RENOWNED AUTHOR OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO ATTEND FELLOWSHIP OPEN GOLF EVENT


Her voluminous work served as the basis for formal recognition of the achievements of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and led directly to the discovery of the “Top Gun” trophy. Thanks to her dedicated efforts, the trophy is now on permanent display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

“I am thrilled to bring the story of our beloved Tuskegee Airmen to Milwaukee and the Fellowship Open,” stated Ms. Orr. “Although this has been a painstaking labor of love over many years, the contribution these brave men have made to the history and dignity of America must be recognized, documented and preserved. I gladly welcome the chance to continue their great legacy.”

The Fellowship Open generates a broad learning experience for youth through corporate, community and civic collaborations. Young people are provided personal and professional development through educational and vocational opportunities. Overwhelming corporate and community support for the event has provided a wide spectrum of experiences for these youngsters in Technology, Science, the Arts, Business and more.

“From the very beginning the Fellowship Open has worked to provide real-life exposure to meaningful experiences and influential trailblazers like Zellie Rainey Orr,” said John W. Daniels, Jr., Chairman, 2017 Fellowship Open.

“Achievement at the highest level goes hand-in-hand with the mindset we hope to instill in the youth we serve through these vibrant relationships and connections. We are extremely honored to have Ms. Orr join us on this special occasion which salutes such notable triumphant achievement.”

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OPEN

The Fellowship Open was founded in the year 2000 by a group of business and civic leaders focused on promoting and inspiring young people to pursue careers in business, and dedicated to fostering support for diversity and inclusion in
The MCJ at 41: Reflecting on the past, examining the present, projecting the future!

A look at this outstanding cadre of Honorees speaks to their relevance, their commitment to Milwaukee and Milwaukee Community Journal. MCJ is Milwaukee. Milwaukee is other cities to which they will travel, and the families of Milwaukee today and into the next fifty years. Their unique technological skills make them citizens of the world, their preponderance of working mothers and often single mothers, makes them very independent in thinking and selections in jobs, communities in which they will reside, the schools their children will attend and their marriages if they opt to participate in marriage as an institution. Most of all, as their profiles affirm, they know who they are and have opted to give and share their talents and treasure with those coming behind them.

We thank each Honoree, each sponsor, each committee member and each student for their role in making this book possible. It is a tribute to Milwaukee, the MCJ’s forty one years, and most of all the future of Milwaukee, and in their determination to make a difference.

Throughout these years, Milwaukee Community Journal has reigned an objective of being a stable communications’ vehicle for the inner city of Milwaukee, particularly the African American community.”

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Master of Ceremonies

Larry Waters

Larry Waters is the Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Opportunity Funding Corporation, a Washington, DC based division of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

In September 2013, he retired as the Senior Director of Community Commerce and Partnerships for MillerCoors after a 34-year career with the company.

Working out of the Chicago headquarters offices, Waters was responsible for the development of various community strategies and initiatives that aligned with the business objectives of MillerCoors.

Waters has served as a member of leading civic and business related organizations, boards and committees. He is a member of the board of directors for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and 100 Black Men of Greater Milwaukee.

He is also the Wisconsin NAACP State Conference Economic Development Chair and a member of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Chairman’s Council.

Old School Fashions and Millennial Dressing

Fashion Show Spoof

Cassandra McShepard

The anniversary jazz brunch will have some fun to go along with the magic with a spoof on Old School fashions and Millennial dressing.

The show is coordinated by Cassandra McShepard and Beverly Kern.

Reverend Justin and Courtney Lester

Crescendo to the Dr. Thomas Scholarship Fund as a Freshman, Reverend Lester quickly showed outstanding academic prowess, and it was in one of the annual scholarship events that he met Courtney Marie Jones. Jones began as a freshman, attending Fisk University, studying Business Administration and Sociology, as an undergraduate.

The two sat side by side on the dais, year after year, though few knew the couple were beginning to date.

Over the years, attendees at the Jazz Brunch, and administrators of the fund noticed, with strong approval, blossoming scholastic growth. So when they sought post graduate continuing studies, with funds from the Ernestine O’Bee bequest, Rev. Lester’s continuation at Marquette University and Courtney’s pursuit of her Masters Degree in Social Work at Washington University, in St. Louis where they were applauded. Their budding romance was never disclosed.

Rev. Justin Lester continued his advanced studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, where he led the Black Seminarians of the college. He helped with the National Baptist Convention and graduated in 2015 with a Masters in Divinity.

Later, we received an invitation to the wedding of these academic stalwarts and we appended another strong union that illuminates our motto...."we seed success." On May 25, 2017, the two became three with the birth of their son.

Reverend Lester will challenge and motivate just about everyone. He will also inspire us to seek our best selves as the fulfillment of creation, and our pre-ordained purpose.

We are excited to hear this outstanding Milwaukee of Milwaukee origin speak to a new model for a new Milwaukee!
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FELLOWSHIP OPEN

The Fellowship Open has grown beyond a golf tournament and is involved in impacting the lives of youngsters throughout the community. Not only has it provided more than $3.5 million in direct contributions to more than 90 youth organizations, it has raised or provided millions of additional dollars for scholarships and professional development affecting scores of young people in this area.

The event has also recognized some of the most legendary figures associated with Wisconsin. Past honorees include Henry Aaron, Frank Robinson, Willie McCovey, Junior Mickey Mantle, Bob Dandridge, and others who have contributed to Wisconsin sports.

The 2017 event will honor former Milwaukee Buck Bob Dandridge and former WE Energies Executive Thelma Sias respectively with the Legends and Community Service Awards. Dandridge is not only a multiple NBA All-Star but also a trusted advisor to the Bucks organization.

Sias, a civic leader who has impacted the community in so many different ways, represents the best values in our community. Their achievements are remarkable.

2017 AWARDEES

The Fellowship Open is particularly interested in supporting organizations that have measurable impact.

