

WHAT WOULD MARCUS DO

ISSUE 3 | VOLUME 3 | JULY 2025

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION

When we talk about "building children for the future," we aren't just talking about tomorrow's workforce. We are talking about the next generation of leaders, neighbors, and change-makers right here on the Hilltop.

At What Would Marcus Do (WWMD), we believe that children don't grow into resilient, successful adults by accident. They grow through intentional investment, consistent mentorship, and the removal of systemic barriers that try to quiet their potential.

The Blueprint for Success

Building a child's future is like building a home on the Hilltop: you need a solid foundation, strong framing, and a community that keeps the roof over their heads. Our approach focuses on three core pillars:

1. The Foundation: Basic Needs and Security

A child cannot focus on their future if they are worried about today. Research shows that early brain development is directly impacted by "toxic stress"—the prolonged pressure of food insecurity or housing instability. Our Action: Through our Neighborhood Pop-Ups, we ensure families have access to hygiene products, clothing, and food, creating a stable environment where children can simply be children.

2. The Framing: Education and Financial Literacy

To navigate the modern world, our youth need more than just a diploma; they need a toolkit. Our Action: The M.P. Empowerment Academy provides a 14-week deep dive into the "real world" skills often left out of traditional classrooms—budgeting, saving, credit building, and professional communication. We aren't just teaching them how to get a job; we're teaching them how to build a legacy.

3. The Finish: Mentorship and Vision

The most powerful tool we can give a child is a "guiding hand." A mentor provides a safe space to fail, a cheerleader for every win, and a window into what is possible. Our Action: The Marcus Marquis Payne Scholarship Program and our mentorship initiatives connect youth with adults who believe in them. When a child sees someone from their own neighborhood succeed, the "dream gap" begins to close.

What Would Marcus Do?

Marcus Payne was the embodiment of what is possible when the Hilltop invests in its own. His journey—from seeking out resources to becoming a college graduate and a pillar of this community—is the roadmap we follow. Marcus didn't just see the cracks in the sidewalk; he saw the flowers trying to grow through them.

It Takes a Hilltop

Building children for the future is not the job of a single organization or a single parent. It takes the "eyes on the street," the mentors on the porches, and the donors in our circle. Every time you volunteer, donate to our scholarship fund, or simply encourage a young person on your block, you are adding a brick to the future of the Hilltop. Let's keep building. The future is looking bright.

FEATURED ARTICLES

FROM OUR CEO

EVENT RECAP

A VIEW FROM THE HILLTOP

REMEMBERING MARCUS

RESOURCES



The M.P. Empowerment Academy 2025 Spring



About Us

What Would Marcus Do is a non profit organization with a mission to Provide Hope and Resources to the Hilltop Community and abroad. This mission is accomplished by WWMD providing various services throughout the Hilltop Community



Marcus Marquis Payne
1994-2021

OUR SERVICES

We support our community with year around services. Our goal is to simply meet their basic needs with a smile.

In doing so we believe we are able to be a beacon of hope to those in need.

While our focus is predominantly on the Greater Hilltop Area we service all areas of central Ohio.

Services we provide includes but are not limited to:

- Resource Navigation
- Neighborhood Pop ups
- Neighborhood Clean ups
- Laundry Services
- The Marcus M. Payne Scholarship
- Holiday Drives
- M.P. Empowerment Academy

OUR WHY...

On September 11, 2021 - As the world paid tribute to the attack on 9/11 our family suffered the major loss of our Marcus. He was robbed and gunned down in Victorian Village making him the 141st Homicide of 2021 in Central Ohio.

While we mourn his loss, we also celebrate his life, his love for family, friends, and providing support to those in need. Our goal is that this becomes an avenue to bring hope and resources to our community along with bringing a greater awareness to Gun Violence in the city of Columbus.

What Would Marcus Do
5820 Sullivant Ave. #152 Galloway, OH 43119 Phone: 614.969.7765
E: info@wwmd614.org | W: wwmd614.org



@WWMD614

A Message from our CEO



The Heat of the Moment: Summer on the Hilltop

To our Hilltop Neighbors and Supporters,

There is an unmistakable rhythm to summer on the Hilltop. You can hear it in the music drifting from open windows, the bounce of a basketball on the court, and the sound of neighbors catching up on front porches. It is a season of high energy, long days, and deep community connection.

