

Class 2024

GIRLS HUB

YOUNG WOMEN OF TOLEDO

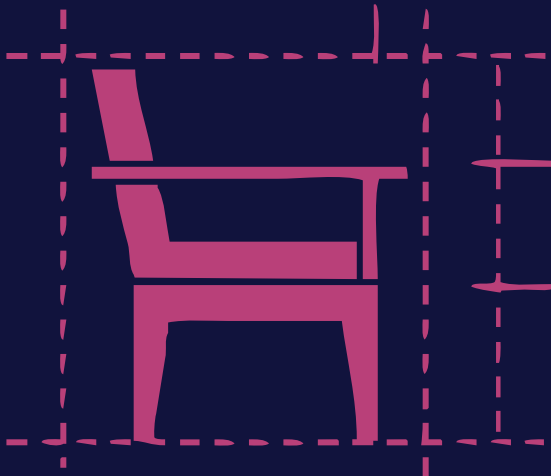
If they don't give you a
seat at the table, bring a
folding chair.

-Shirley Chisholm

Women of Toledo says



Build Your Own!



Your seat is your identity and what you care about.
The table is where decisions are made.



Overview: Young Women of Toledo

Our Young Women initiative offers an opportunity for intersectional and young women ages 12 to 26 to share, discuss, and debate constructively to help build skills and empowerment.

Under the Young Women of Toledo initiative, we introduce Girls Hub Circle, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) program/activity for girls and young women ages 12 to 17 that offers a dedicated workspace in design and construction, through classes in carpentry, architecture, and civic art. With support from our STEAM mentors, our Girls Hub's Builders use their creative voices and power tools to build their chairs, which represent their uniqueness, while examining the value of identity, voice, and lived experience in civic spaces.

We aim to support and equip a community of fearless builders. Integrating Mentor's technical skills, we believe our programs equip youth with the personal power and literal power tools to build the world they want to see.

More info: <https://www.womenoftoledo.org/girlshub>



Imagination Station

5:30 pm Reception & Appetizer (lobby area)

Keybank Discovery Theater

Welcome, Presentation & Storytelling

6:00 to 6:30 pm EMCEE - Councilmember-at-large, Cerssandra McPherson

- Acknowledgment Imagination Station
- Welcome by WOT Board President, Kathy Tucker

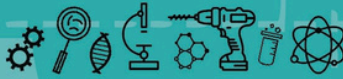
Overview & Partners Recognition by Managing Director, Nina Corder

Presenting Partners: City of Toledo and Taylor Automotive

Class 2024 with Program Associate, Julia LaBay

- 6:40 to 7:00 pm Girls Hub Builder Chair Presentations
- Stories of the Glass City with Associate Director, Sierra Ortiz
- 7:00 to 7:15 pm Fearless Builder Recognition and Certificate

Closing by Associate Director Sierra Ortiz



GIRLS HUB

YOUNG WOMEN OF TOLEDO

A Seat At The Table Project

CLASS
of 2024

MEET TOLEDO'S FEARLESS BUILDERS



Addison Wroblewski

Age 13

My name is Addie. My chair is based on murals and street art. The base colors look like murals. The street art aspect is words that describe me in that font. It also has things that I like in that font. I am 13 years old, and I go to school at McCord Jr. High.

Anna LaBay

Age 13

Chair: A Life of Music

My chair is dedicated to my dad. He was my biggest inspiration and made me who I am today. He passed away when I was 11 and would have loved how obsessed I am with music today.





Ariel

Ariel Thomas-Wilson

Age 12

Chair: A Tsunami of Thoughts

I wanted my chair to reflect the inspiration for my future goals. With calming colors, it sets the mindset for a calm and healthy future to get to my dream goal with more gratitude.

Avery Fletcher

Age 12

My name is Avery Fletcher. I'm going into 7th grade. I go to Holy Trinity Catholic School. My chair is space and beach-themed. When I went to the Imagination Station, I saw a NASA engineer telling her story. Also, some of my best memoirs are at the beach, like burying my dad in the sand. That is why I did the space and beach themes.



Avery



Celeste

Celeste Hughes

Age 18

The story behind my chair is that the ocean reminds me of my grandma and how close we were before she passed away.

