

# The *Sojourner's* Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

June 17, 2020

## Brothers United Celebrate Fathers' Day!



BU Nation

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# South Toledo Community Rallies in Effort to Save UTMC

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

About 150 South Toledo residents joined elected officials and union leaders on Saturday at the Dana Cancer Center on the campus of the University of Toledo Medical Center to voice their displeasure at the way ProMedica is maneuvering to obtain complete control over UTMC and, perhaps, shut down the facility.

Five years ago, the University of Toledo and ProMedica signed an academic affiliation agreement that enabled ProMedica to begin a systematic relocation of UTMC health personnel away from the public-held campus to the privately-held ProMedica facilities.

One result of this stripping of medical talent, and, according to critics, some of UTMC's top revenue producing departments, has been a downgrade from a thriving academic institution, that also serves as a valued research center as well as a hospital caring for area patients, to a facility that is losing millions of dollars per year – a loss of \$13 million thus far in 2020 – and is on the verge of closing.

Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, State Senator Teresa Fedor, State Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson, Erika White of FitZone and local activist Sean Nestor were some of the speakers on Saturday afternoon.

Fedor noted that the UT Board of Trustees had touted the academic affiliation agreement as an instrument that “would generate millions of dollars for UT – what happened to the millions?”

Fedor assailed ProMedica for the lies she said the health care giant has told over the years to justify the agreement and assailed the UT Board for its lack of oversight and the way it has failed the Ohio taxpaying public.

“How can it be legal to destroy and then manage the competition?” Fedor asked citing the anti-monopoly implications of ProMedica's actions.

“We know that this institution in this community is so vital,” said Hicks-Hudson. “It's a research institution, a teaching institution and people are getting well who come here ... we care about a public facility that we paid for.”

White emphasized the connection between current crises and what it means to have a community health facility that treats all who come in.

“Coronavirus and systemic racism are disproportionately killing people of color – not ‘colored people’ – due to low economic standards, poor living conditions, stress ... we have to go further,” she said. Addressing the health, education and employment benefits of the UTMC, she asked the crowd: “Are you willing to give that away?” She was answered with a resounding “No!” by her audience.

Fedor and her colleagues – District 45 Rep. Lisa Sobecki; District 46 Rep.

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Former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner



Petee Talley and Erika White



State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson



State Senator Teresa Fedor

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UTMC... continued from page 2

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# Justice in Police Act Forum

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Congressional Black Caucus held a public forum on Thursday, June 11 on the 'Justice in Policing Act.' The act focuses on the elimination of police brutality, ending racial profiling and abolishment of qualified immunity. The forum was chaired by Congresswoman Karen Bass (D. CA), who was elected in 2018 to serve as chair of the 55 members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC).

The forum follows a judicial committee hearing that occurred the day prior and was organized into two sets of panelists. The first set of panelists: Connie Rice, co-founder and co-director of the Advancement Project; Darius Bellingier, CEO of Chasing23; Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives Matter; and Raheem DeVaugh, activist and Grammy nominated singer and songwriter discussed the state of policing today.

The second set of panelist: Council Member Jeremiah Ellison of Minneapolis City Council Ward 5; Jumane Williams, City of New York public advocate; Wesley Lowery, Pulitzer Prize winning national correspondent covering law enforcement, race and justice; Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter and founder of Dignity and Power Now discussed reimagining how policing is done.

"We're in a historic moment in our country. The CBC have worked on this issue for decades," said Bass. "The slow torturous murder of George Floyd by a uniformed police officer was an outrageous, tragedy, and embarrassment of our country in front of the whole world. Members of Congress, we have the opportunity in front of us right now, to examine police practices in America and legislate reform to police practices. We can also provide communities with opportunities to examine and reshape policing polices in their neighborhoods."

"I think justice in policing is important for two reasons," said Rice. "We need a national standard of police departments and evoking the 14th Amendment rights of African Americans when state and local power will not. However, there have been changes that improve policing. There are actual investigations and inspector generals now, chokeholds are banned,

and a number of police departments have made substantial progress."

The panel witnesses spoke in reference to The Justice in Policing Act that was introduced by the House of Representatives on June 8. Witnesses shared personal stories during their five-minute opening remarks and in response to Congressional questions. "Even when we capture incidents on camera, there are powerful police unions that will spin the story," said Garza. "Somehow the black person killed themselves, choked themselves, shot themselves, hung themselves, or somehow hurt themselves. We're tired of being gaslighted and bullied into accepting the unacceptable. We have money to put officers in schools but not counselors."

Several members of CBC raised concerns about police training and cited years of alarming police-involved incidents dating back to the civil rights moment. "We have to look at how we recruit officers for these police departments," said Congressman Bennie Thompson (D.MS). "We must look at training, not just one-time training, but on-going training that occurs on an annual basis. These officers should have to qualify mentally just like their firearms. We should also discuss residency requirements, when the residence requirements changed, officers just showing up for work. When community policing went away, things changed."

The witnesses provided real-life examples based off their childhood experiences, opinions on access to basic needs, and police and community relationships.

"The way I was brought up, we didn't talk about government, we saw police as enforcement only, said Bellingier. "I stand with the young people who are in support of defunding police, but I also believe in first responders and public safety. A city budget reflects its values, if a city spends three times more on enforcement than education and supporting those folks who feel attacked, that speaks volumes. It's not about abolishing police but creating collaboration with police."

One of the first panelists during the second discussion was an elected official from Minneapolis. He cited four examples of African-American men who died from an officer involved shooting and shared his frustration over lack of progress. "As an elected official, we have the obligation to keep all of our people safe. Not all victims are black, but we are disproportionately detained, and those officers have no consequences," said Councilman Ellison.

