



2-1-1  
DELAWARE

United Way  
United Way of Delaware

# Feel Good Friday Update

A collection of uplifting stories when we need them the most.

November 4, 2022

\*\*\*\*\* Premiering Monday November 7 \*\*\*\*\*



A television series highlighting compelling perspectives on topics that affect our community.

LAUNCHING MONDAY, NOV. 7TH AT 10AM

WAYS TO WATCH:

 **LIVE**  
STREAM 

[facebook.com/UnitedWayofDelaware](https://facebook.com/UnitedWayofDelaware)  
[facebook.com/DeTv302](https://facebook.com/DeTv302)

 **LIVE**

[twitter.com/DeTvch](https://twitter.com/DeTvch)

 **LIVE** [youtube.com/c/DETVCH](https://youtube.com/c/DETVCH)  
[bit.ly/uwde\\_youtube](https://bit.ly/uwde_youtube)

See the article below for more information

## Welcome to the DRJC Quarterly Update

As a racial justice organization, few fights are more important to DRJC than the right and ability to vote. In 1965 Lyndon B Johnson declared, “The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.” We couldn’t agree more.

Voting is a right for which countless Americans fought and died over the course of the United States history. In the 18th century colony of Delaware, suffrage was restricted to only European men with either fifty acres of land or 40 pounds of personal property. Voting rights have since expanded to include all U.S. citizens, 18 years and older without limits on race, gender, or income. Poll taxes and literacy tests have been abolished and yet the fight against limits to voting rights persists. Voter suppression efforts are attacking the fiber of our democracy.



As barriers to exercising our right to vote continue, especially for the elderly, disabled, and those without the flexibility to visit the polls on Election Day, it is more important than ever to cast our ballots and make our voices heard. We believe that all people who want to vote and are legally eligible should be given the flexibility, space and time to do so.

It is important to reflect on for whom you will vote. Do you know your chosen candidate's full platform as opposed to a single issue they support or oppose? Do you know all of the candidates in all of the races in your district? No doubt, the research required to learn this information demands time and is completely separate from viewing television campaign ads. However, its worth it. And its been made easier by vote411.

Vote 411 – <https://www.vote411.org/> was created by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Its an uncomplicated, non-partisan way to learn about the races in your district. Simply click on the url, enter your address and read and digest all of the information available about the candidates and their positions. Create a mock ballot, find your polling place and set up your voting plan for Tuesday (if you haven't already utilized early voting).

We strongly encourage all citizens to learn more about the candidates in your local district and to exercise your right to vote. I know I will. My name is Raina Allen and I approved this message.

Sincerely,

*Raina*

Raina Allen,  
Director, DRJC

## DRJC: Who We Are and What We Do

The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) provides a safe space and platform to dissect and redress institutional policies and procedures related to racial justice since 2015. In its early days, a collection of civic leaders and volunteers focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in State government employment. On the heels of the national racial reckoning and Black Lives Matter movement, a groundswell of new members from across Delaware joined the fight against racism.

Since 2020, the DRJC has been officially powered by the United Way of Delaware. Today, we are comprise more than 200 individuals and organizations working to uncover, repeal, and restructure policies and practices that negatively impact people of color.

**The work is organized around seven impact areas (committees): public policy, health equity, wealth creation, education, criminal justice, youth advancement, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI).** We function in teams where “agents of change” from the grassroots to the grasstops join forces and work together to drive change.

The DRJC is proud of recent policy victories that chip away at inequities in Delaware. Our Public Policy committee, alongside other community groups and civic leaders, has successfully advocated for HB 195 requiring body worn cameras for police and other law enforcement officials, HB 198 requiring K-12 public and charter schools to incorporate Black history and the Black experience into K-12 curricula, and HB 375 creating the Delaware Racial Equity Consortium. This committee is actively tracking the implementation of the bills.

