

**FREE PUBLICATION**

# Southside

**COLUMBUS**

**Guide**

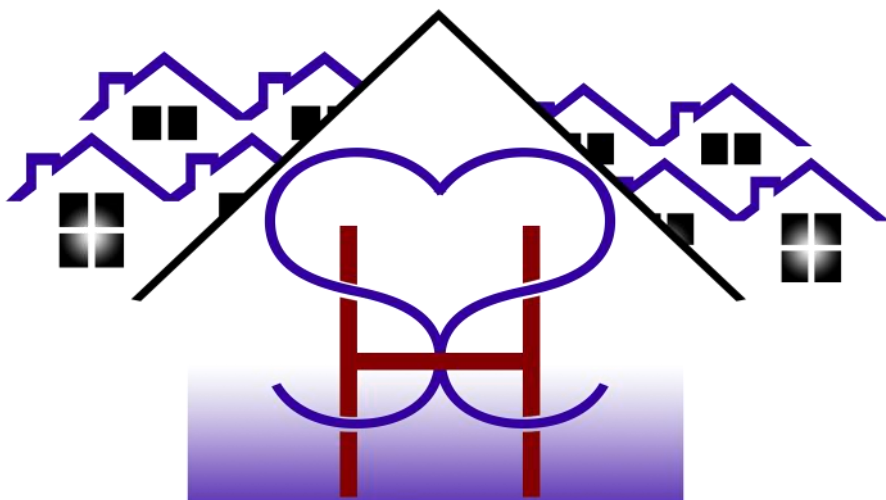
**Fall 2019**

## **Our Schools**

**Past, Present & Future**

*Plus*

- **Preserving Our Homes & Community**
- **Youth Share Message of Hope & Love**
- **Neighborhood Resources**



# SOUTH SIDE HOPE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC

*Southside Hope's mission is to embrace the community, enhance the environment, and enlighten the Spirit of individuals in our surrounding community.*

Current initiatives include programs for increasing opportunities for home ownership, reducing vacant and abandoned properties, and promoting long-term tenants and residency in Far South Columbus.

For more information, visit [southsidehope.org](http://southsidehope.org).



Southside Hope Celebrates First New Home Owner

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# *The* Southside Guide

The Southside Guide is a free print publication that showcases our proud residents, businesses and community resources on the south side of Columbus. The publication is printed, in part, with support from South Side Hope CDC, Inc.

Our goal is to make a positive impact in our community by sharing our South Side Pride!

**Contact Lori Fisher**

**614-886-9922**

**[lfisher@southsidehope.org](mailto:lfisher@southsidehope.org)**

to get included in the next issue

**PROMOTING PRIDE ON THE SOUTH SIDE**



# YOUTH UNITE TO SHARE MESSAGE OF *HOPE & LOVE*

By Lori Fisher

It's 6:15 p.m. on a Wednesday evening and Merissa Hightower and the other volunteers are scurrying to make sure everything is prepared and ready. In just a few minutes, a group of hungry youth will start arriving for the weekly meal and fellowship.

It all started two years ago, in Merissa's home. She knew the power and impact that faith, love and positive interaction had on her own life, and wanted to give that to her children and other young people in her neighborhood. From her living room, she began hosting weekly sessions to share experiences, knowledge, and life lessons.

During one lesson about the power of prayer, the youth were taught to remember and thank God for answering prayers. As a reminder, the students created prayer cards that they placed in envelopes attached to poster boards. They were instructed to remember when God answers prayers, to read them often, and to add to them daily. Each envelope represented a different type of prayer—prayer of thanksgiving, prayer for a need, prayer for others, and prayer of forgiveness. One teen openly shared a prayer of thanksgiving, as God had answered her prayer to reunite with her birth mother. For six years she had been in foster care because her mother was addicted to drugs. God returned her and her siblings to the custody of their mother and she has remained clean for 2 years. It was a joyous day for all in the group to hear a peer testimony of how God truly answers prayers.

*continued on page 5*



Wesley Church of Hope has adopted and expanded on Merissa's efforts. The Children of Koinonia aims to strengthen connections, foster relationships, and encourage participation in changing the world through Christian education, group activities and acts of love.