This year’s recipients include the Wisconsin Black Historical Society, Southeast Center, Black Arts MKE, Inc., and One Accord Foundation. In addition, the Fellowship Open supports the MKE Fellows and the youth organizations of the Milwaukee Lancers.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The annual charity golf event will take place Friday, August 18.

THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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St. Ann Center & Ald. Stamper Host Free North Side Business Incubator

People who dream of starting their own businesses or expanding the one they have they will be better prepared to take that step after attending the North Side Business Incubator.

The free event will be held Thursday, Aug. 31, at St. Ann Center’s Bucyrus Campus, 2450 W. North Ave. Planned by Ald. Russell W. Stamper II, St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care and the North Avenue Marketplace Business Improvement District (BID), the incubator will provide resources and advice to people looking to start or expand their own business in the 15th Aldermanic District (53205, 53206 and 53210 ZIP codes).

Aspiring entrepreneurs are asked to fill out an online questionnaire about their idea at StAnnCenter.org/biz. The deadline for submitting questionnaires is Wednesday, Aug. 16.

20 participants will be selected from the pool of entries to participate in the event, but every person who submits the survey will receive a 20% on business training classes by Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation.

“This is a chance to bring your business idea directly to the people who can make it a reality,” says John Jansen, vice president of Grants, Community & Capital Development.

All participants will have a chance to meet one-on-one with Stamper, business coaches and investors to discuss their ideas. They will also receive step-by-step guidance to help write or enhance a business plan and the opportunity to network with city officials, mentors and other business partners.

“We call this a business incubator because we are committing to a full year of providing everyone with ongoing support throughout their journey to success,” Jansen added.

This is the third incubator held at St. Ann Center’s Bucyrus Campus which opened in the 15th District two years ago.

Participants from past incubators will talk about how the incubator made a difference in their businesses.

“The incubator helped us launch our business by allowing us to tap into the resources and advice to people looking to start or expand their own business in the 15th Aldermanic District,” said Sharon Adams, who participated in the 2015 incubator.

The event will also feature the opportunity to network with the people who can make it a reality, says John Jansen, vice president of Grants, Community & Capital Development.

For more information about the business incubator, contact John Jansen at (414) 977-5031 or jjansen@stanncenter.org.
Congratulations to the Fellowship Open, its Sponsors, and its Honorary Chairs on successfully promoting urban youth programs and involvement in business. The Fellowship Open’s mission is to recognize volunteers and organizations that have positive impacts on our community’s youth. In the past 17 years, the Fellowship Open has raised more than $1.5 million for youth organizations, involving more than 80 organizations throughout Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued support!

2017 Honorary Committee Members - John W. Daniels, Jr., Chairman; Joe L. Kennedy, Founder

Brandon Adams
Stephen Adams
James Allen
Kevin Anderson
Mike Anderson
Bevan Baker
Justin Baker
Patrick Baldwin
Emile Banks
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Mark Thomas
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George Thompson
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Roderick Tyson
Dee Tyus
Mark Wade
Willie Wade
Kenneth Walker
Christopher E. Ware
Larry Waters
Gregory M. Wesley
Andrew Williams
Roger Williams
Ronald Williamson
Wyman Winston
Robert Wynn
Billy Young
CHRISTOPHER’S PROJECT

Christopher Pipkins and his jazz quartet, Christopher’s Project, will again grace the stage for the 41st anniversary Brunch at the Italian Conference Center. Since we’ve started the jazz brunch, this popular local group has been the signature musical highlight of our event.

Christopher’s Project has quite an impressive resume. They’ve opened for the legendary Temptations and the Supremes, for starters. But you have more likely seen them at a festival around town or a corporate function, as one of Milwaukee’s go-to R&B, soul and dance bands. Christopher’s project are repeat performers at a festival around town or a corporate function, as one of Milwaukee’s go-to R&B, soul and dance bands.

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SALUTATIONS

WHERAS, The City of Milwaukee proudly joins community members in celebrating the 41st Annual Milwaukee Community Journal’s Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship Brunch on Sunday, August 6, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, The Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship supports academic excellence by promoting access to higher education, helping deserving students who aspire to succeed and empowering youth to become our future leaders in the community; and,

WHEREAS, The Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship has awarded nearly $900,000 in academic stipends to students who excel in the classroom with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Milwaukee congratulates the recipients of the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence and wishes them all many more years of success;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOM BARRETT, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby proclaim, Sunday, August 6, 2017, to be

DR. TERENCE N. THOMAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DAY

throughout the City of Milwaukee.

We did not come to fear the future... We came here to shape it.

The NAACP Milwaukee Branch salutes the Milwaukee Community Journal on 41 yrs. of excellence.

— Fred Royal
President
NAACP Milwaukee Branch

“We view ourselves as an arm of the Civil Rights Movement... We need those hard-hitting issues because there’s no other paper touching on them for the Black community.”

— Quote by MCJ Associate Publisher and Editor Emeritus Mikel Holt in an article titled, “At an Angle” printed in the January 2016 edition of Milwaukee Magazine
“Forty one years, in the inner city, as a Black business that employs, is in itself a major accomplishment. And continuous communication that makes MCJ the largest circulated newspaper in the State of Wisconsin is unprecedented and historically iconic.”

Publisher Patricia O’Flynn Pattillo

“This year, MCJ focuses on Millennials and GenXer’s who are changing the look and the importance of Milwaukee today and into the next fifty years. A look at this outstanding cadre of Honorees speaks to their relevance, their commitment to Milwaukee and their determination to make a difference.”

Pattillo
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**The Honorees: Deshea Agee & Joaquin Altoro**

Family and faith have always been at the heart of Deshea Agee’s commitment to the community and the reason why he has stayed in Milwaukee. "I grew up in a single parent household on 148th and Barkley. My mother, Diane Wade, provided a good family environment for me and my siblings (Dwain, Micaela, and Akeleg). As the oldest, I assumed the role of ‘father figure’ in our household and saw myself as a ‘go-to’ person in my family. One reason I remained in Milwaukee was to be a positive male influence in my brother’s life. I wanted to be there to help get him through high school. Although my guidance worked to a point, his interest in fashion and basketball took first seat at academics. "I remember recommending books for him to read. He didn’t take my advice as serious as he does now that he’s older,” said Agee. “I am happy we have a better relationship now.”

