to rebuild, and there is much more to come.”

The development is named after the late Mary Harvin, a founding member of Southern Baptist Church, whose leadership was vital to the church and its community.

As the nation’s fifth-largest developer of affordable housing, Woda said it recognizes Harvin’s value for replacing blight with quality, affordable housing options for the citizens of Baltimore.

“A lot of people have an idea or something they want to accomplish,” said Woda Principal David Cooper. “Congratulations to Southern Baptist Church for wanting to build across the street, and bring this to fruition. Completing a project like this is difficult in normal circumstances and nearly impossible when you throw in the events like the one last year. As a company, we appreciate the effort and time it took to complete what you see today.”

According to WODA, it is a fully integrated, multi-functional developer, general contractor, and property management firm committed to providing quality affordable rental housing.

“Rising from the fire is a real symbol of hope and faith,” said Baltimore City 12th District Councilman Carl Stokes, who was among the many elected officials who attended the event. “God is good all

the time, and He has brought us together in communication and collaboration and it is good. We thank the WODA group for being a part of Baltimore. It is a great anchor in the community.”

Mary Coles attends Southern Baptist Church, and was among the congregants who attended the event.

“I am elated,” said Coles. “This building is a great enhancement for the community. But, this is just one step. Southern Baptist Church is on the move.”

Sheila Starkes has lived in the community for over 60 years. She recalled watching the fire a year earlier from her home.

“I live across the street from this building,” she said. “I watched them build it up, and I also saw the fire destroy it. It was horrible to watch. But the building has gone back up again, and it is great for the seniors. I give God the credit for allowing it to be rebuilt.”

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New Ravens CB Tavon Young excited to be drafted by hometown team

By *Turron Davenport*

The Baltimore Ravens needed to add a cornerback that can cover smaller, shifty slot receivers. The team had an abundance of picks in the 2016 NFL Draft and used one of their picks on a local product from Potomac High School in Oxon Hill.

Tavon Young graduated from Potomac High and moved on to Temple University. He helped turn the program around and experienced a memorable 2016 season. His best game came against Notre Dame. He drew the assignment of covering a future first-round pick in Notre Dame wide receiver Will Fuller. Young held Fuller in check, playing man-to-man most of the game.

That performance really put the 5 feet 10 inch, 185-pound corner on the map. Young was also a standout at the Reese's Senior Bowl. The Ravens always scout the Senior Bowl thoroughly. Young went out and competed in every practice. He drew the attention of his hometown team.

Getting the opportunity to play for the Ravens is a fantasy for Young.

"It's exciting. It's a blessing and I'm overwhelmed that they picked me," Young said. "It's like a kid's dream to play for his hometown."

The mindset that Young brings to the game is exactly what the Ravens want. Head coach John Harbaugh always preaches how important it is to fight. He likes scrappy players that never back down from a challenge. Young personifies the will to fight that Harbaugh cherishes in players.

"I'm just a tough guy. I'm a tough player, and that's what a lot of coaches and people appreciate about me," Young said. "They always talk about size, but no matter who it is or how big they are, I always come out on top. I think that's what makes me special."

Being a smaller corner makes it difficult to compete on the outside, especially against bigger wide receivers. Young relishes the chance to go against them. He wins by fighting for the ball all the way to the ground. It doesn't matter how he can be outsized at times.



Temple University cornerback Tavon Young lines up against Ohio State University wide receiver Braxton Miller during practice at the 2016 Reese's Senior Bowl.
Courtesy Photo/Temple.edu

"Never back down and never fear any man. You have to attack every situation. People are always going to doubt you," Young said. "If you just have that confidence and that dog in you, then none of that matters."

Young worked out for the Ravens at their local pro day and felt he put on a good show. It was important for him to not only do that at the pro day but to always put his best foot forward. Even though he was not a Ravens fan growing up, he is aware of the team's status as an elite NFL organization and he is ready to add to the legacy.

"I'm so excited. I can't wait to get started— I'm ready now. It's a great program and a winning program," Young said. "It has great history, great players [and] a playoff team every year. It's just a great organization."