At What Would Marcus Do (WWMD), we believe summer is our most vital season for action. While the world often slows down in the heat, our commitment to this neighborhood only ramps up. Keeping the Spirit Alive

When we ask ourselves, "What Would Marcus Do?" during these months, the answer is clear: He would be out there. He'd be checking on the seniors to make sure they're staying cool, organizing a game for the kids, and ensuring that even while school is out, no one is left without a meal or a mentor. Summer is beautiful, but it can also be a season of increased need. With school out of session, many of our families face extra pressure. That's why WWMD is dedicated to being a "cool breeze" for our community—providing the resources, safety, and support necessary to make sure everyone can enjoy the sunshine.

Our Summer Focus:

- Youth Empowerment: Keeping our young people engaged with positive outlets and mentorship.*
- Hydration & Health: Distributing water and sun safety resources to those working or living outdoors.*
- Neighborhood Unity: Hosting "Street-Side Chats" to hear directly from you about how we can better serve the Hilltop.*

Shine Your Light

I encourage you to embrace the vibrancy of this season. Look out for the person next door, share what you have, and lean into the joy that comes from being part of something bigger than yourself. Our neighborhood is at its strongest when we are outside, together, and looking out for one another. Enjoy the warmth, stay safe, and remember that WWMD is here for you all summer long.

Stay hydrated and stay hopeful,



President & CEO



THE M.P. EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY

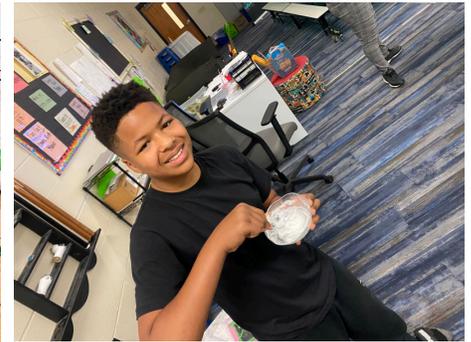
SPRING PROGRAM 2025 : WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR OUTCOMES!

Designed to empower the next generation, The MP Empowerment Academy 2025 Spring Program offered Hilltop Community youth an immersive learning experience in critical life skills. Students delved into modules on conflict resolution, problem-solving, negotiation, and financial literacy, with each lesson crafted to be immediately applicable to their everyday interactions.

Through dynamic class discussions, introspective self-reflections, hands-on activities, and engaging games, participants honed their abilities to express themselves clearly, prevent confrontations, and negotiate effectively. A key takeaway was the profound understanding of empathy and its vital role. Recognizing the importance of diverse engagement, the academy tailored its extracurricular offerings based on student interests. After each learning session, participants enjoyed a variety of activities, including computer lab training, exhilarating team-building exercises, online and board games, creative slime and sun catcher making, lively scholastic trivia, and even spirited cupcake wars - with opportunities to win prizes for correct answers and contest victories.

We concluded with a celebratory graduation ceremony, proudly hosted by "What Would Marcus Do." This special event showcased a reflection video capturing the program's journey, and students received well-deserved completion certificates, along with celebratory pizza, various prizes, book bags, t-shirts, stickers, and gaming gift cards, marking a successful and enriching experience for all.

Special Thanks to Columbus Office of Violence Prevention City of Columbus - City Hall and Mr. Geordon Burton.



FOREVER 27 & FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

In Loving Memory of

MARCUS MARQUIS PAYNE

Birthdate:

May 25, 1994

Murder Date:

September 11, 2021

***Find out more about
Marcus Here***



Who is Marcus?

MARCUS MARQUIS PAYNE was born in Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, May 25, 1994. He was the son of Victoria Landrum and Mark Payne, Sr. Marcus was a well-loved young man. He was a proud graduate of West High School, Class of 2012. He studied Business Management at The Ohio State University and furthered his education at Columbus State Community College and the Trio Upward Bound Summer Enrichment Program. September 2009, Marcus was baptized at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Marcus enjoyed sports and staying active. He played baseball for Georgian Heights, football for Westside Dolphins, ran track and played basketball for West High School. Marcus was in the Boy Scouts Webelos. He enjoyed exercising, playing basketball, and playing Xbox video games. He especially loved watching animated shows, like Naruto, with his nephew, Mark III. Marcus loved his community and family.

