

# WELCOME!

60 Years  
Fighting Poverty:  
Where we've been  
and where we  
MUST go

# 2023 SUMMIT ON POVERTY

September 14 & 15, 2023

*Hyatt Regency Milwaukee*

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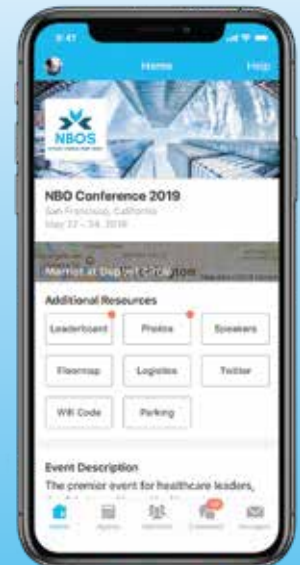
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- 3. PARTICIPATE** in event activities through session "likes", comments, ratings, live polling, tweeting, and more. Please use the hashtag: **#SOP2023**



# Event Co-Chairs' Message



**Barbara Toles**  
*SDC Commissioner,  
District 2*



**Chia Vang, PhD**  
*SDC Commissioner,  
UW - Milwaukee*



**Terese Caro**  
*SDC Commissioner,  
Office of the Governor*

## Greetings!

Welcome to the 2023 Summit on Poverty, a gathering driven by your dedication and passion for change. We are truly excited to have you here, as your presence is the beating heart of this Summit.

You are not just attendees; you are the architects of transformation. Your engagement is the vital force propelling our mission to combat poverty in innovative and effective ways. We are here not only to share knowledge but to inspire collective action.

Poverty affects our communities in complex ways, and your insights, experiences, and ideas are invaluable. Through your active involvement, we can truly understand the challenges and discover the best solutions together.

We urge you to actively participate as we discuss, deliberate, and strategize over the next two days. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and engage with fellow participants. This is your platform to make a difference.

Our Summit is not just about listening but empowering you to take action. We believe in the power of your voice and your commitment to change. Every idea, every conversation, and every step forward begins with you.

We have received remarkable ideas on how to advance our anti-poverty agenda. Now, it's time to turn these ideas into action. Together, we can mobilize the resources and initiatives needed to tackle poverty head-on.

Let's make the most of this opportunity, for your involvement and contribution will shape the future.

Welcome to the 2023 Summit on Poverty, where you are the driving force of change.

Sincerely,

Barbara Toles  
*SDC Commissioner, District 2*

Chia Vang, PhD  
*SDC Commissioner, UW - Milwaukee*

Terese Caro  
*SDC Commissioner, Office of the Governor*

# SDC CEO's Message



## **George P. Hinton, PhD**

*CEO, Social Development Commission*

## **Welcome!**

Greetings from the Social Development Commission (SDC) and all our partners! We extend a warm welcome to the 2023 Summit on Poverty, a gathering where your presence is the driving force for change.

Our journey to transform our communities has spanned 60 years and continues today. As we celebrate this milestone, we are committed to implementing transformative strategies. These strategies aim to not only change how we tackle poverty but also enhance the quality of our impact.

Every year, we come together to explore poverty and brainstorm solutions. This year, we focus on pursuing a bold agenda of transformative changes that will fundamentally reshape systemic inequalities. The plenary sessions and workshops at this year's Summit will bring together experts from various sectors of our society. Together, we aim to pool resources and efforts to advance the fight against poverty.

To truly eliminate poverty, we must be willing to look beyond where we've been and envision where we are going. We must embrace this new path and mobilize the necessary resources, fostering a dedication to transforming our society.

We understand the challenges we face and the need for increased resources, and we will continue to reach out to you for your support. May this Summit reignite your commitment to the fight against poverty.

With gratitude and determination,

Sincerely,

George P. Hinton, PhD  
*CEO, Social Development Commission*

# Day 1 Morning Keynote



## Erika Alexander

*Actress, Activist, Entrepreneur, Creator, Producer, and Director*

Erika Alexander is an actress, trailblazing activist, entrepreneur, creator, producer, director and one of the country's boldest, most daring, and powerful voices. Recognizing the power of storytelling, Erika believes that though content must be entertaining, stories have tremendous capacity to create impact and meaningful social change. As co-founder of Color Farm Media, she is on a mission to bring greater equity, inclusion, and diverse representation to both media and electoral politics.

Erika is beloved for her iconic acting roles including:

- Maxine Shaw (LIVING SINGLE, garnering two NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress/Comedy Series)
- Detective Latoya (GET OUT)
- Cousin Pam (THE COSBY SHOW)
- Perenna (BLACK LIGHTNING)
- Linda Diggs (WUTANG: AN AMERICAN SAGA)
- Barb Ballard (RUN THE WORLD; nominated for NAACP Best Guest Actor)
- Meredith Lockhart (SWIMMING WITH SHARKS)
- Abby Keegan (SHINING GIRLS, the critically-acclaimed Apple+ series with Elisabeth Moss)
- Miss Carmen (EARTH MAMA which premiered at Sundance 2023)

Erika has recently stepped boldly into the arena of film director, with her debut film THE BIG PAYBACK, co-directed with Whitney Dow. The film debuted at Tribeca Festival and premiered on PBS on MLK Day 2023. The documentary chronicles the story of the first reparations bill for African Americans in U.S. history.

She is also creator/writer/producer of 2022 Audible Original's Best True Crime Series and DuPont Columbia award-nominee, FINDING TAMIKA, and producer of the three-time, Emmy-nominated Best Documentary and winner, NAACP Best Documentary, JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE.

Her upcoming projects include THE UNTITLED NOVELIST project, directed by Cord Jefferson; with Jeffrey Wright, Tracy Ross, Sterling K. Williams and Issa Rae.

A critical thought leader on racial and gender equity and leadership, she serves as a board member for One Fair Wage and is highly involved with social and racial justice organizations including The Poor People's Campaign, Color of Change, NAACP, UNCF, among others.