More articles about the Baltimore Ravens written by Turron Davenport available online, please visit: www.baltimoretimes-online.com.

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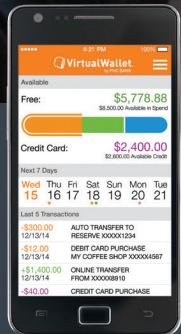
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New CEO appointed to lead Baltimore City Public Schools

Former Chief Academic Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools, has spent 27 years developing classroom strategies to help students excel.

Baltimore— The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners named Sonja B. Santelises, Ed.D. Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools.

Dr. Santelises, 48, who is currently vice president for K-12 Policy and Practice at The Education Trust, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit focused on closing the achievement gap, will start July 1, 2016. She replaces Dr. Gregory Thornton who will depart as chief executive of Baltimore City Public Schools this week.

In the interim, Tammy Turner, General Counsel for the Baltimore City Public School System, has been named acting CEO through June 30, 2016. She has been General Counsel with the school system since 2006.

Prior to joining The Education Trust, Dr. Santelises was the Chief Academic Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools from 2010 to 2013.

“We believe Dr. Santelises is the person to lead Baltimore City Schools for the next 10 years,” said Marnell Cooper, Chairman of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. “The board recognizes that the work Dr. Santelises performed as Chief Academic Officer in Baltimore set us in a direction where the students were improving. We believe her most recent experience at The Education Trust in Washington has given her an even broader perspective and will result in greater academic achievement in Baltimore City.”

Dr. Santelises, who lives in Baltimore with her husband and three daughters, said City Schools “has the potential of providing not only an excellent education for its young people, but can launch the next generation of leaders in Baltimore City.”



Sonja B. Santelises, Ed.D.
Courtesy Photo

“Education can unlock the hidden and overlooked talent residing in every neighborhood in Baltimore City,” she said. “When I drive in West Baltimore I see future lawyers, doctors, teachers, artists, nurses and business owners. If we can change direction in Baltimore schools, then it shows that education can be a positive force rather than an impediment to empowering young people and the community. I have always believed that education is a powerful lever.”

Dr. Santelises says she will work to keep communities engaged, make sure students' voices are heard and encourage teachers and principals to lead.

“The community should experience schools as their own and not an instrument of some distant bureaucracy,” she said. “I come in assuming this work is about building a team toward that larger vision.”

Prior to coming to Baltimore in 2010, Dr. Santelises worked in Boston Public Schools from 2006 to 2010 as Assistant Superintendent overseeing 25 pilot schools established to improve the academic performance of low-income students and students of color. She also was Acting Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Assistant Superintendent for Professional Development.

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Baltimore Teacher Visits White House

By Stacy M. Brown

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 will be a day Kyair Butts won't soon forget. The fourth and fifth grade teacher at Calverton Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore made his way down the beltway to the nation's capital and a visit to the White House where President Barack Obama and administration officials honored Butts and more than three dozen other teachers for being exemplary at their craft.

"It's such a great honor and a real privilege," Butts said. "To be an invited guest during Teacher Appreciation Week where the White House honors teachers of the year winners in the state and the national teacher of the year, is amazing."

When he first received notice, Butts says he thought someone was trying to scam him.

"They had asked for information like my date of birth and social security number and I thought this is what scammers do. But, after I checked it out and realized this was really happening, I was so surprised," said Butts, who is in his fourth year as a teacher at the Title 1-school in Charm City.

He got his start with Urban Teachers, a nonprofit organization that trains aspiring teachers in Washington and Baltimore and is committed to transforming urban schools by preparing highly skilled, deeply committed teachers who know how to improve outcomes for all learners.

The organization strives to improve education for thousands of urban students each year.

"For me, it started off almost as a bet," Butts said. "My debate coach told me



Fifth grade teacher Kyair Butts was among more than three dozen teachers who were honored at the White House by President Barack Obama on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, for being exemplary teachers.
Courtesy Photo

that I was going to be a teacher some day and I said that wasn't true that I will be a lawyer."

Butts did earn a scholarship to law school but, after taking a year off to investigate career possibilities, he realized that he enjoyed being a debate coach at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels.

