

## Why we need Black History Month

Trump is but one example

REV. IRENE MONROE

February 1 begins Black History Month, a national annual observance since 1926, honoring and celebrating the achievements of African Americans.

To commemorate its start President Trump hosted a "listening session" at the White House that left listeners scratching their heads wondering if he knew Fred-

erick Douglass, a former slave, and abolitionist, died in 1895, and 2018 will be the bicentennial of his birth.

"Frederick Douglass is an example of somebody who has done an amazing job and is being recognized more and more, I notice."

Expecting White House press secretary Sean Spicer to clarify what Trump meant regarding his comment on Douglass Spicer, however, made it clear he, too, doesn't quite know if Douglass is dead.

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South End's Harriet Tubman statue

## Not My America

But it is my Boston

BY GARY BAILEY

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your  
teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tossed, to me:

I lift my lamp beside the golden  
door."

On Sunday January 29th 2017 I joined with over 15,000 Bostonians to protest the Executive Order issued by the current president to limit access of Muslim immigrants from seven countries to enter the United States.

Ironically, as I stood near the Kahlil Gibran Memorial in Copley Square I could not help but recall that Gibran was a Lebanese-American artist, writer, and philosopher who himself immigrated to the

United States in 1895, at the age of 12; and while living in Boston, wrote, and illustrated his most famous book, The Prophet, a poetic treatise on such topics as family, religion, and death.

Also echoing through my head were the words from the Emma Lazarus poem "The New Colossus" The poem written in 1883 to raise money for the construction of the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty and was engraved on a bronze plaque and mounted inside the pedestal's lower

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News from...

## Washington Gateway

#LoveOnMain

Washington Gateway is excited to be supporting Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Valentine's Day campaign to support local businesses. Using the hashtag #LoveOnMain, Mayor Walsh's campaign asks Boston residents to show some love to local businesses this winter.

Need some help finding the perfect gift or restaurant for the special day?

Acoustic on Main  
with Councilor  
Michelle Wu

Join Washington Gateway and City Council President Michelle Wu on February 14th from 10-11am at Boston Chops. To learn more about the new program that allows businesses to have live acoustic music without needing a special permit

All businesses welcome, free event.

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## ASK DOG LADY



praise him lavishly when he responds to your call. When you have the time to spend with him, take him to a field, tether him to a long line and work on recall exercises ("Come, sit, stay") - again and again.

Training a dog to live with you is a lifetime challenge.

Dear Dog Lady,

I just read a question in your column from a dog owner who asked if she could save all the dog hair she brushes out of her pet and spin it into yarn, then knit a sweater for herself out of the yarn. I used to have a triple-coated dog, too - a beautiful collie - and I once looked into doing this exact same thing with the mountain of wool she would shed in the spring. It seems a shame to waste all that hair, doesn't it?

It's one of those weird-but-harmless ideas only a pet lover would come up with. But alas, there is a problem with spun dog hair because you never get the doggy smell out of it. If your new hair-of-the-dogs sweater gets wet, you guessed it - the garment smells like wet dog. Needless to say, I passed on this idea. I love dogs, but I wouldn't want to smell like one!

—Lizz

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I am getting frustrated with my one-year-old Labrador retriever-mix dog. Yesterday, he ran out of the gate and ran away on me. I ran after him. It took one hour to get him thanks to two ladies who helped me. He just ran and would not listen to me or come to me at all.

I appreciate any help. Thanks.

—Jacquie

Dear Lizz,

=Thanks so much for joining—and, perhaps, ending—the conversation about knitting a garment with the sloughed fur from dogs. We like to think our own dog doesn't smell but, face facts, of course he does. Dog Lady remembers her dear Shorty's bad breath. There was something so strangely comforting in the foul—to everyone else—odor. Shorty's scent was worth millions to me.

Yes, perhaps it is best to leave other peoples' hair of the dog well enough alone.