Agee shared that his father died when he was young, but had no shortage of role models growing up. He recounts that his mentors included older cousins, including former Alderman Willie Wade and Mark Wade. “My grandfather and uncles were my role models—even to this day. I am grateful for the ‘village’ that surrounded and encouraged me. First, there was always my mother and siblings. It means a lot to me that I’ve been able to share my thoughts and dreams and get encouragement from them. These days, my wife, Sharron, and my children, Nathan, Doshan, Jr. and my daughter, Shaylyn, complete my village and serve as my chess/taught,” he said.

Agee attended Marquette University High School and graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, with a focus on marketing and management. During college, he worked at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for several years in newspaper production sales. His first job out of college was in sales at 1290 WMC’s radio station, where he worked for five years before finding his niche in the real estate industry. “I have to give a lot of credit for my current success and the path I took to Mark Eppli, who brought the Association (continued on page 14)

In the early 1990s, Joaquin Altoro’s grandfather came to Milwaukee to provide a better life for his wife and 17 children. While it wasn’t easy, he was able to give that life for his family, after finding employment with Pius & Vogel Tannery. One of his children—Altoro’s mother—eventually became a Milwaukee Public School elementary teacher. Altoro’s grandfather never forgot his humble beginnings and put on determination, his dream for a better life and a strong work ethic to Altoro’s mother. “My mother was tough. She pushed the boundaries, made go outside my comfort zone, and insisted I do things—even when I didn’t want to,” said Altoro. Especially during the time that Altoro grew up in Milwaukee, there was an unspoken tradition that if you grew up on Milwaukee’s Southside, you went to school there, worked there, and stayed on the Southside forever. However, growing up in the mid-1990s when citywide busing was initiated, Altoro’s mother decided he would get a chance to go back north to attend the Milwaukee City College and Rufus King High School.

“In retrospect, it was the best thing she could have done for me, but back then I basically went kicking and screaming. I was afraid of what I perceived to be Black gangs. There wasn’t only one other Latino attending the school. As it turned out, moving from the Southside to the north side enabled me to expand my horizons and my network. I became acquainted with and friends with individuals who didn’t look like me, many of whom are now the movers and shakers in Milwaukee,” said Altoro. After high school, while attending college and working part-time, he discovered that he had a unique talent he proved to be quite lucrative.

**Brewers Community Foundation is Doing Big Things for Everyday People. Like Giving College Scholarships to Hard-Working Kids, Constructing Homes for Deserving Families, Providing Dental Care for Children, and Building & Refurbishing Neighborhood Baseball Fields. With the Help of Our Dedicated Fans, Players, and Community Leaders, We’re Able to Make an Impact Not Only in Milwaukee, But Across the State. When a Whole Lot of People Share Their Time, Talent and Financial Resources, There’s No End to What We Can Accomplish.**

**When We All Play In the Same Team Everyone Wins.**

**BREWERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS DOING BIG THINGS FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE. LIKE GIVING COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO HARD-WORKING KIDS, CONSTRUCTING HOMES FOR DESERVING FAMILIES, PROVIDING DENTAL CARE FOR CHILDREN, AND BUILDING & REFURBISHING NEIGHBORHOOD BASEBALL FIELDS. WITH THE HELP OF OUR DEDICATED FANS, PLAYERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, WE’RE ABLE TO MAKE AN IMPACT NOT ONLY IN MILWAUKEE, BUT ACROSS THE STATE. WHEN A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE SHARE THEIR TIME, TALENT AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THERE’S NO END TO WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH.**

**Join the Team that goes to bat for kids & families in Wisconsin. FIND OUT MORE AT BREWERSCOM.COM/BFC**

**Jamila Benson** spent the earlier part of her life avoiding walking in her parent’s footsteps—simply because they were ‘larger than life’ to her and wanted to make her own way, on her own terms. Her father, Claybon Benson, is a photographer and retired from WTMJ-TV as a correspondent and commentator for the city of Milwaukee, Black Historical Society/Museum (WWBHM) and her mother formerly operated a modeling agency and now runs a special events company.

“Both my parents had successful careers and they were always busy. Growing up, I felt I was in the shadow of my sisters, so I decided to be my own person. Now, I am doing some of those same things that I said I would never do and I’m enjoying them. I’m doing more video editing—which I get from my father—and I’m okay with it. I finally see myself building for the future and coming into my own,” she said.

A Milwaukee native, Benson attended schools in Shorewood until high school, when her parents enrolled her at Mequon High School.

“Instead of attending Mequon, I didn’t really connect with the people the way that I should have. I was living a little Black kid that talked and acted like a Caucasian kid. At Mequon, I received the best education that I could’ve have, and I learned the value of education and responsibility. Brother Bob helped shape me and gave me a foundation, that led me to this day. Almost 150 students started out in the same class and—by senior year—you’d be lucky if 42 of us graduated. We became family. Some of my classmates and I remain friends to this day, and I still commutate with some of my teachers.”

“As an only child, I admitted that I was spoiled. We traveled a lot, throughout the country and abroad, and I learned things that helped shape me. My parents also taught me a lot of cultural things. The WWBHM opened when I was 13 and there a little later, so I’ve always been around it. “My mom is my best friend, but my dad has been the biggest influence in my life,” she said.

Benson displayed an early interest in art and design, so her father encouraged her by connecting her with Attic Designs, a small graphic design business owned by Benson Design Group.

“During the summer, I worked with Attic Design. This gave me the keys to her business because it was aformal business. She also gave me all the trust in the world and taught me everything I need to know, so every summer for four years, I worked with her. Once I get in front of a computer, the sky was the limit. By my sophomore year in (continued on page 14)**
Antoine Carter

By happenstance, Antoine Carter’s resolve to be an obedient son helped him find his niche in life and he has never looked back.