"I knew teaching was for me, so I walked back into my debate coach's office with my tail between my legs and told her that she won the bet [and] that she was right, I will become a teacher," he said.

With the support of Urban Teachers, Butts has not looked back.

"Urban Teachers is phenomenal. You look at what President John F. Kennedy asked a generation about what they can do for their country. Urban Teachers re-

ally helps people to heed Kennedy's call," Butts said. "They provide phenomenal resources and they've given me leadership roles to pay it forward.

"We serve a population that doesn't have a lot of opportunities and haven't always had the best means. But, we're helping these students to find their voice and I'm so grateful for my students that I kind of forget about the resources that I need or want for the classroom."

Butts' students are just as excited about the White House visit as anyone. One of the students requested that he ask Presi-

dent Obama what color the president would like to paint the White House if he were given a choice. Another student, a fifth grader who reads at a 12th grade level, wrote a letter to the president seeking avenues in which underprivileged and underserved schools can get funding to help better educational opportunities.

"It was indicative of where that student is at," Butts said.

With an admitted reverence of Obama, Butts noted that while it's very special to meet the president, the experience will still rank below that of what he gets each day from his classroom at Calverton Elementary/Middle School.

"I have deep respect for somebody that goes to work every day and seemingly half of the country is opposed to what he does and want to stop him but he keeps plugging away," Butts said. "The only reason I won't say that going to the White House and seeing the president is number one on my list of accomplishments is because of my students.

"I've seen such great growth. One student grew 89 points from the beginning of the year in terms of reading and development. So, while it would be great to glad hand with other teachers and be with the president, the idea of a legacy and cultivating good students and good people will endure. It's what we produce and it's that kind of legacy that will endure a lifetime.

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Celebrating Mothers Mother's Day 2016

The 411 on Mother's Day flowers

Mother's Day is an annual holiday that honors motherhood and provides an opportunity for men, women and children to show their mothers how much they appreciate them.

The tradition of Mother's Day in the United States dates back more than a century to 1908, when West Virginia native Anna Jarvis held a memorial service to honor her mother, who had passed away three years earlier, and all mothers in Grafton, West Virginia. Mother's Day would ultimately become a national holiday in the United States in 1914, thanks in large part to Jarvis' campaigning. As Jarvis, who never married and never had children of her own, grew old, she criticized Mother's Day as overly commercial, even trying to have it removed from the calendar. Those efforts failed, and Mother's Day remains popular now, more than 100 years after the idea for it was conceived.

While Mother's Day traditions have changed since Jarvis first proposed the holiday, many people feel it's customary to give mothers gifts on Mother's Day, when moms take the day off from chores and relax with their families. Flowers make for popular Mother's Day gifts, and well-wishers who want to give the special women in their lives flowers this year can consider a host of varieties.

Carnations

Carnations are popular Mother's Day flowers, perhaps because they are available in a number of colors. That means it's highly likely sons, daughters, husbands and others gifting moms this Mother's Day can find some

carnations in Mom's favorite color. Ask your florist about what each carnation color symbolizes, as each has its own unique meaning. Pink carnations, for example, are believed to symbolize a mother's love.



Roses

Few mothers can resist roses, making them one of the more popular flowers come Mother's Day. Roses are symbolic of love and make the perfect floral gift for mothers who like traditional flowers. If you want to spice things up, order a bouquet made up of roses of various colors.

Daffodils

Yellow is synonymous with spring, and daffodils can highlight the season in which Mother's Day takes place while also providing a cheerful look that's perfect for Mother's Day floral bouquets. Daffodils can be given on their own or added to mixed bouquets. Daffodils also last quite a while when cared for correctly, giving moms more than just a few days to enjoy their bouquets.