Dear Dog Lady,

My adorable almost-three-year-old Yorkshire terrier Charlie has decided he no longer wants to run

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## BCYF February Vacation Week Activities Offer Something for Everyone!

The February school vacation week is fast approaching and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) is urging families to make plans today to attend one of the many programs and activities be-

ing offered at BCYF centers. A complete schedule of BCYF centers' vacation week activities is available at [boston.gov/bcyf](http://boston.gov/bcyf).

A few highlights include:

**Full Vacation Week Programs:** Several centers including BCYF Blackstone, BCYF Charlestown, BCYF Curtis

Hall, BCYF Menino and BCYF Tobin Community Centers are offering a structured all-day vacation week program for young children featuring a wide variety of activities.

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## Monroe

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"I think he wants to highlight the contributions he has made. And I think through a lot of the actions and statements he's going to make, I think that the contributions of Frederick Douglass will become more and more."

The remarks from both Trump and Spicer could have been an episode of "Drunk History," a TV comedy series where an inebriated narrator fumbles recounting historical events, which would illustrate why we need Black History Month.

And, if Dr. Carter Woodson, the Father of Black History, were alive today he would've been troubled by their remarks. However, it's not just African Americans troubled by Trump's lack of knowledge; it's across various racial and ethnic groups.

"He's embarrassing!," Scott Kearnan, who's white, and the Boston Herald's Food Editor stated. "It's generally revealing of his lack of interest in the history of this country and civil right struggles in particular."

Sue O'Connell, publisher and editor of South End News and Bay Windows, and host of NECN's "The Take with Sue O'Connell," who is white, brought to my attention that Trump is not alone in not knowing basic black history. She reminded me when Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson was being shepherded to a room at a convention center named after Harriet Tubman, and he asked the aide "Who's Harriet Tubman?"

"These two men, Trump and Johnson, regardless of their opposing political views had no idea who Harriet Tubman was. Trump enthusiastically is learning about Frederick Douglass for the first time."

Since its inception Black History, however, has been the subject of criticism from African American as well as from other races and ethnicities. Many African American, in particular, are insulted that the shortest month in the calendar year is solely focused on the histories and achievements of a people who have been dragged to these shores since 1619.

When Obama was first elected Millennials, in particular—African-Americans, people of color as well as whites—whose ballots help elect the country's first African-American president revealed celebrating Black History Month seem outdated to them. Many of them viewed the celebration as a relic tethered to an old defunct paradigm of the civil rights era and a hindrance to all people moving forward.

Obama's candidacy was thought to have marshaled in America's dream of a "post-racial" era where race had finally become a

"non-issue." And Obama's election encapsulated for them both the physical and symbolic representation of Martin Luther King's vision uttered in his historic "I Have a Dream" during the 1963 March on Washington.

"King said don't judge by the color of our skin, but instead the content of our character," Josh Dawson, 26 of New Hampshire told me.

In proving how "post-racial" Obama was as a presidential candidate, Michael Crowley of "The New Republic" wrote in his article "Post-racial" that it wasn't only liberals who had no problem with Obama's race but conservatives had no problem also, even the infamous ex-Klansman David Duke.

"Even white Supremacists don't hate Obama," Crowley writes about Duke. "[Duke] seems almost nonchalant about Obama, don't see much difference in Barack Obama than Hillary Clinton—or, for that matter, John McCain."

For years, the celebration of Black History Month, especially among white conservatives, has always brought up the ire around "identity politics" and "special rights."

"If we're gonna have Black History Month, why not White History Month? Italian History Month?" Dawson also questioned.

With the alt-right movement afoot and Trump removing white supremacist groups—Ku Klux Klan, Identitarians, Identity Christianity, Neo-Nazis, and Neo-Confederates, to name a few—from the Countering Violent Extremism program to profile Muslims these groups as well as many white Trumpian conservatives are now more emboldened than ever to not only contest the celebration of Black History Month but to also insist now on a white history month.