“I am an only child, raised by a single mother until she married when I was 12 years old. My mother was working with her neighbors and Urban Groundworks to transform a vacant lot into green space when she made us help. I started out volunteering, then Groundworks made me a crew leader and eventually a site supervisor, so I literally learned this organization from the ground up,” laughed Camp.

That was in 2011. Those days, Antoine is the Center Director of Community Development and Outreach at Groundworks Milwaukee and manages Milwaukee Urban Gardens—their premier program. He is responsible for building and maintaining the overall capacity of the community gardens, serves as a liaison between the City of Milwaukee to negotiate land leases and city hydrants, and identifies resources and neighborhoods to leverage the projects.

Carter was born in Milwaukee, attended Spanish immersion School and graduated from Riverdale High School. Afterwards, he attended Bryant & Stratton and Cardinal Stritch University, where he earned a degree in Business Special Management. Carter also has a hidden skill that serves him well in his career—he is bilingual.

“Growing up bilingual was pretty cool, especially because of the work I do. And, when I’m working in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, they are a lot more forgiving if I mess up the language,” he said.

While he played sports in school, Carter never played on any team, even though his career goal was to one day work in the ‘front office’ as the general manager of a sports team. Now, that career is unique and unexpected, but he still likes to use sport terminology to explain what he does.

“My background is not in urban agriculture, but I’m able to explain what I do in the sport’s analytics because it’s easier for people to understand. Essentially, I’m the ‘manager’ of the league. We have about 95 community gardens in Milwaukee now, but one garden group may not know what another is doing, even though they may be doing something awesome nearby. My overall role is to help each garden group into one team or subcommittee, by encouraging the gardeners to see and interact with others so they can collaborate on projects. I’m basically creating community garden conferences.

It is important to realize that many people working in their neighborhoods who are passionate about what they are doing. Each of the 95 community gardens has its own rules and groups. Some groups work with primarily with jellies, others are working to increase the merits of intergenerational gardening—younger and older people working together. Some groups sell to farmers’ markets, and others provide free food to anyone in the community who needs it. Each community garden is unique and we work with them to help them achieve their goals—like baseball games,” he said.

In addition to helping residents turn vacant green spaces into community centers, Carter works to help people working in their neighborhoods who are passionate about what they are doing. Each of the 95 community gardens has its own rules and groups. Some groups work with primarily with jellies, others are working to increase the merits of intergenerational gardening—younger and older people working together. Some groups sell to farmers’ markets, and others provide free food to anyone in the community who needs it. Each community garden is unique and we work with them to help them achieve their goals—like baseball games,” he said.

“Instead of hiring contractors, the young people actually go into the neighbor- hoods with shovels, wheelbarrows and what the neighborhood needs to plant. They work with them to create systems to make gardening easier. We also have master gardeners come out to provide their expertise. Sometimes they go out to a neighborhood with conceived notions, but after the experience, they become enlightened. In many ways, the programs are builders of health among understandings among neighbors, youth and outsiders,” Carter said.

In role as ‘commissioner’ of the ‘league,’ Carter has to be a great listener to understand the needs of the neighborhood.

“Rather than tell residents what they want or need, we listen to them and work with them to determine their needs. We then plan our programs based on these needs,” he said.

Arleta Cobb Slaughter

Arleta Cobb Slaughter discovered her passion for working with young people quite by accident. Initially, she wanted to pursue a degree in electrical engineering, but opted to attend a college that was more affordable, so she didn’t offer that curriculum track.

“Space Ub-Patho didn’t really offer a degree in that area, and since I had already excelled in commu- nications, I chose that as my major. I was accepted to other colleges—in Ala- bama and Florida—but they were too costly. Since my mother told me I had to go to college, I decided to attend UB-Patho and earned my bache- lor’s degree in communications. I had total computer science as an option, but that didn’t really fit my personality,” she said.

Slaughter is a Milwaukee native and a first-generation college graduate. While her parents divorced when she was young, she enjoys a close relationship with her parents and her brother—brother. Joanett and Cobb, and youngest, Sharnaze Cikeman.

Prior to enrolling in college, Slaughter attended Riverside University High School. Since receiving her bachelor’s degree, she has also earned a certification in conflict resolution and analysis, and is pursuing her master’s degree in human personnel administration from Concordia University. Simultaneously, she is atten- ding Robinson and Lloyd Career Training Institute to obtain her real estate li- cense.

“I didn’t have the same access. My friends in the central city didn’t know about it. And, when I’m working in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, they are a lot more forgiving if I mess up the language,” she said.

She passed on a love for community to her children. Her son, Antoine, is a Milwaukee native and a first-generation college graduate—but not without some struggle.

“I attended UW-Milwaukee and for the first couple of years, I really strug- gled. I didn’t know about shopping classes when my grades wasn’t good and I didn’t have the proper guidance. I didn’t even know what I wanted to major in. It wasn’t until I sat down with my adviser—Mr. McDonald—that things started to change. He was the first person to question me about my major.

“I discovered that I had a natural gift for teaching. In addition, I took several professional development classes to enhance my skills because I wanted to learn to become more effective,” said Slaughter.

Slaughter also discovered she naturally started a wedding and event planning business. After high school, while attending college and working part-time, she discovered that she had a unique talent that proved to be quite lucrative.

“Slaughter’s first job was working as a teaching assistant at Learning Enterprise High School, and that ultimately translated to a career of working with youth in a variety of education scenarios.

I found my first position to be very challenging and it was at the Learn- ing Enterprise Center for the only teaching experience I had involved various lead roles. I held as an undergraduate student. My interaction with youth in two college-programs helped prepare me to deal with students, but not at all stu- dents. This position was tough for someone just out of college, to act as mentor to students to whom who you work in fields that are interested in and to help develop their career path. It was tough for me, graduating from so many years ago to a lead field of communications. The job only last a year I could get out of teaching,” she said.