Freesia

Like daffodils, freesia are long-lasting, meaning mothers will still be enjoying them long after Mother's Day has come and gone. The inviting fragrance of freesia makes bouquets of these flowers popular choices for Mother's Day gifts. Freesia also come in many colors, proving Mother's Day gift givers a greater chance of finding flowers their mothers will love

WITH LOVE

On Mother's Day

Then



(Left: Juanita (Camper) Webb and daughter Yvonne Davis

...and now



Four Generations



(Left): Ailean Pearce with Tamala, Tanajah, Kay



Gloria Mason



Cathy Mason, Angelica Shelton, Kesiha Chase, Sandra Mason, Kendra Hendricks, Tanika Hunter, Natarsha Brown, Lynna McCoy-Cook



Najia Johnson, Khari Barrett, NeKeisha Chase, Sabree Barrett



(Left) Ms. Barbara A. Womack with Arleen Womack-Dorsey, Verna Dorsey, Michelle Washington

WITH LOVE

On Mother's Day



Left) Margie Massenburg, Henry Watts, Geraldine Watts, Veronica Young, James Young, Betty Dirton



Daisy Nanton (Center) with daughters Pam Arthurton, Carol Nanton, Joy Bramble and Cynthia Nanton. (Cynthia passed away Jan 6, 2016)



Melquan Thomas, Tyler Miller, Rokeysha Witherspoon (Mother)



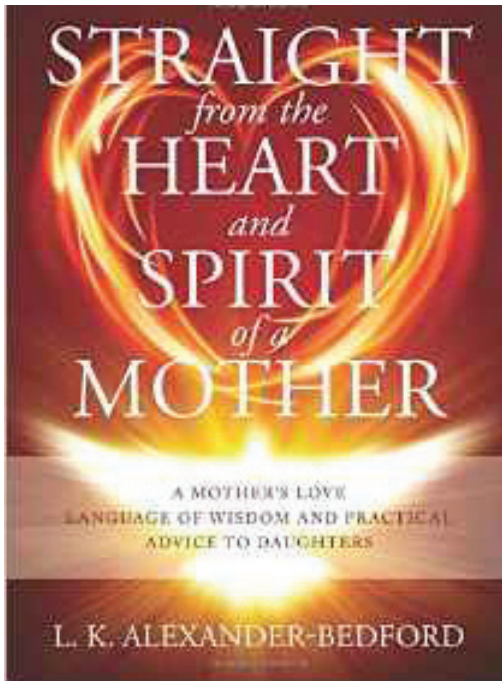
Verndine Choyce with great granddaughters Michal Samaroo, Tiara Ward, and Shyann Samaroo; granddaughters Torri Ward and Michelle Herbert; and daughter Dena Wane. (Mrs. Choyce passed away Oct. 10, 2010)



Lorraine Whitehurst with daughter Stephanie Whitehurst. This photo was taken on their last Mother's Day spent together in 2012

Mother's Day
May 8

Author Offers Advice to Motherless Daughters on Mother's Day



Atlanta— As Mother's Day approaches, it can be a difficult time for women who have lost their mothers to death. Author L.K. Alexander-Bedford wrote "Straight from the Heart and Spirit of a Mother" to bring comfort, strength and faith to all women in need but especially to those like her, the motherless. During this Mother's Day weekend, she hopes to encourage young women who miss that very important bond.

Alexander-Bedford lost her mom at the tender age of 11. She relates to research confirming losing a mother as a child has a profound and altering effect on one's life trajectory. She also understands that for the adult woman that loss means losing a lifeline or best friend. In her early 70's, Alexander-Bedford finds the mourning and longing never ends but believes one can have a wonderful, fulfilled life.

For women like me, special occasions, especially Mother's Day, can be difficult; particularly, if you had a positive mother-daughter relationship. The missing is hard. It gets better but it never goes away," Alexander-Bedford said. "You must give yourself moments to grieve; but don't stay there. Your mother wouldn't want you to. She would want you to have peace, move on and focus on all the wonderful memories you shared and the positives in your life now."

For motherless daughters preparing for another Mother's Day, she offers the following advice based on how she has not only survived but thrived:

- Expect and accept. Expect for occasions like Mother's Day, birthdays, weddings and births to be



Author L.K. Alexander-Bedford wrote "Straight from the Heart and Spirit of a Mother"
Courtesy Photo

hard. You want your mom to be there. Accept it's okay to cry and miss her. It's normal. Find ways to honor her in those moments.