In addition to the councilmen and community activities, the second panel discussion included a journalist that began researching police involve



Congresswoman Karen Bass

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# Interpretation of Basic Covid-19 Data for Lucas County, Ohio

By Dr. Houston Johnson, MD, and Dr. Sammie Giles, MD

Institute for Innovation and Transformation

An Affiliate of The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio

The Institute for Innovation and Transformation is a "Think Tank" borne out of the need to begin to address systemic issues facing communities of color. This "Institute" - operating under the banner of The African American Legacy Project - was established to study, make recommendations, report on and ultimately serve as the African American community's "NorthStar."

Below Dr. Houston Johnson and Dr. Sammie Giles - two of the institute's founding members - discuss the impact of COVID - 19 on the African-American community and Lucas County as a whole.

Covid-19 is a new disease for the medical profession and consequently there is no existing pool of experts with a wealth of experience treating it, nor is there a known medical cure for it.

It was determined early on during the emergence of this disease that it is viral in origin and that the virus belongs to a group of viruses called coronaviruses. The medical profession has had longstanding experiences dealing with some coronaviruses.

Growing experiences and expanding observations have established that this new disease has many features in common with familiar diseases (e.g. the flu and AIDS) but has been shockingly more aggressive and virulent than any prior experiences that we have witnessed. More specifically, there has been more death as a consequence of infection.

It's not surprising that the clinical/medical symptoms that occur and declare the possible presence of this new disease are very similar to the 14 or 15 symptoms that are found with other viruses causing respiratory illness with warnings ad include: 1) cough, 2) shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, 3) fever, 4) chills, 5) muscle pain, 6) sore throat, 7) new loss of taste or smell, 8) nausea, 9) vomiting, 10) diarrhea, 11) bluish lips or face, 12) pressure in chest, 13) new confusion, 14) inability to stay awake, and 15) blood clots.

Symptoms are reported to appear two to 14 days after exposure and observations have established spread is mainly from person to person between people who are in close contact that are producing respiratory droplets by coughing, sneezing, kissing, talking or singing.

Though there is no cure for the disease, there has been in place for decades preventive measures that effectively reduce the spread of infectious diseases that spread by droplets which is a common mechanism of spreading pathogens from infectious bodies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has had in place for decades recommendations for preventing and controlling diseases that spread by droplets. The recommendations include restricting the infected individual to private quarters and requiring those in a hospi-

talized environment to wear a mask if they leave their private quarters. Anyone entering their private space is encouraged to wear a facemask if a distance of three to six feet cannot be maintained between individuals; and hand washing coming into and leaving the restricted space is required.

Inherent in these recommendations is an understanding that physical distance (i.e. three to six feet) and a physical barrier (a face mask) are important implementations in optimal protection from person to person spread. Use of these approaches applies whether the pathogens are known or unknown.

Early observations also established that the virulence and aggressiveness of the COVID-19 disease was most prominently seen in the elderly (i.e. individuals greater than or equal to 60-65 years of age) in the general population. More circumspect examination further dissected the details of those succumbing to the disease and found individuals who had pre-existing complicated health histories with chronic health problems are most susceptible to the disease. Among the chronic conditions influencing infection susceptibility are: 1) obesity, 2) diabetes, 3) renal disease, 4) heart disease, 5) high blood pressure, 6) cancers, 7) mental health problems.

Though the preexisting conditions enumerated affect any individual in the population who is more likely to die from the disease, there are subgroups of the general population that are disproportionately impacted by the incidence and severity of these chronic health problems.

This is specially applicable to African Americans who according to a publication generated by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, documents that among African Americans: 1) 48 percent of adults are obese, 2) 80 percent are more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, 3) 2.4 times more likely to begin treatment for end stage renal disease, 4) 1.7 times more likely to be hospitalized,

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Dr. Sam Giles

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*COVID-19 Data... continued from page 5*

5) 30 percent of men and 60 percent of women are more likely to have high blood pressure, 6) men are 1.3 times more likely to have new cases of colorectal cancer, 7) women are 40 percent more likely to die of breast cancer, and 8) more likely to have psychological distress; 50 percent more likely to receive mental health counseling or treatment.

Should African Americans become infected with the novel coronavirus and are in the susceptible age groups, on the surface it seems that they would also be at a higher risk of dying from the disease. It was recently reported that The Foundation for AIDS Research indicated that 22 percent of US counties are disproportionately black, and these counties have accounted for 52 percent of COVID-19 cases and 58 percent of COVID-19 deaths. In April a CDC report indicated 33 percent of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 were black although they made up just 18 percent of the community being evaluated.

The disproportionate adversity seen in the black community seems clear for some of these observations; however, when we are trying to sort out the truth of how ethnicity is being reflected in epidemiological situations it is important to not become distracted by superficial difference. Consequently, a deep dive into an analysis of the numbers that we hear so much about is imperative.

So, we get a clearer understanding when we digest some of the information being disseminated via news media regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects in the Lucas County, Ohio area. A primary source of the medical data presented in print is usually the Coronavirus Research Center of The Center for Systems Sciences and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University ([coronavirus.jhu.edu](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu)) and "Explore the Data" website of The World Health Organization ([covid19.who.int](https://covid19.who.int)); and sources for population data are the US Census Bureau and the United Nations Population Division which data are used by [Worldometer.info](https://www.worldometer.info) online. We often see cumulative (total) confirmed cases of the disease for specific regions and also cumulative (total) confirmed deaths therein. Cases and deaths occurring daily—non-cumulative data—are also presented. Neither the cumulative nor daily information is given regularly on a per capita basis that enables one to compare results for large populated countries or cities to smaller regions. In addition, viral reproduction number statistics are being discussed for the USA, Ohio, and other regions. To complicate matters further, all of the statistics are changing daily if not hourly forcing the reader to digest information very quickly or it's lost for the day.