“Both my parents had successful careers and they were always busy. Growth and Development and Outreach at Groundworks Milwaukee and manages Milwau- kee’s north side and attended public schools until her parents enrolled her in the Open Enrollment program when she was in fourth grade. She attended elementary and middle school in Fox Point and went on to Neosel High School in Kenosha, where she graduated.

“Antoinette Milwaukee will go, and for the first couple of years, I really strug- gled. I didn’t know about shopping classes when my grades wasn’t good and I didn’t have the proper guidance. I didn’t even know what I wanted to major in. It wasn’t until I sat down with my adviser–Mr. McDonald—that things started to change. He was the first person to question me about my major.

After high school, while attending college and working part-time, she discovered that she had a unique talent that proved to be quite lucrative.

Slaughter’s first job was working as a teaching assistant at Learning Enterprise High School, and that ultimately translated to a career of working with youth in a variety of education scenarios.

“Both my parents had successful careers and they were always busy. Development and Outreach at Groundworks Milwaukee and manages Milwaukee Urban Gardens—their premier program. He is responsible for building and maintaining the overall capacity of the community gardens, serves as a liaison between the City of Milwaukee to negotiate land leases and city hydrants, and identifies resources and neighborhoods to leverage the projects.

Carter was born in Milwaukee and attended Spanish immersion School and graduated from Riverdale High School. Afterwards, he attended Bryant & Stratton and Cardinal Stritch University, where he earned a degree in Business Special Management. Carter also has a hidden skill that serves him well in his career—he is bilingual.

“Growing up bilingual was pretty cool, especially because of the work I do. And, when I’m working in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, they are a lot more forgiving if I mess up the language,” he said.

While he played sports in school, Carter never played on any team, even though his career goal was to one day work in the ‘front office’ as the general manager of a sports team. Now, that career is unique and unexpected, but he still likes to use sport terminology to explain what he does.

“My background is not in urban agriculture, but I’m able to explain what I do in the sport’s analytics because it’s easier for people to understand. Essentially, I’m the ‘manager’ of the league. We have about 95 community gardens in Milwaukee now, but one garden group may not know what another is doing, even though they may be doing something awesome nearby. My overall role is to help each garden group into one team or subcommittee, by encouraging the gardeners to see and interact with others so they can collaborate on projects. I’m basically creating community garden conferences.

It is important to realize that many people working in their neighborhoods who are passionate about what they are doing. Each of the 95 community gardens has its own rules and groups. Some groups work with primarily with jellies, others are working to increase the merits of intergenerational gardening—younger and older people working together. Some groups sell to farmers’ markets, and others provide free food to anyone in the community who needs it. Each community garden is unique and we work with them to help them achieve their goals—like baseball games,” he said.

In addition to helping residents turn vacant green spaces into community kitchens, Carter works to help people working in their neighborhoods who are passionate about what they are doing. Each of the 95 community gardens has its own rules and groups. Some groups work with primarily with jellies, others are working to increase the merits of intergenerational gardening—younger and older people working together. Some groups sell to farmers’ markets, and others provide free food to anyone in the community who needs it. Each community garden is unique and we work with them to help them achieve their goals—like baseball games,” he said.

“Instead of hiring contractors, the young people actually go into the neighbor- hoods with shovels, wheelbarrows and what the neighborhood needs to plant. They work with them to create systems to make gardening easier. We also have master gardeners come out to provide their expertise. Sometimes they go out to a neighborhood with conceived notions, but after the experience, they become enlightened. In many ways, the programs are builders of health among understandings among neighbors, youth and outsiders,” Carter said.

In role as ‘commissioner’ of the ‘league,’ Carter has to be a great listener to understand the needs of the neighborhood.

“Rather than tell residents what they want or need, we listen to them and work with them to determine their needs. We then plan our programs based on these needs,” he said.

Congratulations to the Milwaukee Community Journal for 41 years of service and for being the pulse of the community! We commend and applaud you for this valuable service!
The page you are reading is part of the Milwaukee Community Journal's 41st Anniversary Special Edition from August 2, 2017. The content includes articles and features that highlight various aspects of life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The text provides insights into the experiences, wisdom, and achievements of individuals like Tyra (MC Farland) Eiland and Lauren (Bridgeman) Fields-Bowers, among others. The articles delve into personal stories, career highlights, and community involvement, offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of Milwaukee's history and culture.
As a child, Ashley Hines felt a strong interest in health and wellness.

Over the years, this interest grew and, today, Ashley is making a positive impact in the community and the healthcare field.

She is the Diversity and Inclusion Manager at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and the first full-time employee hired to help establish MCW’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

“I am absolutely not doing what I thought I'd be doing in my career. My original plan was to become a physician,” she said. “I was drawn by my interest in human and health sciences.”

At that time, she did not understand the full range of opportunities in health and I have now discovered that I have strengths in administration and institutional development. The chance to impact the culture of healthcare is truly meaningful for me,” she said.

Dr. Lyah Holmes describes herself as a “bridge builder.” She is a Milwaukee native who has never left Milwaukee. She admits that, while she travels a lot, all her schooling and employment has occurred in the city.

Holmes graduated from the highly acclaimed Rufus King High School’s International Baccalaureate Program, having already earned college credits.

She went on to attend Cardinal Stritch University where she majored in biology, with a minor in chemistry, and is a pre-med student. During her undergrad, she also studied abroad in Costa Rica, learning about sustainable development and organic farming.

She also has a master’s degree and in the first person in her family to earn a doctoral degree. She currently has a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from Marquette University and has expressed an interest in pursuing a PhD in Epidemiology.

“It was always important to me to excel academically, but it wasn’t until my dad—a who is an instructor at MCW—suggested that I speak with a counselor about the institution’s nursing program that I realized my career change,” she said.

The counselor gave her some ideas about the different opportunities that she could pursue while holding degrees in nursing and education. Meeting with the counselor really helped me on my path to that career change,” she said.