- Talk to her like she is right there. If you have a favorite photo of your mom, talk to it. Always believe she is watching over you. Tell her how you feel, you miss her and all the wonderful things that you wish she could be a part of.

- Start your own tradition. Don't let the commercials and marketing get to you. Find a way to honor

your mom on Mother's Day. What did she like to do? Do it in her honor. Have fun for her. She would want you to.

- Talk about her. Talking is therapeutic. Share all of the unforgettable moments you had with her with your siblings, spouse, children, friends or other loved ones. They will be happy to celebrate her with you.

- Pray and ask for comfort. Always seek God's comfort. He can bring you a peace that no one else can. Mother's Day is just one day. God is with you every day.

"Straight from the Heart & Spirit of A Mother" is an easy-to-read book of passages offering practical wisdom and insightful advice on timely topics such as faith, love relationships, friendships, societal pressures, marriage and motherhood— all supported by biblical scripture. It is available for \$13.99 in paperback at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and may be ordered at retail bookstores across the country.



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Dunkin' Donuts accepting nominations for Community Hero Award Program

Dunkin' Donuts will honor 10 heroes serving the Greater Baltimore region

Baltimore— Dunkin' Donuts of the Greater Baltimore region announced it is accepting nominations for the sixth annual Dunkin' Donuts Community Hero Award, now through July 1, 2016.

"The Dunkin' Donuts Community Hero Award is a celebration of those who keep our communities running," said Colleen Krygiel, Field Marketing Manager, Dunkin' Brands. The Dunkin' Donuts Community Hero Award gives our loyal guests in the greater Baltimore area a chance to recognize their local heroes who inspire and motivate us everyday."

Dunkin' Donuts will honor heroes selected from nominations submitted by community members. The top 10 heroes from the Greater Baltimore region will receive the Dunkin' Donuts Community Hero Award, a \$75 Dunkin' Donuts gift card and a \$500 prize. To nominate an individual for the Community Hero Award, visit: www.dunkin-heroes.com.

The winners will be selected based on the nominees' contributions to the residents of their local community, the nominees' community-driven activities and accomplishments within their local area, and the creativity and originality of the nomination submission. Nominations must be made for "community heroes" serving the Greater Baltimore region, specifically Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties). All nominees and nominators must be at least 18 or older.

Since 2011, Dunkin' Donuts of the Greater Baltimore region honored 50 extraordinary individuals in the first five years of its Community Hero Program. Those recognized served their communities with purpose and passion in roles ranging from teachers to non-profit activists.

For more information about Dunkin' Donuts Community Hero program or to nominate a local hero, visit: www.dunkinheroes.com.

Volunteers Continue to 'Make Change Happen' on Annual Comcast Cares Day

By Andrea Blackstone

Over 100,000 Comcast NBCUniversal employees, their families, friends and community partners came together to beautify and improve project sites globally, during the end of National Volunteer Month.

On April 30, 2016, approximately 6,000 local volunteers pitched in at more than 50 project sites located in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware to improve their communities as part of the 15th annual Comcast Cares Day. The nation's largest single-day corporate volunteer effort is one of the company's traditions, which has grown from a relatively small day of service in 2001.

Local 2016 Comcast Cares Day projects celebrating Comcast's year-round commitment to service included spring clean-up and beautification at the Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training (MCVET) and building compassion boxes that were filled with items for active duty military women; assembling food boxes at the Maryland Food Bank in Halethorpe; joining children and staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters for bowling and pizza in Baltimore County; helping to landscape and pick up trash at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis; and completing a number of clean-up initiatives at Carroll Park in Baltimore.

Comcast employees and other community groups remained busy mulching orchard trees, landscaping, painting garbage cans, cleaning up trash and debris, and folding brochures to help prepare for the park's busy season.

While at Carroll Park, Mary McLaughlin, regional senior vice president for Comcast Beltway Region explained that Comcast Cares Day started about 15 years ago by Comcast's founder—the late Ralph Roberts. This year marked McLaughlin's ninth year participating in Comcast Cares Day.