Each week begins with a free meal to invite fellowship, strengthen relationships, and give thanks. Volunteers prepare the meal in advance to be served during the first 30 minutes of each session. The leaders then begin a scripture lesson and a discussion follows. An interactive activity that reinforces the lesson is also included.

"The goal is to transform our surrounding community by increasing the involvement of neighborhood youth in sharing God's message of love and hope," shares Merissa Hightower, a group leader.

The Children of Koinonia will soon begin their first service project to spread God's message of hope and love in the community. The group will assemble 50 care bags to be distributed to homeless individuals

*continued on page 24*

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## *Preserving Our Homes and Communities*



Modcon Living is a nonprofit organization established to help sustain homes and neighborhoods. Modcon Living provides reliable, affordable home repair and modification services, while serving vulnerable homeowners. They believe everyone deserves the choice to age in place with independence and dignity.

### **THE MOD SQUAD**

Mod Squad is a social enterprise serving as Central Ohio's one-stop shop for handyman services.

Make your home more comfortable, more beautiful, and more functional with help from the Mod Squad. They have more than 100 years of combined experience and are bonded and insured. **The Mod Squad can fix it, modify it or replace it.**

The Mod Squad can help you customize a menu of home maintenance services to meet your unique needs, style and budget. You'll feel great knowing every project helps fund urgently needed home repairs for Safe at Home clients.



*continued on page 11*

## SAFE AT HOME

Modcon Living's Safe at Home program provides grants for quality home modifications and emergency repairs for qualified, vulnerable low-income senior and/or disabled homeowners. This program focuses on repairs to heating, plumbing, electrical, as well as preventing falls, fire prevention, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency.

Safe at Home helps homeowners age in place with safety, confidence and comfort.

For information on assistance and qualification call (614) 258.6392, Monday – Thursday from 7am – 4pm.



## TOOL LIBRARY

Modcon Living's Tool Library offers more than 4,000 individual hand tools and power tools for DIY home repair and modification projects. The Library empowers homeowners to better care for their homes, properties and community gardens. The tool library is open to Franklin County homeowners, tenants, and non-profit partners.





## **Birthday Freebies & Discounts**

### **Over 160 Columbus Birthday Freebies & Discounts**

This list is sure to gain you some great stuff each year for your birthday. Most require sign up for an email or text club, but you'll also receive a bonus freebie when you join the club. Sign up for email and rewards clubs a few months before your birthday to use your rewards before they expire.

Discover over 160 Columbus birthday freebies at  
**[columbusonthecheap.com](http://columbusonthecheap.com)**.

**TIP:** If you don't want your email inbox flooded with emails throughout the year, you may want to create a separate email address for these signups, or have them sent directly to a folder.



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**THE SOUTHSIDE GUIDE**  
[www.southsidehope.org](http://www.southsidehope.org)



By Dr. Charles W. Ferguson

The greatest challenge in the world is finding a way to meet the needs of loved ones, our community, and greater environment. The desire to see each aspect fulfill its maximum potential pulls on our heart. We feel a special responsibility to witness and partake in the realization of that goal. Yet, we miss a universal truth associated with this mission—caring for ourselves.

When I was in Illinois, I was pastoring a church that had great potential to do major things in the community and beyond. Initially, I was excited about the opportunity. Time progressed and I found myself in the worst possible condition. I was in and out of the emergency room way too much. I was under unrelenting stress and judgment. People were treating me as cosmic waiter or heavenly bellhop. My drive to accomplish my assignment diminished. I never imagined that I would find myself no longer wanting to try or do.

I was completely depleted. I felt like a failure because I just didn't have it in me to meet any needs anywhere. Then I discovered why I felt like this. I wasn't meeting the most important need—self-care.

*continued on page 7*

Everyone needs a moment to adjust. Everyone needs a moment to reset. Everyone needs a moment to get back to being who they are at the core. Do not allow yourself to grind so hard for so long that your gears flare up and shut you down. Your faithfulness and commitment will not be questioned if you sit back and take a moment to breathe. Trust me. Everything concerning your purpose will still be in place the next day.



Caring for yourself will allow you to continue to fulfill your purpose. Just start with these three steps.