We believe the cases and deaths are more palatable when normalized by population size, which makes more sense for our purpose to analyze what was going on for a given day. Though not perfect, the basic findings follow for comparisons of Lucas County to Ohio, New York, USA, and nine selected global regions on May 7, 2020.

We start with population data. On this first target date, the inhabitants of the earth were approximately 7.7847 billion people. The population of the USA was 330.8 million, New York 19.7 million, Ohio 11.8 million, Spain 46.8, Russia 145.9 million, Japan 126.5 million, South Africa

59.2 million, New Zealand 4.8, China 1.4393 billion, Nigeria 206.1 million, Taiwan 23.8 million, and Lucas County 431 thousand.

Next we look at the cumulative cases followed by deaths both in thousands (taken from "Covid-19 Alert: Coronavirus disease," Wikipedia online): the World had 3,417 confirmed cases and 240 confirmed deaths; the USA 1,130 cases and 65.6 deaths; New York 338 and 21.8; Ohio 25.06 and 1.46; Spain 220.3 and 26.1; Russia 114 and 1.17; Japan 16.1 and 0.7; South Africa 12.7 and 0.24; New Zealand 1 and 0.02; China 84 and 4.64; Nigeria 3.1 and 0.10; Taiwan 0.44 and 0.006; and Lucas County 1.7 and 0.15. (The Lucas County data was taken from "Coronavirus Information," the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department's website [lucascountyhealth.com](https://lucascountyhealth.com); corresponding state data is available from "State of Ohio Covid-19 Dashboard," [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).) Only super geniuses can decipher the above sets of numbers quickly. The rest of us need a plan to help us understand better what is going on.

We divide the cases and deaths by respective population in order to clarify the information. We get the following per 100 thousand inhabitants in ordered pairs: World (43.8, 3.08); USA (341.4, 19.82); New York (1716, 110.6); Ohio (214.9, 12.3); Spain (470.6, 55.6); Russia (78.1, 0.80); Japan (12.73, 0.55); South Africa (21.4, 0.40); New Zealand (20.8, 0.40); China (5.84, 0.32); Nigeria (1.53, 0.05), Taiwan (1.84, 0.025) and Lucas County (393.4, 34.8).

Nigeria has the lowest per capita cases and New York the highest. Now we can compare results. We see the countries are arranged in the order of COVID-19 deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants. Moreover, the United States and Spain are in deep trouble; and New York is so far different it appears to be an outlier—as if it were intentionally attacked.

Ohio has done better than the USA, but Lucas County has not. For what its worth, the nine ordered pairs for countries have a correlation coefficient of 0.945 indicating a strong straight-line relationship between normalized cases and deaths; that is,  $y = -2.093 + 0.101x$ , where  $y$  is per capita deaths and  $x$  is per capita cases indicating that when the number of confirmed cases increases the number of deaths also increases. (So, if you are around an infected person, quarantining yourself for two weeks may be ill advised. Instead get tested and get help as soon as possible, if tested positive.)

We divide the deaths by cases to get at a set of death rates, i.e. mortality information. The results expressed in percentages are: World 7.03, USA 5.81, New York 6.45, Ohio 5.81, Spain 11.8, Russia 1.03, Japan 4.32, South Africa 1.87, New Zealand 1.90, China 5.2, Nigeria 3.3, Taiwan 1.37, and Lucas County 8.82! Among the countries selected, though Taiwan has the lowest number of deaths, Russia has the lowest death rate. Lucas County with almost the highest death rate needs to identify more infected people early and take better care of them.

If you are an average USA citizen in Russia and contract the disease, you should stay in Russia where you would stand a better chance of surviving the illness. Likewise if you are trapped in New Zealand or South Africa, you may wish to seriously consider remaining away from home.

A final important statistic is the effective reproduction number (Re). This tells us how many people one contagious person infects. An Re greater than one implies an explosive situation, i.e., an exponentially increasing number of infected people. An Re equal one is an unstable borderline situation. An Re less than one (but greater than zero) means the number of infected persons is decreasing. An Re equal to zero means there is no spreading of the infection. The effective reproduction number for each state is available online at [rt.live](https://rt.live).

On May 7, there was no state with an Re of zero. However, four states had values in the  $0 < Re \leq 0.75$  range: Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, and Vermont. Nine states were in the range  $0.75 < Re \leq 0.80$ : Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and South Carolina. All other states were borderline or explosive.

We can use the above approach to inform our readiness to participate in the new economy coming. To facilitate this, a second target date, May 26, 2020, was chosen. Table 1 below shows for May 26 population, cases per capita, deaths per capita, and death rates. The correlation coefficient



Dr. Houston Johnson



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# Randall Fuller Ordered Reinstated by Ohio Civil Rights Commission

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

On June 4, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission entered a Letter of Determination in the case of Randall Fuller vs. City of Toledo, Fire & Rescue Department and found that the information gathered in the investigation "does support a recommendation that [the City] unlawfully discriminated against [Fuller]."

The Commission has determined that the City must reinstate Fuller, offer back pay, start civil rights training for employees and provide "an environment free of discrimination" for employees and thus has presented a proposal to bring an end to a dispute that began on February 27, 2019.

