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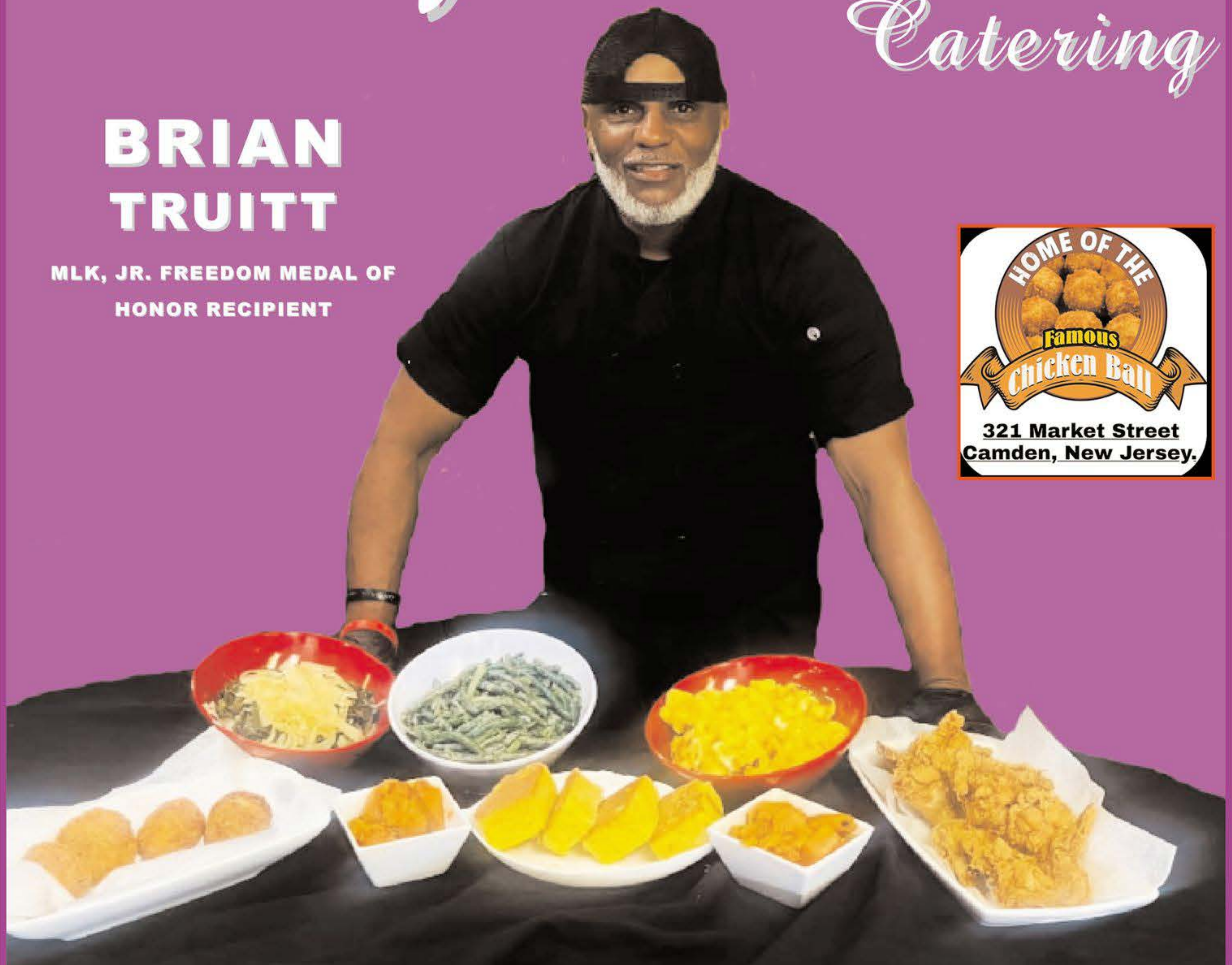
## NEWS JOURNAL

The Nation's Premier **Bi-Weekly** Faith-Based and Professional Publication For Winners  
Volume 32      Issue 7      May 10 - 23, 2026      FREE SEE INSIDE

# *Mylestone* *Catering*

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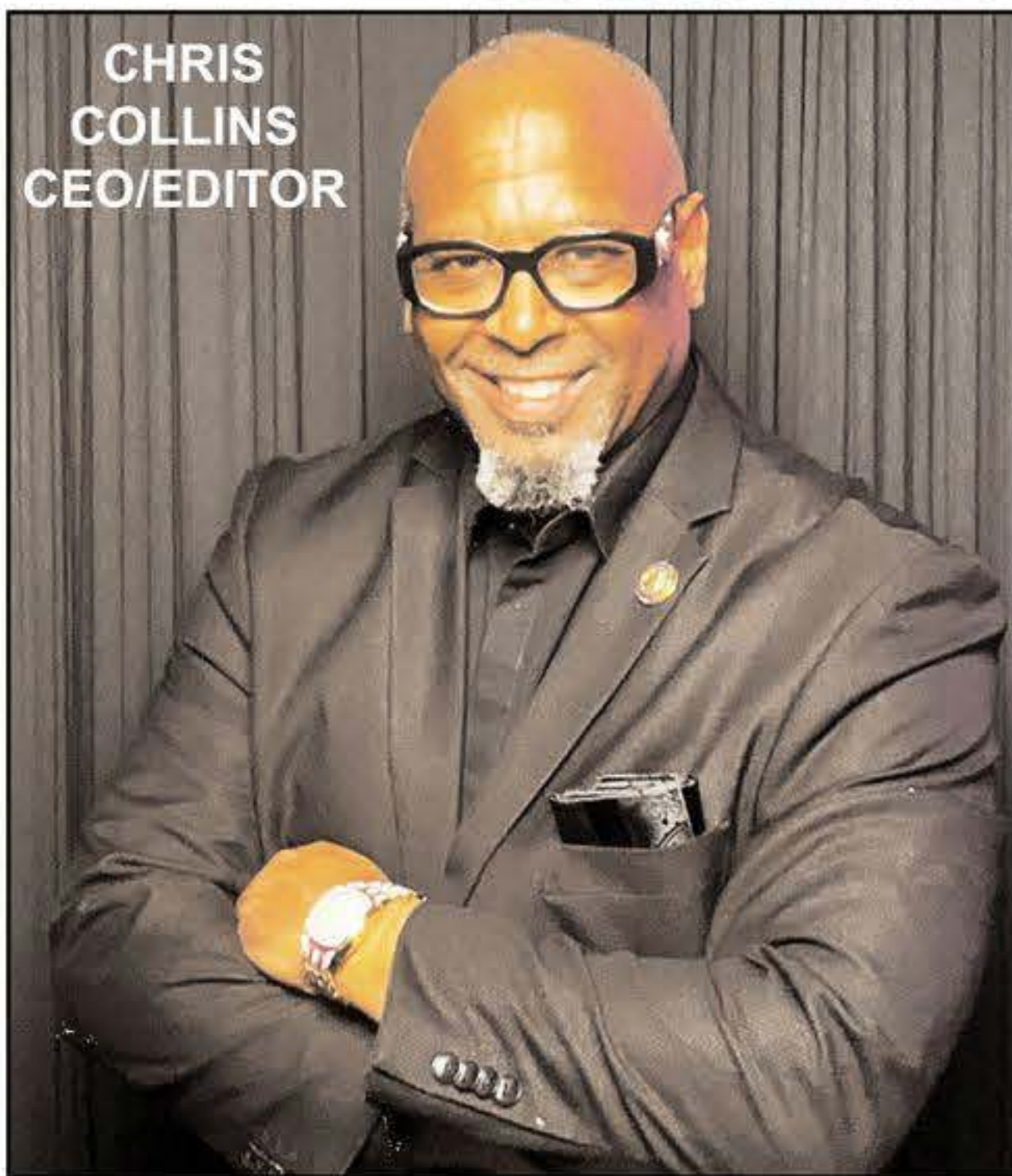
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**CHRIS COLLINS**  
CEO/EDITOR

**A Word from the Editor**

**Celebrating 32 years of providing quality news to our readers**

Dear Readers of the nation’s premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, Anointed News Journal (ANJ). I am taking this time personally to thank each and every individual that has read the Anointed News Journal. I hope you have been inspired by the many positive people interest stories, and stories that have uplifted and empowered our communities.

I am also taking this time to thank our many advertisers that saw the value in utilizing ANJ to accomplish your marketing goals for your companies and/or purpose. ANJ remains the VOICE of Camden city and the SOURCE for connecting people together. If you are in business and need to advertise, we can help. Based in Camden, NJ, the Anointed News Journal has distribution locally in CAMDEN, BURLINGTON, GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND, DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE, KENT, and PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES. Since 1995 ANJ has provided stories and distribution to 28 states across the country and 11 nations around the world.

Getting your message in front of more than 180,000 readers bi-weekly in print and much more via the world-wide web is a great way to reach the market you are looking for.

I am also thanking those individuals that have given resources to support our mission of publishing positive press. Your contributions are paramount and my heart continues to be filled with joy from the smallest contribution to the largest, every time I receive a contribution, I cannot hold my smile in. I am forever grateful. For those that have been reading ANJ for many years and have never given a contribution, now is a great time to do so.

ANJ is a free publication that is supported by its advertisers. We offer cost effective advertising giving advertisers the opportunity to get quality exposure at a comfortable price point. We offer RISK-FREE Advertising, which simply means if you are not satisfied, you will receive a complementary ad in an upcoming edition.

**About Anointed News Journal**

In May 1994 the CEO/Editor-in-Chief, Chris Collins received a vision from the Creator to write a business plan to seek funding for a grass-roots newspaper. For eight months and through Divine intervention, the business plan was rewritten for the ministry of the Anointed News Journal. The Holy Scripture given divinely to Collins was Habakkuk 2:2 (Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry). As a result, and with prayer and seeking God’s direction, the name “Anointed” was given.

Knowing that English was not his favorite subject while attending school, and that his career goal had nothing to do with journalism, Collins completely trusted in the Creator while developing this business.

The name “Anointed” comes from the hands that God has anointed to master this work and profession. Collins left a career in law enforcement to pursue the vision he received from the Creator.

Using his hands cutting and pasting stories and artwork is how it all began. Typing, proofreading, and making sure things were camera-ready before the layout was the process before technology was included.

Today, 32 years later, ANJ is recognized as a leader in the newspaper industry. ANJ was awarded Best100 Small Businesses consecutively since 2017. In 2021 Chris Collins was recognized by CIO Magazine as a Top 50 Innovators of the Year.

Although it may seem as if newspapers are becoming obsolete, ANJ continues to thrive. As the daily press struggles due to increase rates that have simply priced them out of the market. Weekly newspapers continue to make their mark serving the community and its advertisers. Although many have embraced the digital divide, people still want their physical newspapers. Because of the types of “Peoples Interest Stories” found in ANJ, most readers save their copies for years. Although mainstream media focus on negative press, ANJ has built its legacy on positive stories. “We have written a lot of stories in the past 32 years, and in 32 years we still have not run out of great stories to write about the great people of Camden and surrounding areas,” said Collins. “As we look at the rise of Camden, NJ and the great positive image it has today, I believe we helped to increase that image by sharing the positive stories Camden has to offer, and we’ve been doing that for 32 years now,” said Collins.

**My Ask!**

This is what I am asking from you today. I am asking every reader of ANJ, those of you who believe in positive press and grass-roots press to make a financial contribution to support our mission. Many have been reading ANJ for 32 years and have never made a contribution but would like to. Now is the perfect time as we have entered into our 32nd season. For those who are unable to financially contribute, we are thankful for your continued prayers.

The Holy Scriptures in Matthew 7:7-8 (KJV) states, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Luke 6:38 (KJV) states, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

I’m believing in the POWER of God. I’m believing in the POWER of God’s People coming together. Yes, I’m believing in YOU.

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV) states, “And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.”

Please make all contributions payable to: Anointed News Journal, P.O. Box 309, Camden, NJ 08101. You can also visit: [www.anointedonline.net](http://www.anointedonline.net) click on Donation button. You can also Cash App to \$ANJEDITOR.

May God continue to bless you! May God continue to bless this world! May god continue to bless ANJ!

Yours truly,  
Chris Collins, CEO/Editor-in-Chief

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**Note:** Opinions by columnists do not reflect those of the editor or staff. Feel free to respond.