"Comcast Cares Day is our signature day of volunteering and we work with our community partners, and in this case, the city of Baltimore Parks & Recs to really help identify places that can use some volunteers to get work done," McLaughlin said, noting that over 500



people showed up to provide assistance at Carroll Park. "I think it definitely brings the community together. It brings our micro community of Comcasters together, but it also brings the larger community together. We're all looking for a way to give back to our communities, so this makes it easy."

McLaughlin also explained that community partners and Comcast's employees who are affiliated with groups often recommend potential project sites where volunteers are greatly needed. Numerous partners have participated in Comcast Cares Day in previous years.

Fran Spero, division chief for Baltimore City's Park Programming, Events and Volunteer Coordination, expressed appreciation for the collective work that was completed by volunteers on the special service day.

"Comcast has been a great partner with us. I guess the last three or four years, their Comcast Cares event has been on park property, so we're very excited that they keep coming back and helping the park system," Spero said. "The timing of this is really great because April is kind of like the opening. People are starting to come out. The weather is warm and so we're able to spruce one of our big parks up to get ready for this."

Carroll Park is over 100 acres that is inclusive of picnic areas, a skate park, playgrounds and ball fields that are utilized by sports teams and individuals. However, Spero added that budgets have



Volunteers cleaned up trash and debris, trimmed trees, placed mulch around trees and painted garbage cans at Carroll Park in Baltimore during the 15th annual Comcast Cares Day on Friday, April 29, 2016 Photos by Andrea Blackstone

been slashed at recreation departments across the country. Thus, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks relies heavily on volunteers to help with any tasks beyond mowing grass and picking up trash.

Volunteers as young as four answered the call to help revitalize Carroll Park on Comcast Cares Day. A preschooler named Issa Walker shoveled mulch and carried it to trees alongside his uncle, Marcus Walker. At least 50 chapter brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., their family members and Sigma R.E.A.C.H (Resources, Engineered to Assist Community Health) participants were giving back to the community together. Sigma R.E.A.C.H is a non-profit sponsored by the fraternity. It

provides youth education, scholarships, youth development programs and mentoring—including through the Sigma Beta Club—within the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Several Sigma chapters with other foundations participated in Comcast Cares Day. Some youth like Issa were able to learn new lessons, while making a difference.

Walker hopes that his nephew will remember participating in his first volunteer activity, so that when Issa is older, giving back in the community will come naturally.

"I think hopefully, he takes something away something from it, which is hard work," Walker said.

Maryland's Largest Historically Black College Named a National Treasure

Nation's largest preservation organization partners with Morgan State University to protect historic buildings on campus

Washington, D.C.— In the latest significant effort towards preserving the rich cultural legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Morgan State University a National Treasure. The National Trust and Morgan State University have partnered to develop a preservation plan that stewards the many historic buildings on campus, while planning wisely for the university's future.

"The National Trust believes Historically Black Colleges and Universities tell an important and often overlooked American story," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "We are proud to partner with Morgan State University—a nationally-recognized innovator and education leader—to demonstrate how the preservation of their remarkable older buildings can be a springboard for growth, rejuvenation and revitalization."

Founded in 1867 as one of the nation's earliest institutions to offer post-secondary education for African Americans and the largest in the state of Maryland, Morgan State University's urban campus has an impressive collection of historic buildings. The University's varied built landscape now features 20 contributing structures—ranging from Classical and Italianate to Modern and Brutalist—eligible for listing on the National Register. Buildings on the campus were designed by pioneering and celebrated black

architects such as Albert Cassell, Hilyard Robinson, Louis Fry, and Leon Bridges.

"We have known of Morgan's significance on the higher education stage for many years and now, as we prepare to celebrate our 150th anniversary, the world will know that, in fact, this university is a national treasure," said David Wilson, president of Morgan State University. "We are very excited and honored by this designation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In many ways, it is recognition of the value we have placed on caring for and preserving the history of the great Morgan State University."