1. **Sleep: GO TO BED!** Don't linger with more stuff. Keep the rest of life and the world out of your bedroom. No television, cell phone, etc. Just rest your mind. Take it from a thinker. It will change your life.
2. **Do Something Different:** Find a hobby. Go to the movies. Read a book. Do something that is not associated with others. Refill your own cup for a change.
3. **Know that you are not being selfish:** It is fine to look out for you. Nobody else can be you but you. Love you enough to say, "restore". If Jesus did it, you can too.

When you meet the first need (you), you will have what it takes to meet the needs of others.



BEING UNITED METHODIST

# PRAYER PRESENCE GIFTS SERVICE WITNESS

Transforming our community by  
putting God's love into action.

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WESLEY CHURCH OF HOPE**

2935 BULEN AVENUE  
COLUMBUS, OH 43207

**For more on our ministries visit:  
[www.wesleychurchofhope.org](http://www.wesleychurchofhope.org)**

DR. CHARLES W. FERGUSON, PASTOR







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# STRONG COMMUNITY VOICES

Join the Marion-Franklin Civic Association

**WWW.MARIONFRANKLIN.ORG**

# Our Schools

## *Past, Present & Future*

By Lori Fisher

School isn't what it used to be. There's a ton of new technology, teaching methods, and that new math. Phonics are a distant memory. Even Dick and Jane's great great-grandkids are out of school now.

Okay, I have to admit it. I'm old. I learned to type in the 9th grade. I remember being so excited to get assigned an electric typewriter. You know, the one with the automatic return. My neighbor's son learned to type (now they call it "keyboarding") in the 3rd grade.



It is obvious that our schools have changed a lot over the years. Some questions, however, have remained.

- **Are our schools as effective as they could be?**
- **Are our students meeting or exceeding proficiency levels?**
- **Are graduates really ready for the real world?**
- **Are our schools meeting every child's needs?**

## ***THE OPPORTUNITY***

Every child possesses limitless potential. Our schools can become top rated if given the appropriate resources, engaged parents, and a supportive community.



Collectively, we have an opportunity to help our schools:

- Raise student success rates
- Close the achievement gap
- Reduce dropout rates
- Yield successful, confident and well prepared young people

## **What can you do?**

There is no quick-fix or magical solution. Change and success in our schools will take time and dedication by everyone. Here are a few

# Our Schools

simple suggestions that can help make a difference.

- **Volunteer.** Become a mentor or Reading Buddy. Reading skills are fundamental to academic advancement and achievement. You can help young people develop stronger reading skills.
- **Support School Activities.** Attend extra curricular activities and events hosted at our schools. Get involved and show your support at the upcoming Marion-Franklin High School Homecoming Parade and Football Game on Friday, September 27th!
- **Ask Questions.** You can begin to build a relationship focused on your child's best interest. Become an involved partner with your child's teacher. Parents and guardians are the best advocates for our kids.

*continued on page 17*



## Marion-Franklin Branch

Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

## HOMESCHOOL HELP CENTERS

### Marion-Franklin Branch

2740 Lockbourne Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43207

### S. High Street Branch

3540 S High St.  
Columbus, OH 43207

### Parsons Avenue Branch

1113 Parsons Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43206

### Driving Park Branch

1422 E Livingston Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43205

**CALL**  
**(614) 645-2275**

## K-12 students

All locations have Homework Help Centers and provide what students need to succeed in school:

- Friendly staff and volunteers to help
- Welcoming spaces to study and learn
- Computers and printers
- School supplies
- Resource books

Visit <https://www.columbuslibrary.org>





# Our Schools

- Promote and Share Available Resources.** Our community and schools offer a variety of resources to help students succeed. The Marion-Franklin Library Branch offers a Homework Help Center for students K-12, along with Reading Buddies that help students K-3 practice their reading skills. The library also has suggested reading material and Educator Cards that allow teachers and students to use library resources.

If we work together, we can build schools better than we could have imagined. Schools of the future with higher rates of success for our young people.