Our Health Equity committee joined with the National Medical Association, First State

Society, to create a new online directory of Black Doctors in Delaware to be released by year's end. During the Delaware General Assembly's recent session, this committee advocated in support of increased funding for the Division of Public Health's Bureau on Health Equity.

Each of the committees meets regularly via Zoom. The DRJC also hosts events, community conversations and other meetings. We need you – your involvement and passion – to power up the fight! Please reach out to **Alex** to be added to our email list.

## Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative News



### Brandywine School District hosts Student Voice Advisory Retreat

By Raina Allen

The Brandywine School District recently convened its first *Up for Learning* Student Voice Advisory Retreat. The energy was electric as students from Brandywine's three high schools met to build leadership for student voice.



More than 60 adults and students partnered for discussions to explore what Student Voice means. Participants engaged in activities around Brave Spaces, Community Building, Stretching the Realm of Possibility, and Action Planning in School Teams.

Brandywine School District administrators Marqueia Davis, BSD Supervisor of Equity & Culture, Dr. Yolanda McKinney and Adrienne Stansbury were joined by Superintendent Lincoln Hohler and other district leaders to support the empowerment of student voice and partnerships.

The DRJC applauds Brandywine School District staff and students for their hard work and looks forward to supporting ongoing efforts.



## New Castle County Vo-Tech School District Hosts Diversity-Themed Unity Day

New Castle County Vo-Tech (NCCVT) School District's Diversity Task Force recently hosted its third annual Unity Day, a celebration of student leadership, empowerment, and connectivity. Students from all four NCCVT schools met at Howard High School along with NCCVT District staff and teachers. This year's theme, *A Different World*, challenged students to think about how they can influence and inspire others to make the world a better place.

The students heard from hosts Albany Horsey (Howard) and Jared Hayes (St. Georges), Superintendent Joseph Jones, and keynote speaker Lori L. Hayes. Four student speakers were Misty Osborne of Delcastle, Loreal Smalls of Hodgson, Joy Mochache of Howard, and Shae Taylor of St. Georges.

Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative hosted two of the student speakers during our recent meetings. Joy Mochache addressed the October general body meeting and Shae Taylor addressed the Black Student Union Meet Up for advisors and students.

The DRJC celebrates its close working relationship with NCCVT and their commitment and actions around empowering student advocacy and the fight for social justice.



## Sussex Tech BSU: Judgment-Free Zone

By Nesy Cherazzard

I am excited to be a co-founder of Sussex County's first Black Student Union (BSU) with the support of the DRJC and our advisors at Sussex Technical High School.

Our BSU had a successful turnout during club day which resulted in more than 50 students signing up to be members. Many students expressed relief that there is a club where students of color can go to freely express themselves and talk about sensitive topics with peers who can relate and share without judgment.



We will have our first meeting on November 4. Advisors including Jalyn Powell with the DRJC, Jacques Bowe and Dominique Scott with Sussex Tech High school will be joining us. Sussex Tech's black student Union can be supported through guidance from advisors, connecting our club to others/organizations who are experienced and to provide a positive space for students to use their voice.

## Signed into Law on Oct 3

In Delaware, a simple misdemeanor charge with a \$100 punitive fine frequently results in some \$500 total of court-imposed fines and fees.

Since 85% of criminal defendants in Delaware are indigent, this is an overwhelming financial burden. If a payment is missed, the fees and penalties continue to build, including loss of driver's license. Without a license, many people struggle to find or keep a job. This system creates a vicious spiral of compounded poverty, often leading to subsequent arrests and jail time.

The Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative proudly supported House Bill 244, passed during the last session of Delaware's General Assembly and signed into law on October 3 by Governor Carney.



HB 244 prohibits courts from charging interest or imposing fees for late payments, failing to pay, or paying in installments. It also eliminates a fee that forces people on probation to pay for their own supervision and ends the fee for using a public defender. Finally, HB 244 repeals a state law that allowed DDMV to suspend licenses for anyone who hasn't paid court debt. Drivers previously affected will be able to regain their licenses.

