

Heroes of Compassion 2018



Dr. M. Y. Ahmed, Trevor Black, Kameel Ansara, for Fellowship Matters, Inc., Rita McDougle, Photo Peggy Borell

Dr. M. Y. Ahmed

Dr Mohammad Yousafuddin Ahmed, MD, FRCS, a semi-retired General and Trauma Surgeon of Toledo, is affectionately known as MY. Originally from Hyderabad, India, where he went to medical school at the prestigious Usmania University, he trained and worked in Canada, then came to Toledo. He established a practice covering St. Vincent, Riverside and Mercy Hospitals.

He has been on the forefront of independent and organizational philanthropic services. He has developed and supported various institutions in town. He was President of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo and United Muslims Association of Toledo.

He is the founder and supporter of many charitable indigent clinics in town, St. Vincent Neighborhood Clinic, Masjid Al Islam Clinic, River East Clinic, Islamic Medical Association Clinic, Clinic at the Islamic Center and Masjid Saad, as well as various health camps and festivals. Five years ago, he and his wife Dr Shahida Ahmed, established and supported the MY and Shahida Ahmed Trauma Symposium, an annual event through St Vincent's. He has travelled with medical missions all over the world, recently returning from India, where he took care of Rohingya Refugees.

In all of the process, he has never yearned for recognition and fame.

Trevor Black

Trevor is a high school teacher at Scott High School, a seamstress and a member of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club - Maumee Bay Chapter. Trevor never had children of her own, but her "babies", better known as the students at Scott High School, for the last four decades have been blessed to have teachers like Trevor. She has invested in their futures with time, talent and treasure. Trevor sponsors many high school students for college readiness, professional development and basic life skills programs, events and opportunities. She sponsored a student for a weeklong national convention in Texas. Trevor had taken the student shopping to purchase luggage and EVERY outfit the young lady had for the trip! She was helping the young lady get ready to attend Wittenburg College in the Fall. She invested untold hours and dollars in helping her set up her college dorm, find a college job, and head to school with enough money to cover her books. Her students know Mrs. Black will do what she can to help them reach their goals!

Fellowship Matters, Inc.

Since 2008, Fellowship Matters has devoted its energy to passionately advocate for the hungry and needy members of our Northwest Ohio family. The group is at Michigan and Adams Streets in Toledo every Saturday to help children and families in need. That is every Saturday – rain, snow, or shine. This nonprofit provides hot meals each Saturday from their mobile kitchen. They serve 200-400 guests each week. They also provide hats, gloves and scarves during the winter months. Many volunteer groups help Fellowship Matters to serve their guests.

Rita McDougle

Rita McDougle lives in East Toledo and during the summer months hosts a weekly "Art in the Garden" program for neighborhood school children in her own garden. The program takes place every Tuesday morning, beginning the first Tuesday after school is out, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The goal is to teach children respect for nature, each other, and themselves. Rita, with several volunteers, including family members, teaches classes of between nine and sixteen children aged five and up (younger children must be accompanied by a parent) about gardening: planting, weeding, fertilizing, harvesting, and clean up. Each Tuesday there is also an art project, or a yoga class, or a volunteer storyteller. Rita's son, who is a chef, prepares a hot lunch for everyone for them at the end of the morning. The meals include produce from the garden which introduces the children to new foods, shows them how they can be prepared, and encourages them to eat healthily. All this is free – there is no charge.