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NEW APP CONNECTS VOLUNTEERS IN COLUMBUS

# VOLUNTEER!

## QUICKLY FIND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

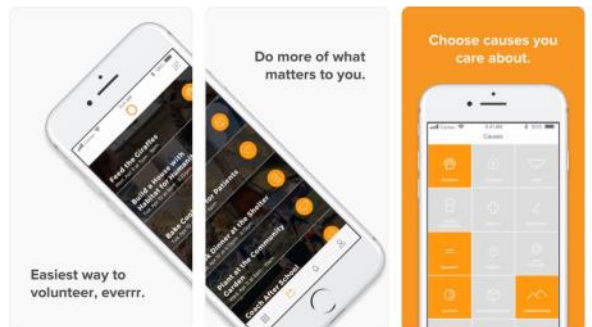
POINT believes opportunities to volunteer should be app-friendly. You can book a room in Spain, order food from bed, catch a ride, invest in stock, but you can't sign up to volunteer in our community...until now. POINT, a volunteering app, is now available for free download in Columbus, OH in the iTunes App Store or Google Play Store.

**POINT is an app that matches volunteers with charity events in their city.** Developed by a team here in Columbus, Ohio, and in San Francisco, POINT has been built upon years of experience and development to create the easiest way to volunteer, ever.

The app features include:

- **Customizable profiles featuring the causes you're most passionate about**
- **Cause-filtered events near you**
- **Easy event access and signup for you and your friends: iust tap "go"!**
- **Geo-check in**

.....and more!





# GETTING CONNECTED IN *YOUR* COMMUNITY

As South Side residents, we have many opportunities to shape where we live, work and play.

## **AREA COMMISSIONS**

The purpose of an area commission is to act as a liaison between neighborhood groups, property owners, residents, developers and city officials. There are two area commissions on the South Side:

### **COLUMBUS SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION**

Commission meetings take place on the **Fourth Tuesday** of the month at **6:30 pm** at the Parsons Avenue Library located at 1113 Parsons Avenue.

### **FAR SOUTH COLUMBUS AREA COMMISSION**

Commission meetings take place on the **First Thursday** of each month at **6:30 pm** at the Fire Training Academy located at 3639 Parsons Avenue.

The Far South Columbus Area Commission covers 25 square miles on the southern edge of the city.

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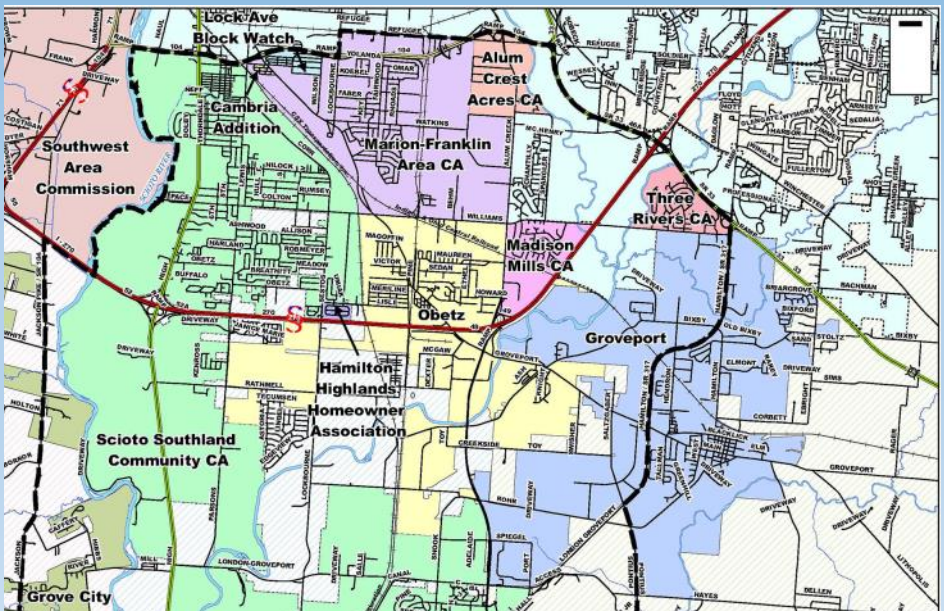
Get connected in your community by engaging with neighbors and area civic associations. Check out the list of local civic associations and get involved. Share your ideas, voice your concerns and connect with your neighbors. Together, we can **build a stronger community**.