Marcus was a hard worker. His employment journey includes working in the sales department at Georgesville Nissan, HKT Teleservices as an advocate, and was employed three and a half years for Scarlet Management Group, where he advanced and had a team of fourteen reps. Moreover, Marcus was selected to speak at a business conference for being among the top employees, resulting with a couple of paid conferences to Mexico as a reward.

In addition, Marcus worked two years at The Columbus Dispatch Warehouse as a hopper feeder, a year at Westland Area Library as a shelfer, and a season for the Columbus State Community College Athletic Department as a summer assistant.

Marcus had an entrepreneurial spirit and aspired to be in business with his brother and uncle. He wanted to also give back to the Westside/Hilltop community by providing food or other items of need. When asked how he was doing, Marcus would reply either, "Cool as ice water," "Work hard to make money," "Stay Sucker Free," or "It ain't that serious."

He was always polite and respectful. Marcus' philosophy was if something needed to be done . . . to just do it. Marcus was always figuring things out for himself, before asking for help. He would say . . . "I'M A MAN NOW; I GOT THIS!" Marcus was a person who enjoyed life and saw the light in every situation. Marcus showed respect to his elders and love to the innocence of children. He didn't mummer when he had an objective to complete and could lighten a dampened mood. Marcus liked thinking outside the box to solve problems. For example, he researched buying and watering his two Venus flytrap plants for the house.

CURRENTLY

We still are seeking any information regarding a shooting of Marcus Payne on August 30, 2021 between the hours of 1:00am-3:00am near Neil Ave. and Buttles Ave.

If you saw, heard, have video, pictures of individuals, vehicles in the are during this time would you PLEASE forward the information to Detective Egelhoff at 614-645-4730, Who is trying to solve the murder of our 27- year-old Marcus M. Payne.

Crime Stoppers are offering a reward for any information leading to an Arrest. They can be reached at 614-461-8477 you also have the option to report any information anonymously. Any information is greatly appreciated from Family and Friends who love my son.

Meet Our Team



Victoria Landrum
CFO

Victoria is a living example to the thought “Never forget where you came from”. She has spent her lifetime as a Hilltopper. In doing so she has served the Hilltop community as a longtime member and supporter of the J. Ashburn Youth Center, Westside Boys and Girls Club and the Westside Dolphins Football Organization. She is a graduate of West High School- Columbus City Schools and possesses an Associate Degree in Data Processing/Computer Programming.

Along with serving her immediate community, she made a conscious decision to broaden her service to the City of Columbus. Now retired, her 34 years serving the City of Columbus Department of Technology gained her the necessary tools to be successful in technology and community service. Ultimately, allowing her to merge the two effectively to meet the needs of the community.

Victoria’s community service extends to various organizations. She is involved as a Parent Consultant at West High School, 6 years Member of (NMA) National Management Association, (CTA) Certified Tourism Ambassador, Accredited Columbus Ambassador (ACA), Care Coalition Wisdom Committee, Mothers of Murder Columbus Children (MOMCC) and Story behind their eyes - Human Trafficking Awareness for Student Ambassadors.

She is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Victoria is a dedicated mother to 3 boys and a doting grandmother to one grandson. Her educational and practical experience speaks life to our mission to serve the Hilltop community with a smile.



Community

RESOURCES



JULY

RESOURCES FROM OUR HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Zone In Updates

The City of Columbus is modernizing its zoning code to reflect our city's values and meet the demands of a growing population and economy. Our current code was written more than 70 years ago — before today's housing, workforce and transportation needs even existed.

Through Zone In, we're building a zoning code that works for everyone, one that supports more housing choices, stronger job centers, walkable neighborhoods and a better quality of life across our city.

We want your voice in this process. Join us at the next public workshop:

Zone In Map Workshop – West Side

When: Wednesday, July 23 | 5-7 p.m. (drop in anytime)

Where: West High School | 179 S. Powell Ave.

At this open-house-style event, you can:

- Learn how zoning affects where we live, work and connect
- Speak directly with city staff about the project's areas of focus
- Share your input on where Columbus should grow — and how

Light refreshments and children's activities will be available.