Corinne Blake

Age 15

A Seat at the Table



Effie Darrah

Age 8

My chair is about the beach, and my main color is blue. I like to play in the sand when I am at the beach, play in the water, and make waves. I am doing a surfboard on the back of my chair.

Ellie Harbick

Age 8

We know more about space than we know about the ocean and I believe that I can make a difference.



Erynn Jai McKinney

Age 13

Hello my name is Erynn Jai. My chair signifies joy and pleasure because of the flower on it. I also have dates on my chair which are dates that people important to me passed away. I chose to do a flower for the back of my chair because I wanted to elevate my chair more.



Emily Jacob

Age 14

My name is Emmie. This is my chair. I made it horror and pride-themed because you should accept yourself and others no matter what they like or believe in. Pride theme because everyone is perfect the way they are, no matter how they identify or who they like. Horror-themed because I like horror and gore. It's always been interesting to me. I chose these two topics because they are an unusual pair. It's odd because it's not two topics you see together every day. Another reminder that everyone is different, and that's okay! I hope everyone reading this takes meaning from it. Remember to be yourself.

Evanna Cook

Age 13

My inspiration for my chair is my religion. I value and stand by being a Christian. I love my God and am thankful for my blessings and everything I have every day. The flowers throughout my chair show the growth in trusting God. The back of my chair shows my favorite album cover. Channel Orange Frank Ocean. I felt welcome to express my religion and my faith at GirlsHub. I also felt comfortable to share my ideas and thoughts about my chair. Everyone at Girls Hub was kind, nice, and respectful.





Gabriella Paracchini

Age 13

Chair: Grief of my Old Life in California

I was a little scared to talk to people I didn't know. Mostly the people my age. But, once I got into the building I felt more comfortable. Once we started building the chairs it was an amazing experience. Using the tools really made me feel empowered. Building the chair reminded me of building myself and my personality through the years. When I was done with my chair it was a moment of pride. I made something. I made something that is a reflection of myself. At first I called my chair's theme a puzzle piece of myself but I realized it is more than that. The chair is the grief of my old life in California. My chair is full of seashells that my family and I collected on the coast. It has the message "god is love" which my tia always said before she passed. I also have the rosary which is important to me and my religious beliefs. I also have the sentence "mary mother of the sea" which is a note of my home in California.

Hope Hicks

Age 12

Clouds remind me of my imagination. It represents how I was a child and how nothing can last forever.

I am becoming a woman - in Girls Hub.



Isabella Hall

Age 12

Before I came, I felt excited. When I arrived, I felt like a stranger. I felt good with the other fearless builders. I even pushed myself when I was nervous. I love how my chair turned out, and I built the chair to have your own mind sit and keep calm.



Justyce Savage

Age 11

My chair is meant to share my personality and things I love, such as things like my music taste and skills. I've always been fond of rappers and their music such as Ice Cube, Eazy-E, N.W.A, Lench Mob, MF DOOM, Childish Gambino, and Tyler the creator. I've also liked a lot of movies so I decided to put some on there. My skills are basketball and especially art as I paint, draw, and sculpt.



Isabella Korzeniewski

Age 12

My name is Isabella, and I am 12 years old. I attend Lial Catholic School, and my chair represents my love for cats and flowers. It shows how I want to take care of animals and be a florist one day. I love flowers because of how they smell and bring happiness. My middle name is even Rose! Cats are just plain cute and sassy. My chair is designed based on my cat from home.



Lucy Harbick

Age 11

Chair: Portal

I love reading; almost everyone reads (you are doing it right now), so why not enjoy it and explore it? My chair is a portal to the land of stories, a place you go to when you get so involved in a book that you enter the world of the book.

P.S. You are welcome to sit in my chair.



Maggie LaBay

Age 11

Chair: The Dream

My chair, before I even got here, was going to be summer-themed. But, by the time we were starting our vision boards I was going to go for a vibrant California look. Then, I thought it would be a great idea to do a Taylor Swift theme - nope. Then Sabrina Carpenter themed - nope. Then on and on until I finally decided on the California theme.

Mariam Doumani

Age 15

Chair: Dream of You and I

My name is Mariam Amjad Doumani and this piece is dedicated to my father. It represents our relationship and our shared love for all things music. I love you baba, you always make things better when I'm with you and never fail to make me laugh (even if I don't want to). You give me the chance to be free and explore, to escape my own thoughts and be my true self. You complete me. I love going on adventures with you, I love snuggling up to you. I aspire to have your keenness and kindness. You work so hard to give us a good life and great opportunities. I am forever grateful. I love you to the moon and back, Dad.