# Day 1 Agenda

7:30am - 8:30am

## **Registration/Check-In & Continental Breakfast**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom & Atrium*

**Visit our vendor tables (Atrium) and Poster Sessions (1st Floor)**

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8:30am - 9:00am

## **Welcome**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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9:00am - 10:00am

## **Morning Keynote: Erika Alexander**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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10:30am - 11:30am

## **Morning Workshops**

See Whova App for workshop listing or workshop insert

*1st & 2nd Floors*

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11:30am - 12:00pm

**Break - Visit our vendor tables (Atrium) and Poster Sessions (1st Floor)**

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12:00pm - 12:30pm

## **Lunch & Introduction of Keynote**

Box lunch will be available to pick up in the Atrium

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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12:30 pm - 1:30pm

## **Afternoon Keynote: Michael Benitez, Jr., PhD**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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2:00pm - 3:00pm

## **Afternoon Workshops**

See Whova App for workshop listing or workshop insert

*1st & 2nd Floors*

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3:30pm - 4:15pm

## **Close-out Remarks & Reflection**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

# Poster Sessions - Day 1

## **ADI as a predictor of High Blood Pressure in Children/Social Cohesion - Poster Session**

*Hailley Moore*

Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death within the United States, with an estimated 90% of these deaths being preventable. Research suggests that structural and financial inequities interact with the physical environment to influence physical health outcomes across the lifespan. The Area Deprivation Index (ADI) is one measurement of one's physical environment based on census-collected data on education, employment rates, income/poverty rates, housing, and household characteristics. In older adults, ADI has been linked as an inverse predictor of cardiovascular health (i.e., carotid artery disease). In youth, neighborhood poverty has been linked with lower cognitive scores and reduced brain volume in regions related to memory and executive functioning. The present study aimed to examine the relationship between ADI and blood pressure levels during early adolescence and examined whether community-level protective factors mediated the relationship.

## **Food Disparities in Southeastern Wisconsin - Poster Session**

*Miranda Page*

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has been working on developing a Regional Food System Plan aimed at identifying how to achieve a better food system for all residents, including reducing economic and health disparities that result from lack of access to fresh, healthy, desirable, and affordable food options. There is compelling evidence of disparities in the Region, between the white population and people of color in income, educational attainment, and poverty rates. When looking at mapping compiled by the USDA in 2019, several areas within the Region were identified as low-income and low-access food deserts—areas where a significant portion of residents do not have access to a supermarket or grocery store within a mile in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas. These areas are located primarily in the Cities of Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and Waukesha. The areas identified as low-income and low-access food deserts in these cities increase substantially when looking at a half-mile distance, or when incorporating lack of access to a private vehicle, particularly in the City of Milwaukee. These areas also tend to overlap with communities of color in the Region, showing the disparities in the impact of food deserts on people of color. This poster will present background information on SEWRPC, the Region, the food system, and factors that influence lack of food access and the ways in which the two intersect.

## **IPSR Community-Based Research to Impact Health Equity - Poster Session**

*Star Purdle*

Structural factors have led to socioeconomic disadvantages which impact health and perpetuate racial and ethnic health disparities. Insufficient concentration has been given to community-based research and its ability to promote health policy, or how low locality-based research strategies could be influential. The Institute on Poverty and Systemic Racism (IPSR), in partnership with Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the Medical College of Wisconsin, is conducting the D.R.I.V.E Out Racism Research Study to investigate the impact of racial discrimination on health. This study hypothesizes that individual health and behavior are impacted by interpersonal, neighborhood, and societal factors. Using geo-spatial analysis, the research team will identify and recruit individuals, who are 18 years or older, receiving services from SDC, and who identify as being African American. Participants will review and sign informed consent documents, and then complete the preloaded survey in redcap where they will answer questions about their individual experiences with racism and or trauma. To date, 200 individuals have already participated in this new community-academic partnered study.

# Poster Sessions - Day 1

## **Improving Mental Health Outcomes Through Early Intervention Programs - Poster Session**

*LaTonya Baker, PhD*

Mental health disorders are on the rise globally, contributing to disability and economic costs. Most mental illnesses have early onset during childhood or adolescence. Early intervention can improve outcomes, but access to services is limited.

Objectives: Assess the impact of school-based mental health programs on symptoms and functioning. Determine the cost-effectiveness of early intervention models. Identify barriers to access and engagement with services.

Evidence supports school-based early intervention programs for improved mental health programs are cost-effective but barriers like stigma need addressing. Policy change is needed to fund early intervention services and integration with schools.

## **Need to Address Mental Health and Trauma Exposure for People Seeking Emergency Rental Assistance - Poster Session**

*Jessica Krukowski*

Housing insecurity and exposure to violence disproportionately affect Black people from Milwaukee Wisconsin. The Social Development Commission (SDC), a community action agency, provides services including Milwaukee Emergency Rent Assistance (MERA) to families who have experienced financial loss. Mental health services at the SDC are still developing. Taking a socio-ecological approach, we explored how individual experiences (e.g., violence exposure) interact with community factors (e.g., housing insecurity) to influence mental health.

## **Exploring the Association Between Structural Racism and Mental and Physical Health - Poster Session**

*Fahimeh Mohebbi*

Structural racism/discrimination (SRD) is a fundamental determinant of health disparities and poor health outcomes among historically marginalized communities in the USA. Racial segregation in urban centers is a direct outcome of SRD, and residents of segregated neighborhoods experience disproportionate exposure, susceptibility, and vulnerability to economic and social inequality, environmental pollution, toxic substances, and unsafe conditions, affecting individual health conditions, health practices, and access to healthcare services. Further, neighborhood-level racial/ethnic segregation determines and limits access to educational, employment, and health-related resources.

## **The Effects of Everyday Discrimination - Poster Session**

*Jordan Janusiak*

This poster session is an analysis of the relationship between everyday discrimination experiences and PTSD symptomology in Black Americans living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Structural racism and discrimination (SRD) is connected to the health of communities, yet little research exists examining the multidimensional SRD factors on the health and wellbeing of marginalized groups. Additionally, there is a growing body of work that describes the relationship between discrimination and trauma reactions. This sub-analysis of a larger SRD community-based study examined the relationship between everyday discriminatory experiences and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptomology and contributes to the understanding of the interplay between SRD factors and mental health.