On that date, Randall Fuller, an African American, began as a Fire-Trainee with the Fire & Rescue's Firefighter Academy. Due to his disability - of which the Department was fully aware, Fuller failed a CPR test and a Rule Book test on March 5 and 6, respectively.

Fuller was dismissed on May 3, 2019 and sought representation for attorney Norman Abood and Earl Murry, a retired professor, both of whom have represented numerous individuals in such matters.

The Commission's determination has been presented to both parties for their agreement and an out-of court settlement, a prospect that Abood does not feel is likely. "The City has been so unresponsive, I don't hold

any likelihood of success," he said. "And if we can't reach an agreement, we will be filing suit."

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Earl Murry

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# Pathway Inc. Brothers United Fatherhood Program... Promotes FATHERhood

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach  
Special to The Truth

*"Pathway Inc. Brothers United Program believes that children are important. Every day we support and advocate for fathers because when children have involved fathers, the whole community thrives."*

This is the one-minute message that fuels the work of the Brothers United Fatherhood Program. Since July 2016, this program has been thriving in the community and redirecting the narrative around fathers and the role they play in their children's lives.

Brothers United is funded by the Office of Family Assistance Administrations for Children and Families. Robert Jordan, interim chief executive officer, expresses the importance of the program.



Avis Files

*"Pathway has been fortunate to have been the recipient of this five-year grant in the amount of \$8,278,000 for the Brothers United Fatherhood program. Over the past four and a half years, the program has served 1,751 fathers who are in the lives of 4,941 children. This program supports and advocates for fathers and is the only comprehensive fatherhood program of its kind in Northwest Ohio specializing in working with young fathers age 20-24."*

Avis Files, director of Family and Supportive Services, realized the vision for this program over 10 years ago when she worked in Toledo in the area of healthy marriage.

*"From participating in the healthy marriage program and reviewing data, it was obvious to me that Toledo needed to have a Responsible Fatherhood program. Working in conjunction with about eight other millennials, we took a chance to apply for this grant to bring a fatherhood program to Toledo that would help the community and build a strong foundation for fathers and families."*

There is no doubt about the impact Brothers United has had in so many fathers' lives. Pathway Inc. Brothers United Fatherhood Program completed a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) among fathers who live in the 10 worst neighborhoods (by crime), who are drug addicted, who have mental health issues and who have dropped out of school. This focus enabled the staff to touch a wide range of fathers who had previously experienced a lot of trauma.

Because there were no data in Toledo about young fathers and, in particular, about African-American fathers, Brothers United felt the need to show and to prove that the work they can do with young fathers could impact the lives of not only themselves, but also their co-parents and their children as well. The program adopted a curriculum to teach fathers about healthy relationships/marriages, workplace survival skills, and economic stability.

One of the key areas that the program has had impact has been around attitudes to decrease domestic violence. Data gathered from internal feedback by participants shows that the curriculum changed father's attitudes as well as their beliefs and behaviors.

- "I learned that any form of abuse would get you nowhere."
- "I learned ways to prevent domestic violence."
- "I learned how to de-escalate a situation that can cause domestic violence."

Many participants noted that this, along with learning about communication and



All Dads - Pathway Inc Brothers United Fatherhood Program would like to wish all Lucas County Fathers a Happy Fathers Day!

conflict resolution skills, new opportunities for economic mobility, healthy marriage and its value to fathers and financial planning all allowed them to feel confident in managing their lives and relationships better.

Brothers United can hang their hats on the fact that they are able to change the language of fathers' lives in Lucas County. Two ways they were able to do that is teaching new language skills and by completing an Impact Evaluation of various aspects of the program.

*"One of the ways that we have been able to improve co-parenting relationships is simply by using the term co-parent and not referring to the child's mother as baby momma and teaching our fathers to not have anyone refer to them as baby daddy," said Avis Files. "We believe that those terms are dismissive, and rather than helping build our community, they aid in tearing it down."*

During this time of racial unrest, Pathway Inc. Brothers United Program is pleased to say that their data shows that they've served at least 75 percent African-Americans.

*"I'm especially proud of those who do the work for Brothers United," said Avis Files. "The staff makes many sacrifices to make sure they touch fathers in the community and do all we can to engage them and continue to engage them until we see change. This has not been an easy task, but one that has caused staff to work evenings and weekends. As we always say, this is not a regular 9-5 job. It is my hope that the data that comes from Brothers United will be taken to build further programming around fathers and families in Lucas County."*

Brothers United is also proud of all their community partners. They express that the work they do could not be done alone. The program is pleased that their community partners work with them to help change the lives of fathers.

Pathway Inc. Brothers United Fatherhood Coalition include the following community partners: Lucas County Children's Services, Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Services, Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Services; Division of Child Support, Volunteers of America, Bethany House, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Toledo Public Schools, Toledo Public Schools Head Start, Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, RFS Behavioral Health, TASC of Northwest Ohio, Toledo Lucas County Health Department, Toledo Lucas County Getting to 1, Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority, Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio Neighborhood Health Association

Other Community Partners: Lucas County Adult Probation, Lucas County Work Release Department and The Pregnancy Center

LMHA appreciates the long standing partnership we have with Pathway

... continued on page 11



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# Stepping Up: Meet Michael Armstrong

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach  
Special to The Truth

*"I was number 687694. I had just been released from prison after doing four years. I was misguided before I joined BU."*

Michael Armstrong was under a lot of peer pressure before Brothers United. Describing it as "trying to keep up with the Jones," he got caught up in the wrong things, which eventually led to his time in jail.