Mary



Mary Moorman

Age 14

This is my first year at Girls Hub. Before I came here, I was bored and not very productive. But when I did come, I was very glad that I did because I learned to be more social and make new friends. My time here at Girls Hub has been amazing and very empowering. Building my chair has made me realize my new abilities I didn't know I had. My chair is based on nature. Nature is what is all around us and makes the world up. My chair has a sunset and ocean on the front and a gorgeous nighttime sky on the back. What I like about my chair is that it has all the things I love. I love to sit at the beach and watch the sun go down and take some deep breaths when it's a nice night time sky. My chair represents where I am most happy. I am very grateful that I got to be a part of the Girls Hub.

Serenity Hall

Age 12

Before we came here I was tired because I just woke up. When I first came here I was worried and thought none of the other girls would like me. But after the week went by I got more excited because I'm always meeting new people. My chair is this way because I love foxes and cats, and I thought why do one if you can just do both. I feel happy that I finished my chair, and that I made a bunch of new friends that I can remember through my chair.



Serenity



Shyanne Garza

Age 15

Chair: Intelligence

My name is Shyanne. I am 15 years old and will be turning 16 in August. I go to Whitmer High School. I decided to name my chair intelligence because I enjoy learning, and I want to be smart. My favorite subject is math. In math, every question and equation has an answer. In the future, I want to use math. I also enjoy reading. My favorite book is We Were Here by Matt de La Pena.

T'mya Hall

Age 12

The Chair of Nature and Courage

I made my chair about nature. Nature is a very important part of the world and my life. Looking at the flowers and leaves on the trees flowing against the wind makes me feel happy. Nature is the reason I am here today. My chair will also have a few encouraging quotes in it to empower people who see it. I love my chair, and I hope other people will, too.



Za'Lea Wiggins

Age 12

My name is Za'Lea Wiggins, and my chair has butterflies on it. I picked that because I like butterflies and because they are cute, colorful, and magical to me. The name of my chair is Magic. This is also something I wanted to read, "Tell us about our unique gifts from God. Everyone has different talents, like pieces of colorful butterfly wings" (Romans 12:6). That is a Bible verse I put on my chair because it goes with my chair.



Za'Nyla Wiggins

Age 15

My name is Za'Nyla and I am 15 years old. I designed my chair this way because I know that I don't have to be royal to be a princess. When I come to the table, just know me as the princess that I am. My table will be orange with all of the princesses with all of the chairs they made. A lot of people say, "Why do you think that you are a princess?". I say: it's not a think, it's a know. I'm a different princess from others. I don't care what other people say. They might all be the same, but I'm different. All princesses have their color - mine is orange. This is the story of my chair.

Za'Rianna Wiggins

Age 16

A Seat at the Table: YEARS

My name is Za'Rianna. I am 16 years old and I go to Jones Leadership Academy of Business. At first I didn't know what to do my chair about. I was thinking about putting baked goods on it because I want to be a baker, but then I thought about what I like to do and that is watching tv and listening to music. So I put my favorite TV shows and singers on my chair. When I was younger I watched Criminal Minds with my granddad. My favorite movies are Menace II Society, Poetic Justice, all of the Madea Plays, Love and Basketball, the Temptations, and School Dance.





Our Builders from classes 2022 and 2023 continue to ask for more, do more, and practice bravery with power tools. Last year, we introduced Chairs for Charity as an extension. This year, we are partnering with our mentors from Pilkington NSA in Rossford, Ohio, featuring the float glass on the builder's chairs with this year's theme—**Women Who Led the Way: the Stories of the Glass City.**

The Builders successfully built and designed 'A Seat at the Table' to represent the women in the history of Toledo Change-makers while learning new skills of glass-cutting, etching - glass crafting, and how glass is sustainability to the environment.

Did you know? Toledo is known as the Glass City--a history goes as far back as the 1880s, when the canal system opened up manufacturing opportunities for glass-makers who moved here and created world-renowned glass products. Also, glass is a permanent material which is infinitely recyclable!

Meet our Alumni Fearless Builder Class 2024!