# Day 1 Morning Workshops

## **Roca's Intervention Model**

*Kurtis Palermo, Andrea Harrison, and Tyrone Kent*

Roca is a 35 year-old, internationally recognized community violence intervention (CVI) agency operating in Baltimore since 2018. We move the needle on urban violence by relentlessly engaging the young people most likely to shoot or be shot and teach them behavioral health skills that save lives. Roca's four-year Intervention Model features relentless outreach to young people; building transformational relationships; a portable and relatable version of cognitive behavioral theory (CBT) to address trauma; and opportunities to practice skills through trauma-informed employment, education, and life skills programming.

All of this work is done through the lens of safety first for our staff, the young people we serve and mitigating any potential risks or issues before they occur. We work alongside criminal justice partners, law enforcement agencies, area hospitals and community organizations to ensure all pertinent information is received for any young person referred to Roca.

## **Index of African American Wellbeing: Moving Up From the Bottom**

*Walter Lanier*

Across 30 different data points, Milwaukee is regrettably (but predictably), at the bottom of the 50 urban areas in the nation for African American health and wellness ([aamilwaukee.org/resources](http://aamilwaukee.org/resources)) This workshop will (1) introduce the audience to the research framework and results of the Index of African American Wellbeing, (2) dig into the data, policies, and systemic burdens that have kept Milwaukee at or near the bottom of the list, and (3) propose and share solutions being proposed and executed by the African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee to move Milwaukee from the bottom and towards becoming a city where African Americans can thrive and prosper by growing and cultivating Black leadership, influencing workplace culture and access and driving accountability for key systemic efforts to close equity gaps in the region.

## **The Intersection Between Domestic Violence and Homelessness**

*Sandy Smith*

Between 22 and 57% of all homeless women report that domestic violence (DV) was the immediate cause of their homelessness.

Affordable and accessible long-term housing is the number one need for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault (SA) and human trafficking (HT).

Unfortunately, violence and trauma tax already impoverished individuals making marginalized survivors' struggles even more difficult so that stable housing feels almost unattainable. Victims with marginalized identities too often find themselves trapped within a cycle of housing insecurity difficult to escape.

Individuals experiencing crises, such as DV|SA|HT, and homelessness. Most times find themselves struggling to meet basic needs, including finding and keeping their own housing.

Through my workshop presentation, I will shed light on the difficulties survivors of DV|SA|HT face when attempting to leave unsafe and dangerous environments.

# Day 1 Morning Workshops

## Entrepreneurial Approach to Economic Development

*Nikhil Zaveri*

Economic Gardening is the oldest and best tested entrepreneurial economic development program in the country. Being a certified professional from National Center for Economic Gardening, I will like an opportunity to educate the community with strategic information and frameworks to grow individuals locally. Create jobs and wealth in the community. Entrepreneurship has become a standard part of many economic development effort enabling community members to have the knowledge of principles, tools and analytical techniques used in high fidelity program.

## What is Food Justice?

*Solana Patterson-Ramos*

What is Food Justice? is an engaging and informative workshop exploring the concept of food justice and its significance in creating equitable and sustainable food systems. Participants will learn what the term “food justice” means and explore the multifaceted nature of the term, encompassing social, economic, racial, and environmental aspects of food access, production, and distribution. The intersectionality of the impacts of food deserts, food apartheid, and other structural issues affecting marginalized populations will also be discussed.

The workshop will also showcase inspiring grassroots movements and initiatives working towards food justice on the local and national levels as well as the importance of advocating for local, regional, and national policy changes when it comes to food.

By the end of the workshop, participants will gain a deeper understanding of food justice and its implications on individuals, communities, and the environment. They will leave with actionable insights to take back to their communities and positively impact the food system.

## Boss Up Out of The Poverty Mentality

*Clem Richardson*

The purpose of this presentation is to get participants to understand how to support youth positively in a racialized society. This presentation provides a strength-based strategies for reducing stigma, lived experience and engage in discussions.

- Participants will learn from a historical context about the ACE study, systemic barriers, and why individual turn to drug use due to environmental factors.
- Participants will learn the different methods of engaging youth/adults in group exercises, by using various counseling methods (i.e.; open ended questions, video clip, person centered/client centered).
- Participants will learn to reflect on one’s own cultural beliefs, attitude about poverty and state of Milwaukee.
- After attending this presentation participants will have some basic knowledge about how to learn from youth or adult clients and assist by encouraging hope, spirituality, strength and breaking the cycle of poverty mentality.

# Day 1 Morning Workshops

## **Trauma Response: Healing Communities**

*Rashaan Cherry and Leanne Delsart*

Participants will learn about the Trauma Response Team's (TRT) work to mitigate the impact of trauma in partnership with Milwaukee Police Departments, the DA's office and the community. This presentation outlines who TRT is, how they have evolved, the impact they have made and how they are working to heal communities impacted by trauma through outreach expansion, addressing Social Determinants of Health, and resource connection.

## **Amani Housing Pilot: A Model for Neighborhood and Housing Revitalization**

*LaQuondra Shaw, Veronda Jackson, and Maricha Harris*

Community building lies in the intersection of strong collaboratives and engaging residents in the decision-making process at every level. The Amani Housing Pilot was no exception. This presentation will focus on innovative and holistic housing solutions deployed in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood to support a resident-led housing effort that transformed people and places.

## **Fair Housing: Expanding Access to Opportunity**

*Sarah Jenkins and Megan Wanke*

Join experts from one of the country's leading fair housing organizations, Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, to learn about key civil rights protections that help ensure housing consumers are treated fairly and equally. This session will provide an overview of local, state, and federal protected classes, discuss current trends, and share real world examples to help advocates better identify discriminatory practices impacting the communities they serve. Examining public policies through a fair housing lens, attendees will understand how local efforts can help to reduce housing barriers and expand access to opportunities. Together, we will explore fair housing as a fundamental component to building inclusive, vibrant neighborhoods where everyone can find safe, stable places to call home.

## **Leveraging Local EMS Data: Enhancing Preparedness and Care Through Dashboards**

*Dan Pojar, BSEMS and Dr. Ben Weston*

This talk will outline the basic elements and best practices of a successful EMS dashboard, discuss the risk/value proposition of data transparency, and demonstrate the opportunities that exist in improving patient care and system resource needs. Focusing on the learning gained in the COVID pandemic, we will discuss solution-based models of public-facing, transparent dashboards including design characteristics, software platforms, and data elements. Both the nationally recognized Milwaukee County COVID-19 Dashboard and the emerging Milwaukee County EMS dashboards will be highlighted among other case examples of how to create dashboards to inform and strengthen your community. Transparently inform your community.