He was 19 years old when he became a father. Being locked up affected his relationship with his children. Armstrong could rarely find anyone to bring his kids to visit him, so there was a lot of distance that was created in their relationships. Upon his release, he faced difficulties navigating the relationship with his kids and everyone getting used to him being home.

Armstrong found out about Brothers United through some people he knew and decided to join to change his life around.

*"Right when I joined, I got a job. I was only getting two to three hours of sleep, but wanted to complete the group."*

Armstrong expressed that Brothers United gave him a brotherhood and helped him become more focused in life. Through the program, he learned how to think about others, control his reactions, and be there for his kids no matter what was going on.

Life after Brothers United has been good. Mr. Armstrong has been at his job for over three years and works as the back-up leader for every shift.



He also started his own business and sells dinners through his non-profit "Thankful Lane Hibachi." He is currently working on a book and a movie about his life. His relationship with his kids is good and he gets to see them all without any problems.

*"Brothers United gave me a plan to set my goals and achieve them. It was like a step ladder. It helped me think about my actions and how they affect me and my children."*

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or [www.pathwaytoledo.org](http://www.pathwaytoledo.org)

# Becoming a Better Man: Meet Matthew Hester

By Mariah Hicks, Brothers United Coach  
Special to The Truth

*"Growing up, I was in foster care, I got adopted out. I'm not about to let that happen to my babies. So I'm being the man I'm supposed to be and being in my babies' lives."*

Matthew Hester had it rough before he got involved with Brothers United. He had his first child at the age of 18, yet without a job and without direction, he initially faced many challenges along his journey of fatherhood.

*"I didn't get my first job until I was about 25. It was rough, me staying with her mom, my mom, family members. I used to have to panhandle for diapers. It was rough at first."*

Though having a child so young was tough, Hester learned that he had a responsibility and he had to step up to become a better man.

Hester heard about Brothers United through a cousin who attended the program. He called and set up an entrance appointment, and then joined the program because there were more opportunities for fathers to grow.



... continued on page 11



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# Social Security Questions and Answers

By Erin Thompson, Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH  
Guest Column

**Question:**

I'm reaching my full retirement age and thinking about retiring early next year. When is the best time of year to apply for Social Security benefits?

**Answer:**

You can apply as early as four months before when you want your monthly benefits to begin. To apply, just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire). Applying online for retirement benefits from the convenience of your home or office is secure and can take as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy!

**Question:**

My wife and I live in Minnesota, but plan to spend the winter in New Mexico. My wife will turn 62 while we are down south. Can she apply for benefits in New Mexico or do we have to wait until we get back home to apply for retirement at our local Social Security office?

**Answer:**

These days, you don't even have to be near a Social Security office to apply for benefits. Regardless of where you and your wife are living, you can apply for retirement benefits online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire). It's so easy to do and it can take as little as 15 minutes to complete and submit the application. If she prefers, your wife can file a retirement benefit application at any Social Security office—including the one closest to you in Minnesota, New Mexico, or wherever you happen to be.

**Question:**

I plan to retire soon. When are Social Security benefits paid?

**Answer:**

Social Security benefits are paid each month. Generally, new retirees receive their benefits on either the second, third, or fourth Wednesday of each month, depending on the day in the month the retiree was born. If you receive benefits as a spouse, your benefit payment date will be determined by your spouse's birth date.

Here's a chart showing how your monthly payment date is determined:

Day of the Month You Were Born	Social Security Benefits Paid On
1st-10th	Second Wednesday
11th-20th	Third Wednesday
21st-31st	Fourth Wednesday

For a calendar showing actual payment dates, see the *Schedule of Social Security Benefit Payments* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:**

I'm planning to retire next year. I served in the Navy back in the 1960s and need to make sure I get credit for my military service. What do I need to do?

**Answer:**

You don't need to do anything to apply for the special credit for your military service—it is added automatically. For service between 1957 and 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record at the time you apply for Social Security benefits. For service between 1968 and 2001, those extra military service credits have already been added to your record. So you can rest assured that we have you covered. Read our online publication, *Military Service and Social Security*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html). Then when the time comes to apply for retirement, you can do it conveniently and easily at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline)

## Meals Provided to All Children

The Village on Adams, a 501c3 Corporation located at 1109 Adams Street, Suite 200, Toledo, OH 43604, is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows, Monday through Friday unless otherwise noted:

Whitmer YMCA 5511 Whitmer Drive (Lunch 12:30a – 1:30p)

During the coronavirus pandemic, meals at the following sites are being served as "grab 'n go" with breakfast and lunch available for pickup be-

... continued on page 11

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*Meals... continued from page 10*

tween 11:00a and 1:00p.

East YMCA 2960 Pickle Rd  
 Wolf Creek YMCA 2100 South Holland-Sylvania Rd., Maumee  
 Wayman Palmer YMCA, 2053 North 14th Street  
 Early Bird Basketball, 977 Dorr Street at Roosevelt Park  
 Start High School 2010 Tremainsville Road  
 Waite High School, 3301 Morrison Drive  
 Bowsler High School 2200 Arlington Avenue  
 Woodward Athletics 701 E. Central Avenue

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...continued on page 12

*Matthew Hester... continued from page 9*

When he joined the program, Hester had a job, but he soon realized BU could help him with so much more.

Hester expressed that seeing other male parents that were in their children's and having a group that supported men who were all going through some of the same things was beneficial to his role as a father.

Brothers United taught him how to co-parent better and understand how the relationship with the co-parent affects the children. Mr. Hester said he now co-parents well.

He shared that life after BU has been great. He's been working at McDonald's going on two years now and continues to flourish as a father.