This push back against Black History Month by whites has been going on for decades, and shown how some court decisions bolster the resistance.

During the George W. Bush years we saw the waning interest in "identity politics," creating both political and systematic disempowerment of marginalized groups, like people of color, women, LGBTQ people, and a disinterest in these histories and struggles. We also saw the gradual dismantling of affirmative action policies, like in 2003 when the Supreme Court split the difference on affirmative action, allowing the Bakke case on "reverse discrimination" to stand.

The creation of Black History Month was never intended by Woodson to be divisive but rather to educate all Americans of African Americans contributions to the U. S. In so doing, it aims to engage and invite informed "listening sessions" on the histories all minorities as integral to American History.

## Washington Gateway

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### Peters Park Call to Artists

New Mural on Graffiti Art Wall  
ALA (African Latino Alliance) Collective, City Lights, Washington Gateway Main Street, Friends of Peters Park, and Old Dover Neighborhood Association, in coordination with the Boston Art Commission, invite Boston artists to submit conceptual designs for consideration for a mural in Peters Park in the South End on the Peters Park Art Wall.

For three decades, graffiti artists, community members, and inner-city youth have come to view the Peters Park Graffiti Art Wall as a safe outlet for creative and cultural expression. Now the tradition continues. Mural concepts reflecting the traditional and cultural experiences of Boston and the South End

community, to replace the existing mural.

Applications due February 26th.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities for this project please email WCMS. The community hopes to raise \$10,000 to support this effort.

### Project Place on Washington

Brightening our Streets

If you see workers from Project Place out on Washington Street on a Wednesday or Friday morning, be sure to thank them. They are out there every week making our sidewalks, bus stations and trash barrels cleaner. This is the result of a recent partnership with WCMS, which we are proud to be able to offer the community, using the funds we raised at Neck Ties this year. To learn more about WCMS, this program or Neck Ties, check out our website.

[www.gatewaymainstreet.org](http://www.gatewaymainstreet.org)

## Dog Lady

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(or even walk) up and down the steps in our house. Until recently, he would climb the steps many times a day. From what I can tell he hasn't been injured - he walks and runs just fine. But he won't even attempt to climb the stairs. He simply sits at the bottom (or the top) and cries until we scoop him up and bring him up (or down) in our arms. (Months ago, long before this behavior started, he took a spill down the stairs, but he seemed to recover just fine.) This isn't life or death, but it is getting annoying. Any ideas?

—Charlie's Church

Dear Charlie's Church,

You should have Charlie thoroughly checked by a veterinarian because you never know if there's some underlying physical ailment bugging him. If everything checks out, you should get Charlie a rug. You don't say how old or how big he is but, as they age, dog joints rub together and creak. They can skid and slip on shiny wood or hard floors (tile or linoleum). This is painful enough

to root them in place. Rugs will give Charlie the grip he needs. As for treating you like his yak, he will use you as his clutch as long as you let him. Place a few of his favorite treats on the stairs and see how long it takes for him to ascend.

Dear Dog Lady,

I read your column and agree wholeheartedly about spaying and neutering (procedures Ask Dog Lady enthusiastically endorses). The supposed animal lovers who don't fix their dogs should volunteer at shelters, especially the ones that euthanize. It breaks your heart to see all the animals in cages waiting for human kindness and contact. I have a rescued dog and a cat that chose me and both are "fixed" because I care.

—G.W.

Dear G.W.,

Thanks for your good words. If only everybody abided by them.

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## My Boston

Continued from page 1

level where it remains today, and has become endemic of an America which opens her doors outwards to the world as a beacon of hope and possibility.

Though America does have a very complicated history and legacy when it comes to immigration, both forced and voluntary, it still is a country that is seen by many as a place where people from diverse backgrounds across the globe are welcomed, and accepted.