The implementation of these changes to the court-imposed system of fines and fees will be tracked by the DRJC's public policy committee along with the Campaign to End Debtor's Prison and others.

The committee needs your help. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 am on Zoom through December. Please join the monthly meetings and get involved. Please email [Alex](mailto:Alex) for the meeting invitation.

## Introducing the Equity Counts Data Center

By Emily Kauffman

Now there is an easier way to access the data you need to build racial equity and social justice in Delaware — the Equity Counts Data Center.

United Way of Delaware and Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative partnered with the Delaware Division of Public Health to create Equity Counts Data Center to meet the need for a convenient and easy-to-use platform that was accessible to everyone.

Equity Counts Data Center brings together Delaware-specific data sources to help assess inequities at the state and ZIP code levels. The complete equity data story can be easily accessed on the "My Healthy Community" platform with the ability to disaggregate the data by race, ethnicity, gender, and age. As the capabilities of Equity Counts Data Center continue to evolve over time, more granular data will become available.

### Pillars of Equity

The data that exists on Equity Counts Data Center is categorized according to the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative's "Pillars of Equity" which includes education, health, criminal justice, and wealth creation. Each of these pillars illuminate gaps that exist which can contribute to a lack of opportunity and flourishing in one's life.

We invite you to visit Equity Counts Data Center and compare data by race, ethnicity,

gender, and age, and learn about the inequities that exist today and help build solutions for tomorrow.

### See It Live on Zoom

On Wednesday, November 16 from 2:00 – 3:00pm on Zoom, join United Way of Delaware, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative, and Delaware Department of Public Health. We will demonstrate how this ground-breaking database can be used to discover, understand, and fight inequity across Delaware.

Click to register for launch [here](#). To learn more or to share questions and feedback, contact [Emily Kauffman](#).

**INTRODUCING:**  
**EQUITY COUNTS  
DATA CENTER**

**One-stop for comprehensive data on  
racial equity and social justice in  
Delaware**

Explore ECDC: [bit.ly/EquityCountsData](https://bit.ly/EquityCountsData)

**Join the Official Launch**  
November 16, 2022  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
[Register Here](#)

During the launch, **YOU** will learn:

- Why the Equity Counts Data Center is a game changer
- What Equity Counts Data Center means for Delawareans
- How Delawareans can use the Equity Counts Data Center

This initiative was supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, under National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities...



## Black Student Summit Virtual Meet Up Is a Hit

By Jalyn Powell

The first Black Student Summit was held in April 2022 and participants continued to call for more. A celebration of Black Student Unions (BSU) and BIPOC-serving groups,

the Summit brought education and training to students and advisors.

The DRJC answered the call for more by hosting a virtual fall BSU meet up on October 25 on Zoom.

The meet up opened with students and advisors sharing what brought them to the movement. Students shared why they joined the BSU and advisors shared the reasons they became advisors. The large group then broke into smaller ones for students and advisors to have their own time together.

The DRJC-hosted discussion provided encouragement, motivation and food for thought on how to create stronger environments for BSU activities. High Schools represented in the meeting included Mt. Pleasant, Appoquinimink, Newark Charter, Wilmington Friends School, Hodgson, Sussex Tech, St. Georges. Other groups participating included representatives from New Castle County Vo-Tech District office, DE Dept of Education, and Wilmington Community Advisory Council.

Another meet up will be held during the winter in advance of the Black Student Summit that will take place on April 1, 2023. The student-led planning committee needs student and adult volunteers! Please reach out to [Alex](#) to participate.