Find Us in the Community This Week:

The Zone In team will also be at the following pop-up events:

- Thursday, July 17 – Heritage Music Festival
- Saturday, July 19 – Summer Jam West Festival
- Thursday, July 24 – Pearl Market
- Thursday, July 24 – Rise Up CBUS! at Cherry Creek YMCA

We'll be sharing materials, answering questions and collecting ideas on how Columbus can create a zoning code that supports economic and housing opportunity for everyone. Can't make it to an event? Share your thoughts anytime by taking our short online survey at columbus.gov/zoningupdate.

Exciting things are coming from MBK Columbus – Stay in the loop!

MBK Columbus is leveling up – and we want YOU on this journey with us.

We've launched a brand-new listserv to keep our community informed, connected, and equipped. If you were part of any previous lists, don't worry – we're starting fresh, and you'll need to re-subscribe to stay in the know.

Why sign up?

- ◆ Be the first to know about exclusive MBK Columbus events and initiatives
- ◆ Get plugged in to funding opportunities, program updates, and community resources
- ◆ Learn how to collaborate and support boys and young men of color across Columbus

This isn't just any listserv— it's your direct connection to the movement.

[Click here to Subscribe!](#)

Exciting things are coming down the pipeline – don't miss your moment to plug in.

Volunteer for the Annual Clap-in Celebration for Columbus City Schools

The first day of school is August 25. Join us for the COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS' ANNUAL OPENING DAY CLAP-IN CELEBRATION! We are looking for a few, amazing community partners to help us kick off the school year with energy, joy, and encouragement!

Here's how you can get involved:

- [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.
- Choose a school to support and provide five volunteers from your organization.
- Reply to the confirmation email.
- Show up on Clap-in Day with your team, ready to cheer on students!

Line up in the welcome zone and bring your bubbles, poster boards, pom-poms, and smiles to cheer, clap, and celebrate students as they walk into school. Help them feel seen, loved, and supported!

Get in the Game: Adult Basketball, Volleyball - Registration Opens July 18

Ready to bring the heat this summer—on the court, not just the weather report? Whether you're a seasoned competitor or just looking for a fun way to stay active and connect with others, our adult basketball and volleyball leagues are a great way to move, play and unwind.

Sign up for [adult basketball](#) and [adult volleyball](#) leagues starting Friday, July 18. Spots go fast so register early.

Whether you're chasing a championship or just showing up for the post-game laughs, there's a spot for you. Let's play!

Community

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RESOURCES FROM OUR HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

City Leaders Academy - July 18 deadline

Want to shape the future of Columbus? [Apply now for City Leaders Academy!](#) This free nine-month program gives youth entering grades 6-9 an inside look at city government, mentorship from leaders and hands-on experience to grow their public speaking, facilitation and leadership skills. This program will help youth step into their power—and our City's future! Applications have been extended: Apply by Friday, July 18!

Legal Aid Tax Relief Services – July 19

Afraid to file taxes because you might owe? Struggling to catch up on past due tax returns? Need some help fixing a bad return? United Way's Tax Time wants to help low-income Ohioans file their past due returns. They have partnered with Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio's tax team who will provide advice about your tax problems. The best part is that this event is completely free; all you have to do is book an appointment time!

In most cases, Tax Time can e-file returns 2022-2024 and paper file 2019-2021; however, no refunds can be issued for paper file years because they are beyond their deadline to claim. We still encourage you to file those returns!

After Tax Time files for you, Legal Aid's tax attorneys can give you information about dealing with tax debts, responding to IRS notices, and other tax issues.

The event will be held at 1108 City Park Ave. on July 19 from 10a-4p. The event will be held at 1108 City Park Ave. on July 19 from 10a-4p. Walk-ins welcome for tax information and advice. You can register here: <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/4s4ye5em/>

If anyone has questions, they are welcome to reach out to Abby Mahmoud at amahmoud@lasco.org or call me at 614-737-0135.

Summer Jam West Community Arts Festival – July 19

Join us for a full day of arts and live local music including: artist and artisan vendors, food trucks and food vendors, chalk artists, kids arts areas, Kiwanisaurus Park, art demonstrations, live music and cultural performances, community partners, and more! The festival is set for Saturday, July 19 from 12-7pm at Westgate Park (455 S Westgate Ave).

