



February 2024

Rental Assistance Team Creates Meaningful Tribute to Black History

As a team-building exercise, Rental Assistance Supervisor Shamyka Mobley suggested that her team decorate their cubicles for Valentine's Day or Black History Month. Nicole Jones suggested Black History Month because she wanted to highlight and honor successful, talented Black people that significantly impacted the lives of others. Soon, this small idea turned into a great activity as team members suggested other people and it turned into an astounding visual graphic!

The selected profiles include a wide variety of talented individuals from social activism, sports, education, government, entertainment, and more. To "spread the love," we are featuring a different person each day in February to highlight on social media. Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/edencle for pictures and profiles.

Although this display only captures a fraction of the black people that provided their talents, skills, vision, and commitment to their community, it does exhibit the famous quote from The Great Harriet Tubman that "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." World changers understand that it takes passion and perseverance to make a difference!



Black History Month

Daisy Craggett, Leader in the Cleveland Civil Rights Movement

Among her many roles, Daisy Craggett was a social worker, a reporter for the Call and Post, and President of the Hough Community Council. She was on the forefront of desegregating Cleveland City Schools. She is also the grandmother of EDEN employee Staci Craggett.

By 1965, the public-school population was 149,655 of which 54% was Black. Not only did enrollment increase, but also segregation and overcrowding in Black schools became apparent, mostly in elementary schools. In 1956, to address the overcrowding problem, the Cleveland school board instituted half-day, better known as "relay classes," which offered 3½ instead of the state standard 5-hour school day. In 1961, Daisy Craggett and other Black parents organized Parents' Against Relay Classes and picketed the board administration building. Daisy spoke passionately at a board meeting on October 23rd, questioning the Board's plans that would leave 3,000 students on half-day schedules and advocating to bussing them to empty classrooms throughout the system. The Board of Education agreed upon a busing system that gave parents whose children were on half-day schedules the opportunity to send their children to available classrooms in nearby all-white schools.



The school board's decision to implement "intact busing" of Black students to underutilized white schools in 1962-63 replaced one controversial strategy with a worse one. Total segregation within the schools included Black students staying in the classroom with their "sending school" teacher all day, banning students from eating lunch in the cafeteria and from assemblies, "physical education classes, and school-wide extracurricular activities." Daisy and her husband Charles sued the school district on behalf of her son Charles. They lost the case but continued to picket and protest.

The Hough Riots, July 18-24 1966, were a spontaneous outbreak of civil disorder which encompassed a spectrum ranging from angry protest to vandalism, looting, and arson. A number of observers believed that the Hough neighborhood was primed for such an outbreak, after its rapid demographic transition during the 1950s to become overwhelmingly Black with substandard and overcrowded housing, overcharging for necessities by area merchants, and incidents of police harassment. The riots were sparked when the white bar owner of the Seventy-Niners Cafe denied a Black takeout customer a glass of water on the evening of 18 July. Police were increasingly unable to deal with the growing angry crowd, as rock throwing escalated into vandalism and looting which spread throughout the surrounding neighborhood. The following evening the disorder continued, with fires set in the area as well as reports of sniper fire. Daisy was an eyewitness to the riots and saw it as an inevitable outcome: "The primary objects of their attention—food, clothing, and furniture—reflected the extent of unmet basic needs among Hough residents."

On January 22, 1966, Craggett raised concerns about urban renewal and its impact on the predominantly Black Hough neighborhood. Her words ring as true today as they did back then: "Urban renewal is on the move," Craggett wrote, and "the citizens of the Hough community are, again, to be the innocent victims...The City of Cleveland's Urban Renewal Department is again ignoring the rights and responsibilities of the citizens to be in on the initial planning of a program that will drastically determine or change their future." Craggett worried that the urban renewal plans would create "an area that would cater largely to the absentee owners, business man and the power structure."

Google her name and prepare to be awed by this woman's courage and tenacity!