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# Day 1 Afternoon Keynote



## Michael Benitez, Jr., PhD

*Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, and Associate Professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver.*

A highly sought out speaker at colleges and conferences nationwide, Dr. Michael Benitez is a nationally acclaimed scholar practitioner and educator in the field of diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education. Dr. Benitez is known for his down-to-earth, insightful commentary, and critical perspectives on social and cultural issues, ranging from leadership and identity development, intersectionality, race and ethnicity, postcolonial thought, knowledge production, and critical pedagogy and practice in higher education.

Dr. Benitez has authored book chapters and articles on identity development, hip hop culture, cultural centers, cultural and ethnic studies, institutional research and campus climates, and faculty development. He is co-editor of the anthology, *Crash Course: Reflections on the Film "Crash" for Critical Dialogues About Race, Power and Privilege*, and has contributed to online magazines, scholarly databases, books, and peer-reviewed journals. Benitez has been featured in educational documentaries such as *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity* and has appeared on talk shows such as *Worlds Apart*, *Hard Knock Radio*, and *Speak Out with Tim Wise* and is occasionally invited to contribute to and appear on podcasts and media outlets, addressing some of today's most pressing diversity, equity, and inclusion issues and challenges.

Part of his success lies in his ability to speak heart-to-heart while bridging theory and scholarly inquiry with everyday

life, his use of accessible language that multiple audiences can relate to, and his deep knowledge and practice of innovate equity and inclusion-based strategies and approaches to address some of higher education's more pressing campus climate issues of today, providing multi-context and issue frameworks for empowerment and transformation. Benitez has helped create, shape, and lead such innovate programs as the Diversity Monologues: a critical spoken work initiative he has helped implement and shape at multiple institutions, the campus climate community participatory framework, and the NW5C consortium for supporting faculty of color.

Over the last two decades, Dr. Benitez has served higher education in different capacities, including; academic affairs, student affairs, diversity and inclusion and teaching, and currently serves as the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, and Associate Professor of Multicultural Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Dr. Benitez completed both his B.S. and M.Ed. at the Pennsylvania State University, where he gained interest in pursuing doctoral studies as a TRIO student and McNair Scholar. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy with a focus on Social Justice in Higher Education, from Iowa State University School of Education, and has been recognized with multiple leadership and scholarly awards throughout his career.

# Day 1 Afternoon Workshops

## **Roca's Intervention Model**

*Kurtis Palermo, Andrea Harrison, and Tyrone Kent*

Roca is a 35 year-old, internationally recognized community violence intervention (CVI) agency operating in Baltimore since 2018. We move the needle on urban violence by relentlessly engaging the young people most likely to shoot or be shot and teach them behavioral health skills that save lives. Roca's four-year Intervention Model features relentless outreach to young people; building transformational relationships; a portable and relatable version of cognitive behavioral theory (CBT) to address trauma; and opportunities to practice skills through trauma-informed employment, education, and life skills programming.

All of this work is done through the lens of safety first for our staff, the young people we serve and mitigating any potential risks or issues before they occur. We work alongside criminal justice partners, law enforcement agencies, area hospitals and community organizations to ensure all pertinent information is received for any young person referred to Roca.

## **Re-Entry Workforce Opportunities and Trends**

*Wylbur Holloway*

Discussion of workforce and re-entry.

## **A Collaborative Approach to Closing the Equity Gap Through Youth Focused Financial Empowerment**

*Donelle Hauser, MA, MSW and Tracy Frizzell*

The presenters will share the transformative power of collaboration as Summit Bank, St. Charles Youth and Family Services, Bank On Greater Milwaukee, the Economic Awareness Council and Lad Lake come together for collective impact improving financial empowerment with youth. Our pilot project, funded by the Cities for Financial Empowerment has not only had remarkable impact for Milwaukee youth but is being used as a model for initiatives across the nation.

In the presentation we will explore our journey and the impact of our efforts to enhance the financial well-being for youth who have faced historical barriers when it comes to accessing financial opportunities.

## **Self-Care on a Budget**

*Melissa Blue Muhammad*

Poverty can have a profound impact on an individual's ability to practice self-care. When basic needs like food, shelter, and healthcare are not being met, it becomes difficult to prioritize activities that promote well-being. In fact, studies have shown that people living in poverty are more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors like smoking and overeating, which can further exacerbate health issues.

Real-life examples also illustrate the link between poverty and self-care. For instance, a single mother working two jobs may not have the time or resources to exercise regularly or prepare healthy meals for herself and her children. Similarly, someone experiencing homelessness may not have access to a shower or clean clothes, making it challenging to maintain personal hygiene.

# Day 1 Afternoon Workshops

## **Systems Change in Education in Milwaukee: Re-Engaging with the Obama Foundation's My Brother's Keeper Initiative**

*Gabriel Velez, PhD and Walter Lanier*

Southeastern Wisconsin is a region of strength in its educational work, organizations, and students plagued by historical and systemic issues that drive striking inequities and injustices for young people of color. Across the last several decades, there have been many efforts and initiatives targeting this area, ranging from small nonprofit organizations to multi-million-dollar programming across major educational institutions. Still, the educational challenges have remained sticky and persistent.

## **They Shouldn't Face Trauma Alone: Strategies That Increase Youth Well-Being**

*Brandon Currie, PhD*

In today's context, the negative impact of mental health on youth is a pressing concern. At least two out of every three children report experiencing at least one traumatic event by the age of 16. These events can be related to poverty, racism, death, incarceration, or substance misuse. Even before the pandemic, many children were facing challenges, feeling disconnected, anxious, and depressed. Our recent research, conducted with students in grades 5-9, has demonstrated the positive impact of resilience, an ability to bounce back, and critical-thinking skills through SEL-based programming (social and emotional learning), peer team and the video game Brain Agents.

By promoting positive SEL practices, this session aims to provide an opportunity to come together to share insights and resources and provide reflections that can make significant changes in the lives of youth, by countering the negative impacts of trauma and adversity, fostering resilience, and supporting their mental well-being.