Community Outreach Giveaway – July 19

Cornerstone Pentecostal Church is hosting a Community Outreach event on Saturday, July 19 from 10AM-2PM. They will have free food, a clothing giveaway, music, and more! For more information, contact Sister Kay Collins at 614-648-7152 or email kaycollins3335@yahoo.com. Community organizations interested in participating should also contact Sister Kay Collins.

Convos with Crawley - July 23

Have questions about county services or need help navigating resources for your family? Board President Commissioner Erica C. Crawley wants to hear from you directly. Join us for Convos with Crawley, an open, no-pressure conversation over lunch at LifeCare Alliance, 670 Harmon Avenue, Columbus, OH 43223 from 11AM-1PM. This isn't a formal meeting, it's your neighborhood front porch connection, where real concerns get real answers. Commissioner Crawley and Franklin County staff will be on hand to connect you with resources ranging from job placement and childcare assistance to food programs and elder care. Representatives from Health and Human Service agencies and the Family Stabilization Unit will also be available to provide on-the-spot guidance. Bring your questions, bring your neighbors, this free event is open to everyone. Let us know you're coming by clicking [here to RSVP](#) and be part of the conversation shaping Franklin County's future.

Rep. Christine Cockley Open Office Hours – July 24

Ohio House Representative Christine Cockley is hosting community office hours on Thursday, July 24 from 10AM-12PM at the Westland Area Library (4740 W Broad St). Her office can help with many issues, including disputes with state agencies, commendations and condolences, hearing opinions and/or concerns with bills moving through the legislature, making connections to state programs and services, connecting with neighborhood resources, and testifying before a House committee. Sign up for her office's newsletter [HERE](#).

Highland Youth Garden Midsummer Festival – July 24

Highland Youth Garden is hosting their Midsummer Festival on Thursday, July 24 from 3:30-6:00PM. The Midsummer Festival promises a day filled with fun activities, music, and the chance to enjoy the fruits of our labor in the garden. Of course, no festival is complete without delicious food! A new addition of this year's festival is the Free Market, organized in collaboration with the Ohio Women's Alliance.

Coffee, Careers, & More - July 25

Thinking about your next career move? Join Franklin County Administrator Kenneth N. Wilson, County HR recruiters, and Health and Human Services staff for Coffee, Careers, & More, a casual networking event designed to help you explore rewarding opportunities in public service. Stop by the Columbus Center of Entrepreneurial Development (COED), 1890 E. Main Street, Columbus, OH 43205 on Friday, July 25, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to learn about a wide range of county roles across Franklin County agencies, along with details about competitive benefits and modern, comprehensive wellness programs. Whether you're actively job searching or simply curious, this is your chance to connect, ask questions, and discover how you can make a difference in your community. Come curious, leave inspired. Explore current openings [here](#) or call 614-525-6275 with your questions.



WHAT WOULD MARCUS DO & ON THE RIGHT PATH
PRESENTS



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2025

Greater

HILLETOP

Block Party

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 5, 2025

**ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH PARKING LOT
2165 W. BROAD ST. COLUMBUS, OH 43223**

Community

RESOURCES



JULY

RESOURCES FROM OUR HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Summer Splash with President Hardin – July 25

Bring the whole family out for summer fun with Columbus City Council Members at community pools across the city. He will be at the Glenwood Pool (1888 Fairmont Ave) on Friday, July 25 from 2:00-3:30PM. Enjoy music, dancing and complimentary sweet treats while cooling off in the water.

Tire Amnesty Event – July 26

Franklin County Public Health is hosting a tire disposal event on July 26 at Hamilton Township Park (5333 Lockbourne Rd) from 9AM-12PM. This event is open to all Franklin County residents. Residents can drop off up to 10 unwanted rimless tires and/or pick up free mosquito dunks to prevent the spread of mosquitoes in the community. There is a limit of 10 tires per household per vehicle.

Getting Grant Ready Academy – Deadline July 31

Do you run a small non-profit and need help learning how to find funding, write grants, and build your organization's capacity? Then consider applying to the Getting Grant Ready Academy! Those selected will receive a nine-month curriculum on grant writing and nonprofit business management, as well as a one year membership to the Franklin County Human Service Chamber, all completely free! TO learn more and apply, visit the following link: <https://tr.ee/luuXnHJDvo>

Bridging the Gap: The Court and Community Together – July 31

Join the General Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas for an upcoming public forum, Bridging the Gap: The Court and Community Together, on July 31 from 6-8pm at the Parsons Branch Library. Do you have questions about the Court? This forum is designed to bring together community members and justice system stakeholders to promote wellness, share services, and strengthen connections that support public safety, rehabilitation, and community engagement. To attend, please RSVP through [Facebook](#) or [Eventbrite](#).