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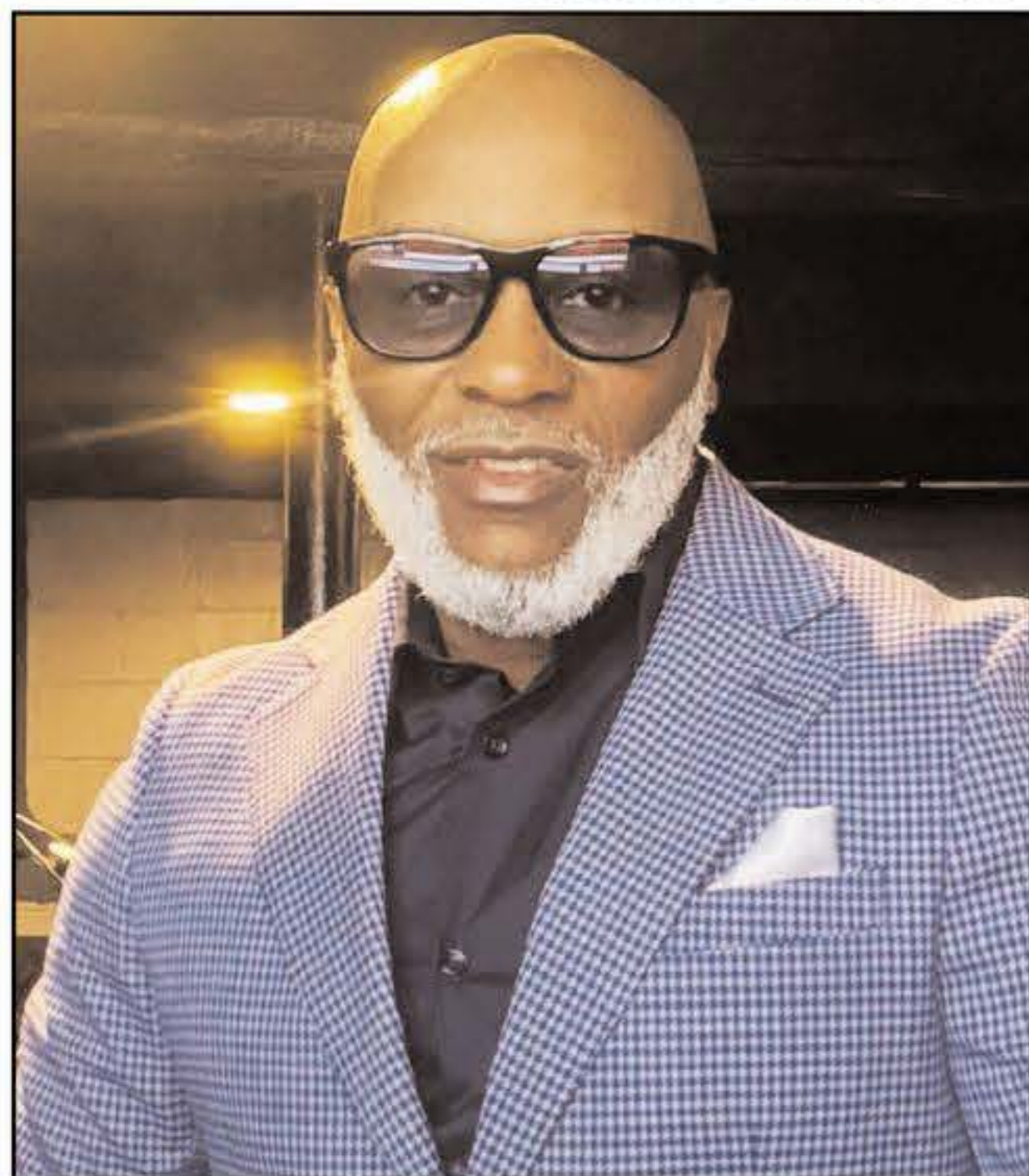
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## Mylestone Catering: The Camden Restaurant Built on Community, Respect, & Family Values

**Camden, NJ** - For many people throughout Camden, Mylestone Catering is more than just a place to grab a meal; it is a symbol of family, consistency, community, and love. Founded by Camden native **Brian Truitt**, the family-owned business has become known not only for its soul food and seafood specialties, but also for its commitment to serving the community through affordable meals, charitable outreach, and genuine relationships with customers. Truitt was recently awarded the Camden County Freedom Medal, in honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for his community impact. Truitt has built a legacy rooted in service, respect, and giving back.

In an exclusive interview with the nation's premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, Anointed News Journal, Brian Truitt shares how faith, family values, consistency, and a passion for helping people have helped Mylestone Catering become one of Camden's most beloved community staples.

**Collins:**  
Who is Brian Truitt?

**Truitt:**  
I'm Brian Truitt, right here from Camden. I started off growing up in Parkside, but eventually my family moved to East Camden, where we ended up. I ended up going to McGraw Elementary, East Camden Middle School and then Woodrow Wilson High School. Growing up with seven sisters and two brothers, and my mother and father who were married for 65 years, it was a lot, but we all learned how to get along. And I'm the baby of ten, so hey, man, listen, get in where you fit in when it comes to that.

**Collins:**  
You are also the founder, owner, and operator of Mylestone Caterers. Tell us, what is Mylestone Catering?

**Truitt:**  
Mylestone Catering is a family business right here in Camden City, and we cater to our community. That's why I call it Mylestone Catering — we cater to our community. We also do parties and stuff like that, but mostly we cater to our community.

**Collins:**  
And where are you located?

**Truitt:**  
We are located at 321 Market Street in beautiful downtown Camden.

**Collins:**  
And you talk about family and the importance of family values. When people walk into Mylestone Catering, the first thing they see is your wall of family photos and portraits. And there's a sign that says "The Cloth We're Cut From." What message are you giving to the public when they see this wall?

**Truitt:**  
Well, the message that we're giving here on this wall is that family is over everything, alright? This here stems from the 1800s onto now. That's our great-grandmother on there. That's our great-grandfathers, all my aunts and uncles. We learned a lot of our values from all of this ancestry. It's my ancestry wall. My oldest aunt is 102, so history is here.

**Collins:**  
Now, what motivated you to pursue a career in culinary?

**Truitt:**  
Well, what really motivated me was that I had a job in 1984 at a place called The Rivet, and I worked there for a couple of years. They closed down in '95, so I figured, "Well, hey, if the restaurants keep closing down, I might as well stand out on my own and try to do it myself." I rented a little kitchen and started in a nice little spot with one stove and one fryer. Then I eventually grew and moved across the street to Sixth Street Lounge. At the same time, I was building this right here at 321 Market. It just kept growing and growing and growing. Then we came up with Recessed Wednesdays, which is 50-cent shrimp every Wednesday, and that took off. Eventually, once the pandemic hit, after all those years, we decided we could just stay in one building. Time is way more important than money.

**Collins:**  
So, what makes Mylestone special?

**Truitt:**  
Mylestone is special because it's not about the money. For us, it's about the volume. So we figured if we can get enough people to come here to Mylestone, we can keep the prices low. In our city, that's most important. We have to keep the prices affordable so you can come here every day and get a meal. Also, we make this food fresh every day. There are no shortcuts. There's only one way, and that's the way we keep going. It's that one way.

**Collins:**  
Tell us about your menu and what Mylestone specializes in.

**Truitt:**  
The menu consists of soul food and seafood. We have fried shrimp, sautéed shrimp; and you can get them eight different ways. We also specialize in fried chicken, fried wings, salmon, and whiting. Everything on the menu we can use for more than one thing, so that's how we try to keep the prices low because we can always mix and match things. And all the food is made fresh every day. We boil the yams every day. There's nothing out of a can here. We have nothing in a can. Everything's fresh.

**Collins:**  
There was one particular item on your menu that you don't always have, but whenever you have it, it is certainly a big treat to the community, and that's your seafood baked potato. Tell us about that seafood baked potato, and what motivates you to be creative to take a baked potato and turn it into a culinary masterpiece?

**Truitt:**  
Well, the seafood baked potato is a 40-count baked potato, which is the biggest potato that you can really get. It's baked in the oven, and it has four cheeses in it. It's garlic butter and Old Bay, with crab meat and shrimp. It's topped with cheese and baked in the oven, so it's a twice-baked baked potato.

**Collins:**  
You mentioned that this is a family-owned business, and throughout just the last year you've seen an increase in staff. Tell us about your team.

**Truitt:**  
Oh man, my team consists of a couple of my nephews, a lot of my cousins, a couple of my nieces, and a couple of friends. We just keep it the same all the time. We don't really have experienced cooks. We teach everybody how to cook that way we're all on one page, and we all don't have bad habits.

**Collins:**  
Recently, you were honored with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Medal of Honor by Camden County. How did that make you feel?

**Truitt:**  
What an honor, to be mentioned in such prestigious views. I mean, I've been here for 15 years, and I never thought it would come down to getting an award like that. That's a really special award, and I appreciate it. It really pays tribute to what we

really do here as far as helping the kids, fundraising for these kids, helping some of the classes. We fundraise for them and help them out, and you don't realize what you're giving back until someone tells you that they appreciate what you did for them.

**Collins:**  
Now let's talk about the catering side of the house. When I was first really introduced to your culinary skills, I believe it was the Camden High School Class of 1986 30-year reunion, which was ten years ago, and you catered the event at one of the classmates' homes. It was one of the most beautiful displays that I've ever seen. As a result, for the past ten years or so, you've been exclusively catering the after-party for the Christmas with Chris Black Tie Gala. So, tell us why it's important to you not just to cater, but to do it on such a high level.

**Truitt:**  
Every time I do that with Chris Collins every year, it is an amazing, amazing event. We have a ball with it every year. We change the menu, and it's not a lot, it's not anything complicated. It's something simple, but when people come upstairs every holiday, they know they're getting ready to get a good meal. So, to be honest, I put it out for you, bro. I'm not going to lie to you. I put it out for you. And every year, it's something different, something amazing. I think everybody downstairs looks forward to coming upstairs into that room.

**Collins:**  
And you said it best. It's not just about an after-party. They know they're coming upstairs and they're going to see Brian Truitt and Mylestone. They never know what to expect, but they're always treated with love.

**Truitt:**  
They're treated with love, yes. Yeah, and that's important to me — not only for your name, but for my name too. When they come upstairs and say, "Oh man, you know Chris and Brian are upstairs, so we're going to go up there. We don't have to finish this meal down here because we know we're going to get a good meal upstairs."

**Collins:**  
You've done a lot of givebacks to the community, a lot of times without any compensation. You recently assisted in a fundraiser for one of our firefighters, Ayshia Williams, who unfortunately lost her life to cancer. You've helped so many causes, and you're very unselfish in how you do this. Why is it so important for you to help your community in such a strong way?

**Truitt:**  
Well, to me, our legacy will not be in the money that we give or anything like that. It's only going to be in what they say about us when we lay down. I haven't seen anybody with a hearse carrying money in a casket or anything else. So the love that we show for our people will be talked about forever, not what you give somebody. When you show your community that you're with them and how you can help them. That's everything.

**Collins:**  
What words of advice would you give to a young man or woman that would like to follow in your shoes and one day maybe establish their own restaurant or pursue a career in culinary?

**Truitt:**  
In any business: culinary, hairdressing, whatever you do in life — it's always about being consistent and being a person of your word. If you say you're going to be somewhere, then be there. If you say you're going to have something, have it. If you say you're going to open up at a certain time, open up. If you say you're going to close, close at that time. It's all about consistency. Everything in life is consistency.

**Collins:**  
How can people acquire your services for catering?

**Truitt:**  
Just call us at (856) 397-5068, and my cousin Rhonda or Marsha will take care of all your needs. There's nothing too small and nothing too large that we can do.

**Collins:**  
What's next for Brian Truitt?

Continued from page 4

**Truitt:**

I think for me, it's just to keep building on what we have here because I don't desire another store. This is a very hard business to be in with this economy and the things that are going on. So to make it better, I think we can just get better. Customer service is everything, and I think that's what we need to work on a little bit more — being a little happier in serving our community and serving our customers.

**Collins:**

I've watched you make adjustments during the time of COVID, and many businesses struggled. Many small businesses did not survive, yet you weathered the storm. You're still standing. Would you contribute you and your staff, along with your customer service quality, as part of what allowed you to prosper during a time when others were not?

**Truitt:**

Yes, most definitely. We don't really change our prices that much, so we try to keep them at a certain level. We try to treat everybody with respect, and that's one of the most important things. Pricing is everything in the city of Camden, where it's really a food desert and jobs are kind of rough here. And not only that, after 4:00pm, it's a jailbreak. So now we've got to get people to want to come downtown to buy food from us because, remember, there's no retail here, but Mylestone is still here.

**Collins:**

Let's talk about what you offer through your catering: You've done class reunions, weddings, and repasses.

**Truitt:**

People call us for repasses, even if they don't have much, we still take care of feeding the families. If people are having something, and we know them as customers that came here, we always show up with something to let them know that we appreciated their business and the time they spent with us. So, for me, there's nothing too large or too small. If you need me, that's what you got me for. I don't care if you just need me to fry your chicken; if you need me, that's what you got me for.