A stylized graphic of a city skyline with various buildings in shades of blue and yellow, overlaid with a grid pattern. The text is centered over this graphic.

# WiFi Code

## Name: SDC2023

## Password: SDC60!!!

2023  
**SUMMIT**  
**POVERTY**

# Day 1 Afternoon Workshops

## **The Impact of Housing Discrimination on Perceived Residential Conditions and Mental Health**

*Yaidi Cancel Martinez, PhD*

This research investigates housing discrimination as a key influence on inequities in residential conditions and poor mental health. While the association between housing discrimination and outcomes of residential conditions and mental health have been investigated, little is known about the extent how experienced housing discrimination associates with low residential quality, housing instability risk and the psychological disorders of stress, anxiety and depression in a midwestern state. This study fills this knowledge gap via a case study of Wisconsin housing markets and health indicators. I used data collected between 2009 and 2013 from formal complaints to examine reported incidences of housing discrimination, and the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW) for logistic regressions and stratified analyses of subpopulation categories and two geographies – the Milwaukee metro and the rest of the state. Key findings indicate that roughly 1 in 15 Wisconsin residents experienced housing discrimination and the rate is the highest for African Americans (1 in 3). Adjusting for socioeconomic, residential, and health-related factors, individuals who experienced housing discrimination are more than twice as likely to live in lower residential quality and be at risk of housing instability, are roughly twice as likely to have stress and anxiety, and close to 80% likely to have depression compared to non-discriminated counterparts. Stratified analyses indicate that the experience of housing discrimination associates with more detrimental mental health outcomes for Non-Hispanic Blacks than Non-Hispanic Whites; and for women, housing discrimination significantly associates with all outcomes in this study. Lastly, the effects of discrimination on each outcome are not significantly different between the Milwaukee metro and the rest of Wisconsin. These findings suggest housing discrimination impacts a broad population in the state and influences inequities in residential conditions and mental health despite anti-discrimination laws enacted more than 50 years ago. Given extant evidence, collaborative interventions should address housing discrimination through education and proactive fair housing law implementation.

## **MATC Students and Emergency Basic Needs**

*Elizabeth Franczyk*

The Local 212 MATC Believe in Students FAST Fund is a seven-year-old non-profit organization that provides financial assistance in the form of small, basic needs grants to Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) students experiencing economic emergencies so they remain enrolled and graduate.

MATC is the state's only majority-minority college. MATC's 30,000 students are economically disadvantaged; this is the population we serve. The majority, 57%, are students of color. Their average age is twenty-nine. Most are working and the majority are women, mainly single mothers. Sixty-three percent qualify for Pell Grants, a federal program for low-income students. Pell Grants which once financed 100% of the cost of attendance at a two-year college, now cover less than 60%. Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab in her study of Milwaukee college students concluded that, "...the ladder people must climb to get to graduation has eroded, and a critical rung-affordability is almost completely broken...Students will fail if they have no books, no pencils, no gas money to get to school, and no food in their stomachs...."

## **Grief in Our Community**

*Sonya Bland-Borden*

My presentation will be focused on traumatic grief in our community. To provide the tools and resources we need to educate, provide hope, healing, grief support, and resources to the community.



# Day 2 Morning Keynote



## Stacey Patton, PhD

*Author, Journalist, and Professor at Howard University*

Stacey Patton, PhD, is an award-winning author and journalist who writes about race, politics, popular culture, child welfare issues, diversity in media, and higher education. Through her workshops, keynote addresses, and multi-media presentations, Dr. Patton blends the power of her personal narrative with her expert knowledge of the history of American race relations.

Patton teaches journalism at Howard University in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications and is a research associate at the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University.

As an adoptee, child abuse survivor, and former foster youth, Patton is a nationally recognized child advocate whose research focuses on the intersections of race and childhood. She is the author of *That Mean Old Yesterday - A Memoir* (Simon and Schuster), *Spare the Kids: Why Whipping Children Won't Save Black America* (Beacon Press), and the forthcoming book, *Strung Up: The Lynching of Black Children and Teenagers in America, 1880-1968* (Beacon Press).

Patton's writings have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Washington Post*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Al Jazeera*, *BBC News*, *DAME Magazine* and *TheRoot.com*. She has appeared on MSNBC, Fox News, CNN, CBS, Al Jazeera, The Tavis Smiley Show, Here and Now, and Democracy Now.

She has received reporting awards from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Scripps Howard Foundation, New York Women in Communications, National (and New York) Association of Black Journalists, The Education Writer's Association, and she is the 2015 recipient of the Vernon Jarrett Medal for Excellence in reporting on American race relations. The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children also bestowed her with the Outstanding Service and Advancement of Cultural Competency in Child Maltreatment Prevention and Intervention Award.

# Day 2 Agenda

7:30am - 8:30am

## **Registration/Check-In & Continental Breakfast**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom & Atrium*

**Please visit our vendor tables (Atrium)**

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8:30am - 9:00am

## **Welcome**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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9:00am - 10:00am

## **Morning Keynote: Stacey Patton, PhD**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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10:30am - 11:30am

## **Morning Workshops**

See Whova App for workshop listing or workshop insert

*1st & 2nd Floors*

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11:30am - 12:00pm

## **Break - Please visit our vendor tables (Atrium)**

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12:00pm - 12:30pm

## **Lunch & Introduction of Keynote**

Box lunch will be available to pick up in the Atrium

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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12:30 pm - 1:30pm

## **Afternoon Keynote: Jason Wilson**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

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2:00pm - 3:00pm

## **Afternoon Workshops**

See Whova App for workshop listing or workshop insert

*1st & 2nd Floors*

---

3:30pm - 4:15pm

## **Close-out Remarks & Reflection**

*2nd Floor: Regency Ballroom*

# Day 2 Morning Workshops

## **The Role of Higher Education in Combating Poverty**

*Mike Lovell, PhD and Mark A. Mone, PhD*

Higher education has played an important role in the economic empowerment of individuals and communities. In this panel, Marquette University President Mike Lovell and UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone will discuss the role of higher education in combating poverty. In addition to the research and community partnerships that both institutions have fostered, UWM and Marquette are instrumental in providing access to higher education degrees for students from underrepresented groups. Universities have a transformative impact on an individual, their families and their communities because of the multiplicative effect of a higher education degree on employment opportunities and economic advancement. Chancellor Mone and President Lovell will discuss the doors that open with pursuit of a higher education degree for Milwaukee residents and share why they collaborated on the President's and Chancellor's Challenge to bring together Marquette, UWM, and community partners to work on issues related to poverty in our community.

