

**THE CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**

CELEBRATION OF HUMAN SERVICES

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CELEBRATION OF HUMAN SERVICES

Friday, October 21, 2022
InterContinental Cleveland

9:30AM – Registration

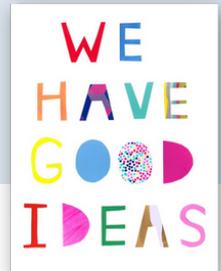
10:30AM – Morning Program

Welcome: G.O. Brown, Chair, Celebration of Human Services

Presentation: Public Service Awards in Honor of John A. Begala

Making Policy to Improve Infant, Maternal, and Adolescent Health

- Ohio Senator Matt Dolan
- Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley
- Marcia Egbert, Program Director for Thriving Families & Social Justice, The George Gund Foundation, moderator



State Senator Matt Dolan and Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley are the recipients of the 2022 Public Service Awards in Honor of John A. Begala. This year's award honors their work to support health and human services in Ohio, especially to extend Medicaid coverage one full year after birth to improve maternal and infant health, and to ensure that voices across the spectrum were heard in the state budget process.



Keynote & Awards

11:45AM – Lunch service

12:15PM – Afternoon Program

Welcome: David Miller, Chair, Board of Directors, The Center for Community Solutions

Greetings: The Honorable Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland

Guest Emcee: Homa Bash, Reporter, NEWS 5

Celebrating the Genius of Solutions

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens, Author, *The Genius of Justice*

Award Presentations:

- \$25K Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award to a nonprofit organization for outstanding service
- Most Treasured Volunteer Awards

Concluding remarks: John Corlett, President and Executive Director, The Center for Community Solutions

W. T. McCULLOUGH LECTURE

Celebrating the Genius of Solutions Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens



The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens serves as senior minister of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in downtown Columbus, a church known for its witness to social justice since its birth as an abolitionist congregation in 1852.

He has built relationships with other pastors, laypeople, and city leaders to work to end poverty through improved education, fair labor laws, job creation, fair housing, health care reform, and equal rights for all people. He has advocated for the end of gun violence and the abolition of the death penalty and has served two terms as co-president of B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity), which he helped found in 1996. To move compassion for the poor forward across Ohio, Rev. Ahrens launched We Believe Ohio in 2006. Rev. Ahrens has served on the board of The Center for Community Solutions since 2016.

Prior to his ordination, he served in urban settings of ministry, stimulating growth and revitalization by helping congregations to become more multi-racial, more multi-cultural, and more accepting and tolerant of all people.

Rev. Ahrens has preached and lectured across the country, and his comments and columns have been widely published, including in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, New Yorker magazine, the Chicago Tribune, over 40 Ohio newspapers, and other notable media.

His book, The Genius of Justice, is expected to be published in the spring of 2023.

A devoted husband and father, Tim and his wife are the parents of four adult children and have four grandchildren.

> Author, The Genius of Justice

> Member, Board of Directors, The Center for Community Solutions

> Senior Minister, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



**Sages guide us forward to
deeper understanding
of how to live in this world.**

ANISFIELD-WOLF MEMORIAL AWARD

Ghetto Therapy

Ghetto Therapy is the recipient of this year's \$25,000 Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award for its work helping Cleveland's Central neighborhood heal from trauma and shape a new future.

The median household income in Central is a little over \$10,000; more than 80 percent of children live below the poverty line. Daily living in these conditions and dealing with increasing violence and the pandemic have greatly impacted the neighborhood.

To provide community members with a free, safe space to process their trauma and begin healing, lifelong residents Walter Patton and Cassandra Gordon created The Ghetto Therapy. Instead of encouraging people to seek help outside their community, the program brings helpers into the community. They facilitate discussions on issues that cause trauma, as well as those that can provide elements of healing. Session topics range from police interactions and grief, from prenatal and child care to gardening.

Ghetto Therapy is helping neighbors help themselves—healing in their community, with their community.

Founded in 1964, The Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award is presented annually by The Center for Community Solutions. The award fund is held by the Cleveland Foundation.



I want a safe space

for all of us to heal
together because

a lot of us don't
know how

to heal together,

don't know how
to heal, period.

Cassandra Gordon
Ghetto Therapy

MOST TREASURED VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Diane Coury

A teacher by vocation, Diane devotes about eight hours a week to The Literacy Cooperative's Dolly Parton Imagination Library, keeping records up to date, training other volunteers, and preparing books and delivering them.

When she sees a need, she takes the initiative to help fill it, such as designing and helping to create table centerpieces, developing and creating activities for children to do at a festival tent, and recommending additional outreach opportunities. Diane is "a treasure beyond measure."



Brian Cullina

When he retired as a business banker, Brian wanted to use his skills to help people personally—and he has. He has been instrumental in improving HFLA's small business and entrepreneur loan processes and efficiency. He helps potential borrowers prepare applications; serves as a mentor and advisor; checks on progress; and helps them deal with challenges. At the same time, Brian helps staff develop their knowledge and ability to help potential borrowers. Brian helps people on their road to business success.



HFLA
OF NORTHEAST OHIO

Patricia Field

For 17 years, Patricia has called three or four people each day to wish them a happy birthday on behalf of Greater Cleveland Volunteers. She does this although blind. She receives an audio cassette letting her know who to call. She enjoys conversations, which is helpful when calling lonely people. Patricia serves as an important connection between GCV and other volunteers. Her daily effort lets people know they are appreciated. They, in turn, appreciate her.

**Greater
Cleveland
Volunteers**



Barbara Jacobus

Care, compassion, and commitment to service have been the forces driving Barbara in her work with Community Service Alliance since she helped establish it in 2004. From the very beginning, she has volunteered time, talent, and treasure to helping men transition from poverty, homelessness, and addiction along the journey to a better life. From digging in the dirt of the gardens, to leading a project to help homeless veterans, Barbara continues to be a vital part of the organization.



Trayvon Portor

Trayvon spent the pandemic teaching young men like himself how to tie a tie, play chess, take care of their health, and develop life skills—all while he was graduating from high school. In the last three years, he has worked with over 5,000 people through the 1,000 Ties program. He has grown from being a self-defined introvert to speaking publicly on behalf of the organization and the young people it serves. Trayvon is a role model for people of all ages.



Angela Shute-Woodson

Angela has fought for years for the cause of civil rights. She has faithfully tracked local voter turnout, organized events on community issues, and served as a liaison between the national, state, and local branches of the NAACP. She is a mentor for many who want to get involved in civil rights and racial justice. Angela is a “conduit turning energy into action,” ensuring that people are aware of their right to vote, that they exercise that right, and that they stay engaged after elections.



In 2023,
**The Center for
Community
Solutions
will celebrate
110 years!**

Plan to join
us for a giant
Celebration!

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JOE AHERN



**Thank you for 37 years of service
to the organization and
to the community we serve.**



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