Holmes is one of a handful of Black nurse practitioners in Milwaukee and the Metro-Milwaukee Area. For the past two years she has been a part of the statewide report, “Being Black is Not a Risk Factor: Statistics and Psychological and Socioeconomic Issues, but They are Struggling with Complex Issues, that Complicate matters.”

Holmes is the first person in her family to earn a doctoral degree. She credits her father and her “squad” of strong women in her life for helping her achieve the academic goals that she set for herself.

“The women in my family—my mother, aunt and grandmother—are all driven and independent women who really encouraged me to pursue my dreams and excel academically. In fact, my aunt was my second grade teacher and I credit her with putting me on the trajectory to become a good student. I also have to acknowledge my dad who helped me push into a career path that I hadn’t considered before,” she said.

These days Holmes is realizing her dreams of giving back to the community by working at MCW.

“I grew up near the MCW clinic on King Drive and it was always my goal to give back and help create some of the health disparities in our community. I’m delighted to be able to do that,” she said.

Jennifer L. Johnson

Johnson participates in a couple sports but excelled in academics in high school. She was a cheerleader and fun track. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and was very involved in high school. Johnson participated in Maran College (now Maran University). In Fond du Lac, WI. I was preparing to attend the University of Dayton but at the last minute Maran offered much more scholarship money, so my mother encouraged me to go there instead.”

“My college experience wasn’t the typical college experience people talk about. Fond du Lac was a small town, and there were barely any black people attending school there. I didn’t have many friends and didn’t participate in the party scene. I fell in love with psychology following a course I took in high school. I made that my major and graduated from Maran with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 2005,” she said.

After graduating, Johnson returned to Milwaukee and worked for the family’s business, South Star, Inc. Then she worked for an insurance and bonding agency, but discovered that she didn’t have the personality for it. “I obtained a Master’s degree in Human Resources, with a strong interest in health and wellness.”

Johnson obtained an insurance license but only had one client, which was an old friend from high school and college,” she laughed.

When she was younger, Johnson had toyed with the idea of becoming an attorney, and feeling stifled in her career while working in the insurance and bonding agency, she decided to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). After taking the test and applied to ten schools, she was only accepted into one—a law school that was unaccredited.

“Not only was the cost of attending a law school in Milwaukee be a terrible and I took the LSAT again, but this time I was determined to be better prepared. I took an LSAT preparation class and I worked harder on my personal statement.”

Johnson says her LSAT score around, her LSAT score was better and she only applied to law schools in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. “The day before I completed my LSAT I was accepted into four or five of the law schools I applied to, and decided to attend Indiana University (Robert H. McKinney School of Law),” she said.

Law school was the worst I did not enjoy it. It was humbling. I went from getting good grades with little effort, to working until the wee hours until the wee hours. (continued on page 17)
Kaylin Jones grew up in the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center—literally. She started attending the Center as a toddler, eventually became a volunteer in her senior year, and joined staff in her mid-20s.

Jones is proof positive that where my friends would be today, had they addressed their possible need for committed suicide. She also said that some friends struggled with sexuality and labeled, persecuted, mistreated, misdiagnosed and possibly fail to prosper as a result.

She is an award-winning, published poet in her own right.

Parrish Spence, who is an award-winning, published poet in her own right.

After high school, Spence studied briefly at Bradley University, Morehouse College and received his degree in medical school at the University of Illinois—Chicago and then completed a Family Medicine internship.

For nearly a decade Ald. Rainey addressed quality of life issues concerning housing, senior care, transportation, economic development, veterans, environment, taxes, energy and youth. He witnessed firsthand the sacrifices residents make to better Milwaukee.

Aldman Chantia Lewis

Ald. Chantia Lewis is a parent of four children. When her youngest child was born, she decided to become a Community Health Navigator, a position she has held for the past three years.

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Bianca Williams

Bianca Williams is living proof that you can escape your environment and that you don’t have to be a victim of your circumstances. Her tenure is raw and honest, but more importantly, it resonates with those she serves with and for which she cares.

Her story didn’t come from the halls of academia, but the school of hard knocks and, thankfully, through the end has been written yet, we see her light shining brightly and we have every reason to believe that the ending will be victorious.

Williams grew up on Milwaukee’s north side, watching her parents go to work every day and still struggling to make ends meet and take care of her siblings and her. “I know that I didn’t want the life her. She was also selected by then-Governor-James Doyle, to serve on the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council.

“Get out of the house as soon as possible, it’s the necessary step in the right direction,” said Williams.

Jr.

For a while, Sykes was stricken by an illness that left her homebound and relatively inactive. “I could not do all the things I used to do,” she said. “I couldn’t see my nieces and nephews, play with them, listen to the sounds of my nieces and nephews, play with them, listen to the sounds of my nieces and nephews.”

She became a mother at the age of 17.

“I was the first indication you get about LaToya Sykes,” said Wilson. “I was the first indication you get about LaToya Sykes,” said Wilson.

After graduating from Thomas Edison High School, Williams worked as a dancer for eight years.

She then became a teen mom at the age of 17. Wilson became a foster care and child advocate—a platform that has taken her all over the country (and the world), advocating for children in foster care and those aging out of the system.

As a 22-year-old single mother, Wilson was selected as one of ten young people nationwide to serve a three-month internship to become a foster care facilitator. She traveled across the country speaking and advocating on behalf of issues related to the foster care system.

Wilson credits her role model, Chela Lamence, for much of her academic success.

“Chela was my first independent living worker when I aged out of foster care. She convinced me that I could go to college, something I never even thought about as an option,” said Wilson.

She really inspired me to take advantage of opportunities that I didn’t even know were available to me. My sister, Michelle, has also been a great help to me, especially because I was a teen mom attending high school. She paid for my daughter’s day care, so I could continue my education—that was huge for me,” said Wilson.

A certified community health worker, Wilson previously worked for Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin as a Community Health Navigator, going door-to-door in the Menasha Park Community providing individualized services with resources about medical care, housing, education and other information.

She now provides support to individuals who suffer from development disabilities, are mentally ill or the frail elderly, through Magellan Healthcare.