## **Housing Access for Women in Street-Based Sex Work: A Systems Approach**

*Staci Young, PhD*

Women who engage in street-based sex work are an extremely disadvantaged group with complex histories of loss. The overall goal for this project is to increase access to safe shelter and housing for women in street-based sex work to reduce their risk of violence and injury.

This session will: 1) provide an overview of the unique challenges facing women in street-based sex work, including effects on health status; 2) discuss how access to shelter and housing are critical to ensuring that women can safely exit; 3) articulate a partnership comprised of a community-based agency focused on harm reduction, a medical school, and a coordinated entry program for homeless services; and 4) discuss how the partners identified a critical need and initiated policy and systems changes to facilitate access to safe shelter for women.

## **The Impact of Higher Education Institutions on Collaborative Community Efforts to Address Systemic Injustice and Poverty**

*Andrea Stapleton, PhD*

Education institutions hold an integral place in communities, both in serving students and in their contributions to the community. This presentation will address how Mount Mary University serves students who have experienced poverty and marginalization, the university's role in the community, and possibilities for collaborative impact with community partners.

We will explore opportunities for partnerships that will lend reciprocal strength to other social change agencies, to collaboratively advance our missions and to address the intersectional manifestations of poverty in our community.

## **Ending GBV and Violence Against Women and Children Living in Poverty**

*Zidane Abdallah*

Gender-based violence (GBV) including violence against women and children are human rights crises with terrible consequences for health and wellbeing of community especially women and children living in poverty areas, also violence has a devastating impacts on children. In addition to the immediate risks to their lives and physical health, violence threatens children's emotional well-being and their future prospects. Violence can also be passed on from one generation to the next because children and women who experience violence may see it as normal practice.

# Day 2 Morning Workshops

## **500 Stars Initiative: Engage, Educate, Enrich, Empower, Elevate and Enable**

*Dessie Levy, PhD, RN and Lawrence Battle*

The 500 Stars Initiative is a comprehensive, multi-institutional, community-focused, education and workforce diversity plan. The overarching objective is to replenish, and increase diversity (underrepresented minorities-NIH defined) in the translational science workforce.

Students and family members are invited to this essential career achievement presentation that will offer career planning enhancement opportunities. This session will offer information about the Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) 500 Stars Program.

## **Commitment, Compassion, and Community: An Empowering Approach to Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness**

*Samantha Mischker*

Since 1982, Guest House of Milwaukee has strived to be at the forefront of homelessness outreach and prevention efforts in Milwaukee County by meeting the complex and evolving needs of our community. Partnering with civic, business, faith-based, volunteer, and philanthropic leaders to address the root causes of homelessness, Guest House provides a full continuum of comprehensive, innovative, and effective programs that reach nearly 2,000 lives each year. With more than 40 years of service to Milwaukee's most at-risk and vulnerable populations, we understand the vital importance of coming together to advance a common goal of empowering individuals to transform their lives, restoring dignity and creating a pathway to long-term stability.

Join us for a presentation and discussion on the key tenets of our multi-faceted and outcomes-based approach to serving individuals and families with a history or homelessness, or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

## **Innovative Partnerships to Advance Social Justice and Security in Housing**

*Colleen Foley, Krystina Kohler, and Aziz Abdullah*

The Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee launched Eviction Free MKE in September 2021, involving a public/private partnership with United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County and local government. That project takes a refreshed, data-driven approach to the delivery of civil legal services inclusive of cutting-edge marketing strategies to reach and best serve clients.

This workshop will address how a creative, integrated team can expand racial and economic justice and housing security through innovative techniques. The panelists will discuss Eviction Free MKE and the housing landscape in general from their unique vantage points as well as collectively address how a diverse, multi-disciplinary approach enhances service delivery in a culturally competent, potent way.

## **Financial District Disassociation: People of Color and Financial Wealth**

*Precious Badran*

Presentation exposes the severe inequality experienced by people of color in key areas. Education shows a 90% disparity, employment 70%, housing 80%, criminal justice 95%, and healthcare 70%. These statistics highlight the pervasive impact of systemic racism and emphasize the urgent need for change. We aim to shed light on these inequalities and advocate for equal opportunities and social justice for marginalized communities.

# Day 2 Morning Workshops

## Understanding Classism: Breaking the Barriers and Promoting Equality

*Charcora Palmer, PhD*

We will explore the topic of classism, an issue that has deep-rooted implications for individuals and societies worldwide.

Classism refers to discrimination, prejudice, and unequal treatment based on one's socioeconomic class. We will delve into the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to address this pervasive social problem.

## Why is the Village Burning? Making the Connection

*Terri Ellzey, CSAC, LPC, and Leah J. Wesley*

From the African proverb, "It takes a village" there is another African proverb that reads, "If the children are not embraced by the village they will burn it down for its warmth."

In this workshop, we demonstrate how generational trauma is experienced by African Americans using a psychosocial pathological lens exploring an increase in trauma-related mental health issues experienced by the African American community and the effects it has on children's development and mental health.

## Is Entrepreneurship a Pathway Out of Poverty?

*Michael Morris, PhD*

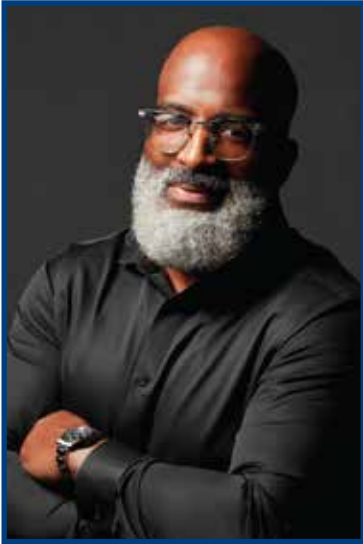
Despite spending over one trillion dollars a year in the U.S., we are not moving large numbers of people out of poverty. Might entrepreneurship be a possible solution, at least in part? Poverty is much more than a lack of money, as it involves a complex mosaic of factors. In this session, we will examine the unique challenges faced by those in poverty when attempting to recognize opportunity and develop a sustainable enterprise, or one that can change their economic circumstances. These challenges, captured in what are called the liabilities of poorness, frequently lead disadvantaged entrepreneurs to start survival ventures that fall into what we call the "commodity trap". Avoiding or breaking out of this trap requires a tailored approach that explicitly addresses the liabilities of poorness. Such an approach is reflected in the Urban Poverty and Business Initiative (UPBI), an eleven-month annual program that includes six key components. The UPBI program is now operating in thirty-two cities, including twenty-four U.S. cities. At the heart of UPBI is an eighty-step process that leads to a sustainable business. Progress begets progress as we walk with these entrepreneurs as they navigate these steps. Lessons learned from our experiences in building this program will be shared, together with ongoing challenges.