Eden Hicks (Class 2023)

Age 15

Story of Glass City: Ella P. Stewart

Hi, my name is Eden Hicks, and this is my second year building. This year, we had to build a chair on a woman who inspired us. I chose Ella P. Stewart. She wasn't my first choice, so I had to do more research, but I soon realized how much I could relate to Ella. Ella P. Stewart had a determined and caring mindset in everything she did, especially being the FIRST black licensed pharmacist in the United States. She was also known as a community leader along with being involved in NAACP and the National Associate of Colored Women. Going into my second year, I have learned so much about myself and how to be more vocal. I have learned that confidence will get you a very long way and will help you in the future. I love this program and all of the inspiring friends and mentors I have met along the way. I will continue to participate in this program and mentor those that were in the same spot as me when I was younger.



Kamya

Kamya Robertson (Class 2023)

Age 15

Story of Glass City: Margaret ‘Rusty’ Monroe

Hi, my name is Kamya. I am going to be a Sophomore at Jones Academy. My chair that I built this year is about Margaret “Rusty” Monroe. Rusty was the first woman that own a Jazz Cafe in South Toledo. She helped other local artists practice performing on her stage. She inspired me because she had her own business, and it was related to music.

Karmen Wilson (Class 2023)

Age 13

Story of Glass City: Gloria Steinem

My name is Karmen Wilson. I am a 13 year old who is a returning builder at Women of Toledo. This year my chair is based on Gloria Steinem. Lots of people ask and want to know - “Who is Gloria Steinem?”, so I’m here to talk about her. Gloria Steinem was a journalist and feminist trailblazer who fought for men and women’s equality. She also has created a magazine named Ms. Magazine which hints why my chair is blue, red, and yellow. The glass on my chair is a reflection so if you look into it or put something in front of it, you will see the reflection like a mirror. My glass says “This is what a leader looks like”. Lots of people ask or want to know what a leader looks like. All you have to do is look in the mirror and whatever you see in that mirror is a leader. Everyone can be a leader, but only one person can lead the way - and that’s you.



Karmen



Kasidy Savage (Class 2023)

Age 14

Story of Glass City: Rose LaRose

My chair is based on Rose LaRose. Rose LaRose was an extremely talented burlesque dancer and a smart businesswoman. She was born in 1919 in New York City. She started with a very poor background, being unable to receive an education and having few resources. She felt small in this big world with her little opportunities. She then became a cashier at a burlesque theater called Minsky's Theater in New York City. When one of the burlesque girls didn't show up, she filled in, and her career took off from there. She performed for 18 years until she stopped and moved to Toledo, Ohio. There, she bought a building and opened a Town Hall Burlesque. She ran her business with her passion and love for theater. I love how she beat all the odds against her and became very successful. She didn't let anything bring her down, instead she rose above the challenges. I really admire her because she never gave up; instead, she persevered. I feel like I can learn a lot about hardwork and dedication from her.

Lily Ugorowski

Age 15

Story of Glass City: Grace Estelle Smith

My name is Lily Ugorowski. This is my second year with GirlsHub. For my chair, I chose Grace Estelle Smith. She was an accomplished restaurateur, owning 6 restaurants by the end of her life. She brought a safe and healthy eating environment for everyone with her establishments.





Lienna Rausch (Class 2022)

Age 16

Story of the Glass City: Florence Scott Libbey

My name is Lienna Rausch. I'm a junior and this is my third year doing Girls Hub. The first year, I made a chair about me, the second year I made a chair for charity, and this year is all about Toledo Women's History. I chose Florence Scott Libbey for the women who I made a chair about. Florence Scott Libbey, a remarkable figure in Toledo's history, exemplified the essence of philanthropy and artistic patronage. Her profound impact on the Toledo Museum of Art stands as a testament to her unwavering dedication to the arts and the community. Born in 1863, she dedicated her life to fostering a rich cultural environment in Toledo, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to shape the city's artistic landscape.