## GETTING CONNECTED IN *YOUR* COMMUNITY

### NEIGHBORHOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Attending monthly civic association meetings allows residents to voice local concerns, share ideas that benefit the community and bring neighbors together. Here are some of the area neighborhood civic groups on the South Side:

- **MARION-FRANKLIN AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION**  
Civic association meetings take place on the **Second Tuesday** of each month at **6:00 pm** at the Marion-Franklin High School.
- **ALUM CREST ACRES CIVIC ASSOCIATION**
- **CAMBRIA ADDITION**
- **HAMILTON HIGHLANDS HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION**
- **LOCK AVENUE BLOCK WATCH**
- **MADISON MILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION**
- **SCIOTO SOUTHLAND COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION**
- **THREE RIVERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION**



# Join Us for a Community Baby Shower!

Inviting all pregnant  
women or those with a  
baby under 1 year old,  
along with their families!

**Sept 21, 2019**  
**10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Marion Franklin  
Community Center**  
**2801 Lockbourne Road**  
**Columbus 43207**

Hosted by:  
Mt. Carmel Community  
Baptist Church



< [CELEBRATEONE.INFO](http://CELEBRATEONE.INFO) >

# Celebrate Your Pregnancy & Baby with Us!



Learn about programs and resources for you and your family.



Door prizes and diapers available.



Games, activities and refreshments for the whole family.



RSVP by email to:  
[mtcarmelcbc@gmail.com](mailto:mtcarmelcbc@gmail.com)

..... Thank you to our community sponsors and partners .....



# YOUTH UNITE

during the late fall and early winter. The care packages will include a message of encouragement and love, along with personal care items, non-perishable protein foods, a hat, socks, and hand warmers.

All young people, ages 6-17 from the surrounding community are invited to gather for a free meal, Christian education, and a related group project.

Children of Koinonia sessions are held on Wednesday evenings at Wesley Church of Hope, 2935 Bulen Avenue, and coincide with adult bible study so parents are encouraged to stay and participate. Both groups end promptly at 8:00 p.m. so it is convenient for parents and their kids to fellowship.

For more information on The Children of Koinonia or adult bible study, contact Wesley Church of Hope at 614-491-0580 or visit online at [wesleychurchofhope.org](http://wesleychurchofhope.org).

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**THE SOUTHSIDE GUIDE**  
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MRS. AUDREY D. MCCLAIN OF WESLEY CHURCH OF HOPE UMC PRESENTS

# A Girl AND HER Pearls

BE VIBRANT AND SOAR

Luke 21:34-36

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GIRLS AGES 6-18



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# Local Produce Giveaways



HandsOn is Central Ohio's leader in providing Information, Resource Referral, and Community Data Insights that serve residents of a Smart City in a growing region.

## **The Right Resources, at the Right Time, in the Right Place**

If you are running low on food, there are several local produce giveaways and food pantries in the area that may be able to help.

### **South Side Roots Cafe & Market**

280 Reeb Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43207

### **Southfield Baptist Church**

1399 Augmont Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43207

### **Leave a Mark Church**

4818 Parsons Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43207

Search online at [handsoncentralohio.org](http://handsoncentralohio.org) for free access to other available community resources and programs.



# THE FOOD SOLDIER FIGHTING THE WAR ON HUNGER

Roshelle Pate is a military veteran on a mission to win the war on hunger in Central Ohio. Her passion to help others has inspired her to fight food insecurity, food waste and unhealthy food consumption.



Roshelle Pate manages The Food Soldier, a social media group on Facebook that shares a variety of fresh produce giveaways and other free food resources. Roshelle inspires nearly 10,000 followers to make healthy eating choices and educates them on free resources available to keep more healthy food on the table.

“There is no reason for anyone in Columbus to go hungry. There are free produce giveaways and pantries which give healthy fresh food away to those who want or need it almost everyday,” Roshelle shares.

Ms. Pate has also developed an army of volunteers and shares information between group members about opportunities to serve others in the community.

“I choose to promote eating healthy fresh food, local food events and other resources to create a healthier community,” Pate said. “I used to serve my country, now I serve my community.”



For more information, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreeFOODSoldier/>



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