Under the leadership of President David Wilson and Dean Akers of the School of Architecture, the University has made positive strides to preserve portions of the campus, including the restoration of University Chapel, the only building individually listed on the National Register at present. In addition, Morgan State University is home to one of six HBCU accredited architecture programs and the only one actively seeking accreditation in historic preservation.

This designation by the nation's leading preservation organization recognizes Morgan State University's historic significance as an HBCU, and its status as a compelling example of the challenges that colleges across the country face in stewarding their historic buildings while redeveloping their historic campuses.

As a National Treasure, Morgan State joins a growing portfolio of historic sites and marks the second HBCU, along with Howard University in Washington, D.C.,



The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Morgan State University a National Treasure. Buildings on the campus were designed by pioneering and celebrated black architects, including: Albert Cassell; Hilyard Robinson; Louis Fry; and Leon Bridges. (Above) Morgan State University's iconic Holmes Hall and the Academic Quad. Courtesy Photo/Morgan State University

where the National Trust for Historic Preservation is actively working. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's dedicated involvement with America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities dates back to 1998, when HBCUs across the country made the America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. Additionally, the National Trust has worked over the years with

Congress to get Historic Preservation Funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities reauthorized—securing more than \$61 million in the restoration of historic buildings on HBCU campuses.

To learn more about the Morgan State University National Treasure, visit www.savingplaces.org.

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The AACC Dance Company Presents 'Spring Migration'

Performances Include Original Choreography by Dance Company Members

Anne Arundel Community College's dynamic AACC Dance Company will present "Spring Migration" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 6-7, 2016, in the Robert E. Kauffman Theater of the Pascal Center for Performing Arts on AACC's Arnold campus, 101 College Parkway.

Directed by Lynda P. Fitzgerald, coordinator of performing arts – dance, the program includes three works that Fitzgerald has choreographed along with original pieces choreographed by some of the dance company members. Fitzgerald's "No Bones About It," set to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, recently received enthusiastic response from adjudicators and an audience at the American College Dance Association conference at the University of Wyoming. Her second piece, "Play Ball," is set to the music of Hot Butter. She reconstructed a 2006 piece, "Where Were You When I Had Saturday Night Fever?" which is set to the Disco sound of Barry White.

The student pieces include three works by Evelyn Paddy of Centreville, AACC Dance Company president; a new solo and a new group piece by Arrington



The Anne Arundel Community College Dance Company rehearsing "The Hustle," one of the dances to be performed at its "Spring Migration" concert at 8 p.m. May 6 and May 7, 2016 in the Robert E. Kauffman Theater of the Pascal Center for Performing Arts. For tickets, contact the box office at boxoffice@aacc.edu or call: 410-777-2457.

Photo: Rosemary Malecki

Lassiter of Washington, D.C., company vice president; a piece by Adrian Gusky of Davidsonville, company treasurer; and a group hip-hop piece by Rashad Ferguson of Clinton. Other pieces were choreographed by students Amber

Hodak of Severn, Maddie Leo of Crofton, Elda Trombley of Arnold, Tevin Williams of Brooklyn Park and Clare Wood of Edgewater.

Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 for senior citizens, outside students,

groups and AACC employees; and \$7 for AACC students with current ID. To reserve a seat, contact the box office at boxoffice@aacc.edu or 410-777-2457.

Find Your Next Career at AACC

Information Sessions Detail Programs from floral design to welding

Explore opportunities at Anne Arundel Community College to upgrade job skills or change careers at a Job Training Information Session from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 7, in Room 409 of the Glen Burnie Town Center, 101 Crain Highway N., Glen Burnie.

Talk to department representatives about continuing education courses and certificate of completion programs. The programs offer focused career training designed to prepare you for future employment in a reasonable time period. Information on tuition assistance and



registration support also will be available.

Choose from training opportunities in a variety of occupations and industries. They include employment in the hospitality industry from bartending to casino dealers; in the technology field, such as web graphic design or cyber training; in

health care fields that include a refresher course for nurses seeking to re-enter the profession and training to be assisted living managers, yoga instructors, dental and veterinary assistants; and in the arts, such as floral design or photography. AACC also has training in HVAC installation, welding and commercial truck driving.