Delta Dental Foundation Mini-Grant – Deadline July 31

The Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) is now accepting applications for the 2025 Community Mini-Grants Program. This program awards grants of up to \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations and programs promoting or providing oral health care and initiatives that align with the DDF's [strategic aims](#) in Ohio.

Applications will be accepted until July 31, 2025, with recipients announced in August. To apply, please visit their website using the following link:

<https://www.deltadental.foundation/community-mini-grants>. If you have questions, please contact Erika Cybulskis at ecybulskis@deltadentaloh.com.

Help Shape Columbus' Urban Forest: Comment on the Tree Technical Manual - Deadline July 31

Columbus Recreation and Parks is updating the Tree Technical Manual, which serves as the rules and regulations for public trees. Public trees grow on city-owned property like in parks or along streets. These minor revisions improve definitions, clarify when to use tree tags versus Tree IDs, expand protection options and simplify mitigation guidance.

We want your feedback! [Review the revised manual and summary of changes, and share your comments online by July 31.](#)

SWACO Community Waste Reduction Act – Deadline August 1

SWACO's Community Waste Reduction Grants (CWRG) provide funding to governmental and non-profit agencies for projects that address unique waste reduction, recycling, or composting needs in Franklin County. Applications are open now through August 1st. Your organization can apply for up to \$35,000 to start or improve a project to cut waste and support its sustainability goals.

CWRG projects must occur within the [SWACO jurisdiction](#) during calendar year 2026, and interested applicants are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to contact SWACO's [Grants Administrator](#) before drafting their application. You can learn more about the CWRG program [here](#) and download an application [here](#).

Baby Block Party - August 2

Join us at the Hilltop Library (511 S Hague Ave) on Saturday, August 2nd from 2:00-5:00 p.m. for a free, fun-filled afternoon of activities for your young child. We'll have a special Storytime, a Bubble Dance Party, face paint, special guest Pete the Cat, and more! Community organizations will also be available to share information and resources. Recommend for ages 0-6 and their families.

Back to School Student Health Fair - August 2 & 9

Columbus Public Health has partnered with several organizations to host two Back to School Health Fairs at East High School (1500 E Broad St) on August 2 and 9 from 11am-3pm. This event is free and open to the public. Health providers will be onsite to offer vaccines, TB testing, vision and hearing screenings, and annual physicals. Registration is strongly recommended, as limited walk-ins will be accepted. Visit bit.ly/cbus-82925 to register or scan the QR code on the attached flyer. \$50 incentives will be offered for each child who receives a vaccine while supplies last. For more information, contact 614-645-6881 or email vaccinehelp@columbus.gov.

Mochila Feliz/Happy Backpack Giveaway – August 2

Join Alianza614 and community partners for a backpack distribution! Other family resources will also be available, along with educational, health, and recreational activities. This event is set for Saturday, August 2 from 10am-2pm at Westgate Recreation Center (455 S Westgate Ave).

Community

RESOURCES



AUG.

RESOURCES FROM OUR HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON

Hilltop Y Blood Drive – August 6

The Hilltop YMCA in partnership with the American Red Cross, is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, August 6 from 11AM-5PM in the gym. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Walk-ins are welcome!

2025-2026 Columbus City Council Internship – Deadline August 6

Columbus City Council is now accepting applications for the next internship cohort! The 2025-26 school year program will run from September 2025 to April 2026 and is open to any college junior, senior or first-year graduate student.

Interns are expected to work up to 20 hours a week and will be compensated \$17/hr. Selected students will be placed in the following offices:

- Councilmember Offices
- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Legislative Research Office
- City Clerk's Office

Interns will engage in constituent relations, data collection, policy analysis, and will gain a comprehensive understanding of the legislative process at the municipal level. Students selected for the program will be notified beginning on August 25. Selected students will be assigned to their office after a mandatory orientation.