*In each edition of DRJC Quarterly update,  
we'll highlight a Black Student Union and its advisor.*

## **Featuring Mt. Pleasant High School Black Student Union**

### **Mt. Pleasant High School Black Student Union**

*Year established: 2018*

*Advisor's name: **Taria Pritchett***

*Number of years serving as advisor: 4*

*BSU Presidents' names: **Brendan Smith and Kennedy Lloyd***

*Number of BSU members: 38*



### **About Taria Pritchett**

Mount Pleasant High School - 2022-2023 Teacher  
of the Year

*English Department & Equity Liaison*

AVID & International Baccalaureate (IB) Certified

**Girls Empowered & Black Student Union,**

Advisor

***\*Delaware Today 2020 Top Teacher\****

Wilmington University- Class of 2023

Clinical Mental Health Counseling - Focus: Teen  
Mental Health

Archmere Academy/A Better Chance House -



***Why did you become an advisor?***

I became an advisor to provide students at my school with a safe space to feel seen and heard; and provide education and empowerment about black culture and history.

***What has been a highlight of serving as a BSU advisor?***

The highlight has been consistently outgrowing my classroom with students who are committed to BSU and thoroughly engaged in every meeting with each topic and activity.

***What/who inspires you:***

My students' passion and commitment to understanding their culture and shaping their own identities.

***What would you like to share with others in the community about students in your BSU?***

I would like to share that it is imperative that we uphold student voice and listen to teenagers more. If you listen close enough, you will hear them sharing what they most need to feel loved, supported, and cared for.

## **What They See Is What They'll Be: Black Men Aim to Save Black Youth in Delaware**

By Brandon Brice

The United Way of Delaware, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative and the 100 Black Men of Delaware are giving young Black men opportunities to "connect and engage" through a mentorship program initiative that began one year ago. *Young Men United* serves Black youth ages 12-18 to help with character development, college and career readiness and early career exposure.

The newly formed partnership with the *100 Black Men* organization guarantees that youth see professional black men doing positive things. Black Men from across Delaware are using Young Men United to create new conversations about the state of African American youth.

100 Black Men of Delaware, Inc., an affiliate of the 100 Black Men of America, was founded in 2021 and will serve assist in building a national framework of support for 25,000 Young Men of Color to increase postsecondary attainment and improve workforce preparedness. 100 Black Men of Delaware will develop a program which supports young men of color through internships, mentorships and financial literacy/supports.



**100 Black Men of Delaware and Young Men United**



## United Way of Delaware Set to Launch *Impact365*

### ***New TV and Streaming Program on DETV Showcases Community Impact***

United Way of Delaware (UWDE) is set to launch Impact365, a first-of-its-kind cable TV and streaming program showcasing community outreach initiatives and partner agencies statewide.



The five-part series will air on DETV (Comcast 28) Mondays at 6 p.m. from November 7 to December 5, and will rebroadcast on DETV at select times each week. It will be available for streaming on DETVch.com, and on DETV's and UWDE's Facebook and YouTube channels.

Impact 365 highlights the people and tells the stories of those who have been empowered by programs and initiatives through the collective efforts of many partners. Episodes will examine how community collaborations – many of which are powered by UWDE – touch our neighbors and improve their lives every day. The program highlights the Delaware 211 Helpline that connects Delawareans with a wide range of social services. An episode in Spanish examines challenges facing the state's rapidly growing Hispanic community.

The program is produced in partnership with DETV, which will celebrate the launch of Impact365 with a live preview on its Good Morning Wilmington show at 10:00 a.m. on November 7.

Describing the move into cable television as an effective way to connect with the Delaware community, UWDE President and Chief Executive Officer Michelle Taylor says, "Our neighbors use cable TV, social media and the internet every day. This show reaches audiences where they are, highlighting solutions and the progress achieved by the collaborative efforts of community partnerships statewide. Our hope is that by showing the real people, demonstrating the real needs of our neighbors, and highlighting the good work underway in our state, Impact365 will inspire thoughtful discussion and prompt even more Delawareans to join in and be part of solutions."