**Collins:**

The Anointed News Journal has over 180,000 readers bi-weekly. In conclusion, what do you want to say to the readers of the Anointed News Journal?

**Truitt:**

Always support this newspaper. This is one of the staples in our city, and we love what the Anointed does for us. It brings us a lot of people.

**Conclusion:**

Brian Truitt's story is a reminder that true success is not measured only by profit, but by the impact a person leaves on their community. Through Mylestone Catering, Truitt has created more than a restaurant — he has built a gathering place rooted in family, service, consistency, and love for the people of Camden. As he continues to serve meals, support local causes, and uplift those around him, Truitt's legacy is proving that caring for a community can be just as powerful as feeding it.

By Chris Collins





## “Michael” Rekindles Jackson Mania and Reminds Fans Why the King of Pop Still Reigns

For many fans, watching Michael was more than simply going to the movies — it was an emotional return to one of the greatest entertainers the world has ever seen.

The highly anticipated Michael Jackson biopic, *Michael*, recently released in April 2026 and starring Jaafar Jackson as the King of Pop, has quickly become one of the biggest cultural moments of the year. Directed by Antoine Fuqua and backed by the Jackson estate, the film has reignited global fascination with the legendary entertainer, drawing longtime fans and younger audiences back into Michael Jackson’s music, performances, and legacy.

For devoted Michael Jackson fans, the movie may not necessarily reveal brand-new information about his life. Most fans already know the milestones, the music, and many of the defining moments. What the film does accomplish, however, is something much harder to achieve: it recreates the feeling of being there.

From the concert sequences to the behind-the-scenes family dynamics, *Michael* places viewers inside the world of Michael Jackson in a way that makes audiences feel like a “fly on the wall” during key moments of his rise to superstardom. The emotional weight of the performances, the recreations of iconic stages, and the quieter moments behind the fame all work together to remind audiences why Michael Jackson became a once-in-a-generation figure.

At its core, the film confirms what millions of fans around the world have believed for decades — Michael Jackson was not only a global superstar, but a uniquely gifted artist whose influence still dominates music and pop culture today.

Much of the praise surrounding the film has centered on Jaafar Jackson, Michael’s real-life nephew and the son of Jermaine Jackson. Fans and even members of the Jackson family have reportedly been amazed at how closely Jaafar embodied Michael on screen — from the voice and dance movements to the subtle facial expressions and stage presence.

According to interviews released during the film’s promotional campaign, Jaafar underwent intense preparation for the role, reportedly spending nearly two years training physically and mentally to portray his famous uncle authentically. Videos documenting his preparation and rehearsal process generated significant online attention leading up to the release.

For many viewers, Jaafar’s performance became the emotional anchor of the film. While some actors imitate legendary figures, audiences felt Jaafar carried an added layer of authenticity because he is a Jackson; He was born and raised into the lineage of this prestigious family.

The response from fans has been overwhelming. Across social media, moviegoers have posted videos of sold-out theaters erupting into applause, audiences singing along to classic songs, and fans arriving in Michael Jackson jackets, gloves, hats, and vintage concert attire. Some theaters reportedly felt more like live celebrations than traditional screenings.

Many fans also admitted that the movie sent them back down the “Michael Jackson rabbit hole,” revisiting old performances, documentaries, interviews, and music videos after leaving the theater. Streaming numbers for Jackson’s catalog have reportedly surged in the days following the film’s release, further proving the lasting power of his music and legacy.

Commercially, the film has already made history. *Michael* earned a record-breaking \$217 million worldwide during its opening weekend, including \$97 million domestically, making it the biggest opening ever for a musical biopic. The film surpassed previous record holders such as *Straight Outta Compton*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, and even the Oscar-winning *Oppenheimer* in opening weekend biopic numbers. (The Guardian)

The movie also received extremely strong audience reactions despite mixed critical reviews. Audience scores reportedly reached as high as 97% on Rotten Tomatoes, while CinemaScore audiences gave the film an “A-” grade. (The Guardian)

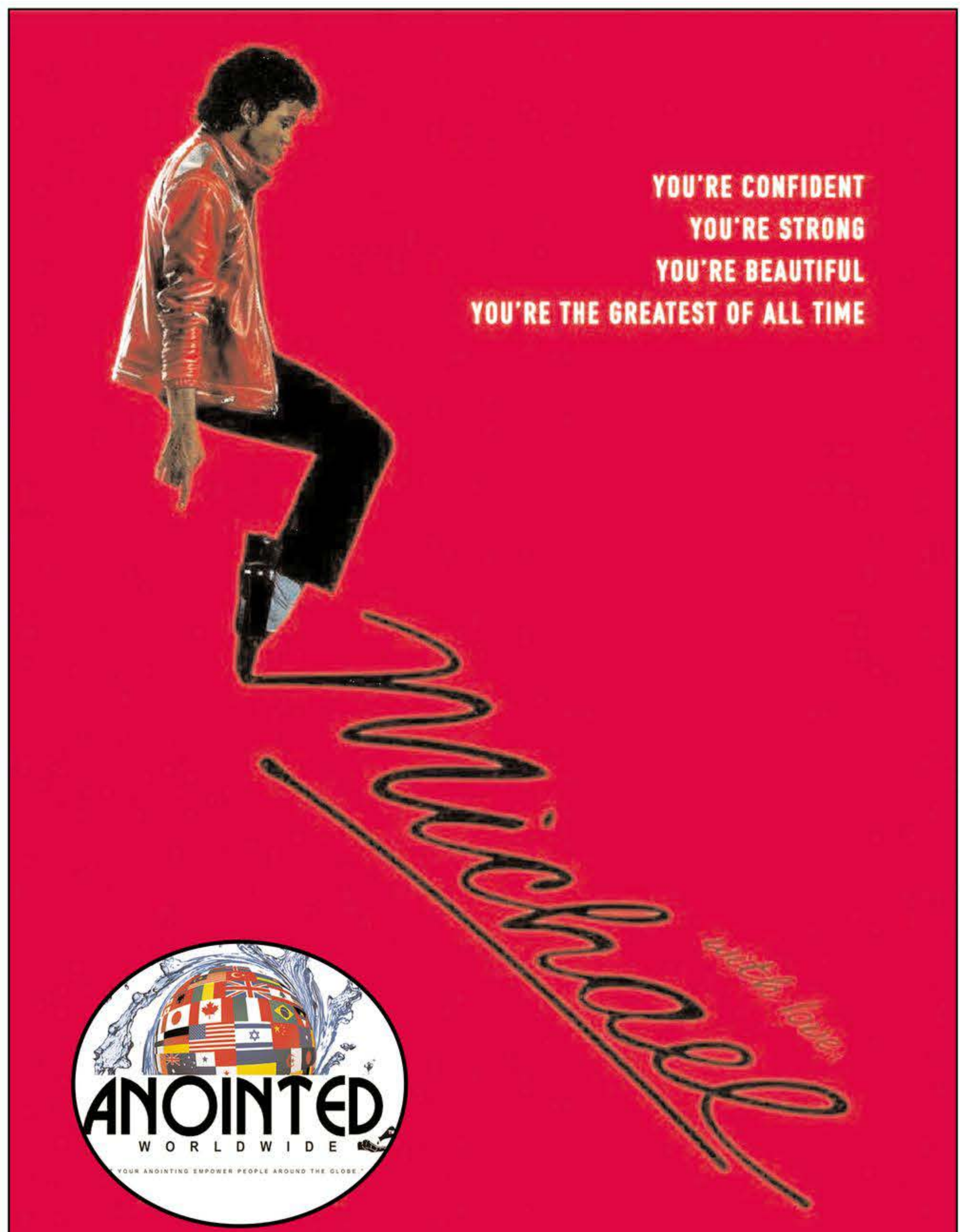
The cast surrounding Jaafar Jackson has also received attention, including performances by Colman Domingo as Joe Jackson, Nia Long as Katherine Jackson, and Miles Teller as longtime Jackson advisor John Branca. (People.com)

Reports have additionally surfaced that the film’s massive success has already sparked discussions about a potential sequel, with future installments expected to continue exploring Michael Jackson’s later career and global superstardom. (New York Post)

It’s been nearly 17 years since his passing, and Michael Jackson’s influence continues to dominate entertainment worldwide. From Broadway productions and tribute artists to viral dance videos and streaming playlists, “Michael Mania” remains alive and well.

And for fans leaving theaters after watching *Michael*, the feeling seems almost universal: the movie reminds audiences not only how talented Michael Jackson was, but why the world may never see another entertainer quite like him. One thing remains clear — he was, and is, and will always be...the King of Pop.

By Christopher Collins II



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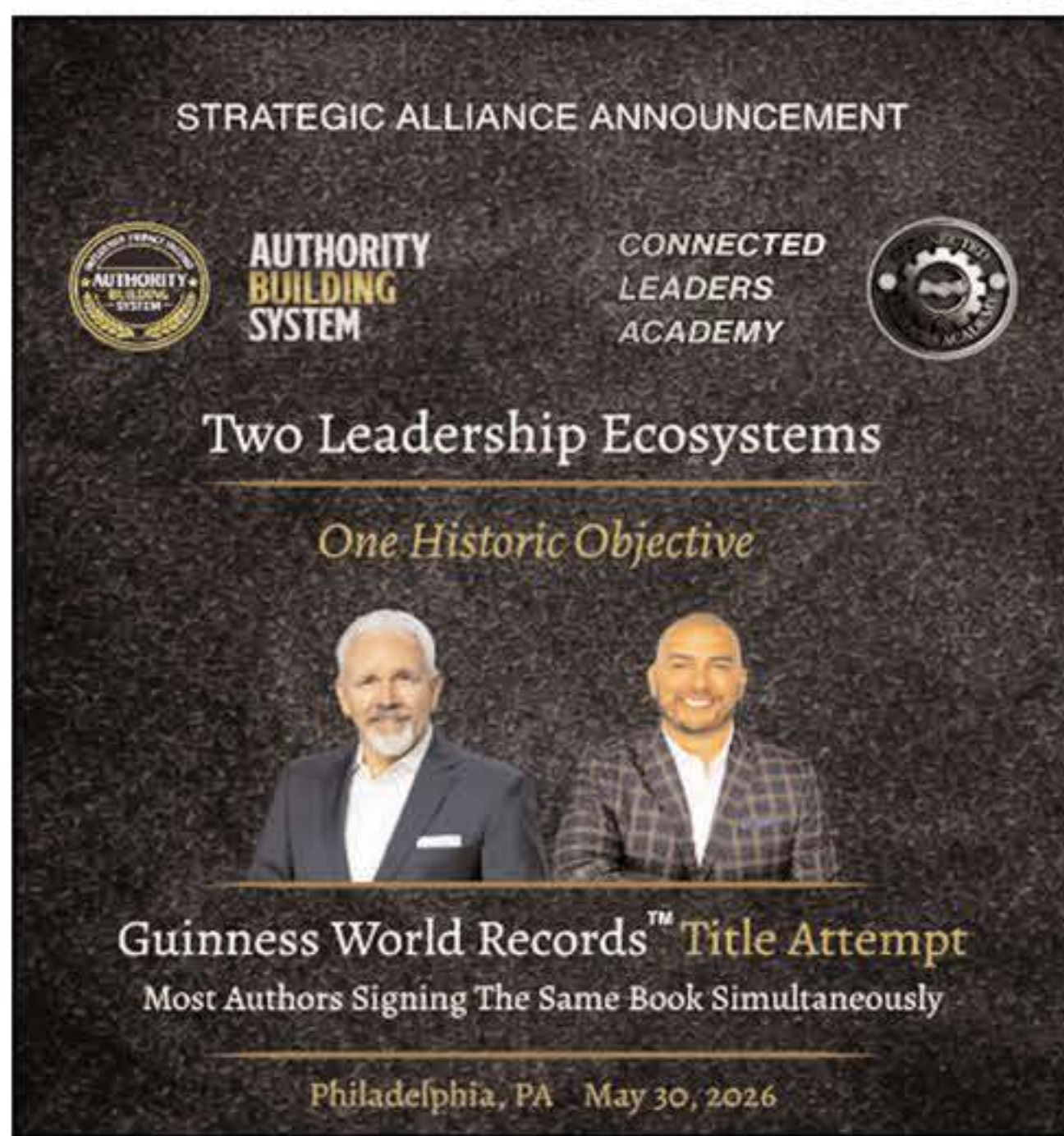
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## Guinness World Record Attempt Aims to Unite Authors and Build Legacy in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, PA - A historic literary and leadership event is preparing to make its mark in Philadelphia, as organizers Jim Hetherington of the Authority Building System, and Jose Escobar of the Connected Leaders Academy partner together for an official Guinness World Records™ title attempt focused on the “Most Authors Signing the Same Book Simultaneously.”