*"Brothers United really helped me be a better man for my babies. The life I grew up in, I just knew that once I had a family, I was gone be there for them regardless."*

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or [www.pathwaytoledo.org](http://www.pathwaytoledo.org)

*Randall Fuller... continued from page 7*

The heart of the matter is that the City has in place a process for trainees to request accommodation for such disability issues – an accommodation that Fuller sought. Nevertheless, after having struggled with the test, Fuller's representatives uncovered documents that showed that others in the class – Caucasians all and without disabilities, also failed the same test, by similar scores, yet had their grades changed, in some case, or were allowed to re-take the tests, in other cases.

"Seven individuals had test scores changed so they could move up over Randall Fuller," said Murry last week at a press conference. "There is ongoing racism in the Toledo Fire Department and it needs to stop."

The firing of Fuller is part of a series of dismissals of black candidates in recent years during their time in the Firefighter Academy, a number of which have been challenged by Earl Murry. "In the last three classes, all the terminations have been African Americans, except for one Latino," said Murry.

Major Smith III was terminated on June 12, 2018 for his failure "to perform tasks in a manner which assured he would fail and, at a minimum, required him to overcome artificial obstacles not required of any other trainee fireman," Murray noted several months ago.

Sierra Adebisi was fired on August 23, 2019, as she was set to graduate for what was termed "overall unacceptable performance."

Both Smith and Adebisi have appealed their dismissals.

*Pathway Inc... continued from page 9*

Inc. and in particular the Brothers United Fatherhood Program. Brothers United deepens the relationship with father and child and creates a positive relationship with parents and promotes economic stability for the family and for the community. – Coleena Ali, vice president of Resident Services and Pathway Inc. Board Member

Not only do their partners feel that this program is important, but so do the participants:

*"I felt blessed at all times. Y'all came and got me, and I felt comfortable. I felt like I was at home. I got structure through the rules. I came home positive and motivated. It made me wake up and not wanna leave my family. I was thinking about just being alone, but BU made me see that my family was the most important thing in the world."* - Mr. Larena

*"My life turned around. It's better. I can say that BU is a big part of my life right now. They taught me the kids are one of the most important things, taught me I need to be around for the kids, show them affection, what to do and what not to do around them because they watch everything."* - Mr. Fox

*"BU helped me to be more of a standup guy. It made me more in touch with myself and the roles I play in my children's lives and family's life."* - Mr. Boyd

*"We are grateful for the work we have done," said Avis Files. "We have been able to diversify funding and add other projects to support the work with Fathers. It is important to remember that Fathers play a very vital and essential role in the lives of their children and in the community."*

If you are interested in joining The Brothers United Program or have someone you want to refer : Call us at (419) 279-6297 or [www.pathwaytoledo.org](http://www.pathwaytoledo.org)

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<sup>2</sup>Property must be located in a census tract within the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, and Wood. Actual amount applied at closing.

# Title: How Our Community Will Be Counted in the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is underway! Most households across the country received an invitation to respond to in the mail and census takers are dropping off invitations and paper questionnaires at many homes in our community.

This occurs more often in communities like ours because not everyone receives mail at their home. Right now, the Census Bureau has restarted dropping off questionnaires in the majority of rural areas, who do not receive mail at home. If you have not recently received a questionnaire, expect to receive one soon.

You can respond by completing and mailing back the paper questionnaire or you can use the Census ID from the invitation to respond online at 2020census.gov or by calling 1-844-330-2020.

So far, 65.9 percent of Ohio households, 61.9 percent of Lucas

...continued on page 13

### Meals... continued from page 11

call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
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### Police Act Forum... continued from page 4

shootings since the Eric Garner incident. He testified that there isn't a national requirement to report officer involved shootings and over the course of six years there are almost 1,000 incidents of officer involved shooting deaths. "The data represents that African Americans are disappointingly killed more than other populations, not just killed by police but unarmed killed by police," explained Lowery.

The proposed legislation would grant power to the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division to issue subpoenas to police departments to investigate bias, provide grants to state attorneys general to create an independent process to investigate misconduct or excessive use of force by police forces, establish a federal registry of police misconduct complaints and disciplinary actions, enhance accountability for police officers who commit misconduct, require federal uniformed police officers to have body-worn cameras, require marked federal police vehicles to be equipped with dashboard cameras.

The legislation would also require state and local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding to ensure the use of body-worn and dashboard cameras, restrict the transfer of military equipment to police, require state and local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding to adopt anti-discrimination policies and training programs, prohibit federal police officers from using chokeholds or other carotid holds, prohibit the issuance of no-knock warrants, change the threshold for the permissible use of force by federal law enforcement officers, and mandate that federal officers use deadly force only as a last resort.

### COVID-19 Data... continued from page 6

is lower 0.876 for this data. The average number of cases per capita increased from 106.0 to 150.8 and the average per capita deaths increased from 8.66 to 10.75 over the same 19-day period. Lucas County death rate increased from 8.82 to 9.41.

The novel coronavirus is spreading in a more scattered fashion in the selected countries. Lucas County looks more and more like Spain. Hawaii has a May 26 effective virus reproduction rate of 0.59, Alaska 0.70, Montana 0.71, Vermont 0.71; New York has 0.80, and Ohio has a rate of 0.94 which is much closer to the 1.00 borderline. Lucas County has far more per capita cases and deaths than Ohio, and Lucas County cases are increasing faster than Ohio cases. Should Lucas County reopen fully? It is questionable.

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\*\*Based on national survey results shared online at [www.hartford.com/aarp](http://www.hartford.com/aarp) as of April 2019.  
\*\*\*The gift offer is good for first time respondents who provide a valid email address. Respondents will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All respondents in IL, IA, MA and RI who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in CA, HI, MD, MI, NY, RI, VA, WA and WI. For more information on the gift offer, please visit [www.hartford.com/aarp](http://www.hartford.com/aarp). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Gifts not available if you are age 50 or older, since you're insured through the Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be insured in any US jurisdiction where you are not licensed to drive, you and your other customers (others of your vehicle must state consent), cannot operate the vehicle together or operating an automobile not applicable in WA, have no conditions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through a broker/representative. Benefit currently not available in HI, MA, MI, NY, RI, VA, and WI.  
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# To Me, He Was Just Dad: Stories of Growing Up with Famous Fathers by Joshua David Stein

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

When you were growing up, your Dad was called many different names.

His boss sometimes used his last one. He was "Mister" to the kid next door, and "Buddy" to the guy at the gas station; Mom called him one thing, Grandma called him another. And yet, as in the new book *To Me, He Was Just Dad* by Joshua David Stein, he seemed to like your choice the best.

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Growing up, you thought your Daddy was the fastest, the strongest, the smartest man alive. If something needed fixing or making, he was your guy. Everybody knew your Pops – and what if that was because he was famous?

Joshua David Stein and his colleagues at Fatherly asked that question of more than three dozen children of notable dads whose names were in the news, sometimes daily for a while. People saw their fathers' public faces – but what were those Dads like in private?

Habiba Alcindor remembers spending summers with her dad, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, and trying "to play... basketball with him, but he wouldn't let us get the ball."

Samuel L. Jackson's daughter says Jackson is "a big nerd," while Garry Trudeau's son recalls the awe he felt when inside his father's studio. Evel Knievel's son was warned never to be a chip off the ol' block, while Bruce Lee's son says that his father has been absent for years but is still a guiding force.

Brandon Jenner's "Dad remained distant for much of my life." Pablo Escobar's son admits that his father was "100 percent responsible for his crimes," but he was also "a wonderful father." Lucion Gyax writes of his dad, the game-maker who held many jobs in order to take care of his family. Erin Davis remembers the honor of playing onstage with his father, Miles, and being treated as a peer.

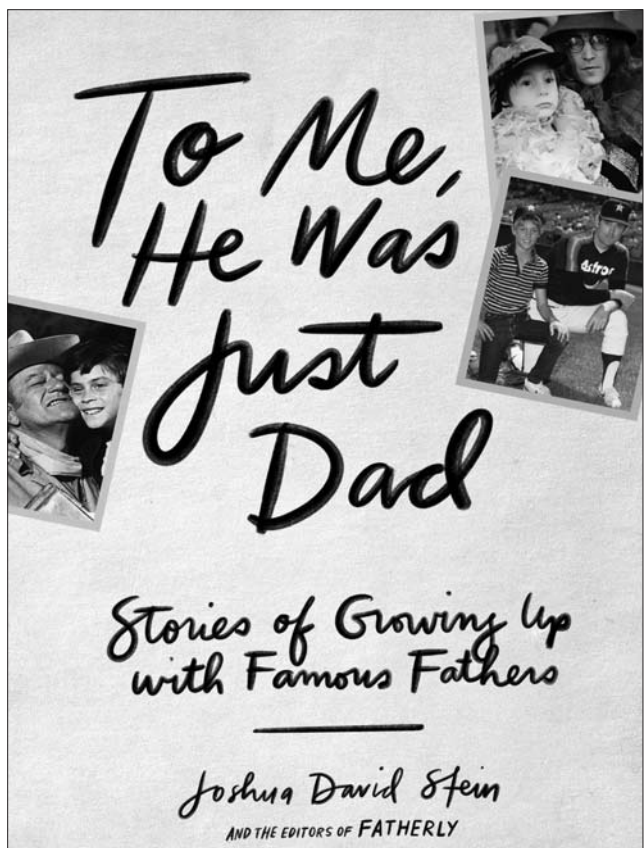
And Jim Sullivan writes of a mystery solved and a shocking, heart-breaking truth: the father he never knew was also a Father.

There's a lot to like about *To Me, He Was Just Dad*, starting with the length of its offerings: the tales in here are each about three pages long and ultra-to-the-point.

This makes them very no-nonsense and that's great for readers who don't want fluff. Just FYI, though: this wide variety of succinctly-told tales stands out, in part, because author Joshua David Stein includes essays that are less-than-complimentary. That should tell you firmly that this book is not a particularly sunny paean to fatherhood; instead, it's

sometimes emotionally raw, funny, sometimes a bit on the competitive side, and sometimes an awful lot sad. Even so, those warts absolutely belong in this book, as an underscore, to balance it, and to keep it from becoming needlessly saccharine.

Don't misunderstand: it's still a sweet book; still a great gift for kids over 25 or Dads of any age; still a quick, enjoyable read. It's just a little sharp sometimes, and that's a good thing. *To Me, He Was Just Dad* is great for Pops, Papa, Daddy, or whatever you call him.



## 2020 Census... continued from page 12

County households, and 55.49 percent of Toledo households have responded but we need to count everyone. Your prompt reply is important to our community. Census statistics help lawmakers decide how to fund important public programs, including several that are important to our area like Rural Rental Assistance Payments, Rural Education, Rural Business Enterprise Grants, and aid for farms, hospitals and roads.

When you receive your 2020 Census invitation, please respond as soon as you can to help shape your future and the future of our community!