Impact365 is hosted by Tierra Fair, UWDE's Vice President of Engagement and Partnerships and features community leaders and guest speakers offering an inside look at how on-the-ground programs that UWDE supports is driving positive impact across the state.

# impact 365

A television series highlighting compelling perspectives on topics that affect our community.

LAUNCHING MONDAY, NOV. 7TH AT 10AM

WAYS TO WATCH:



facebook.com/UnitedWayofDelaware  
facebook.com/DeTv302



twitter.com/DeTvch



LIVE

youtube.com/c/DETVCH  
bit.ly/uwde\_youtube



To learn more about the film, read more in Oprah Daily

DOCUMENTARY FILM  
*Screening*  
**THE COLOR  
OF CARE**

*Directed by Yance Ford  
Produced by Oprah Winfrey*

**Saturday,  
November 19  
2022**

**1:00 - 3:00pm**

**Wilmington Public  
Library**

10 East 10th Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Join us to explore how we can make quality healthcare a reality for all. People of color are the most disadvantaged when dealing with access to quality healthcare.



Questions: [asoutherst@uwde.org](mailto:asoutherst@uwde.org)

**REGISTER NOW**



Sponsored by

*National Medical  
Association, First State  
Society*

*Delaware Racial Justice  
Collaborative*

**1:00 - 2:30** Film

**2:30 - 3:00** Panel discussion



United Way of Delaware

**Make the Holiday Merry!**

The Holiday Season is upon us, and United Way of Delaware and our partners have come together to ensure that children in homeless shelters, children experiencing poverty, and children in foster care are not forgotten during the holidays. We are pleased to announce that we are having our Second Annual Winter Wonderland Community Resource Fairs/Holiday Coat & Toy Drives for kids and families.

Your generous donation will help ease this burden. We are looking for sponsors to assist in the effort to provide children the gift of warmth by providing coats and a holiday toy.

Here are 3 ways to help!

**1** Your financial donation will ensure a new coat and a new toy will be gifted to children ages birth to 13 which is our most vulnerable population. All gifts up to a total of \$500 received through [www.uwde.org/winterwonderland](http://www.uwde.org/winterwonderland) after November 1 will be matched. Help us reach our goal to provide 1,000 coats and 1,000 holiday toys to kids during our statewide holiday events to be held:

December 3 -- 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm at Schellville, Rehoboth Beach

December 10 -- Noon - 1:30 pm at Laurel Library

December 10 -- Noon - 1:30 pm at Dover Public Library

December 17 -- 11 am - 1 pm at Wilmington Public Library

**2** You, your family or your organization can hold your own holiday coat and holiday toy drive to support this event. You can host an actual drive, and drop off any unwrapped donations to any of the four distribution locations above. Or you can allow monetary donations and send it to us to purchase items **by donating here**

**3** You can share this information on social media to encourage your friends and family to share your holiday giving.



The poster features a dark blue background with white snowflakes and stars. At the top, a pair of green mittens is shown. Below them, the title "Winter Wonderland Delaware Toy and Coat Giveaway" is written in white. To the left of the text are two green mittens, and to the right is a green and red holiday sweater. The event schedule is listed in the center: Schellville- December 3 2:30pm-4:30pm, Dover Library- December 10 12pm-1:30pm, Laurel Library - December 10 12pm-1:30pm, and Wilmington Library- December 17 11am-1pm. Below the schedule, there is a paragraph of text: "Join UWDE and partners in supporting and celebrating the families throughout the state. Each location will giveaway coats and toys while supplies last for kids under birth- 12. Each event will give other community resources to support families during the holidays". This is followed by the instruction "REGISTER TO ATTEND by dialing 211 Press 4" in red. At the bottom, it says "To donate NEW, unwrapped toys and coats, go to www.uwde.org/winterwonderland for drop off locations FOR MORE INFO: email dreeves@uwde.org". The bottom of the poster features logos for Laurel Public Library, Dover Public Library, The Wilmington Library, and United Way.