For information, visit <http://www.aacc.edu/cewd/jobinfosessions.cfm> or call 410-777-2325. About Anne Arundel Community College

Anne Arundel Community College is an award-winning, fully accredited public two-year institution serving approximately 50,000 students each year

Rob's Barber Shop Community Foundation

This nonprofit features projects that provide no-charge grooming services for individuals who cannot afford to attend the barber or beauty salon. Volunteers, minimum age 16 are needed for administrative tasks. Volunteer barbers and hairstylist are also needed to serve homeless and other needy persons in Odenton and surrounding areas. Call Robert Cradle at 410-519-2622 or rcr365@aol.com. Web site: www.RBCF.com.

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Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) requests proposals from a single contractor to provide full service maintenance on (22) passenger elevators and (3) chairlifts for a two-year base agreement with options to extend for three (3) additional one-year periods; assuming satisfactory service and no unreasonable price increases. **Proposals will be accepted until 11:00 a.m. EST on May 31, 2016.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be obtained from the Purchasing office by contacting Schnavia Cook, Purchasing Agent, by e-mail: scook7@aacc.edu.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: AACC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, Title IX, ADA Title 504 compliant institution. For information on AACC's compliance and complaints concerning sexual assault, sexual misconduct, discrimination or harassment, contact the federal compliance officer at 410-777-1239 or Maryland Relay 711.

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Bryan Andrew crests to new heights as radio hit 'Overflow' floats to number 14 on Billboard Gospel Airplay Chart

Los Angeles— Singer Bryan Andrew Wilson's latest radio hit "Overflow (Let Your Spirit)" swam from #17 to #14 on this week's Billboard Gospel Airplay chart. It also makes its debut at #20 on the magazine's Hot Gospel Songs hybrid chart that combines digital sales, streaming and airplay.

"I'm really encouraged by the response and support of gospel radio for the song," said Wilson. "The song came to me during my morning devotions. I was praying for God to bring me a divine overflow and then I ended up praying that same prayer for others and it turned into a melody."

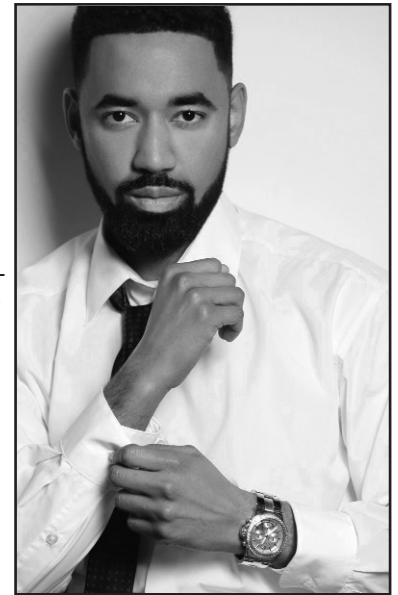
Wilson was recently inspired to start a sunrise prayer meeting on Periscope that has grown to around 10,000 weekly participants.

"I'm totally overwhelmed by God," said Wilson. "People are joining the prayer sessions from around the world— London, Jamaica, all over the USA. Prayer is the best way to set the pace for your day. We come together and pray for each other's needs and the needs of the world and it's just been an incredible experience."

Others who want to pray, can meet on Periscope @IamBryanWilson around 7:15 a.m. each morning or by searching for the hashtag #prayHiscope.

The digital download of "Overflow" goes on sale in the iTunes Store for a discounted price of 69 cents from April 29 through May 12, 2016, at: <http://smar-turl.it/583z7i>.

The song is featured on Wilson's "Overflow" digital maxi-single that includes three versions of the song plus a bluesy, un-plugged live rendition of the 1963 Ben E. King classic "Stand By Me." The set also boasts a colorful, five-page digital booklet that includes "Overflow" lyrics, session credits and photos. Wilson recently taped an interview that will air on "The Donnie McClurkin Show" on May 9th and is set to perform at The Musical Soul Food Fest in Virginia Beach on June 25th.



Bryan Andrew Wilson
Courtesy Photo

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