Sources: <https://blackquotidian.supdigital.org/bq/january-22-1966>; <https://case.edu/ech/articles/hough-area-development-corp>; <https://clevelandcivilrightstrail.org/explore-the-trail/desegregation-of-cleveland-public-schools/>; <https://openworks.wooster.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8639&context=independentstudy>

Staff Profile

Adreana Twiggs

"I've always enjoyed helping people that did not always have the means to help and advocate for themselves," says Adreana Twiggs, Regional Manager of PSH Projects. "I know that I will always be fair with them and treat them the same way I would want someone in my family to be treated."

Adreana's background in housing is impressive. She started in housing as a leasing agent when she was in high school. After years of work, she was promoted to compliance specialist. Later, she became the property manager for the largest senior housing development in the state. After seeing the need for assistance from the seniors, she transitioned to affordable housing as a property manager for several years.



When she saw the job description for EDEN's regional manager position, she decided that it was the next step in her career. "EDEN's mission statement was intriguing. It brings a different perspective to the housing market that is needed in our city. I was very interested to learn more about the agency and, ultimately, join the team."

"During my time at EDEN, I've had the pleasure of speaking with many residents of the PSH buildings who are very grateful that EDEN provides them with a place to call their home. This is the greatest privilege we all have. It is wonderful to be proud to work for an organization that helps people the way that we do."

When asked about how she approaches her job, she answers, "I think my biggest strength is being able to lead with compassion and understanding. I believe that my team knows that we will have tough conversations and hard work will be expected daily. However, I will always deliver that message in a way that can be received and understood."

"My goal is to continue to learn and improve in my role as Regional Manager. I want to understand all aspects of the organization and grow within the agency."

"When I am not working, I like to spend as much time as I can with my entire family. I have two wonderful children, ages 12 and 6. I enjoy cooking fresh meals for my family daily. We enjoy walking on a trail at the park and having fun family game nights."



Client Story Initiative

We are determined to spread the word about how housing transforms the lives of those who have been at risk for homelessness or unhoused! Please think about the clients you work with. Do any have interesting stories? Would they be willing to share? If so, please forward their name and phone number to Jacque. If you want to call her on TEAMS to discuss this and get some ideas, please feel free to do so.

Client Story Initiative

Meet Danny

By the time he entered kindergarten, Danny was an avid reader. Unfortunately, his teacher kept calling his mom because he wouldn't read the assigned classroom books. "What books are you asking him to read?" When they told her they were the regular books other students were reading, she told them to give him non-fiction books. "Danny doesn't like make believe. He wants to read about the real world."

Throughout his life, Danny has immersed himself in books ranging from philosophy and religion to psychology and sociology ... anything that helps him understand the world around him. As a result, he is comfortable connecting with people at all levels and all backgrounds.

Four years ago, Danny was one of the first residents of Harper's Pointe, a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) apartment building near the Cleveland Zoo. He works part-time as an on-call aide by helping people who are homebound and elderly by doing their shopping, paying their bills, performing house and yard work, and more.

On his off time, he uses his bus passes to travel the community. When he can't afford bus passes, he walks. His favorite place is the West Side Market, which he visited often when growing up. And, of course, he still spends hours reading.

One day at the West Side Market, he was astonished to see in the produce department a table piled high with books. It was a display for Cleveland Reads, a program of the Cleveland Public Library. He told them about Harper's Pointe and his desire to bring books to the building so that residents can enjoy reading as much as he does. "So many of the residents stay in their apartments and don't venture out. I want to give them a reason to visit the community room and find something that interests them." The folks at the library were delighted to help him in his mission.

And so Danny started stocking the community room with multiple copies of books from the library. Two to three days a week, he would trek to the West Side Market. He would stuff his bags full of books and make the return trip. When he told the bus drivers what he was doing, they stopped closer to the building to make his task easier. When library staff asked him if he needed help taking the books to his car, they were amazed that he was using the bus. To help him out, they have made two trips so far to deliver even more books to the PSH building. "It's selfless – it's not for me because I don't read those kinds of books," says Danny. "But people around here appreciate it. I've been seeing the difference it makes in them and it's keeping me going."