## Mobile Story Cart: Address Milwaukee Food Justice Issues Through Storytelling

*Nicole Welk-Joerger, PhD*

Access to affordable and healthy food is one of the most important factors impacting health equity in the United States today. There have been many studies conducted to help trace the history and sociology of how various systems (housing, transportation) have created health disparities as they are related to food access. However, much of this data has relied on quantifiable survey information that does not attend to the individual stories people may have about how they navigate these systems. In the summer of 2023, UWM's Mobile Story Cart facilitated conversations in an effort to gather such stories: to activate the survey data, incorporate personal narratives about food, and understand the role of trust in the building and dismantling of these systems. The stories - hundreds collected at over 20 farmer's markets, grocery stores, and food centers across Milwaukee - will be shared back to the community to use in policy-making through an online database and as part of a series of creative exhibitions by Milwaukee art organizations. These efforts aim to increase empathy and reduce the stigma of poverty while more thoroughly addressing the nuances of food access issues and food justice approaches in the city today.

# Day 2 Afternoon Keynote



## Jason Wilson

CEO & Founder, *The Yunion*

Jason Wilson is the founder and CEO of The Yunion (pronounced union), a non-profit organization in Detroit, Michigan. Since 2003, The Yunion has effectively reached more than 17,000 youth through innovative prevention programming. In 2008, Mr. Wilson's heart for misguided black boys inspired him to create and direct the Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy (CATA).

Mr. Wilson's leadership has garnered the CATA numerous acknowledgments and awards for his work teaching males how to introspectively confront and conquer their emotions with composure. In 2016, Mr. Wilson was invited to present the CATA at President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper* Showcase at the White House. Mr. Wilson is the recipient of the 2017 General Motors African Ancestry Network's Inspiration Award, 2018 Chick Fil-A True Inspiration Award, and 2019 Ford African Ancestry Network Community Service Award, to name a few.

In 2018, Mr. Wilson signed with actor Laurence Fishburne's film company to produce a documentary on his work called *The Cave of Adullam*. The film world premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2022 – winning Best Feature Documentary and is currently streaming on ESPN Plus.

Mr. Wilson is the author of two best-sellers, *Cry Like A Man* and *Battle Cry*. He has also been seen on several programs from *The Breakfast Club* to *The Joe Rogan Experience*. Mr. Wilson is a man of the Most High, a faithful husband of over 25 years and a proud father of two beautiful children.

# Day 2 Afternoon Workshops

## Environmental Justice Change

*Montre Moore*

Promoting equity and economic opportunities in under-served neighborhoods is a vital endeavor in the city of Milwaukee. By addressing the disparities that exist in these communities, we can create a more inclusive and prosperous city for all residents.

Overall, promoting equity and economic opportunities in under-served neighborhoods requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses education, affordable housing, small business support, and community engagement. By prioritizing these efforts, Milwaukee can foster a more equitable and prosperous city for all of its residents.

## Advancing Your Nonprofit's Mission Through Advocacy

*Frank Martinelli, Martha Collins, Martina Gollin-Graves, and Heather Kuhl*

The continuing impact of the Pandemic, the severe economic hardship experienced by so many Wisconsinites, and the renewed and long overdue calls for racial and economic justice have made advocacy important like never before. Today, many nonprofits are looking to make advocacy a more prominent feature of their organizations. In some cases, they are direct service providers that engage in some forms of advocacy already and want to re-double their efforts. In other cases, they are nonprofits that have not engaged in advocacy up to this point but are looking for ideas and resources to help them move forward with advocacy.

The panel will share how advocacy helps their organizations advance their missions, lessons learned from their experience with advocacy, advice to nonprofit leaders who are interested in exploring ways to make advocacy work for their organizations and communities, and resources nonprofits can tap to get started.

## Collective Impact and Advocacy: Lessons from the Ground Up

*Maxwell Schaeffer*

Advocacy and Collective Impact, especially in combination, offer an opportunity to multiply the impact already being made by Milwaukee's nonprofit sector. For the last two years Safe & Sound has implemented both as complementary strategies. Our purpose is to expose participants to Collective Impact and Advocacy and how direct service organizations can use them to further their mission.

Advocacy and Collective Impact are often taught at the conceptual level, with organizations and staff responsible for translating the theory into practice. That translation can pose large challenges and cause board or staff push-back. Safe & Sound is in a unique position, implementing both initiatives simultaneously over the past two years.

## Re-Entry: Stepping Out of Mass Incarceration

*Andre Brown*

This will be a detailed course on mass incarceration, the criminal justice system's involvement, and those re-entering from Wisconsin's penal system. This session will give an overview of how certain aspects of the criminal justice system has contributed to mass incarceration in the state of Wisconsin. The state of Wisconsin's prison population has more than doubled in the past 25 years, is there more criminal activity in the state? Or is our criminal justice system taking more of a punitive approach when it comes to crime? These are questions and answers we will explore and explain as we discuss crime and rehabilitation in the world of mass incarceration. This information session will give the good news on how things have and are being done to end mass incarceration to restore rehabilitation to individual lives, families, and communities. With this session on "re-entry," you will walk away with an understanding and appreciation for the services offered and proven in the re-entry industry.

# Day 2 Afternoon Workshops

## How Urban Renewal Displaced Communities of Color

*Sharaka Berry*

Urban renewal was a body of legislation that radically reconstructed urban landscapes in the United States. The term urban renewal entered popular discourse after the Housing Act of 1954. The stated purpose of these programs was to renovate American cities and create affordable housing for low-income residents of urban slums. Government officials, media outlets, and citizens alike praised urban renewal programs as a step in the right direction.

