

**Spotlight**



**Community Foundation**  
LORAIN COUNTY

June 2021

## **Q & A with Community Foundation's New Community Engagement Fellow**

### **Tell us about your new role with the Community Foundation.**

My primary role as the Community Engagement Fellow is to assist with developing and implementing the Community Foundation's successful community engagement initiatives such as Neighbor Up and Ohio Neighborhood Engagement (ONE) Lorain County.



**Miyah Byers**  
**Community Engagement Fellow**

Beginning this fall, I will be focusing heavily on piloting the Community Foundation's new Neighbor Up program in Elyria. During my time in this position, I hope to build meaningful relationships and a lasting network with Elyria residents that will enhance and sustain empowering connections and projects within the community.

### **How has your prior work experience prepared you for this role with the Community Foundation?**

Before joining the Community Foundation, I interned at the Yeworkwha Belachew Center for Dialogue. While there, I spent a lot of time writing newsletters, interviewing and building relationships with members of the Dialogue Center, facilitating conflict mediation teaching sessions, and organizing important dialogues with the college and community. I also became a trained social justice conflict mediator and facilitator, which taught me to approach people, conflicts, scenarios, and challenging dialogues with vulnerability and "multipartiality." I hope that these experiences will guide me in Neighbor Up Elyria.

### **How can people engage with you? When are you a good resource for the community?**

I am always looking to connect with people and listen to their stories. I believe when people come together and share their stories, honest vulnerability, connection and progress can begin! You'll be able to find me at Neighbor Nights in Elyria when the program starts, walking around the town of Oberlin, at the Community Foundation office, or working in a community garden somewhere in Lorain County. So please, come and talk with me!

### **What are you most excited about in working with the Community Foundation?**

I am most excited about connecting and building relationships with new people in Lorain County. Lorain County is ripe with endless possibilities for growth and improvement with a rich history, vibrant communities, and a wealth of genuine and wholehearted people. I am honored to be in the service of others through this position.

### **Share something you love about Lorain County.**

Lorain County's Black history is something that has always inspired and intrigued me. We are all blessed to live or work in a county with such an impactful position in the trajectory of our nation. We do with that history and position will shape many generations in Lorain County to come.

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