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**Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday**

When: Every 4th Sunday  
Time: 11:00 am  
Where: Crusaders for Christ Church  
910 Woodbelle Rd.  
Toledo, Ohio

Emmanuel Tolano Reynolds  
Bishop Joseph Mitchell Jr. Pastor  
Ernestine Lakota Marshall, First Lady

Crusaders for Christ Church • www.crusadersforchristchurch.org

Attention Seniors:  
House(s) For Rent.  
Two Bedroom  
Call (419) 708-2340

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ADS POSTED ONLINE AT:  
www.TheTruthToledo.com

**"THE GATHERING PLACE"**

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419.320.8571 or 419.322.4462  
Hours Open Thursday - Sunday @ 7 PM

Wedding Receptions, Book Signings, Birthday Celebrations, Special Celebrations, and much more!

Annual Membership available and receive complimentary Bookings Church and Organizational Bookings welcomed  
Free Wi-Fi

**BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

June 17, 2020

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## ASSISTANT MANAGER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Lucas County Children Services is seeking an Asst. Mgr. of Human Resources and to assist in creating a work environment that promotes personal growth and excellence of LCCS employees. Additional requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). No Phone Calls Please. EOE valuing diversity.

## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD OF LUCAS COUNTY

### FINANCE MANAGER

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the positions of Finance Manger until position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select Finance Manager from the list to read more or apply.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

## ABUNDANT LIFE OF PERRYSBURG ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is accepting applications for its subsidized apartment communities. Abundant Life #1 offers independent living for senior citizens 62 years of age or older and individuals 55 or older with a physical impairment. Abundant Life #2 is a supportive living complex for people 62 and older. To apply individuals must meet the age and annual income requirement of no more than \$25,200.00 for one person or \$28,800.00 for two people. We are located in the Three Meadows subdivision near the Manor of Perrysburg. Our garden style apartments offer an open floor plan, one bedroom, secured buildings with private patios and individually controlled heat and air conditioning. We have a bus that transports all residents to area grocery stores and monthly outings. We offer exercise, worship services and a variety of opportunities for our active and not so active seniors. Please call (419)874-4371 to find out more about our fabulous communities and our availability for apartments. You may also visit us on the web at [abundantlifeperrysburg.org](http://abundantlifeperrysburg.org).



## PARK TECHNICIAN

Metroparks Toledo has an opening for a full time Park Technician to provide maintenance of grounds, facilities and equipment at assigned park.

HS degree or equivalent required. Entry level experience in general turf, grounds and building maintenance. Valid driver's license required. Work schedule may include evenings, weekends and holidays. 40 hrs/week. \$13.50/hr. Full benefits. Go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) to view detailed position description, job requirements and to apply. EOE

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)



## NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER OR REGISTERED NURSE

**Care Manager-** with one (1) year of paid clinical experience in home and community based service. To conduct care management, and assessments for individuals in need of community based long-term care. Benefit package. Knowledge of community resources and reliable transportation required.

Reliable transportation, successfully passing criminal background check (BCI/FBI), drug/alcohol screening, valid driver's license, insurance and the ability to satisfactorily undergo a Motor Vehicle Record check (MVR) on at least an annual basis

Excellent Benefits. EEO/AAP, Bilingual and minority applicants encouraged to apply

**Deadline for application: Until position filled**

Or

[jobs@areaofficeonaging.com](mailto:jobs@areaofficeonaging.com)

*This description is intended to indicate the kind of tasks and level of work difficulty required of the position. The title of this job shall not be construed as declaring the specific duties and responsibilities of the position. This position description and/or job vacancy notice is not intended to limit or in any way modify the rights of any supervisor to assign, direct, and control the work of employees under supervision. The use of this particular expression or illustration describing duties shall not be held to exclude other duties not mentioned.*

Submit resumes to:  
Samuel H. Hancock  
Ed.D.

Vice President of  
Human Resources  
Area Office on Aging  
of NW Ohio, Inc.  
2155 Arlington Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43609



## CLINICAL DIRECTOR

**Status:** Independent Contractor

**Date:** May 28, 2020

### ABOUT US:

Center of Hope Family Services, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1997. Our mission is to improve the life outcomes of adults, children, and families in urban settings.

### SUMMARY:

The Clinical Director is an independent contractor who will collaborate with the Executive Director, the Management Team and the Clinical Services Team. The Clinical Director is responsible for designing and implementing client services that address Center of Hope Family Services' mission and are provided in a manner consistent with Agency vision and values.

### ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Recommends a system of clinical programming for achieving budget goals and assuring quality of care by adhering to relevant best practices and State mandated requirements.
2. Ensures that clinical decisions are made in the best interest of the client.

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The Clinical Director must have a master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, psychology, or other closely related human service field.
  2. Must be licensed to practice in the State of Ohio in psychology, social work or professional counseling.
  3. Must have demonstrated extensive experience in the treatment and care of individuals who have mental health, substance abuse or trauma related issues and/or children who have experienced these issues or child abuse / neglect.
  4. They must have prior supervisory experience.
- To apply, please email your resume to [jobs@cofhs.org](mailto:jobs@cofhs.org).**



Ohio | Commission on Fatherhood



#FATHERhood

# A Special Day for Fathers

Virtual Event via Zoom & Facebook Live

June 20, 2020

11:00 am-12:30 pm



Please join us for  
a conversation about #FATHERhood

RSVP by June 12, 2020  
by phone 419-250-5574

Download the Zoom App at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us)  
and use ID: 853 3102 4587

The first 50 fathers to register will  
receive lunch courtesy of:



**TOPICS:**

- Fathers and Health
- Fathers and Child Support
- Fathers and Emotional Health
- Fathers and Education
- Fathers and Child Welfare
- Fathers and Jobs