There was a genuine need for urban renewal projects in the United States. By the beginning of the Great Depression, foreclosures and unemployment skyrocketed resulting in a drastic decrease in construction and sales of houses in the U.S. In 1925, the total number of residential permits was around 490,000 units. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in 1933 the number of residential permits was reduced to less than 26,000 units, a 93 percent drop.

Ironically, a very small percentage of new buildings constructed by urban renewal projects were proposed for public housing. Most of the new housing complexes that were created were high-rise apartment complexes for high-income residents. The reality is that urban renewal projects were instrumentalized by development elites for their own benefit. Moreover, urban renewal efforts effectively serve as subsidized segregation because federal money was used to misplace black, brown, and poor communities.

## Housing Advocacy: If Not Now, When?

*Andy Heidt*

Affordable Housing and the critical need for advocacy through a lens of economic inequality and racial disparities. This presentation will lead to a discussion on solutions and a description of the work of the Badger State Housing Alliance.

## D.R.I.V.E. Research Study

*Jennifer Harris*

This workshop is an update of the Institute on Poverty and Systemic Racism's (IPSR) seminal collaborative research study. The partnership between the Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette, SDC, and UW-Milwaukee launched in 2022; is poised to examine the impact of systemic racism and discrimination on the individual, neighborhood, and community levels. This workshop will provide an overview of our collaborative efforts, insight in to preliminary data, and discuss our thoughts about implementation for the results and data collected.

## On the Edge Digital Game - Interactive Situational Game Experience to Help Our Youth with Decisions and Choices to Improve Live Outcomes

*LaTasha Langdon, MBA*

Discussion/Round Table: Quality Educational Access Workshop

In our workshop participants will use devices to log onto the On the Edge game to experience the game and its benefits on social, emotional, problem-solving and decision-making skills. This will be experienced through a random set of scenario base questions. Our motto is Change your thinking. Change your path. In this workshop we will discuss how having an open conversation and giving youth a voice can help to uncover gaps in education with academic and life skills. We will explore how quality educational access can help improve the outcomes of youth and the family. Once they are equipped with the steps and tools to understand the risks and consequences.





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# Be The Difference *begins at home.*

Marquette University is committed to making a difference in the Milwaukee community by supporting the Summit on Poverty's transformative efforts to create a future where poverty is overcome with resiliency and compassion.



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## Thank you for your participation!



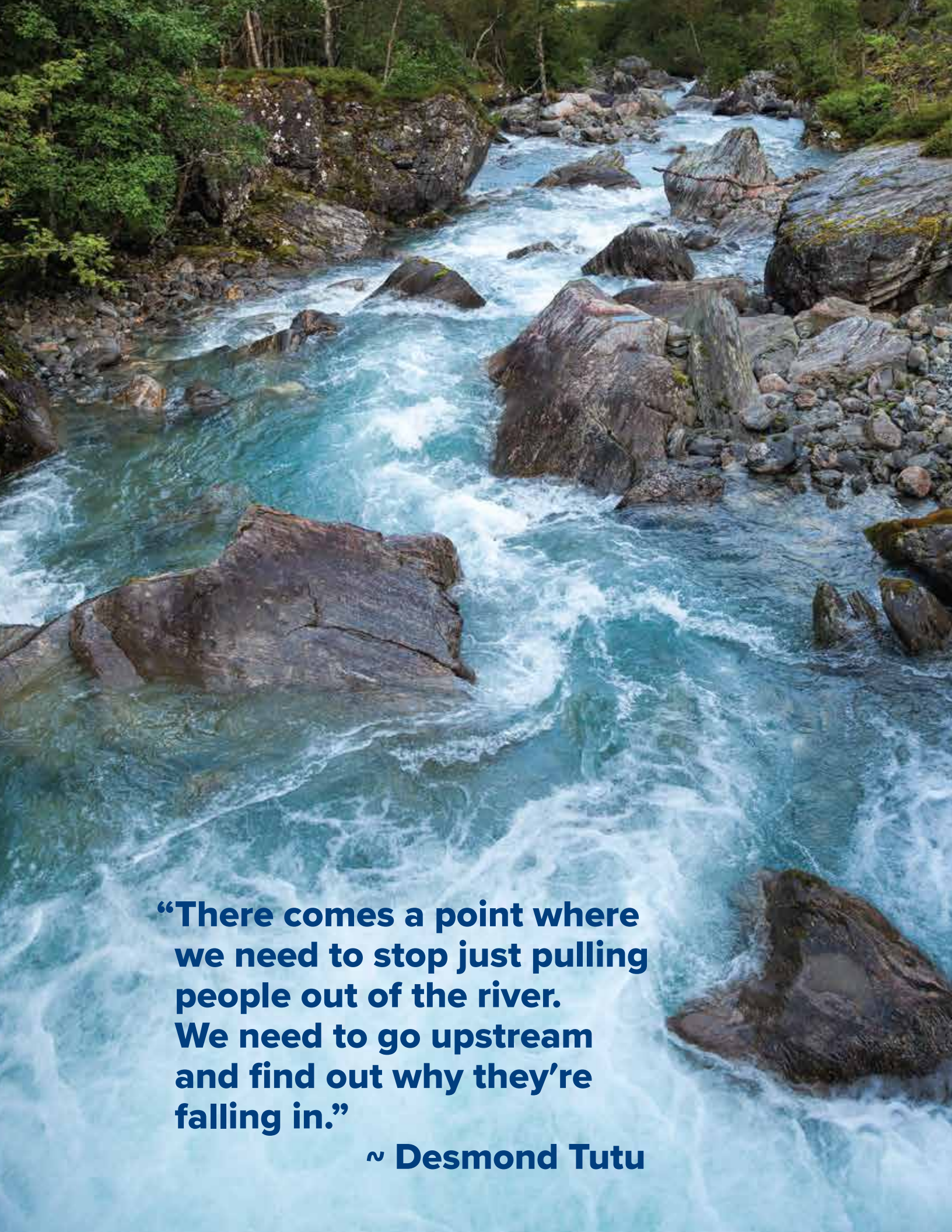
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