“I’m an optimist. I want to make an impact on those individuals and provide them with treatment—using holistic methods—coupled with medication and nontraditional methods such as aromatherapy,” said Wilson.

Wilson also serves as a women’s leader of the Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals (MULYP), where she has served as a mentor for program participants during college. Many of the participants went on to become foster care workers.

After being hired as a foster care worker, Wilson worked as a dancer for eight years.

“Eventually, I started renting rooms out to people who couldn’t afford housing or apartments. It felt good being in business for myself rather than going to a job, and that was huge for me,” said Wilson.

“During that time, I started rethinking my life and refocusing. I came to understand and embrace the notion that my path, passion and, ultimately, my success, would come from helping others. I know that I didn’t want the life of the beginning of my entrepreneurial career.

Williams is only 25 years old, but after a brief conversation with her, you wouldn’t know it. She has done and seen a lot in her brief life. It has helped shape her into the confident, caring and determined individual she is today.

“When I was out there dancing, two of my best friends were also dancers. One is dead and the other is strung out on crack cocaine. That,” said Williams.

Two years ago, at the age of 23, Williams ran for alderman, even though she lost, she counts it among one of the best experiences in her life.

“I didn’t have a lot of support, but it helped to get my name out there. I think it was the right decision for me.”

(continued on page19)
In later years, I became the 'commercial property grants guy', working with In Commercial Real Estate (ACRE) Program to Marquette University in addition to his work as executive director of the King Drive BID, Agee joined the city's Department of Community Development. The past nine of which were at Milwaukee's Department for my son. Let my fruits be seen right here on King Drive and in my neighborhood. (continued from page 8)
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... because that's the day I found out I'd eight of those individuals who were encouraging who receive food stamps. which enhanced our connection. would work on my responses and she would re- mitted to succeed, but as importantly, I also did worked as a Traffic Law Clerk with the Milwau- eck of Wisconsin as a Staff Attorney. She works school and she wasn't much older than me, was one of only three Black professors at the ve in Chicago and practice law there because she ve in the city; she spent an entire summer in and failed. Johnson found some saving grace in one of her hers. She and I began meeting every Friday and oing to my professor for help during her office help my people. I felt an obligation to pay my ve and committed, and she self-describes, among her pung their records, it's rewarding because they help me over the years—at least for now,” she said. “I do- es not want to let them down. They were counting woman, Jennifer L. and rooting for me—my parents, grandparents, aunt, and cousins, aunts and friends. That kept me going. I ve in Law School in February of 2015. That helped improve my grades drastically. She encouraged me and told me that I could do hers. During my second year of law school, I started hers. She and I began meeting every Friday and e would give me practice exam questions. I...
"The proof is in the pudding. I'm 27 years old. I don't drink or smoke, and I practice abstinence—not because they telling me not was wrong—but because they build me up to be the best because of what the best at the people of Silver Spring Neighborhood Center instilled in me," said Jones.

"I'm hopeful for Milwaukee. I know there are many millennials doing great things in this city—there's so much that needs to be done in the one-in-five economically disadvantaged citizens in the county. We have to do a better job of forming partnerships and working together so that we can do even more. I see some of the things happening in our community and I would like to see it continue and expand," she said.

"No matter why, I live or I'm economically and geographically. I will always strive to emulate the life of my grandparents. There is a whole generation of people who want to feel that I was here to serve—not just youth—but the community overall," she said.

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**About Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) WEEKEND EDITION**

The Milwaukee Community Journal Weekend Edition is published weekly. Each week, MCJ Weekend Edition focuses on different subject, such as HEALTH, FAMILY, FOOD, MARRIAGE & MOTHERHOOD, and MILWAUKEE. Our Weekend Edition now includes the publication of records designated by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for publication of legal notices, MCJ will serve city, county and state offices for publishing community notifications. Such notifications include:

- Public Hearings
- Public meetings
- Election notices
- Divorce notices
- Publication of Summons when personal services cannot be made to defendants
- Notice of auction of unclaimed storage or property
- Probate Notices
-Termination of widow's sale notice of creditor listing of property for sale
- Other general legal and public notices

**About Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ)**

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) is a quality news organization published throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. Established in 1976, the Milwaukee Community Journal is a full-service publication that is a publication of Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Wisconsin, with a passion for building community. The MCJ accentuates the positives, analyzes the negatives and advocates for change. The Milwaukee Community Journal, its shareholders are Patricia O'Flynn Patton (95%) and Midwest Holding (5%), and is currently in filing status with the State of Wisconsin, effective 9/6/2016.
Alderman Chantia Lewis

Krystle C.M. Perry

LaTova Sykes

Alderman Khan-Rainey

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orking as a contributor to Carmelo Anthony's popular lifestyle blog called }
Even though she is enjoying a career doing what she loves, Williams has not grown up on her love of music. She continues to identify venues in Milwaukee to perform. ‘I play the violin once every couple of months or so—mostly at churches, weddings and memorial events—so that I can keep my muscles in shape, and it’s something I enjoy,’ said Williams.

Among those who inhabit her life are those who look up to her and appreciate the strengths her parents (George W. Williams, III and Dr. Agnes Virgil Williams, Dr. Sandra Underwood, and Dr. Tito Iroa, the Chief Executive Officer of MHSI) have instilled in her.

“My parents were always great proponents of education, and they have always been a support in both my life and my mother’s. They migrated to Wisconsin in the 60s to become part of the integration of the school system. They originally moved to Beloit, then to Milwaukee. My mother continued to teach and my dad became an advocate for teachers’ rights. Though my father has now retired, my mother continues to work at the college level. I think it’s pretty cool that she earned her PhD when she was in her 60s,” Dr. Williams said with pride.

Dr. Williams said that the support and encouragement she has received from her parents, family, and advisors do their jobs meet the needs of their clients, and so she’s more adaptable. “Sometimes navigating through bureaucratic red tape becomes exasperating. It’s not surprising that she was not only able to advocate for herself and others, but engage in peer-to-peer counseling and group facilitation and development Center, so it’s not surprising that she was not only able to advocate for herself and others, but engage in peer-to-peer counseling and group facilitation.