Boston too has a rich long and complex history when it comes to immigrants and immigration. It was the place where those escaping devastating famine in Ireland came in an attempt to make a home for themselves and their families; it is a city where people from Caribbean islands Caribbean emigrated and established roots that are deeply embedded in parts of the city; Boston has welcomed to its shores people who have escaped atrocities in Armenia and become a home to individuals from the Cape Verde Islands.

In 1764 Boston, or this "Athens of America" as the city was nicknamed by Samuel Addams, an American statesman, political philosopher, and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Addams was a politician in colonial Massachusetts, a leader of the movement that became the American Revolution, and one of the architects of the principles of American republicanism that shaped the political culture of the United States.

Today, in 2017 Boston continues to be a place where people come from countries in Asia and Africa to make new beginnings for themselves and for their families. With our numerous colleges, universities and premier medical facilities. Our city has long been a place where immigrants come to study and to share their skills and talents; so it was not surprising to me that so many people were in Copley Square on a Sunday afternoon standing in solidarity and protesting this egregious act by the 45th president to limit access to that which so many others - including members of his own family - have benefitted from the right to begin anew in safety and security. As I stood there and read signs that protested the most recent executive order by the 45th president of the United States. I could not help but think to myself that indeed this was not my America; but it is indeed my Boston, and protest we will to ensure that the rights of all are protected and ensured.

So, in the words of Emma Lazarus: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:

I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

## Love Your Block!

**Spring cleaning program encourages residents to get involved in their neighborhoods**

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the 2017 program for "Love Your Block," a high-impact spring cleaning program that encourages residents to improve their neighborhoods over the course of three weekends. Spring cleaning activities include community gardens, pocket parks, public schools and sidewalks. Love Your Block, previously known as Boston Shines, will now include year-round cleanups, applications for innovative beautification mini-grants and new uses for City-provided tool sheds.

"When residents take pride in their neighborhoods, Boston becomes a better City for all," said Mayor Walsh. "I encourage residents to participate in Love Your

Block, and do their part to keep our City a beautiful, friendly and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike."

Residents can sign up to volunteer at [Boston.gov](http://Boston.gov).

A partial cleaning schedule for 2017 Love Your Block is below:

### May 5-7

South End  
Bay Village

### May 12-14

South Boston  
Roxbury  
Fenway  
Mission Hill  
Jamaica Plain

For more information on Love Your Block, visit [boston.gov/civic-engagement/love-your-block](http://boston.gov/civic-engagement/love-your-block).

## Letters Policy

**The South End News welcomes letters to the editor.**

**All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number.**

**Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than 200 words.**

e-mail:  
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617.464.7286



# Considering Matthew Shepard

Berklee hosted the Boston premiere of *Considering Matthew Shepard* at Symphony Hall Sunday afternoon. The three-part fusion oratorio is composer Craig Hella Johnson's musical response to the story of the gay University of Wyoming student who was beaten and left to die in a field beyond campus 19 years ago.

Johnson, who wrote the piece, conducted the Austin, Texas, vocal ensemble *Conspirare* in the performance, as well as choruses from Harvard, the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and Berklee. Shepard's mother, Judy, attended, seeing the production for the first time. Berklee President Roger Brown and Boston Mayor

Marty Walsh made introductions, welcoming Johnson and *Conspirare* to Boston.

The CD *Considering Matthew Shepard* is nominated for a 2017 Grammy Award for Best Surround Sound. The Awards will be presented Sunday evening.



From left Berklee College of Music President Roger Brown, Grammy-nominated composer Craig Hella Johnson, and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Photo by David Green.

## News from...

# Action for Boston Community Development

## Head Start, "Save Head Start!"

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) will celebrate the opening of its new Head Start center serving Boston's Chinatown and South End communities on February 22 from 10:30 am to 12 noon. The state-of-the-art early learning center at 595 Harrison Avenue, Boston, will serve 194 low-income children and their families from birth to five-years-old, including 35 infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers in Early Head Start.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, revered champion of the poor and a Head Start neighbor at the South End's famed Cathedral of the Holy Cross, will speak at the event and visit with children, parents and supporters.

"ABCD is honored to welcome Boston's beloved Cardinal and many other dignitaries and guests to cut the ribbon for this outstanding center serving low-income children and families of Boston's South End and Chinatown," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. "These communities are home to thousands of families struggling to make ends meet and seeking the best education possible for their

children."

ABCD Head Start and Early Head Start provide gold-standard education, health and well-being to poor children and families seeking stepping stones to a better life.

"These children are America's future," said Drew. "They deserve the very best in early education and care. Head Start provides that for more than a million poor children and families nationwide."

ABCD Head Start will also open a new center in Malden this spring, enhancing the life-changing benefits of the national early learning program for low-income residents and providing expansion of the Early Head Start program with its critically needed services for infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers.

ABCD launches "Save Head Start" campaign

Drew said there is real concern among Head Start parents, educators and supporters that Congress and the new administration may move to dismantle the longtime, high quality early care program that has provided opportunities for better lives for 33 million poor children and families over the past 52 years.

A former Head Start parent, Drew says

there will be strong resistance to any threat to the federal Head Start program. "The national commitment to our poor children and families must not be lost," he said. "Head Start could be an essential part of President Trump's commitment to closing the inequality gap."

He said that ABCD is launching a "Save Head Start!" campaign to ensure that this very important program survives and continues to benefit poor children and families. It includes a website [SaveHeadStart.com](http://SaveHeadStart.com) and multiple initiatives to educate the public and policy-makers about the program.

"I ask President Trump, Speaker Paul Ryan, and all members of Congress to keep Head Start as a high-quality federal program," said Mimi Tovar, Boston Head Start parent. "Head Start has supported my children's education, health and growth. Because of Head Start, I have learned leadership skills and am returning to college to complete my bachelor's degree. We cannot lose Head Start."

Early Head Start harnesses brain development research

ABCD Early Head Start – a significant

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## Supporting USES

Commerce Bank was a sponsor of the United South End Settlements (USES) 125th Birthday Party, held on January 28 at the Harriet Tubman House. Pictured at Commerce Bank's presentation of a \$500.00 check to USES for the celebration are, from left: USES President and CEO Maicharia Z. Weir Lytle; Brendan Ahern, Assistant Vice President and Manager of Commerce Bank's South End office; USES Board Chair Julia Johansen; and USES Vice President of Programs Julie Burkley.



Originally founded as the Andover House in 1891, United South End Settlements was the first settlement house in Boston and the fourth in the United States. Its mission is to build a strong community by improving the

education, health, safety and economic security of low-income individuals and families in Boston's historic South End/Lower Roxbury and to serve as a national model of successful neighborhood engagement.

## BCYF

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### Black History Month Basketball Tournament:

BCYF Callinan Community Center is hosting their annual Black History Basketball Tournament for ages 19 and under on Thursday through Saturday of vacation week, 1-6:30 p.m. Contact the center to register a team and for more information, 617-635-5252.

### Swimming

It may be cold out but BCYF's 15 indoor pools are warm and offer open access swim

time as well as structured aquatics programming under the watchful eyes of lifeguards. Several are offering free swim lessons all week as part of BCYF's Swim for Safety program. Find your local pool here.

### Girls-only Programming:

BCYF Girls Initiative is hosting a trip to see Hidden Figures followed by a discussion, a roller skating party and a self-defense and self-esteem training with Girls Leap. Info: 617-635-4920 x2314.

## Advertisement for Boston Public Health Commission Boston Biosafety Committee members

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is seeking new community members for its Boston Biosafety Committee (BBC) from the South End, Fenway, and/or Chinatown neighborhoods. The BBC provides technical assistance and advice on issues related to regulation and permitting of biological research laboratories in the City of Boston. Community members should be able to commit to two years on the committee.