Kynneddy Knighten (Class 2022)

Age 15

Story of Glass City: Sophia Lustig

Hello, my name is Kynneddy Knighten and I'm proud to say that I have been involved in this program since its inception. This year's project was to build a chair based off of a woman around the Toledo area that made a difference. The woman I got was Sophia Lustig. Sophia Lustig opened a designer fashion boutique in downtown Toledo. Her purpose for making this store was to make her store as comfortable as possible for women to shop in. At first, I didn't know how she related to me, but I later realized that I've always been in a household that is very artistic when it comes to fashion. If you know my mom, then you would know that she dresses very extravagantly. My dad had honestly the best shoe game in the house, but you're probably wondering how this relates to me.



This relates to me because I have always loved clothes. I remember being younger and doing fashion shows with Manhattan, one of our other builders. Fashion has always been a big part of my life, whether going to school or church. I have always loved making outfits and getting new shoes. This being my third year, I have seen this program blossom so much. I have made many new friends and met so many inspiring people. I asked my friends to describe me, and they said that I was intelligent and supportive, which are qualities that I learned from this program. If this program has taught me anything it's definitely how to be confident and how to speak up. I will definitely continue to do this program through high school, and I encourage all of you to get involved with Women of Toledo as a whole because it teaches you a lot about yourself and helps you prepare for the future. THANK YOU!



Madison Perales (Class 2023)

Age 15

Story of Glass City: Mildred Taylor

I connected with Mildred Taylor despite not having read her books; her influence and the themes she explores are really something special. Learning about her life, her dedication to writing these stories, and the impact of her work have forged an incredible pathway that has only grown stronger over time. I've heard about her books and the profound impact they have had on readers. Her commitment to the raw truth and authenticity reflects my values and views. Her skillful storytelling has inspired me to look more deeply at the world around me and understand the historical contexts of today's social issues. This connection has had a strong impact on me—the motivation to explore my own family's history and reflect on the importance of determination for justice. I've learned so much from Taylor's narratives and how she continues to inspire future generations by her dedication to telling these stories. Ultimately, my connection with Mildred Taylor has been significant. It has helped my understanding of history, provided me with new perspectives, and encouraged me to strive for greater empathy and justice. I truly believe she has built something that can never be torn down.

Manhattan Cook (Class 2022)

Age 15

Story of the Glass City: Betty Timko

My name is Manhattan Cook. I've been a part of the fearless builders for 3 years and many more to come. This program has become very influential in my life and has taught me many social skills like being confident, speaking up, and being secure with my choices, opinions, and emotions! This year, we had to choose an impactful woman from Toledo to base our chairs on. I chose Betty Timko, a woman restaurant owner and entrepreneur. She is most famously known for her salad, "Betty's Salad" and company that is in stores worldwide. One aspect of our chairs was to incorporate glass into our vision. I decided to make a hamburger out of glass and wood to represent the food aspect of my chair. On the seat of my chair, I drew pizzas and pizza toppings. On the front of the chair, I cut out various magazine pictures and made a collage. On the left, I found every ingredient of her famous salad and cut them out. I also put "Betty's Salad" in an assortment of letters to add uniqueness to the chair, while still focusing it on Betty.

Throughout the chair, there are many collages of food and lots of words and symbols to represent Betty and her influence! On the back my main focus was on fruit, and the main fruits I drew were grapes, apples, bananas, oranges, and pears. There's also a fruit collage on the back leg of the chair and yarn decorating the back leg of the chair! Even though this chair is based on Betty Timko, I wanted to make sure it was still a representation of myself. I wanted to showcase not only Betty's amazing influence on Toledo and her ability to follow her dreams, but our own personal qualities and intuitive minds. This chair is not just for Betty, it's for all the women who are making their dreams, realities.





Samantha Humberston (Class 2022)

Age 15

Chair for Charity: Auction proceed for Victory Center

Hi, my name is Samantha, and I am 15 years old. This is my second year being a part of the Girls Hub program. Before I signed up for this program I didn't know how to do a lot of things that I've learned while being here, especially with tools. After completing my first year with the program, I felt more accomplished with myself. For being able to see all of my hard work all together nice and finished. Something I really liked about the program that made me come back was the staff and how considerate they were. Since my second year building a chair I decided to donate my chair, while it still is about me. I'm donating my chair to the Victory Center. I made my chair all pink and gold, my favorite colors and put tons of glitter all over her. I put a cancer cross in the center of it on the front in gold. I also put cute little bows on it to make it extra cute. I did my chair on breast cancer since it's such a common, scary problem women face. I made my chair for survivors and women that are fighting breast cancer can sign it. I attached a marker to it so you sign on the back or wherever. I'm really happy with how my chair turned out and I love that it's going somewhere appreciated. I'm grateful for all of the new skills I learned while being in the program, everything I got to learn about real-life problems and everything I learned within myself.