There are opportunities for millennials in Milwaukee, but sometimes you have to create the kind of environment you want, wherever you live, whether it’s in another country, or in another city. I’ve been able to create the kind of environment I want, in the city where I live,” said Spence.

As with any other city, once you connect with people you can trust, the sky is the limit in terms of what you can do. You just have to be open to new people. When people are open, there are always a lot of creative people to connect with. Everyone is so relatable. Most of my friends are artists—in various genres—and I have been inspired by them. I’ve been able to study and learn from them. I’ve been able to share my ideas and learn from their ideas.

As a facilitator, we support women in the Lindsay Heights area and Milwaukee community by hosting circles with women from different walks of life. We use a lot of holistic practices to support women. Some of these women feel that they are stuck in their lives. Some are in abusive relationships or have problems with work. They lack confidence in themselves, so we try to connect these women with their Facebook and word-of-mouth, so she is building a portfolio of photographs that she plans to publish in a book called ‘The Art of the Dress.’

Spence’s future is as bright and vibrant as the wearable art she once created and sold. She has no doubt stories of love, pain, oppression and life’s generations.

Belvera Wilson

(continued from page 13)

As a facilitator, we support women in the Lindsay Heights area and Milwaukee community by hosting circles with women from different walks of life. We use a lot of holistic practices to support women. Some of these women feel that they are stuck in their lives. Some are in abusive relationships or have problems with work. They lack confidence in themselves, so we try to connect these women with their Facebook and word-of-mouth, so she is building a portfolio of photographs that she plans to publish in a book called ‘The Art of the Dress.’

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Spence’s future is as bright and vibrant as the wearable art she once created and sold. She has no doubt stories of love, pain, oppression and life’s generations.
Holmes also helped create the African American Breast Cancer Support Group. At the group’s founding in 1990 has Oza Holmes to thank. For decades, Milwaukee breast cancer patients have benefited from the care of these nurses and from the support of Oza Holmes herself. Holmes helped establish the Breast Care Center at what was then Milwaukee County General Hospital. She went on to lead breast cancer care at organizations including Aurora Sinai Medical Center and Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Breast Care Center. She and Holmes were the center’s founding staff nurses, working with Alonzo P. Walker, MD, current center director and surgical oncology professor at Marquette University. The group still exists today, and has been renamed the Oza Holmes African American Breast Cancer Support Group. At the center, this group for African American women and men with breast cancer was the first of its kind in the city of Milwaukee. “Oza was the nurse you always aspired to be,” said Anna Purdy, a nurse practitioner at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. “She never had breast cancer, never even had a family history, but she had a great passion. Her support for her patients went beyond the clinic. She helped found the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Breast Care Center and went on to open many award-winning clinics in breast cancer care at organizations including Aurora Sinai and Froedtert Breast Cancer Outcomes (ABCD). Many who have found friendship and understanding in their journey have Oza to thank.”

Through friendship and understanding, she improved health in our communities.

A Legacy Lives on
Oza Holmes

Role Model and Mentor
Breast Cancer Care Expert
Nurse Navigator in the Community
Eased Patients’ Journeys

NEW THIS YEAR!
FREE backpack and school supplies for all MPS 4-year-old kindergarten students*

CALL (414) 475-8159
VISIT MPSMKE.COM/ENROLL

*Thanks to the generosity of Kohl’s, every student in MPS 4-year-old kindergarten will get a free backpack with school supplies.
A Legacy Lives On

For decades, Milwaukee breast cancer patients have known the name Oza Holmes, a registered nurse who worked for decades with breast cancer patients in the Milwaukee area.

Anyone who found friendship and understanding at the African American Breast Cancer Support Group since its beginnings in 1993 has Oza Holmes to thank.

Anyone who benefitted from the care at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Breast Care Center since its founding in 1990 has Oza Holmes to thank.

Holmes passed away at age 66 in May 2017. Milwaukee Community Journal, the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Cancer Center and other colleagues honor and remember the impact she made and legacy she left on so many individuals, families, communities and organizations.

Holmes never had breast cancer, never even had a family history, but she had great passion for and commitment to the cause.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. Nearly 5,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2017 in Wisconsin alone, according to an estimate by the American Cancer Society. In Milwaukee and around the country, African American women have higher rates of death from breast cancer compared to other populations.

Holmes helped establish the Breast Care Center at what was then Milwaukee County General Hospital. She went on to lead breast cancer care at organizations including Aurora Sinai Medical Center and After Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD).

“Oza was the name you always aspired to be,” said Anna Purdy, a nurse practitioner at the Breast Care Center. She and Holmes were the center’s founding staff nurses, working with Alonzo P. Walker, MD, current center director and surgical oncology professor at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Purdy described Holmes as a role model and a mentor. Holmes was extremely knowledgeable and resourceful, and she had vast cancer care experience and many contacts in the community. “Oza always went out of her way to make her patients’ journey easier,” Purdy said.

Holmes was a nurse navigator, meaning her support for her patients went well beyond the clinic. She visited them in their homes, she facilitated community support groups and she was out in churches and schools educating people about breast cancer detection, screening and awareness.

“Everybody knew Oza Holmes because of her involvement in the community,” said Bonnie Anderson, a nurse manager at Milwaukee Catholic Homes who worked closely with Holmes for decades.

Holmes was Anderson’s first nurse mentor when Anderson was diagnosed with breast cancer 25 years ago, and together they started Nurses Affecting Change, a program that provides breast health education and clinical breast exams at community programs and events. Holmes also helped create the African American Breast Cancer Support Group. At the time, this group for African-American women and men with breast cancer was the first of its kind in the city of Milwaukee.

The group still exists today, and has been renamed the Oza Holmes African American Breast Cancer Support Group, and Anderson helps facilitate. Surely the name Oza Holmes will never be forgotten. Through all of those whose lives she bettered throughout the greater Milwaukee community her legacy will live on.