Set for May 30, 2026, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the event will bring together authors, speakers, entrepreneurs, coaches, and business leaders from across the country for a full-day experience centered around legacy, networking, collaboration, and storytelling.

In an exclusive interview with the nation’s premier faith-based and professional newspaper for winners, Anointed News Journal, Jim Hetherington shared the inspiration behind the ambitious undertaking and explained how the idea evolved from a long-standing dream into an international leadership collaboration.

According to Hetherington, the vision first began nearly six years ago after learning about a previous Guinness World Records attempt in his hometown of Toronto, Canada. Although he was unable to attend that event, the concept stayed with him.

“I’ve always grown up reading the Guinness World Records books and seeing all the unique things people accomplished,” Hetherington said. “When I heard about an event involving the most authors signing the same book simultaneously, I thought it was incredibly exciting.”

Years later, Hetherington revisited the idea and began formal conversations with Guinness World Records officials. What followed was an extensive planning and approval process involving numerous communications and logistical discussions.

As excitement surrounding the project grew, Hetherington began sharing the concept with members of his professional network, including Connected Leaders Academy founder Jose Escobar. The partnership quickly expanded into a working concept that has connected 130+ authors together for this exciting opportunity.

The organizers ultimately selected Philadelphia as the host city because of its historical significance and the nation’s upcoming 250th anniversary celebration in 2026.

“We realized that Philadelphia was the perfect place,” Hetherington explained. “The Declaration of Independence was signed there. The forefathers were building a legacy far beyond themselves, and that became a major inspiration for what we’re creating.”

The event’s theme revolves heavily around the concept of leaving a lasting impact through words, ideas, and personal stories.

Participants will contribute inspirational messages, quotes, or reflections that will become part of a collaborative book tied directly to the world record attempt.

For Hetherington and his team, the event represents more than simply breaking a record; they hope it creates an environment where meaningful relationships, partnerships, and future opportunities are formed.

“We teach authors that they’re not writing just for today,” Hetherington said. “They’re writing for years from now. They’re building something that can outlive them.”

The event itself is expected to feature a packed schedule beginning the evening of Friday, May 29, with a VIP networking gathering for sponsors and special guests. The main event on Saturday, May 30, will begin around 8:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

Organizers say attendees can expect keynote speakers, leadership sessions, business networking opportunities, discussions surrounding artificial intelligence and communication strategies, as well as multiple media stations designed to help participants create professional photographs, videos, and digital marketing assets.

“One of the goals is for people to leave with media content they can continue using for months or even years afterward,” Hetherington said. “We want people to leverage the relationships, the pictures, the videos, and the opportunities they gain while they’re there.”

The official Guinness World Records adjudication process is scheduled to take place during the afternoon portion of the event, when participants will gather together for the coordinated signing ceremony and official tally count.

Following the attempt, organizers plan additional networking sessions and an after-hours gathering to further encourage collaboration and relationship building among attendees.

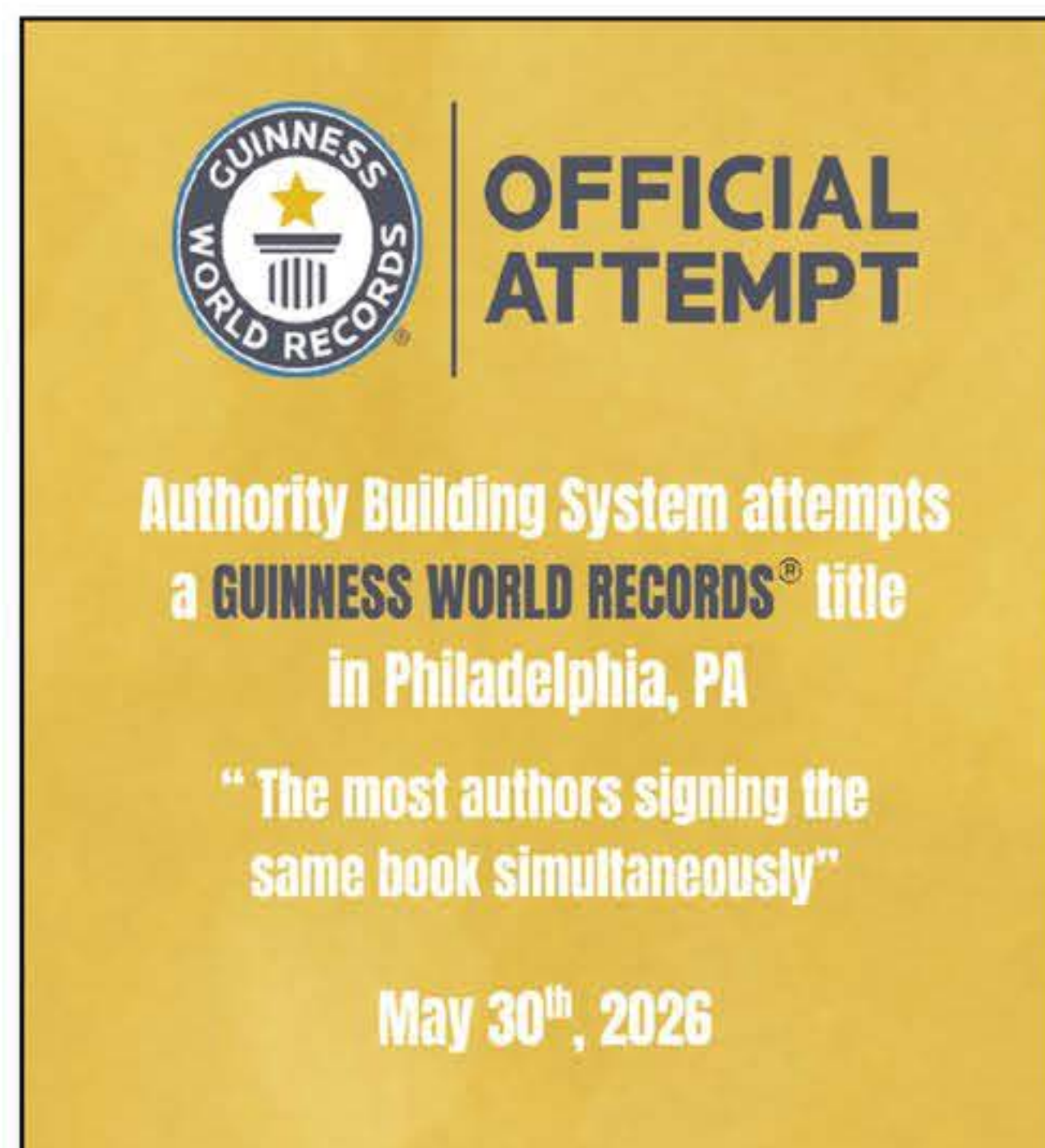
Hetherington emphasized that the project has become a collaborative effort involving several leaders and organizers working behind the scenes. In addition to Jose Escobar’s involvement, Emilio Roman has also played a major role as a strategic promotional ambassador for the initiative.

Roman previously participated in the earlier Toronto-based world record event and has been assisting with promotion, outreach, and organizational support for the Philadelphia gathering. The event is expected to attract individuals from various industries who are passionate about authorship, leadership, entrepreneurship, and personal growth.

While the possibility of setting a new Guinness World Records title is certainly exciting, organizers believe the true value of the experience lies in the unity and inspiration it creates.

As Philadelphia prepares to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, the event aims to honor the spirit of legacy established by the nation’s founders while encouraging modern-day leaders to use their voices, stories, and experiences to inspire future generations.

By Christopher Collins II



## Lawnsiders Flock to 100th Anniversary Exhibit

CAMDEN, NJ - Nearly 80 people crowded into the museum, the Sandra Turner-Barnes Room, and Pomona Hall at the Camden County Historical Society on April 26 for the opening of the 100th anniversary exhibit honoring the incorporation of Lawnside.

They were impressed by the expansive displays showing photographs, maps, census data, documents, artifacts and the leaders who exercised their power to create the first Black incorporated municipality in the North. At right, Society board members congratulate curator Shamele Jordan, in red beret.

On May 3, more visitors listened to Ms. Jordan and Floyd Riley share their research on Lawnside and Berlin businesses listed in *The Negro Traveler's Green Book*, a guide to places where Black people were welcome despite Jim Crow and segregation. Lawnside had more than 10 locations over the life of the guide. Berlin's Tippin Inn, owned by Mr. Riley's ancestor, was a part of the celebrated Chitlin Circuit.

The free exhibit will be on display through March 2027 with special monthly programs on the Underground Railroad, Faith, Education and Government. See photo galleries on the Society and Around Lawnside Facebook pages.

Ms. Jordan will lead a tour and deeper dive into the town's history on Sunday, June 7 from 3 - 4 p.m.



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**The Michaels Organization Offers Educational Awards to High School Seniors in the City of Camden in Pursuit of Post-Secondary Education**

Applications will be accepted through June 5, 2026 for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

**Camden, NJ** - The Michaels Organization, a national leader in residential real estate headquartered in Camden, New Jersey, in partnership with Camden Education Fund, is pleased to announce it will be offering educational scholarships to current high school seniors in the city who are pursuing post-secondary education in the Fall Semester of 2026.

The Lifting Lives in Camden scholarships can be used for tuition at any accredited college, university, or vocational school starting with the Fall 2026 academic year.

Applications for the Lifting Lives in Camden Scholarships are being accepted now, through June 5, 2026. To be eligible, students must live in the City of Camden, be graduating from one of the 10 high schools listed below, and hold a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

- Leap Academy University Charter School
- Camden Academy Charter High School
- KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy
- Mastery High School of Camden
- Camden Prep High School
- Eastside High School
- Camden High School
- Brimm Medical Arts High School
- Creative Arts Academy
- Camden Big Picture Learning Academy

“Michaels made the decision to move our headquarters to Camden in 2019, and we are committed to giving back to our corporate hometown,” said Michaels CEO John J. O’Donnell. “We are so proud that we are not only a beneficiary of this great City’s comeback, but one of the innovators who made it happen.”

The Lifting Lives in Camden Scholarship Program is in addition to The Michaels Organization Educational Foundation program that bestows scholarship awards to residents of Michaels’ housing communities, including in Camden.

To apply, Camden High School seniors will need to download and print the application form and complete all of the requirements, including personal and academic information, an essay, a reference form, and an official grade transcript. All completed applications can be sent to Courtney Zaccardi, Lifting Lives in Camden Scholarship Program, at P.O. Box 90708, Camden, NJ 08101, or dropped off in the official drop boxes at their school’s guidance counselor’s office.

Awards will be announced on July 15th, and funds will be sent directly to the schools, starting on August 14th.

Applications can be downloaded from [michaelscholars.com](http://michaelscholars.com). Any questions can be directed to [scholarships@tmo.com](mailto:scholarships@tmo.com)

**About The Michaels Organization**

The Michaels Organization is a national leader in residential real estate, offering full-service capabilities in development, property management, construction and investment. Serving more than 200,000 residents in more than 550 communities across 39 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Michaels is committed to crafting housing solutions that jumpstart education, civic engagement and neighborhood prosperity, and to creating Communities that Lift Lives.

Fellowship of Faith Outreach Ministry Inc.

# CAMDEN MARCH FOR JESUS

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<b>Sis. Lady Treesh</b> Macedonia Baptist Westville, NJ	<b>MIT Jasmine Jackson</b> Bethlehem Judah Christian Fellowship Elizabeth, New Jersey.	<b>Pastor James "Judah" Rogers</b> Kingdom Empowerment Church Haddon Twp. NJ	<b>Dr. Rhetta M. Moore</b> Macedonia Baptist Church Westville, NJ	<b>Louis Torres</b> Brooklyn, NY
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**JESUS IS LORD**

**SATURDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2026**

Meet at 9th & Kaighns Ave, Camden, NJ | 9AM  
 Celebration at Staley Park: 7th & Jefferson St. | 11AM

This march is about Christian Service and Evangelism. We want to celebrate the love of Jesus by giving love to our neighbors.

For more information please contact: Rev. Dr. Rhetta M. Moore, Chairperson  
 609-238-0059 or Sis. Carolyn Wharton, 856-383-8420

# ANOINTED

NEWS JOURNAL

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# SCHOLARSHIPS THAT *lift* LIVES

The Michaels Organization is proud to announce a new scholarship for high school seniors in the city of Camden who are pursuing post-secondary education in the Fall Semester of 2026.

Applications are being accepted now through **June 5, 2026**

Don't wait. **Apply today!**

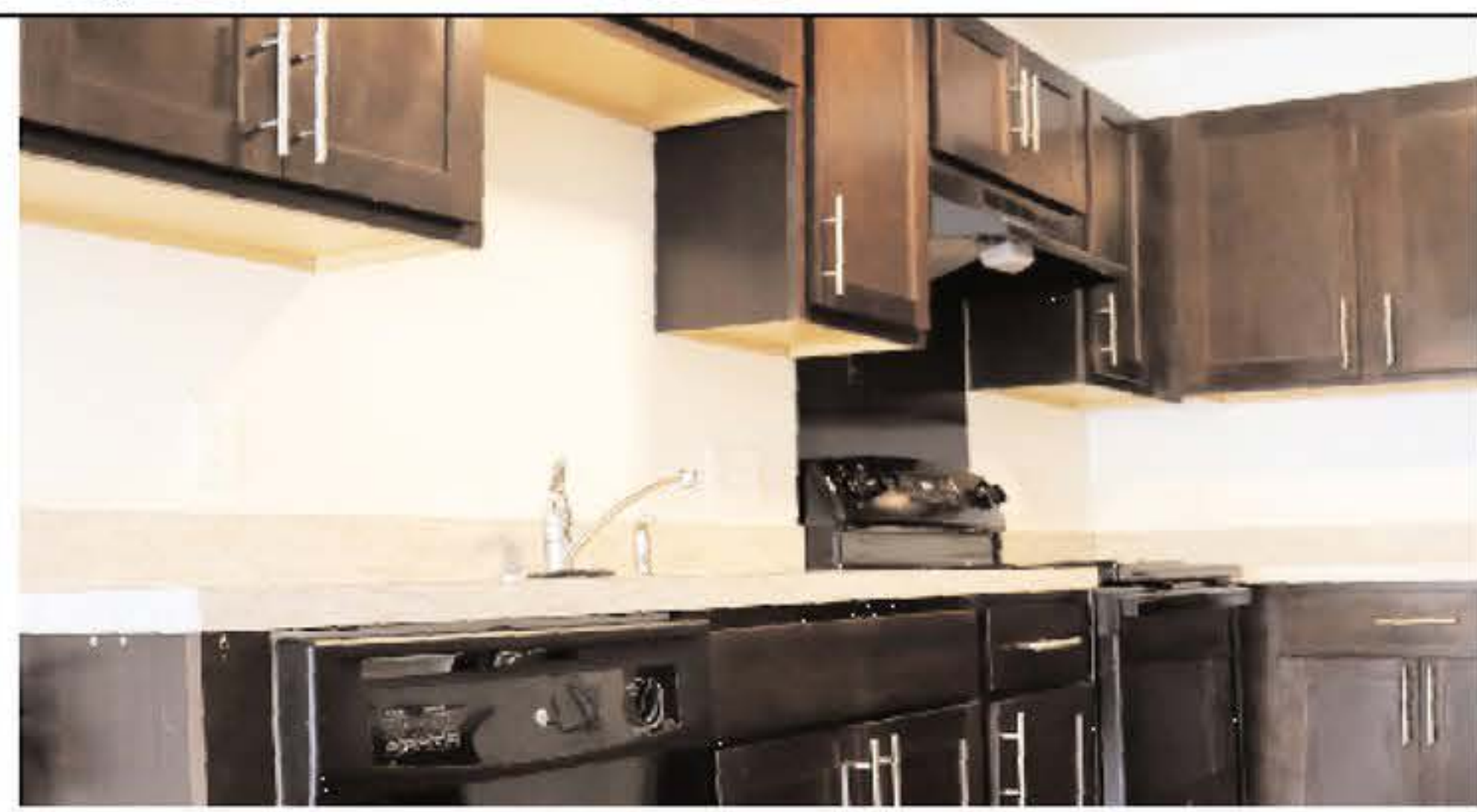


Head to [www.michaelsscholars.com](http://www.michaelsscholars.com) to download and print the Application Form and learn more about the program.

Any questions can be directed to [scholarships@tmo.com](mailto:scholarships@tmo.com)



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## Sherrill Administration Delivers More Than \$25 Million in Grants to Clean Up Litter in New Jersey Communities

**TRENTON, NJ** – The Sherrill Administration today announced the award of \$25.2 million in annual Clean Communities grants to municipalities and counties for local litter removal programs that help keep trash out of the environment and beautify New Jersey’s communities.

NJCCC grantee receives presentation check

The awards were announced at an event hosted by the New Jersey Clean Communities Council at Kean University’s Liberty Hall in Union Township, Union County. Grant recipients will use the funding to educate the public about the environmental harms of littering, set up volunteer litter cleanups, acquire litter removal equipment, clear litter and debris from stormwater drains, remove graffiti, and support enforcement of local litter laws.

“Nobody likes to see trash-filled roads, rivers, or parks,” said Acting DEP Commissioner Ed Potosnak. “By partnering with the Clean Communities Council to provide this critical funding, the DEP is ensuring that municipalities and counties can keep their communities healthy and clean without bearing the costs of these initiatives alone.”

The DEP is awarding a total of \$22.4 million to eligible municipalities and \$2.8 million to counties across the state. The awards are funded by taxes collected from businesses that produce litter-generating products and penalties paid for litter-related violations. The grant awards are prescribed by state law and are based on population, housing units and miles of municipally owned roadways.

### The New Jersey Clean Communities Council

The program is overseen by the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, which manages reporting requirements for the litter abatement programs in 558 municipalities and 21 counties. The Council is a statewide, comprehensive, litter-abatement program that grew out of the passage of the state’s Clean Communities Act of 1986.

“The New Jersey Clean Communities Council is incredibly honored to continue our partnership with NJDEP to advance litter education and cleanup initiatives across the state,” said Council Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden. “Today marks the fourth anniversary of New Jersey’s single-use plastics law - a shining example of the state’s environmental leadership. Together we’ve made great strides in drastically reducing single-use plastic bags from littering our roadways and waterways, serving as a national example of how smart state policy can directly combat litter. This year’s Clean Communities funding will continue to help local governments keep their communities cleaner, greener and prouder.”

The Clean Communities Council also administers the Adopt-a-Highway and Adopt-a-Beach volunteer programs to support groups, organizations, businesses or individuals seeking to organize trash cleanups at specific public locations.

This year, the Council is partnering with Keep America Beautiful to engage with New Jersey mayors across the state by encouraging them to sign pledges to join the organization’s Greatest American Cleanup in honor of America’s 250th anniversary.

### Municipalities Receiving Grants Over \$100,000

- Atlantic County: Egg Harbor Township, \$130,167; Galloway Township, \$108,916; Atlantic City, \$101,602.
- Burlington County: Evesham Township, \$119,852; Mount Laurel, \$107,693.
- Camden County: Cherry Hill, \$182,922; Gloucester Township, \$151,911; Camden, \$145,202; Winslow Township, \$103,052.
- Cape May County: Ocean City, \$110,682.
- Cumberland County: Vineland \$160,664.
- Essex County: Newark, \$533,511; East Orange, \$134,036; Irvington, \$109,304; Bloomfield Township, \$103,161.
- Gloucester County: Washington Township, \$113,594.
- Hudson County: Jersey City, \$544,337; Bayonne, \$131,530; Hoboken, \$119,453; Union City, \$109,397; North Bergen, \$107,875.
- Mercer County: Hamilton, \$228,965; Trenton, \$170,733.
- Middlesex County: Edison, \$217,300; Woodbridge, \$212,949; Old Bridge, \$146,114; Monroe Township, \$123,753; Piscataway, \$121,525; East Brunswick, \$118,417; South Brunswick, \$105,667.
- Monmouth County: Middletown, \$185,012; Howell, \$145,251; Marlboro Township, \$112,185; Manalapan, \$102,828.
- Morris County: Parsippany-Troy Hills, \$133,975.
- Ocean County: Toms River, \$267,494; Brick, \$200,263; Lakewood, \$171,493; Berkeley, \$156,911; Jackson, \$140,268; Manchester, \$132,007.
- Passaic County: Paterson, \$242,907; Clifton, \$166,411; Wayne, \$126,715.
- Somerset County: Franklin, \$166,379; Bridgewater, \$118,090; Hillsborough Township, \$116,317.
- Union County: Elizabeth, \$217,109; Union Township, \$114,878.

### County Grant Awards

- Atlantic, \$153,815; Bergen, \$182,891; Burlington, \$208,400; Camden, \$164,105; Cape May, \$87,596; Cumberland, \$223,293; Essex, \$88,736; Gloucester, \$171,307; Hudson, \$23,098; Hunterdon, \$100,722; Mercer, \$73,889; Middlesex, \$130,291; Monmouth, \$156,865; Morris, \$118,239; Ocean, \$254,692; Passaic, \$101,942; Salem, \$148,677; Somerset, \$103,111. Sussex, \$129,765; Union, \$74,516; Warren, \$108,267.

To find the complete list of municipal awards, visit [njclean.org/coordinators/grant-funding](http://njclean.org/coordinators/grant-funding).

## Governor Sherrill Announces Team Morocco New Jersey “Base Camp” for FIFA World Cup 2026™

Morocco Among Four National Teams to Base Training Operations in New Jersey During World Cup

**BASKING RIDGE, NJ** – Governor Mikie Sherrill today joined Moroccan Ambassador to the United States Youssef Amrani and FIFA World Cup 2026™ NYNJ Host Committee CEO Alex Lasry to announce that Morocco will base its tournament preparations at The Pingry School in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, for the duration of the FIFA World Cup 2026™.

“New Jersey is thrilled to welcome Morocco – and the rest of the world – to our state for the FIFA World Cup 2026™. New Jersey is home to almost 10,000 residents of Moroccan descent, so we are especially honored that Team Morocco has decided to make our state its home away from home this summer. It is a true testament to New Jersey’s exciting role at the center of the World Cup,” said Governor Sherrill. “We look forward to showcasing New Jersey on the global stage this summer and creating memories that will last a lifetime for our residents and visitors.”

“It was a distinct honor and great pleasure to meet Governor Sherrill today. We had very interesting and fruitful exchanges at the heart of Morocco’s officially announced future team base in New Jersey, The Pingry School,” said Ambassador Amrani. “My deepest gratitude goes to the State of New Jersey and The Pingry School for their exceptional hospitality. Football possesses a unique power to unite nations, and we look forward to fostering enduring bonds throughout this journey.”

Morocco will face Brazil at MetLife Stadium on June 13, bringing one of the tournament’s marquee Group Stage matchups to the region.

The Pingry School also served as a training site during the 1994 FIFA World Cup, reinforcing the region’s longstanding role in supporting teams competing on the world stage. The Miller Bugliari ’52 World Cup Field, home of Pingry Football, has long served as a training venue for top clubs and was renovated in 2025. It now features two international-standard grass pitches, modern amenities, and an athletics center designed for elite preparation.

In addition to Morocco, three other national teams will be setting up camp in New Jersey, bringing the excitement of the World Cup to communities across the state. These teams, which will be announced soon, are set to make Columbia Park Training Facility in Morris Township, New Jersey; Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey; and Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey, their base of operations throughout the tournament.

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# WATER MAIN FLUSHING PLANNED IN CAMDEN

Each year, the City of Camden flushes its water distribution (pipeline) system to help ensure that our customers continue to receive high-quality water service.



## FLUSHING SCHEDULE

American Water, the City's contracted water service provider, will be conducting fire hydrant flushing for approximately 10 weeks beginning the week of April 6, 2026 during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## WHY WE FLUSH

Flushing helps us to clean out any build up of mineral deposits and sediment inside the pipes. These harmless deposits can occur when water service demands are reduced during the winter months. It also allows us to use the hydrants to make sure they are operational and to check fire flows.

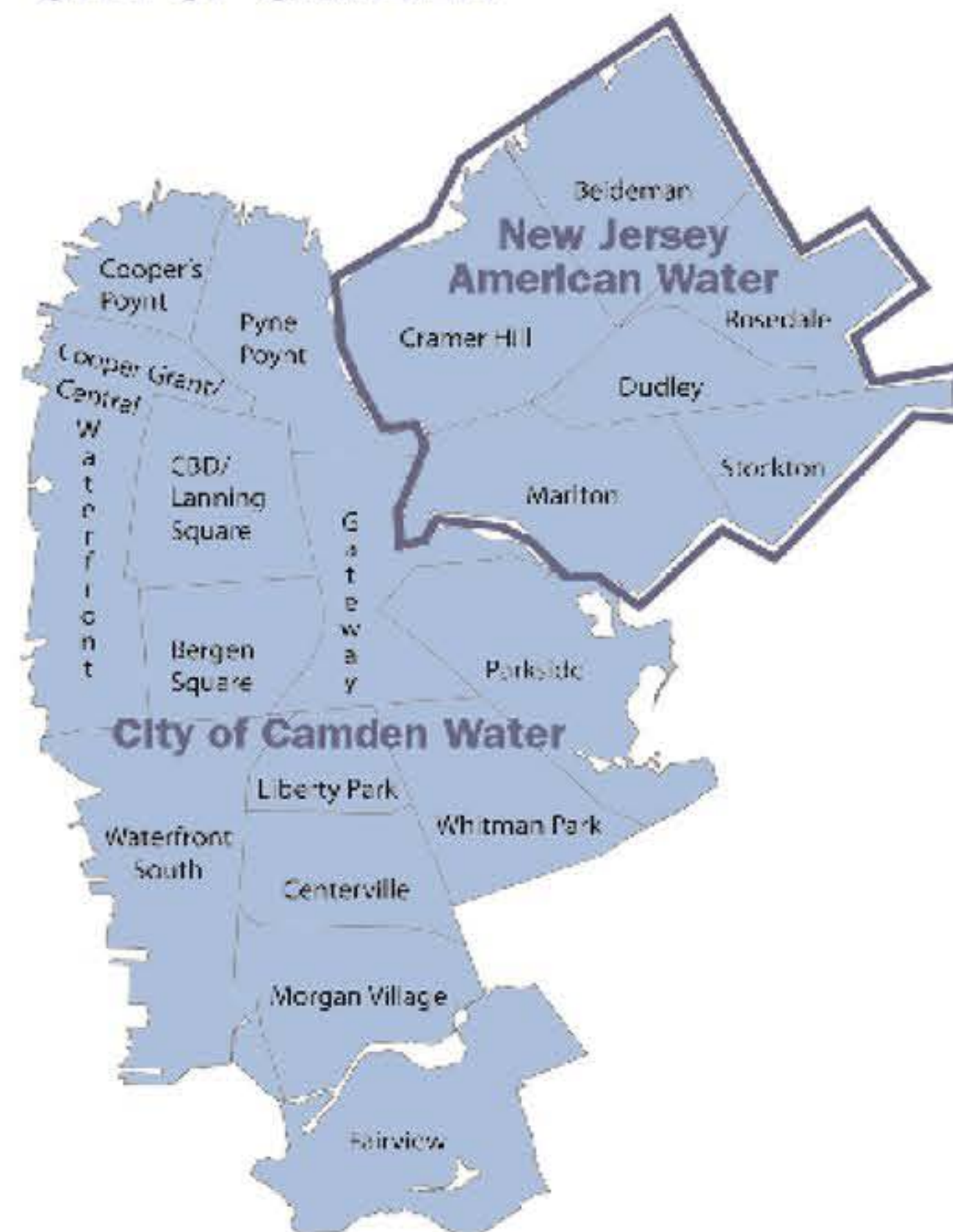
## WHAT TO EXPECT

When crews are in the area, you may experience a drop in water pressure or discolored water. If discolored water occurs, let the cold water run until it is clear.

## HOW TO PREPARE

- Draw water for cooking ahead of time.
- Store a large bottle of water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Check for discolored water before using the washing machine or dishwasher.

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## For the U.S.'s 250th a Nonpartisan Book from Chicken Soup for the Soul

America's favorite storyteller captures the true spirit of America

**COS COB, Conn.** – Proud, industrious, generous and kind—that's the true spirit of Americans. Chicken Soup for the Soul selected the best stories from its library to illustrate what this country is all about—what has always united us. The 101 feel-good stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Celebrating the Spirit of America* (May 5, 2026, 978-1-611594621, \$16.99) take us on a tour of the country, from north to south and from east to west. There's a chapter about honoring our flag and another about America's heroes, our service members and their families. Our tradition of volunteerism and helping those in our communities is the subject of many stories, as well as our can-do attitude and ingenuity. There are stories about our proud new citizens and many stories about quintessential American traditions, from baseball to fireworks to apple pie to Thanksgiving. And a moving final chapter includes stories about September 11th 25 years later—and how we all came together as a nation.

Editor-in-chief and publisher Amy Newmark says, "We wanted to turn away from the divisiveness out there and focus on the real America—the way it can still be and the way it is in our daily lives. These patriotic stories, for readers of all ages, remind us why we love our country. They are our way of celebrating the U.S.'s 250th birthday and honoring what America has always stood for."

Beth Cato tells us she was the only student in her gym class who stood and recited the pledge of allegiance when the principal came on the P.A. system to start the school day. That wasn't "cool," and the other girls bullied her. She finally told one of her classmates she was doing this to honor her grandfather, a veteran. She says, "Grandpa raised me to be proud to be an American, and that pride didn't stop because I was in seventh grade."

In such a big country, there are bound to be some misunderstandings around accents. Dr. Susan Jensen moved from New York City to North Carolina and encountered a language problem during her first week at her new job. Her patient was horrified when Susan suggested he buy a used television at a pawn shop. It got worse when she told him she frequented those shops all the time. Apparently, the pronunciation of the word "porn" in North Carolina sounds exactly like a New Yorker saying "pawn."

Rabbi Frank Stern recounts how a Mormon church hosted its Jewish neighbors for 14 months after fire ravaged their synagogue. When the synagogue was ready, "Both Mormons and Jews marched the mile and a half from the church to the synagogue, carrying six Torah scrolls... We had discovered that a kind act is not a matter of belief. It is an expression of love from one human being to another."

### ABOUT CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL

Chicken Soup for the Soul publishes the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series. With well over 100 million books sold to date in the U.S. and Canada, more than 300 titles, and translations into more than 40 languages, the phrase "chicken soup for the soul" is known worldwide and is regularly referenced in pop culture. Today, 33 years after it first began sharing happiness, inspiration and hope through its books, this iconic

storyteller continues to publish a new title a month. It has also evolved beyond the bookstore, with a podcast, education programs, dog and cat food, licensed products, and the Chicken Soup for the Soul streaming service.

For a review copy of this book or an interview with Amy Newmark or one of the contributors, please contact Sarah Wilson at (512) 298-4081 x707 or [sarah@zilkermedia.com](mailto:sarah@zilkermedia.com).

## ELECTION DAY

By Jacqueline Minniti

Every November, when Election Day comes around, I think of Grandpop. Vincenzo Gramenzi, my maternal grandfather, was born in 1887 in Piano Piccolo, a tiny village high in the hills of Abruzzi, Italy. His parents were "contadini," tenant farmers who worked the land for the wealthy "padrone" in exchange for rent and a small portion of the crops they grew. Life was hard, and there was little opportunity for improvement. Only landowners had the luxury of pursuing an education, advancing their social standing, or having a voice in their government. The only thing the contadini could look forward to, and the only thing they could offer their children, was more of the same hard-scrabble existence. But my grandfather was an industrious young man who dreamed of a life where he could be the beneficiary of his strong work ethic and have the opportunity to steer his own destiny. Fortunately for him, fate intervened in a very unexpected way.

One day, his older sister Grazielle—the only girl in a family of nine children—went out to buy wine and never came back. My grandfather later learned that she and her boyfriend, a young man the brothers didn't approve of, had run off to America to be married. Although this incident caused a major family scandal, my grandfather secretly kept in touch with his sister. Through her letters, he learned about a country where he could pursue his dreams; where a person's future was not limited by the circumstances of his birth. He made up his mind that somehow he would find a way to join his sister in America. Grazielle offered to sponsor him if he could manage to get to a place called Philadelphia. Defying the odds, he scrimped and saved until he finally scraped together enough money to buy a passage in steerage on the Verona, a trans-oceanic freighter. And so, on a day in early spring, my 24-year-old grandfather left his family and the land of his birth and never looked back. He took with him only a battered suitcase holding his few possessions and his dream of a brighter future. The voyage was long and difficult, but he was sustained by the vision of a land of unlimited opportunity that awaited him at his journey's end.

When he arrived in the United States in April of 1911, Grandpop dove headfirst into the melting pot and set to work becoming a "Merigan" (American). He moved in with his sister and brother-in-law and took a job as a plumber's apprentice in order to learn a trade. He struggled to master English, this strange new language that sounded so different from the round, musical tones of his mother-tongue. A few years later, after saving every penny, he was able to move to New Jersey and a place of his own. There he met and married a pretty young girl from the neighborhood who went on to bear him four daughters and five sons (four of whom later distinguished themselves in battle during World War II).

My grandfather now had nine more reasons to want a better life. After much hard work and sacrifice, he started his own plumbing business, a legacy he could eventually pass on to his sons. And on January 9, 1923, Vincenzo Gramenzi officially became a citizen of the United States of America. Now he could even have a voice in his government. He would actually be allowed to vote. His dream had become a reality.

On Election Day, my grandfather set aside his trademark denim overalls and plaid flannel shirt and put on a dark suit, button-down shirt and tie he had purchased especially for this momentous occasion. He donned a porkpie cap and walked proudly to the polls to cast his ballot. A non-smoker, he even bought a single cigar to smoke on the way home. Back at his house, he poured himself a small glass of anisette and drank a toast to his new country. For this one day, he was transformed into something more than Vincenzo the Plumber. He became Vincenzo Gramenzi, American Citizen: an important part of the

democratic electoral process. To him, the right to vote was a sacred honor that deserved special recognition.

He was to repeat this Election Day ritual without fail for the next fifty-five years, until a thief named Alzheimer's stole the last shreds of his memory. I was about five years old when I first became aware of Grandpop's Election Day tradition. Surprised to see him all decked out in his suit, hat and tie, I asked him why he was so dressed up. He sat me on his lap and, with a twinkle in his eye, explained that today he was going to "pick-a da presidente," a man named "Icenhower." I can still remember the pride in his voice as he explained to me, in his broken English, how important this was and how honored he felt to be a part of it.

My grandfather's story isn't much different from that of millions of other immigrants who came to the shores of America "yearning to breathe free." But it is a uniquely American story, one that bears telling, especially at a time when the average voter turnout in a national election is less than 50%. Maybe we need to be reminded that not everyone is fortunate enough to have a voice in a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." This precious right was hard won, a privilege many sacrificed their lives to secure.

So each Election Day, I think of Grandpop. And if my life seems too hectic to take time out to go to the polls, or if I'm not really crazy about any of the candidates, or if I think that my single vote is too insignificant to matter, I picture him in his dark suit, tie, and porkpie hat. And I go "pick-a da presidente" or senator or governor or mayor or committeeperson because I understand that the right to vote is a priceless gift that must never be taken for granted - an invaluable lesson I learned at my grandfather's knee.

## Delaware Farm Bureau Invites Amateur Photographers to Enter 2026 Photo Contest

**CAMDEN, DE** – The Delaware Farm Bureau (DEFB) Promotion and Engagement Committee (P&E) is now accepting entries for its 2026 Annual Photo Contest. The contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages who have a passion for capturing Delaware agriculture.

Participants are invited to submit their best agriculture related photographs to DEFB between May 1 and October 31, 2026.

Winning photos will be announced during the DEFB Annual Banquet in December 2026. The top four entries will receive a monetary prize and will be displayed at the DEFB State Office in Camden and the Delaware Agriculture Museum in Dover. In addition, six honorable mention winners will receive a certificate of recognition.

DEFB President Bill Powers will also select a President's Pick, awarding DEFB branded swag to his favorite photo's photographer.

"We look forward to seeing how photographers capture the creativity, dedication, and tradition behind Delaware agriculture," said P&E Member Casey Collier-Betts. "It's always inspiring to see our industry through other perspectives."

The Delaware Farm Bureau Promotion and Engagement Committee partners with Delaware farm families to create relationships with our neighbors, the consumer, to promote Delaware's number one industry and educate the public and farmer alike.

For contest rules, submission guidelines, and additional details, visit [www.defb.org/promotion-and-education/photo-contest/](http://www.defb.org/promotion-and-education/photo-contest/). Questions regarding the photo contest may be directed to DEFB Assistant Executive Director and Marketing Coordinator Mikayla Paul at [mikayla.paul@defb.org](mailto:mikayla.paul@defb.org).

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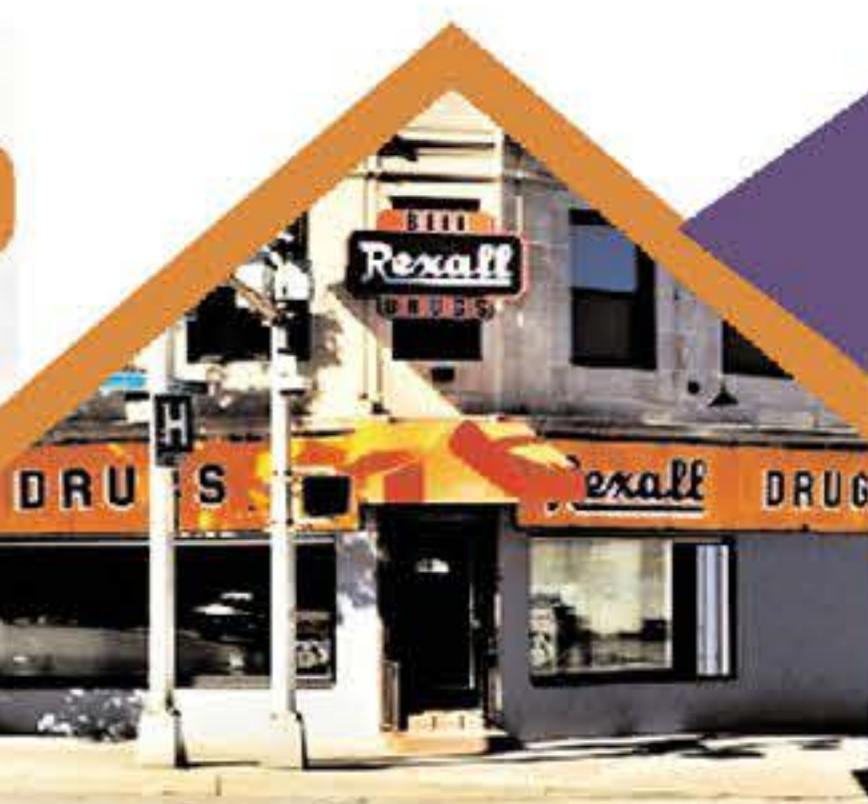
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## Susan Young Browne, DSU's Oldest Living Graduate Celebrates 108th Birthday

The Dover resident graduated from what was then Delaware State College in 1945.

**DOVER, Del.** – More than 130 people gathered on May 2 for Susan Young Browne's 108th birthday for a Celebration Dinner at Whatcoat United Methodist Church of Dover.

The attendees – which included Delaware Gov. Matt Meyer, and Levy Court Commissioners Joanne Masten and Terry Pepper –, united in love, profound amazement, and heartfelt admiration for the currently oldest living resident of Dover, Del., (that, according to Dover Mayor Robin R. Christensen, who also took part in the celebration).

She still walks very well – as she proved when she strolled into the event escorted by her son James W. Young. Her mind and her articulation skills are still good. And according to her daughter Lynette Young Overby (who served as the event's emcee), Mrs. Young still drives her car.

Gov. Meyer could not stay away from the event. "I came to learn from you what I need to do to live so long," he said to Mrs. Browne.

Born April 24, 1918, in Lincoln, Del., Susan was the 10th of 12 children of her parents, George and Susie Brown. By the time she was school age, her father – a tenant farmer – had moved the family to a 40-acre farm located between Houston and Milford, Del.

Educated in the segregated education system of those years, Mrs. Browne attended a one-room school in Houston, Del., and then attended the high school on the campus of the then-State College for Colored Students. She then enrolled in that College and graduated in 1945 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

After beginning her teaching career in 1945 with brief periods at Ellendale Elementary School and John Wesley Elementary School in Milford. Ms. Browne then taught at Lockwood Elementary School in Hartly, Del., from 1946 to 1956. She then taught at Booker T. Elementary School in Dover while also serving as the business manager for her husband's school bus service.

With that district's end of segregated education in 1965, Susan was reassigned to teach at Fairview Elementary School, where she taught until her retirement in 1977 – which completed a 30-year teaching career.

In a 2020 interview, Mrs. Browne said that after having been a teacher in segregated and integrated schools, she said that she preferred teaching in the colored schools but had no problem teaching white students. "I had to adjust the same as the children had to adjust," she said. "Students accepted you as their teacher. I didn't have any problem with them."

As a retiree, she became a world traveler, taking trips to California, Hawaii, Alaska, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, and other destinations. Many of those trips were taken with her second husband, Dr. Clifton Browne, a Delaware State social work professor, whom she married in 1993. He passed away in 2001. James E. Young, her first husband, passed away in 1988.

Mrs. Browne is a longtime member of Whatcoat United Methodist Church of Dover, where she has served as an usher and a trustee and, over the years, has belonged to a number of the church's organizations. She is a life member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Alpha Pi Chapter.



Susan Young Browne is escorted into the Celebration Event by her son James W. Young. Gov. Matt Meyer and his son Levi pose for a photo with Susan Young Browne.



## Free Mental Health Seminar Offers Support and Resources for Delaware's Agriculture Community

**DOVER, DE** – Stress, isolation, and economic uncertainty are just some of the challenges impacting mental health within the agricultural community. May is recognized nationally as Mental Health Awareness Month, a time dedicated to reducing stigma and encouraging open conversations around mental well-being. In response, the Delaware Farm Bureau Promotion and Engagement Committee (P&E) is partnering with the University of Delaware (UD) Cooperative Extension to host a mental health seminar designed to provide the community with practical tools and access to local support resources.

The seminar will be held at the Delaware Agriculture Museum on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to anyone seeking ways to support their own mental health or learn how to help others.

During the seminar, attendees will learn practical strategies for recognizing and responding to stress, burnout, and depression in themselves and others. The program will also highlight available resources to encourage engagement with mental

health care. The session will feature Maria Pippidis of UD Cooperative Extension and a University of Maryland Extension developed program entitled E "Observe, Engage, Share", which focuses on understanding mental health and recognizing signs of burnout, stress and depression.

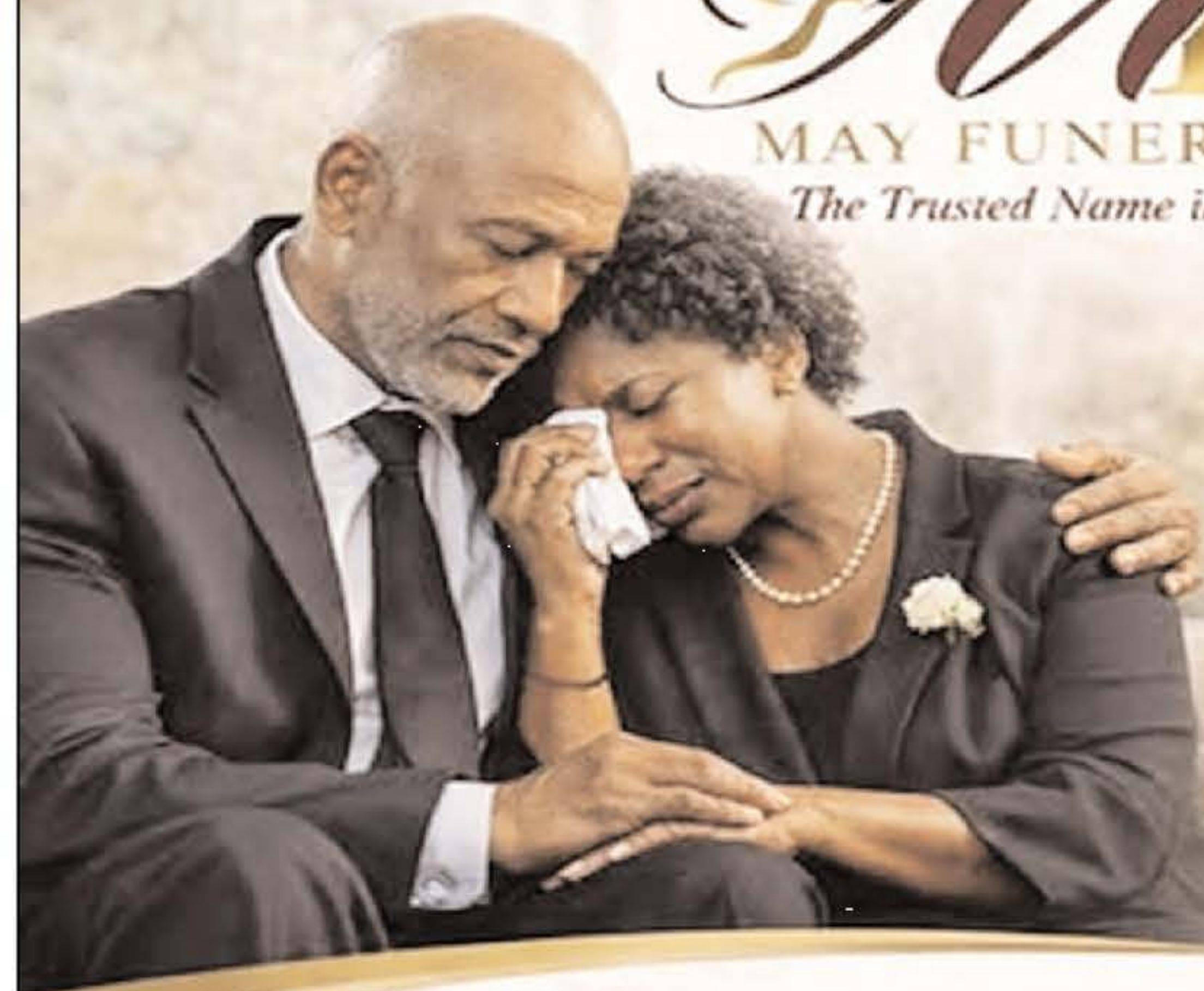
Pippidis is a Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator Emeritus who has been with UD Cooperative Extension since 1992. Her work has focused on financial management, health insurance literacy, community development, and personal development, with a more recent emphasis on farm stress and farm family resilience.

"Farmers are incredibly resilient, but resilience doesn't mean facing challenges alone," said P&E Co-chair Maci Carter. "By bringing this conversation into the open, we're reminding our agricultural community that support is available and that taking care of mental health is just as important as taking care of the farm."

Mental health resources will be available for attendees, including 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline stickers that promote immediate access to support for individuals in crisis.

To learn more about Delaware Farm Bureau, visit [defb.org](http://defb.org). For questions about the seminar, contact DEFB Assistant Executive Director and Marketing Coordinator Mikayla Paul at [mikayla.paul@defb.org](mailto:mikayla.paul@defb.org).

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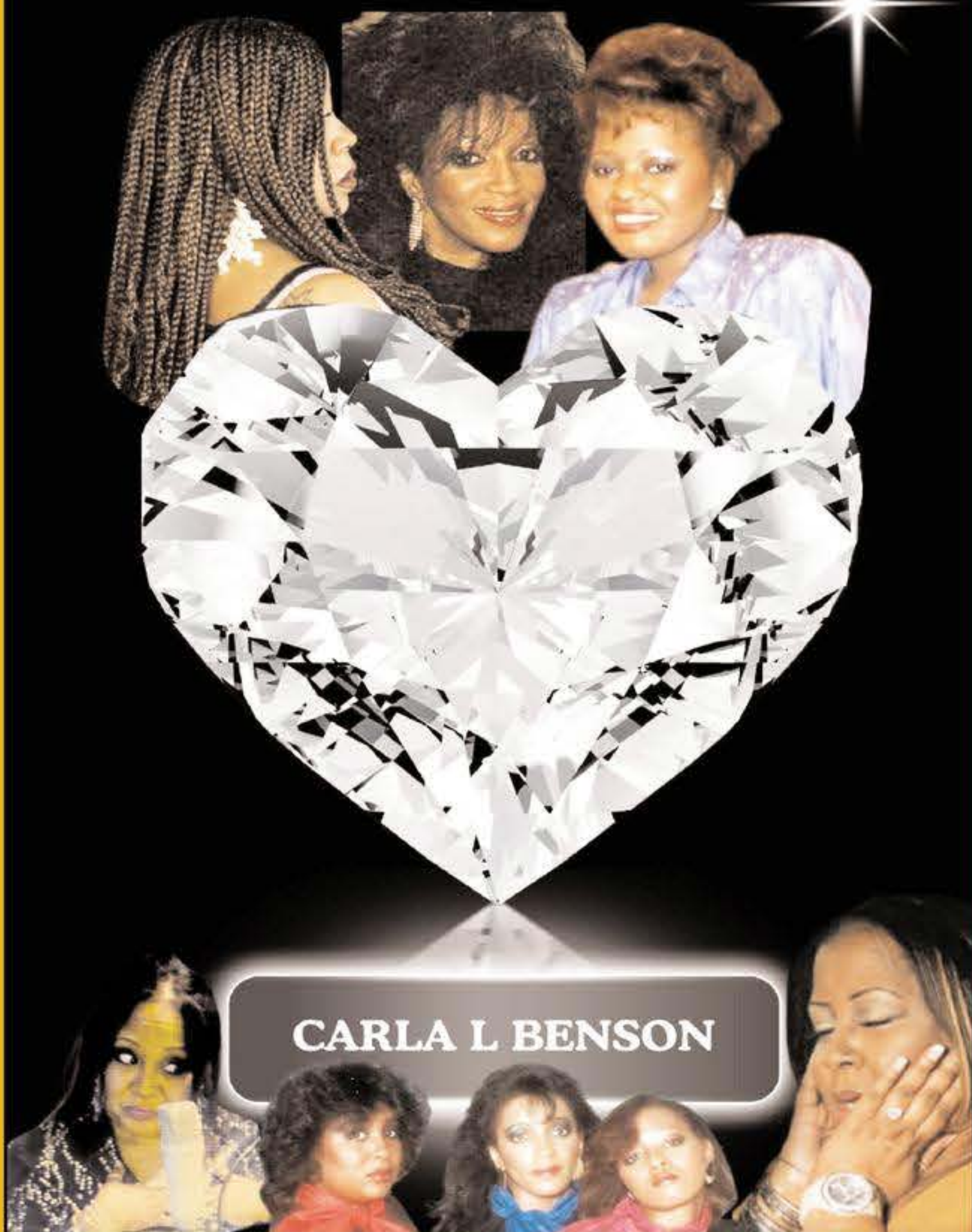


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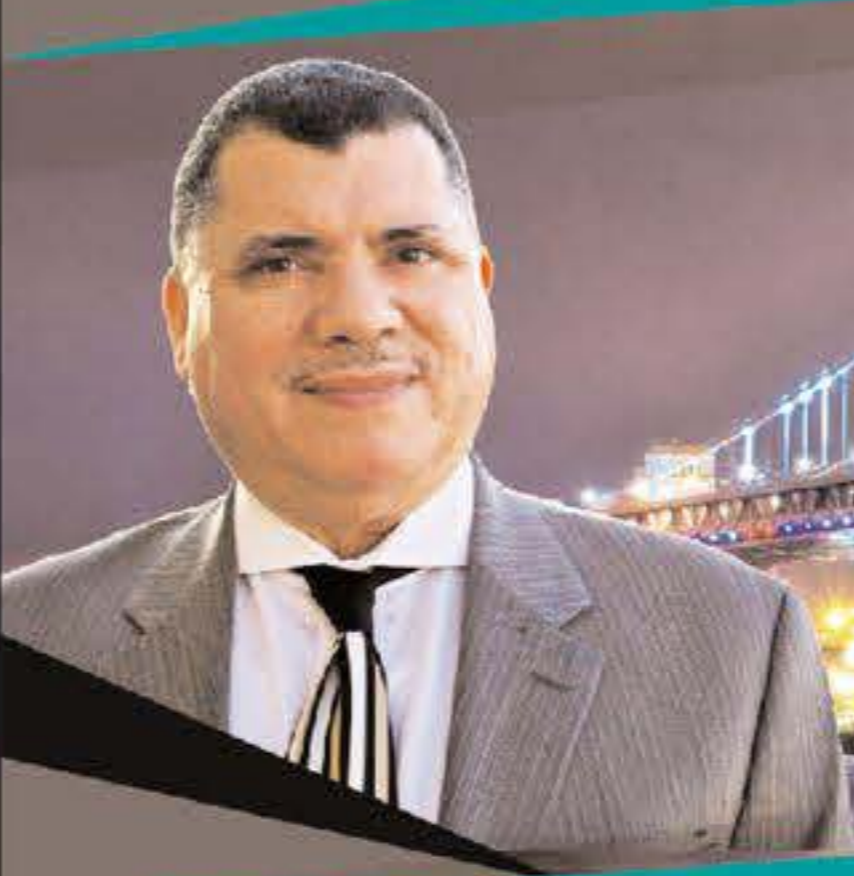
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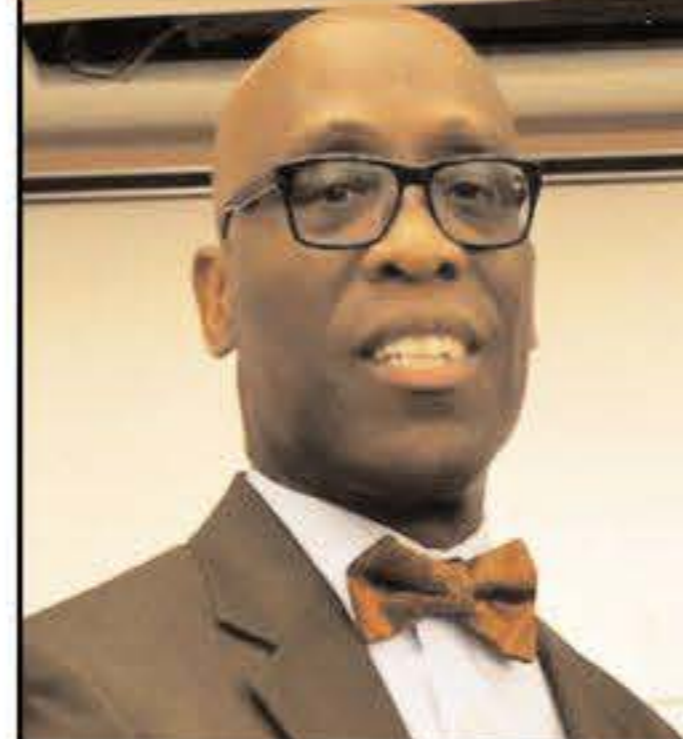


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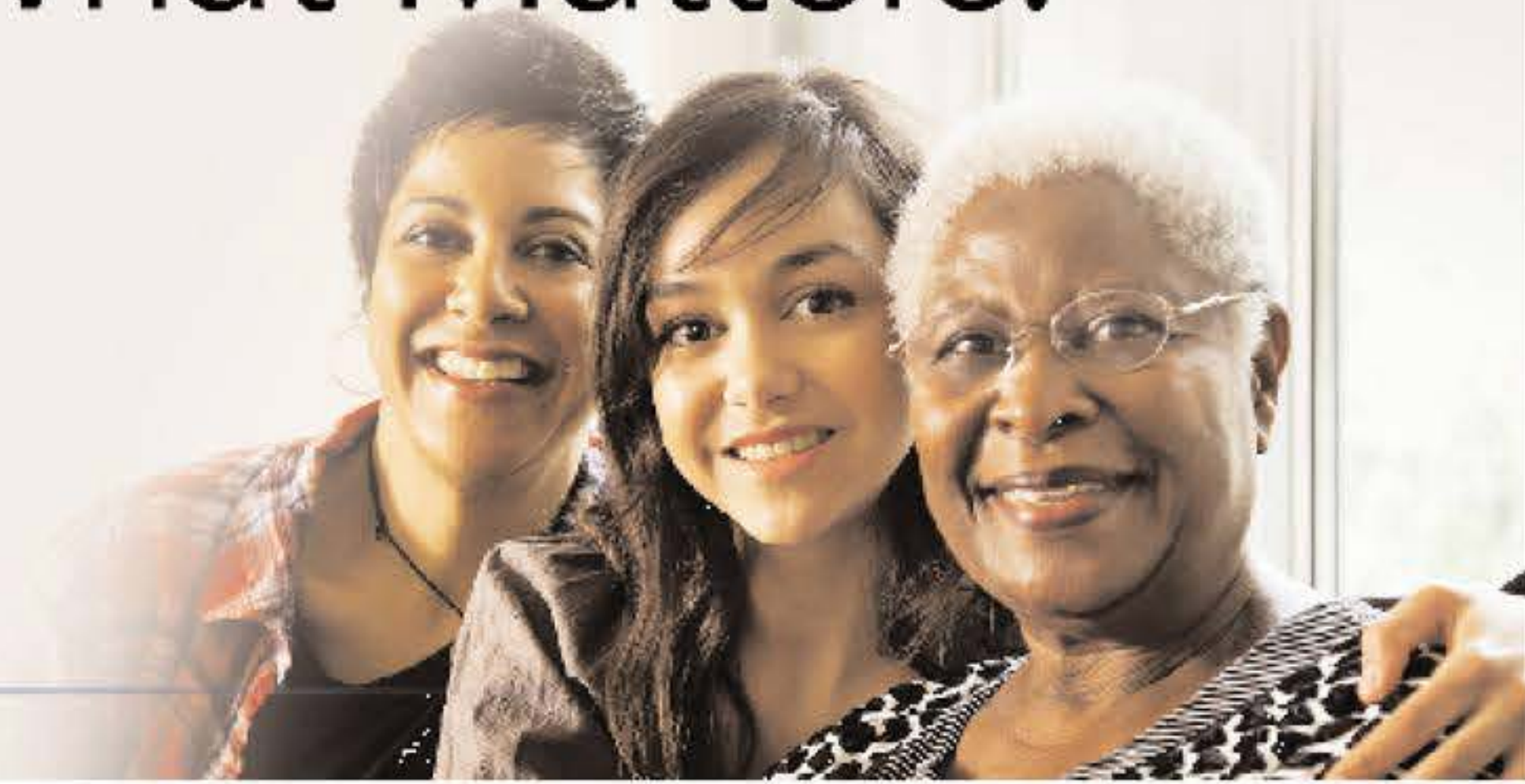
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# Let's Talk About What Matters: The Complexities of Mother's Day

By Phillip W. Heath, MS  
President and CEO, Samaritan



Each May, Mother's Day offers us the opportunity to pause and recognize the individuals who nurture, guide, and support us throughout our lives. When we think of mothers, we think of all of moms, yet we also think of grandmothers, aunts, sisters, mentors, and caregivers – anyone who steps forward to offer comfort, wisdom, and unconditional love. These maternal figures shape who we are, often in quiet but profound ways.

I was fortunate to grow up in a family where motherhood was defined by resilience and strength. My own mother raised eight children, a task that required patience, determination, and an incredible capacity for love. She balanced countless responsibilities, made sacrifices without hesitation, and ensured each of us felt seen and supported. Watching her navigate both the joys and challenges of raising a large family gave me a deep appreciation for the strength of mothers.

My mother is now ninety-eight years old, and I am grateful every day that she is still here with us, imparting wisdom and sharing in life's precious moments. I will also share that last year, we lost my beloved mother-in-law at age ninety, and my wife and I learned firsthand that the sayings about love and grief being intertwined are indeed quite true.

For our family, as for many, Mother's Day arrives with complex emotions in tow. Those who have lost a mother or another maternal figure may face the day's approach with trepidation. The loss of a

mother is often felt across every sphere of life – in family traditions, milestone celebrations, everyday conversations, and even in the quiet moments when we long for their guidance. Because mothers are so impactful, a day dedicated to celebrating them may feel especially heavy.

Those mothers who have lost a child, and those women who have never fulfilled their dream of becoming a mother, may also find Mother's Day difficult to navigate. By acknowledging both the joy and the grief of the holiday, we can create a more inclusive narrative that honors all experiences.

I have learned that grief is not limited to a single day or season but rather evolves and changes over time. Grief, in all its seasons, is a natural response to love. When we lose someone who played such a central role in our lives, the absence can feel vast. Yet, while grief is universal, everyone's journey through grief is different.

Seeking out the support we need can make a meaningful difference in how we

process loss and find ways to honor the memories of those we hold dear. Grief counseling, support groups, and peer connections provide safe spaces where individuals can share their experiences and find comfort amongst peers who understand.

Sometimes just learning about the hallmarks of grief can create a "roadmap," so we can learn what to expect. And grief support options can be tailored to help a person navigate their specific loss – such as Samaritan's "Daughters Without Mothers" support group, which offers the chance for women to connect with others who have lost a maternal figure.

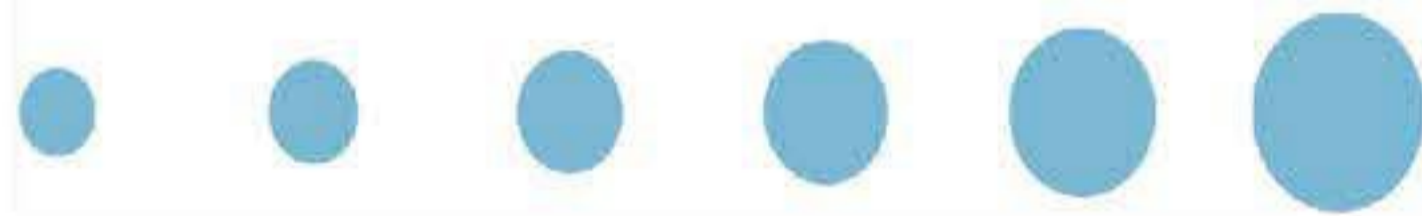
This Mother's Day, we honor all mothers – those who are with us, those we now carry in our heart, those who have stepped into maternal roles, and those mothers with empty arms. May we celebrate their strength, remember their love, and extend compassion to those experiencing loss. And for anyone grieving, know that support is available, and you do not have to walk this journey alone.

To learn more about Samaritan's grief support groups and resources, as well as tips on coping with holidays such as Mother's Day, please visit us at [SamaritanNJ.org/Grief](https://SamaritanNJ.org/Grief).

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