BPHC permits and regulates research laboratories in Boston and the BBC has a role in advising the Executive Director of BPHC. Community members of the BBC have a role in communicating information on biological safety to the public and providing input on community concerns.

The BBC meets when required for review of research projects, laboratory permit applications, or other times requested by the BPHC Executive Director. The time commitment will average five hours a month, with some months having no meetings and some months having meetings with materials to review in advance.

Community members interested in being on the BBC should contact Julien Farland, Boston Public Health Commission Director of Biological Safety, at [jfarland@bphc.org](mailto:jfarland@bphc.org) or 617-534-2814.

## ABCD

*Continued from page 4*

part of the new center and ABCD's overall Head Start program – is unique among early learning institutions, leading the way in applying cutting-edge research on brain development in infants and young children to the needs of low-income families. The Early Head Start approach to working with low-income pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers can provide children the start in life they need, well before they get to the 4-year-old pre-kindergarten age that many city and state early education programs focus upon.

Early Head Start was launched in 1994 when scientific advances drove a shift in understanding of how the earliest brain development impacts human health, achievement and well-being across the lifespan. Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy was at the forefront of the movement, stressing that creating the right conditions in early childhood is more effective and far less costly than addressing a multitude of problems later on.

A full-day, full-year program, ABCD Head Start currently serves 2,300 low-income children from birth to age 5 and their families in 24 ABCD centers plus several partner sites throughout Boston, Malden and Everett. Early Head Start, now at 12 sites, serves 282 infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers.

Over the past 52 years, the federal Head Start program has improved the lives of more

than 33 million children from poor families across America, providing them with the skills and confidence to succeed in school and life. It has given Head Start parents educational opportunities to move up the economic ladder, empowered disadvantaged families and revitalized communities. Head Start is renowned for its comprehensive services – education, health, dental, nutrition, social services – and intensive parent engagement.

Currently the national Head Start program is funded to serve only 42 percent of eligible preschool children and Early Head Start funding provides for only 4 percent of eligible infants and toddlers. ABCD says both programs should be expanded.

Increased funding has proven payback. A 2016 study by Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman, *The Lifestyle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program*, found that for every \$1 invested in Head Start there is a \$13 return on investment to society.

"ABCD Head Start has been at the forefront of quality and innovation in early education," said Yvette Rodriguez, ABCD Vice President, Head Start & Children's Services. "We have worked to fight childhood obesity, to involve fathers in their children's education, to build school readiness, to provide opportunities for parents to build better lives and for our teachers to meet high standards. We are committed to joining with our colleagues across America to keep Head Start as a strong, national program."

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# Coldwell Banker supports Haley House

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Easton recently presented a \$2,000 donation to Haley House. The donation was made through Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares, the company's charitable foundation.

The Haley House is a nonprofit organization based in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods that owns and manages affordable housing units, operates a soup kitchen and food pantry, and runs cafes to provide healthy and nutritious meals and employment opportunities in inner-city neighborhoods.

"Haley House has helped some of the most vulnerable members of our community get back on their feet, and we are proud to make this donation to support their efforts. I am especially grateful for the employees and affiliated sales associates, whose generous contributions have made this donation possible," said Roy Walker, managing broker of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Easton. "At Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, we feel it is vitally important to give back to our community."

Affiliated sales associates and employees in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island donate a portion of their sales commissions or paychecks to Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares, which supports nonprofit organizations throughout New England. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares is a chapter of Realogy Charitable Foundation, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in Delaware, tax ID 20-0755090. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares' primary purpose is to raise funds to provide financial assistance to housing-related causes in the communities where we have a presence.



The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Easton recently presented a donation to Haley House. Pictured from left are Haley House Executive Director Bing Broderick with Luther Pindkney, Kelly Pope, Kathe McKenna, Roy Walker and KC Cummings.

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