**Winter Wonderland  
Delaware Toy and Coat Giveaway**

Schellville- December 3  
2:30pm-4:30pm

Dover Library- December 10  
12pm-1:30pm

Laurel Library - December 10  
12pm-1:30pm

Wilmington Library- December 17  
11am-1pm

Join UWDE and partners in supporting and celebrating the families throughout the state.  
Each location will giveaway coats and toys while supplies last for kids under birth- 12.  
Each event will give other community resources to support families during the holidays

**REGISTER TO ATTEND  
by dialing 211 Press 4**

To donate NEW, unwrapped toys and coats, go to [www.uwde.org/winterwonderland](http://www.uwde.org/winterwonderland) for drop off locations  
FOR MORE INFO: email [dreeves@uwde.org](mailto:dreeves@uwde.org)

Laurel Public Library  
DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
THE WILMINGTON LIBRARY  
United Way  
United Way of Delaware



# MAN UP! FOR BETTER HEALTH FAIR



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2022 | 10AM- 2PM

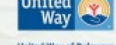
### OPEN TO ALL MEN

- FOOD VENDORS
- HAIRCUTS FOR MEN
- HEALTH SCREENING (For Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, etc)

### LOCATION

Teen Warehouse, 1121 Thatcher St,  
Wilmington, DE 19802

### SPONSORS



Register Online:  
[www.100blackmenofdelaware.org](http://www.100blackmenofdelaware.org)

# HELP KEEP HIM WARM THIS WINTER



Thanks to our generous partners at the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, all online donations up to \$500 made during November will be matched.

## Keep him warm. Keep him smiling.

A coat is a basic need that many kids do not have. This season, your donation of \$50 will purchase 2 coats to help keep children warm and smiling. How many warm coats will you donate this year?

### Double Your Impact Today



[Donate](#)

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Delaware Health Literacy Forum

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Via Zoom Meeting)



**Keynote Speaker Dr. Rima Rudd**  
Harvard School of Public Health  
*Health Literacy and Its Implications for Equity and Social Justice*



Opening remarks by  
Delaware's Lt. Governor, Bethany Hall-Long

[REGISTER NOW >](#)



#### Health Literacy:

##### A Strong Foundation for Health

Speakers will focus on the importance of recognizing Health Literacy as a key factor in equitable health practices, to include health access, quality of care, and health outcomes.

Moderator: **Rita Landgraf**

**Paul Jurmo**

*Open Door Collective*

**Susan Cosgrove**

*PA Health Literacy Coalition*

**Audrey Riffenburgh**

*Health Literacy Connections*

**Karen Komondor**

*Ohio Health Literacy*



#### Health Literacy Resources and Innovation

This panel will explore best practices in both Organizational and Community Health Literacy and discuss how national, regional, and local innovations are impacting community and patient health.

Moderator: **Greg O'Neill**

**Michael Villaire**

*Institute for Healthcare Advancement*

**Jamie Stanfield**

*University of Southern Mississippi*

**Joe DiGiovanni**

*TAPP Network*



#### Health Literacy Policy to Practice

This panel will explore how national, state, and organizational policies play a role in creating guidelines that show how community needs are at the forefront in population health.

Moderator: **Megan Williams**

**Teresa Wagner**

*SaferCare Texas*

**Wilma Alvarado-Little**

*NY State Department of Health*

**Stan Hudson**

*Wisconsin Health Literacy*



This forum was supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, under National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities.

## It's Easy to Support United Way of Delaware

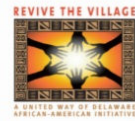
Your donation to United Way helps us work to make Delaware a great state to live, work and play for all our neighbors.

[Make an online donation here](#)



### Start With a Smile

Shopping at Amazon? Start at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com) and feel better about spending money! Just set United Way of Delaware as your charity of choice. Then spend away and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us — no fees, no extra cost!



United Way of Delaware | 625 North Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

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