Danny's goal is to identify even more resources to help his fellow tenants. He has even agreed to be interviewed by a reporter from Cleveland.com. "In addition to more non-fiction and self-help books, it would be great if we can get picture books here because a lot of the residents have different reading skills. They could also use help using computers. And I want to find a way to give every resident a coat, hat, gloves, underwear and socks for Christmas."

Danny's personal philosophy is that even though we've all done bad things in the past, we all have good in us and the potential to make life better for others. "I try to be a vessel of good who can be used as a servant to those around me. God will always bless you when you give from the heart and help others. My blessings are always coming back to me."



EDEN Earns 2024 Candid Platinum Seal

EDEN has earned the 2024 Candid-GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, the leading symbol of accountability in the nonprofit world. Candid-GuideStar serves to legitimize nonprofits and is a source of information to potential donors and grantors. If you know people who are thinking about donating to us, rest assured we value responsibility, transparency, and accountability with the funds with which we are entrusted. For more information, visit Candid-GuideStar at www.Candid.org.

Updated letterhead has been uploaded to the intranet. To download it, simply click on the editing button and [Open in Desktop App].



We Want Your Feedback and Suggestions!

We want to hear from you! Your work is very important to us, and we know that you have some great ideas that can help us improve how we do business. Please go to www.EDENcle.org/staff and submit your feedback and suggestions. Thank you!

EDEN Apparel

Melanie Minyard is now coordinating EDEN's Apparel Program. Her email is mminyard@EDENcle.org.

Go to www.EDENcle.org/staff for a link to the order form. Be sure to order jackets and hoodies!



Recognize a Fellow Employee

Let's celebrate excellence at EDEN! If you are aware of a staff person doing something really great, tell us about it! Go to www.EDENcle.org/staff and click on the link on the right. Just enter the person's name and why they deserve recognition!

Current Job Postings

For more information, visit www.EDENcle.org/work or contact Toya Jordan at tjordan@EDENcle.org.

- Accounts Payable Specialist Section 8
- Director of Human Resources
- Housing Locator for Domestic Violence and Families
- Maintenance Technician
- Maintenance Technician
- Manager of Permanent Supportive Housing Projects
- Property Manager of Permanent Supportive Housing Residential Building

Welcome New Hires!

Welcome to everyone who has been hired from January 15 through February 15!

- Alexandra Jones..... Housing Eligibility Specialist
- Stephenie Phillips HR Recruiter and Onboarding Specialist
- DeJontae Darby Custodian
- Tawuan Pope Custodian
- Brandon Berry Community Housing Agent
- Kaylie Gingery..... Custodian
- Henry Young Maintenance Technician
- Kelly Legere Housing Eligibility Specialist App Processor
- Johanna Villegas Housing Stability Specialist

Congratulations to Staff on the Move!

Congratulations to the following staff who have been promoted, changed positions, or earned certification from January 15 through February 15!

- Martin Antos..... Director of Asset Management and Maintenance

Vote Yes on Issue 26

Every year, about 5,000 people in Cuyahoga County experience homelessness. The Health and Human Services levy funds our services to help them find housing and get back on their feet.



VOTE YES ON ISSUE 26

Cuyahoga County is asking voters to renew, for another eight years, a 4.8-mill countywide health and human services levy on the ballot for March 19's primary election. And voters should continue the vital programs the levy funds.

Keep in mind that it's a renewal and not a tax increase. Issue 26 would not increase property taxes.

It's one of two health and human services levies that fund critical services for the elderly, homeless, and children, including indigent care, universal pre-K, youth mental health services, the county's diversion center and more. (The other eight-year levy passed in 2020 with nearly 70% of the vote.)

Most importantly, it's a pivotal investment in the betterment of thousands of Greater Cleveland lives. Cuyahoga County voters should approve Issue 26, the 4.8-mill health and human services levy renewal, on the March 19 ballot. Early voting begins Feb. 21.

Source: Yes on Issue 26, Cuyahoga County's 4.8-mill health and human services levy renewal: endorsement editorial, Cleveland.com