



Uplifting & Empowering Our Youth

22nd Annual Grants Award
& Fund Raising Dinner

AC Marriott • Nov. 14, 2024 • 6 p.m.





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22nd Annual Grant Awards and Fundraising Dinner!



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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



MYRON FRIERSON, CPA
Uplift Our Youth Foundation Chair
Retired Bureau Director, MI Dept. of Transportation

Dear Friends,

As Chair of the Uplift Our Youth Foundation Board of Directors, I am honored to welcome you to our 22nd Annual Grant Awards dinner. We are indeed proud to be of service to the youth in our community.

For over 20 years, the Uplift Our Youth Foundation (UOYF) has been a beacon of light in our community, dedicating itself to nurturing the potential within our youth. With over \$230,000 in donations and awards, we've touched the lives

of countless individuals, providing them with the tools to succeed. UOYF is committed to bridging the gap between donors and youth programs. We thank you for your continued support to create a legacy of hope and progress.

Our approach is to search the community for dedicated individuals or organizations that offer skills development, mentoring, artistic or scholastic opportunities for advancement of youth. Often these organizations need financial backing to sustain or to give a step up to further succeed. Your donations have substantially helped UOYF continue to highlight a growing list of aspiring youth leaders and support the many organizations that provide initiatives to empower, equip, and support our youth with life skills to elevate!

Our award dinner theme is "Uplifting and Empowering Our Youth." Consistent with this theme we are recognizing individuals and organizations making a difference in our community. This year, we bring to you our speaker Kira Carter-Robertson, COO for University of Michigan Sparrow, a community leader focused on improving family health services. Our featured guests are Angel Taylor, honored as our youth advocate, and two spotlight on excellence students, Callan Maxwell and Larry Dawson. This year, six organizations will receive UOYF grants.

Finally, tonight's program represents hours of hard work and dedication on the part of the board of directors. I thank them for all they do to ensure the foundation's success.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy this evening's festivities and that it will enrich and uplift your lives as you have uplifted the lives of others.

..... UOYF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LARRY L. LEATHERWOOD MPA/SEF
Chair Emeritus/Uplift Our Youth Foundation Founder
Executive Consultant

What a blessing, the Uplift Our Youth Foundation is now entering our 22nd year of existence. When we began my wife, Martha, and I struggled to ensure that the foundation is an entity that was responsive to the needs of the tri-county community. Initially the thought was challenging but we finalized our goal to be an entity that would focus on at-risk youth.

As stated in previous years, we are blessed to have the support of those in the community including organizations, individuals and educational institutions in raising funds that have been returned to organizations providing services to

young people deserving of our support.

As I have often said, I would be remissed not to give favor to our board of directors led by Myron Frierson. Our board has spent many hours preparing our scope of work each year. They have formulated contact with individuals, corporations and many others eliciting their financial support to enable our foundation to achieve our goals.

Our appreciation goes out to Kira Carter Roberson who so graciously accepted our invitation to be our dinner speaker. Big congratulations to this years youth advocate, Angel Taylor and our two young people, Larry Dawson and Callan Maxwell.

Thank you for joining us this evening in this this new venue, but mostly, we thank each of you for your support financially, and personally.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Youth Builder Community Development Corporation..... \$2,000
Youth Builder Community Development “Empower Print” addresses the entrepreneurial gap by providing essential tools and mentorship to help them start a print business.

Statesmanship Institute..... \$3,000
The purpose of the grant is to serve youth by providing real-world professional career simulations to develop character, leadership, instill purpose and equip young people with highly relevant life skills through Student Statesmanship’s Institute LEAD program.

Frankie’s Corner Little Thoroughbred Crusade \$2,500
Frankie’s Corner Little Thoroughbred Crusade provides inclusive youth development programs focused on equine education, life skills, and leadership training, empowering underserved students to foster personal growth, build confidence, and explore career opportunities in agriculture, animal science, and related fields.

Dream World Studios \$1,000
DreamWorld Studios for the Arts’ mission is to build a bridge between the arts and its community. The organization was founded in response to the scarcity of access to consistent arts programming in schools and community centers.

Performance Changers \$2,000
The grant will fund physical fitness and nutrition programs that can help offset youth obesity in Lansing and the surrounding areas. Childhood obesity can often lead to health problems that were once considered problems only in adults, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

Women’s Center \$2,500
The Ice Cream Consent Workshops aim to provide early education on consent, personal boundaries, and respectful communication to youth ages 5-12. The goal is to foster a deep understanding of bodily autonomy, healthy relationships, and the importance of consent before these children encounter more complex social and peer interactions.

Melanated Business Alliance \$2,000
Encourage children in entrepreneurship, provide mentors and tools for success. Support youth with mentorship from local business owners. Fostering pathways to business ownership and generational wealth.

*“Service to others is the rent you pay
for your room here on earth.”*

~Muhammad Ali



**22nd ANNUAL GRANT AWARDS
& FUND RAISING DINNER**

Uplifting and Empowering our Youth

Thursday, November 14, 2024 • 6:00 p.m.

Welcome Myron Frierson, UOYF Board Chair

**Insight from the Mistress of Ceremony Heather Taylor-Livas
UOYF Board Member**

**Greetings Andy Schor, Mayor of Lansing
Honorable Kara Hope
Honorable Sarah Anthony**

**Invocation Dr. Stan Parker, Pastor
Faith Fellowship Baptist Church**

..... DINNER

Musical Selection..... Eddie Robinson Jr.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker Heather Taylor-Livas

Keynote Speaker Kira Carter-Robertson

**2024 Spotlight on Excellence Larry Dawson and Callan Maxwell
Presented by Betty Sanford**

**2024 Youth Advocate Angel Taylor
Presented by Heather Taylor**

Presentation of the 2024 Grant Awards Spencer Simmons , UOYF Board Member

**Closing Remarks Larry Leatherwood
UOYF Founder/Board Member**

Benediction Dr. Stan Parker

..... 2024 PROGRAM GUEST



KIRA CARTER-ROBERTSON

Keynote Speaker, Educator

Ms. Carter-Robertson's tenure at Sparrow Health System has spanned 24 years in a variety of roles. She currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for University of Michigan Health-Sparrow.

Carter-Robertson got her start with Sparrow as an Administrative Fellow and quickly transitioned to serve as the Senior Strategist for the Health System before transitioning into key leadership roles across the system to include: Serving most recently as the Senior Vice President, Regional Hospitals providing system oversight for the Health System's small and rural community hospitals; Vice President Post-Acute Care Services providing overall direction for the operations and strategic development for Sparrow Specialty Hospital and Community Care Services (Home Care, Hospice,

Palliative Care, Durable Medical Equipment, Retail Pharmacy, and Outpatient Wound Services). In addition, she was responsible for the development of strategic partnerships with external post-acute care community providers to ensure a seamless transition of care throughout the system; and served as President, Sparrow Specialty Hospital which is a long-term acute care hospital which was developed and opened under Carter-Robertson's leadership.

Ms. Carter-Robertson is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and currently serves as the Regent for Michigan and Northwest Ohio for the College.

Ms. Carter-Robertson received her bachelor's degree in science from University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in health administration from St. Louis University.

In addition, Carter-Robertson periodically serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Flint Campus through the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences. On a personal level, Carter-Robertson also enjoys traveling, baking, and supporting her husband in ministry and missionary work.

..... MUSICAL ARTIST



EDDIE ROBINSON JR.

Dinner/Music Selections

..... 2024 YOUTH ADVOCATE



ANGEL TAYLOR

Community Program Coordinator and Educator

Ms. Taylor has been instrumental in building a positive character among hundreds of youths over the years, which instilled the confidence they sorely need to navigate the many challenges they face today. Currently, she oversees an eight-week Youth Program at her church, Christ Kingdom Builders Church International (CKBC), during the summer that focuses on teaching children real life skills and how to develop their personal relationship with God.

The type of impact that Ms. Taylor has had on the children in the community she serves, not only has made them more productive citizens, but also better sons, daughters, friends, and students. The life skills learned, has better prepared the children to embrace diversity and to be proud of who God has created them to be. Additionally, her hands-on approach gives children the confidence they need to pursue their endeavors and strive to succeed in whatever they put their minds to. Ms. Taylor's hard work has increased college interest and enrolment by over 20% in comparison to those in the community who were not fortunate enough to be under her tutelage.

Ms. Taylor is the coordinator for all youth activities for CKBC. Providing a safe & educational environment for all interested community youth ages 4-18 years of age to develop positive skills and receive resources for improvement. The main program being the Youth Summer Camp. Youth learn French, Swahili, grammar, math, history, culture, etiquettes, respect, bible study, creative art, dance & Zumba, physical education & recess, community care, mentoring, problem solving and more. In addition, the Coordinator for all Senior programs at CKBC. Reaching individuals ages 55 years and older who may live alone or are alone for prolonged periods of the day who may want or need companions to interact with on a positive and supportive level. Program participants pray, eat, socialize, exercise, do arts and crafts, and receive gifts.

Ms. Taylor's past experience include training teachers and care providers on how to improve the quality of their teaching, lessons, and education. Helping to coach/mentor, assists teachers in the planning, organizing, and implementation of education services for 0-3 and 3 year old preschool children. On occasion Ms. Taylor helps to assist the older school aged students with homework or games, help to advise the owner on day to day functions, as well as provide parenting education for qualified families with children age birth to three years.

..... 2024 SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



LARRY DAWSON III
J.W. Sexton High School

Larry Dawson III is a junior and honor roll student at J.W. Sexton High School. He holds a 3.8 GPA and received a certificate of high achievement. While maintaining high academic standing, Larry is a member of Paradise Missionary Baptist Church where he serves as the fifth Sunday, Youth Day Facilitator, the President of the youth program and an officer of the youth choir. Larry also serves as the church's audio media tech personnel and serves as needed in other capacities in which the church may need assistance.

Larry is CEO/Owner of Spanky's Sweet Treats from 2021 to present. His entrepreneurial spirit allows him to create a menu full of exciting treats while honing his customer relations skills. He shows a keen interest in becoming more business savvy in his budgeting,

time management, creative thinking, leadership, problem solving and computer literacy classes.

Larry has developed project management tools and effective communication skills. He describes himself as an innovative and responsible scholar who is enthusiastic about mentorship and being a role model to the youth in his community.

James McAbee, the Unit Director at The Boys & Girls Club of Lansing (BGC) has worked with Larry for the past 9 years. He speaks highly of Larry's positive energy and his overall participation as a club member, peer leader and now Junior staff member. He states, "Larry always goes above and beyond my expectations. Larry has been through a lot the past few years battling his Sickle Cell Disease and the loss of his father Larry Dawson Jr., but his spirit remains unwavering and joyful."

Larry's commitment while attending the BGC and being a role model for the younger members has consistently demonstrated his leadership as well as his pride. He is always ready and willing to help in any capacity. He is the epitome of a determined, resilient, intelligent, hardworking young man. He volunteered for years in hopes that once of age, he would be able to call himself an employee for the BGC. Larry has taken the initiative to step up and diffuse conflicts between club members effortlessly. His great rapport with club members is to the fact that he is a great listener and always hears everyone's side before offering his opinion.

As a Junior Staff employee, Larry has stayed punctual, diligent and has maintained a strong work ethic. Along with those qualities, Larry's upbeat, kind, and loving personality in addition to his willingness to offer creative suggestions has taken him far as a junior staff member. He is caring, dependable and willing to go beyond the call of duty to make sure he gets the job done. Larry is an amazing club member and a great asset and because of his resilience, Larry was previously awarded the 2024 Boys and Girls Club of Lansing, Youth of the Year.

..... 2024 SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



CALLAN MAXWELL
Waverly High School

Callan Maxwell is an honors Junior student at Waverly High School. She holds a 4.0 GPA and has earned an Academic Letter for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement at Waverly High School. She is described as a motivated and enthusiastic pre-Computer Science and Marketing student with a high level of proficiency in multiple programming languages, and active involvement in extracurricular computer science and STEM activities. She seeks to leverage her skills and experiences by contributing to various projects.

While achieving academically, Callan also participates in other extracurricular activities. She is actively involved with the Youth Advisory Councils at the Capital Region Community Foundation

and REACH Art Studio. In October, she was elected as a Youth Trustee for the Michigan Council of Foundations. Callan consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership, dedication, and a strong commitment to community service. She actively contributes valuable insights during discussions, showing a remarkable ability to think critically and creatively. Callan's enthusiasm for making a positive impact on our region is truly inspiring.

It is with pride that we highlight Callan's recent selection to the Michigan Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. This prestigious opportunity speaks volumes about Callan's future leadership potential and her outstanding influence on the field of philanthropy. The leader of this organization speaks with assurance that she will excel in this new role and continue to make significant contributions to not only our community, but others around the state.

One of Callan's most impressive qualities is her unwavering dedication to any task she undertakes. Whether it's organizing events, leading group discussions, or collaborating with peers, she approaches everything with a high level of professionalism and determination.

Callan's excellent communication skills and ability to work effectively in a team make her a valuable asset in any setting. Her positive attitude, coupled with her willingness to take on challenges, sets her apart as a standout individual. As she progresses beyond her sophomore status, there is no doubt that Callan Maxwell will continue to excel in her academic and extracurricular pursuits. She is an outstanding student and an exceptional young leader who is destined for success.



The UOYF Board wishes to thank everyone in attendance for your support! Your donation has a powerful impact on the lives of young people in the Greater Lansing community!

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Uplift Our Youth Foundation's dedicated work empowers Lansing's young people reach their potential. Congratulations on your first 22 years of building stronger futures for our kids and community.

Here's to many more!



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With appreciation for your support of Lansing youth and
empowering them to reach their fullest potential through
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*We appreciate the efforts of Uplift
Our Youth Foundation as we strive
to create brighter futures for the
youth and families in our
communities.*

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on your

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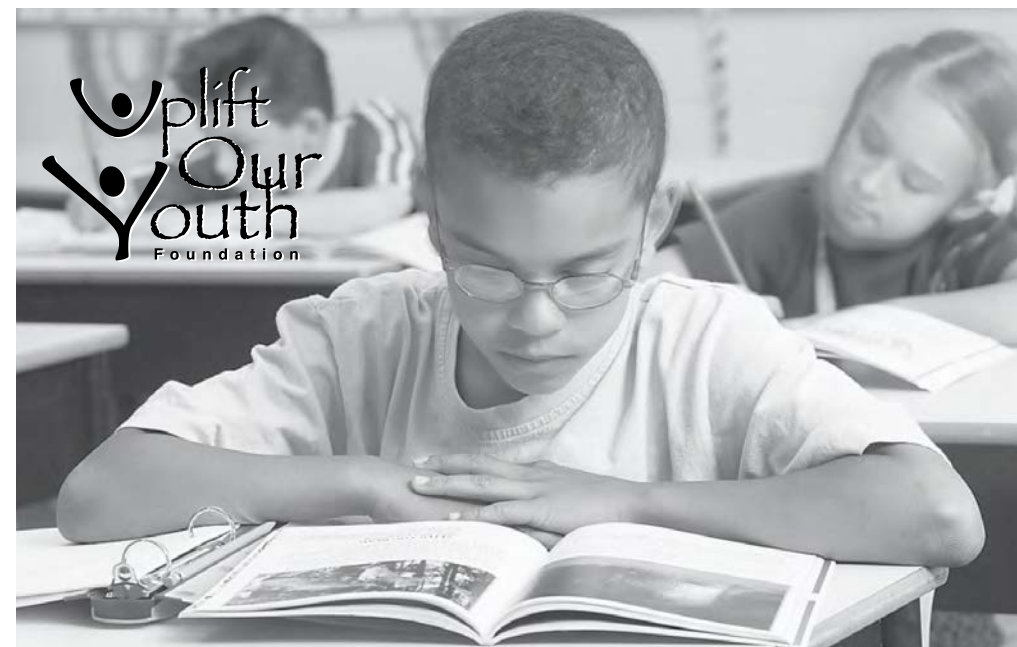
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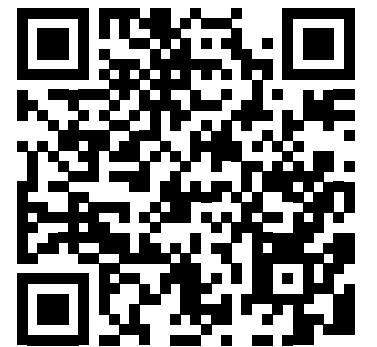
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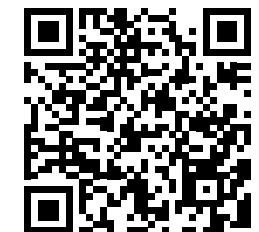


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*supports the efforts made by the Uplift Our Youth Foundation
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*"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about
embracing one another's uniqueness." - Ola Joseph*