Interested applicants must fill out the online form [here](#), and email a 1-3 page writing sample and resume to KMEstose@columbus.gov. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, August 6, 2025.

Columbus City Council Candidate Community Forum – August 13

The Franklinton Board of Trade is hosting a community forum for District 7 candidates Jesse Vogel and Tiara Ross on Wednesday, August 13 from 5:30-7:30pm at the WitchLab Lounge.

SUN Bucks: Extra Food Help for Families – Deadline August 15

This summer, families with school-aged children may be eligible for extra help buying groceries through a new program called Summer EBT, also known as SUN Bucks.

SUN Bucks gives \$120 per eligible school-age child (ages 6 to 18) to help families buy food while school is out. Most families will get their benefits between now and July 31.

Who automatically gets EBT/SUN Bucks?

Households with children that already get:

- SNAP (food stamps)
- Cash assistance known as Ohio Works First (OWF)
- Have Medicaid and meet income guidelines
- Free or reduced-priced meals for school year 2024-2025

Who should apply?

Families who don't automatically qualify may still be eligible. They can apply at [Application – Summer EBT](#) from March 3, 2025 through August 15, 2025.

How will benefits be issued?

If a family already has an Ohio Direction Card, the money will be added to it. If a family got Summer EBT in 2024, the 2025 benefit will go to the same card.

Families new to the program will receive a card in the mail. Families should save their cards for future summer benefits.

What can Summer EBT/SUN Bucks be used for?

The money can be used at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other places that accept food benefits.

Questions?

Go to <https://sebt.ohio.gov> for more information or call The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Hotline at 1-866-244-0071.

South Central Hilltop National Day Out – August 16

We cordially invite you to the 20th Annual South Central Hilltop Night (Day) Out Festival which celebrates ties with law enforcement, promotes anti-violence initiatives in our neighborhood, and fosters community connection. This event will take place Saturday, August 16th, 2025, from 1-4 pm in Burroughs Park, located at 551 S. Richardson Avenue.

Columbus City School Back to School Resource Fair – August 16

Join the 100+ community partners and organizations at the Columbus City Schools 4th Annual Back to School Resource Fair on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, 546 Jack Gibbs Blvd.

Columbus City Schools will kick off the 2025-2026 school year by welcoming students and families to the biggest back to school fair in the city. We want to bring education, health care, community services, and resources to more than 45,000 District students and their families in one action-packed, fun-filled location. Last year, over 12,000 people attended and received more than 9,000 backpacks.

The View from the Hilltop

The Golden Hour on the Hilltop

The pavement hums a summer song, The days are bright, the shadows long. From front-porch steps to playground swings, We feel the pulse that summer brings.

The air is thick with heat and pride, With nowhere for our hope to hide. It's in the sprinkler's silver spray, And how the kids find room to play. What would Marcus do this July? Underneath this wide, blue sky? He'd find a shade tree, pull up a chair, And make sure every soul was there. He'd share a cold drink, crack a joke, And listen to the neighborhood folk. He knew that heat could make us fray, So he'd build a bridge to lead the way.

It's more than just the sun above, It's the sweaty work of neighbor-love. It's keeping watch when nights are warm, And being the calm within the storm.

So let the golden season glow, And let our Hilltop spirit show. For even when the mercury climbs, We're stronger through these summer times.



Become a WWMD Financial Supporter



BECOME AN
Elite Supporter

Visit our website wwmd614.org

What Would Marcus Do is a non profit organization with a mission to Restore Hope and Resources to the Hilltop Community and abroad. This mission is accomplished through:

- *Resource Navigation*
- *Community Clean Up, Pop Ups*
- *Holiday Drives*
- *The Marcus M. Payne Scholarship Fund*
- *The M.P. Empowerment Academy and more.*

Your financial contributions assists with the continuance of this mission. All donations are tax deductible.

BECOME A SILVER SUPPORTER

Make a
\$250

One Time Donation
Status valid for 1 Calendar Year

BECOME A GOLD SUPPORTER

Make a
\$500

One Time Donation
Status valid for 1 Calendar Year

BECOME A PLATINUM SUPPORTER

Make a
\$1,000

One Time Donation
Status valid for 1 Calendar Year

BECOME A EMERALD SUPPORTER

Make a
\$1,500

One Time Donation
Status valid for 1 Calendar Year

BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER

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