Alumni Circle



leadHERway

Class 2024



Thank you for your support and contribution to our LeadHerWay 2024 partners & funders.

John Henry Eldred Jr. FOUNDATION

Roach Family FOUNDATION



CATHARINE S. EBERLY CENTER FOR WOMEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Community Impact Feminist Fellowship



leadHERway

Six to Ten-weeks Fellowship Program

Twenty-first-century education, both in the United States and globally, is faced with the realization that there needs to be a growing emphasis on alignment between how our youth are educated, what and how they learn, and how they are prepared for the world beyond the classroom. Our LeadHerWay Fellowship program is an opportunity for **intersectional youth, ages 17 to 24**, in our community to explore John Dewey's famous three-part purpose for education.



Prepare students to become life-long learners and emerging leaders.



Develop ethical citizens with better understanding on civic engagement.



Promote successful participants in the future of work.



"Though walking into new spaces will always give me some anxiety, the Women of Toledo gave me the confidence to know I am worthy of being in those spaces" - Stormy, Class 2023

"My time at Women of Toledo reaffirmed that the path to empowerment isn't a solitary journey. It's about lifting each other up, about being a beacon of hope for those navigating through challenges" - Sofia, Class 2023



leadHERway

According to Dartmouth University, providing Fellowship opportunities to young women is associated with many benefits, including:

- **Practical Experience** - The unique responsibilities and project work associated with a fellowship program will help our participants develop the skills and experience required to work in a real job. Many employers consider the fellowship instead of entry-level work experience.
- **Professional Development** - Fellowship programs also offer extensive professional development opportunities. Participants will learn public speaking, community organization, media relations, and leadership skills.
- **Financial Support** - Fellowship programs are also associated with monetary benefits. Most participants receive up to \$3,000 for 6 to 10 weeks up to 250 hours.
- **Research** - Fellowships are great for participants who wish to pursue research in a specific field.
- **Personal Confidence** - Winning a prestigious fellowship will boost your confidence and motivate you to take leadership positions at top universities or corporations.
- **Invaluable professional networks** - Introduction to professional leaders in their fields. Often, fellowships include training, mentorships, and other networking opportunities to connect fellows with executives, speakers, and mentors.



"Throughout my summer with Women of Toledo, I grew professionally and personally. Professionally, I connected with various important figures in Toledo, grew comfortable organizing community events, and began to understand the impact of feminism in creating an equitable workplace. Personally, I started to push aside the booming voice of doubt that echoed my insecurities" - Shreya, Class 2022



Program Organizer

Women of Toledo: Established in 2014, Inclusive for Women Inc. - Women of Toledo (WOT) is a 501c3 not-for-profit formed to create sustainable solutions that elevate the quality of life and improve the economic equity of women and young women through a mission to educate, engage, and empower. The organization offers programs and services that help tackle issues critical to women's economic advancement and interrupt various biases in the workplace, marketplace, community, and family.



Graduation's Presenting Partners

TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY



LOCALLY OWNED. LOCALLY COMMITTED



PROGRAM PARTNERS



Thank You!

On behalf of our Circle of Friends, Supporters, Board of Directors, Partners, Volunteers, women, and young women at Women of Toledo, we would like to thank all of you for attending this program. Please know that your support truly offers hope to all women and youth that our organization will continue to serve by acknowledging, celebrating, and honoring their presence and value in our community. www.womenoftoledo.org

YWOT Girls Hub Team: Nina Corder, Sierra Ortiz, Julia LaBay, Annora Harbick.

Support Team: Dr. Benda Holsey, Aileen Mendoza and Lisa Halsey

Apprentices/Fellows: Ana King, Lydia Myrick, Avalon Ayres and Ashley Westgate.

Thank you to our mentors & leaders in our city that spend time with our builders throughout the program this year:

Amanda Goldsmith, Deputy Mayor Karen Poore, Erin Curley, Chris Mowen, Nancy Odenweller, Diana Patton, Benita Robinson, Dr. Tiffany Whitman, Melanie Green-McBride and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz