

# *Tocqueville Society* NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | MARCH 2022

## MEET SABEEN NASIM, METRO UNITED WAY'S DIRECTOR OF MAJOR AND LEGACY GIFTS

### HOMETOWN:

Irvine, California. Born in Karachi, Pakistan (moved to California when I was a year old)

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT LOUISVILLE:

One of the biggest reasons we relocated to Louisville 15 years ago was the compassion we experienced firsthand – this continues to be my favorite thing!

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE METRO UNITED WAY FOR THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

I once read a quote from Oprah Winfrey that said, "That's not a \$20 bill you're slipping into the envelope there. It is a bag full of flour. It is soup or a blanket or a bottle of medicine. That handful of quarters is a handful of rice." Metro United Way doesn't just provide children and families with access to essentials like food, clothing, education, and shelter; they empower individuals with an equitable voice, access to transformative opportunities, and the opportunity to play a vital role in the building of a better tomorrow for our community. As a lifelong public servant, it is an honor to be able to champion these efforts while allowing me the opportunity to use my mind, heart, voice, and ears to constructively collaborate in uplifting our communities.

### IF YOU HAD TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOUR JOB IS TO A ROOM FULL OF INATTENTIVE 7TH GRADERS, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN IT?

My role as the Director for Major and Legacy Gifts gives me the opportunity to play a critical role in increasing the support from many community members who share the same passion and vision for a healthier and stronger city. This includes a ton of fun stuff, as well, such as, meeting one-on-one with volunteers over coffee or tea, having a conversation, learning how they want to make a difference in the lives of others and working with them to create opportunities for donating their time, money, skills, energy and/or passion.

### WHEN YOU WERE 10, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

As a nurturer at the core, I have always wanted to do something where I was helping someone or making a difference somewhere and at 10, I thought I was going to be a doctor. However, science was always so interesting to me, and I considered being a marine biologist for an exceptionally long time. Of course, when I was old enough to drive, I wanted to be a Formula-1 driver! :)

### HOBBIES (LIFE OUTSIDE WORK):

Cooking, traveling, playing board games, exploring good eats



## TOCQUEVILLE TUESDAY SERIES

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

An in-person event featuring a conversation on Downtown Revitalization



REGISTER

## WOMEN OF TOCQUEVILLE

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Women of Tocqueville will host the **Women of Influence Panel**. Details to follow.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JUDITH (JUDI) PETTY



### HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN MUW?

When I worked at the United States Census Bureau's National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, I encouraged staff to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. In 1998, I became the chair of that program and worked closely with Metro United Way and had some administrative

responsibility for the CFC (Combined Federal Campaign). I soon became part of the MUW board. Later, I became involved with the Oldham County Advisory Board. In recent years, I have once again joined the MUW Board and the Executive Committee.

### WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO SUPPORT METRO UNITED WAY AT THE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY LEVEL?

I have been involved with several nonprofits but what I like about Metro United Way is the broad group of organizations and the diversity of projects and individuals. I had always been generous with giving but I stumbled on to a second career which provided me with unexpected funds. So, I used that for the first step and then continued to increase and keep it at the Tocqueville level. As part of Tocqueville, I have established relationships and had opportunities that would not have been available through other means. So that has also enhanced the joy of giving.

### IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ENGAGE IN THE COMMUNITY?

We are active with church and related activities, and I am responsible for missions and outreach. Locally that means we support food and clothing collections and other special holiday projects. I have always been associated with soccer programs. I used to coach a boy's traveling soccer team and both of my sons are active in that with our grandchildren. I am also involved with USTA KY as a past president,

Raise a Racquet (our charitable foundation), and teach wheelchair tennis. A few of us past presidents organized Lou 10 U, which takes tennis to all parts of the metro to players age 10 and under. As president of the local Ohio State Alumni Club, I connect with current and potential Ohio State students and lead our club in doing community service projects such as disaster assistance, walks, and other activities that support community groups. With Kentuckiana Girl Scouts, I share career information with Girl Scouts, interact and work on special projects, and support fundraising. As past president of the March of Dimes, I am still active with their fundraising events, the March for Babies and Signature Chefs. My newest involvement is with the Oldham County Community Fund where we help organizations get funding to provide services or items that improve the quality of life in Oldham County. As part of the MUW Oldham County Advisory Board, we provide investments to worthy organizations in Oldham County.

### WHICH TOCQUEVILLE EVENT THAT YOU RECENTLY ATTENDED WAS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?

Late last fall there were several events to support the Kentucky Refugee Mission project. These were led by the Women of Tocqueville. First, we had a winter supply drive and collected new coats, shoes, bedding, towels, and other items. Then we had some hands-on self-projects through the Women of Tocqueville to make tie knot blankets. And then at our holiday gathering we had a presentation about the Kentucky Refugees Mission.

### WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR MUW'S TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY?

There continues to be a need for community partnering and working with other organizations for the good of all and especially the underserved. We need to continue to be leaders in this. We also need to put emphasis on early care and learning.



# BEYOND BUZZWORDS

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**Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Virtual event featuring **Richard Rothstein**, author of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022**

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Virtual event featuring **Shawn Dove**, author of *I Too Am America*

# OTHER MUW EVENTS

**2022 Community Impact Awards (IMMIES)**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Virtual event to premier live on YouTube, Facebook and [metrounitedway.org/immies](https://metrounitedway.org/immies)

**Mayor's Give-a-Day Celebration of Service**

April 1 - 30

[mygiveaday.com](https://mygiveaday.com)

## ALBERTA ALLEN INSPIRED ME TO LOVE MUW BY: KENT OYLER

When I list the most influential people in my life, Alberta Allen is always in my top five. For all the wonder and countless accomplishments of her own life, the most remarkable may be the difference she made in the lives of others, particularly as it relates to Metro United Way.

Mrs. A liked to have a young couple live with her at Eleven Hearths, her big Glenview home. The rent seemed reasonable – just \$50 a month – so Kathy and I moved in the day after our wedding. We fed the cats and provided a ready audience for Mrs. A's incredible stories.

Mrs. A told us about her father, Judge Lorenzo Wood, who held a night job stoking the boiler at Jane Addams' famous Hull House. Jane Addams was then the leading role model in America for women who volunteered to uplift their communities and went on to co-found the ACLU and win the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize. Jane mentored young Lorenzo who later must have passed on her grace to Alberta.

In 1942, Alberta married a young Army officer, Charles Allen, Jr. Charles' father was a businessman and philanthropist who co-founded the Community Chest, the forerunner of today's Metro United Way. Not coincidentally, United Way was a constant theme throughout Mrs. A's civic career.

As a volunteer, Alberta always showed up, worked hard, and *I am quite sure, took charge whether asked to or not*. She took on the difficult assignments, most notably everyone's least favorite task, asking for money. In her signature red tartan fundraising suit, she sowed fear in the corporate towers. She told us how one infamously stingy CEO accidentally stepped onto the elevator with her. When he spotted her red suit, he became noticeably anxious, and then, to hear Mrs. A tell it, he practically fainted with relief when she did not get off on his floor - at least that day. Mrs. A was particularly fond of raising money for Metro United Way, where our top giving level is called the Allen Society for good reasons. Mrs. A served United Way for more than 50 years and when it was campaign season her tartan suit rarely got a day off. In 1997, Kathy and I traveled with her to Chicago where she accepted United Way of America's highest honor, the Alexis de Tocqueville Award—a prestigious recognition previously bestowed on the likes of Bob Hope, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Gates.

Mrs. A inspired Kathy and me to follow her with United Way. From her, we learned how to humbly give our time and treasure and how to ask others to join us. And we were not alone—there are many other people who were equally moved by Alberta. My hope is that you also come to find inspiration in Alberta Allen and, in turn, motivate and mentor the next generation of Tocqueville donors.



*Cross 100 Years, there's formed a tale  
Written in deeds of compassion, care and glory  
Too many are gone that once knew of this  
Time a new generation know Alberta Allen's story*

*She lived in a house named Eleven Hearths  
Where the Community Chest first came to be  
United Way came first, but was not alone  
Amongst Alberta's philanthropic legacy*

*Not one to shy from difficult tasks  
She selflessly raised her hand to volunteer  
Whether Berea, Speed or United Way  
Her opinion always loud and clear*

*Then one day she donned a magical tartan kilt  
A Louisville legend in its own  
For 50 years she fundraised in it  
That suit's an icon around this town*

*Over many decades her life work evolved  
From envelope licker to role model  
Volunteer to influential civic leader  
She provided the highest example*

*Of a person who, without being asked  
Joyfully of herself did fully give  
While always squeezing every drop  
Of that incredible life she lived*

*Some of us had a chance  
To have our purpose ignited by her fire  
To be inspired, loved or nurtured by  
An incredible woman we will long admire*

*Cross 100 years she built a legacy  
One that will live long beyond today  
Alberta rests in peace knowing that  
Through others she still does forward pay*

- A poem by Kent Oyler





## IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

In answering the call from our mission—give, **advocate**, and volunteer—Metro United Way engages in public policy efforts to propel our community forward. We know we must pair powerful community programming with transformative policy making to truly ensure all people can thrive.

While we work to advance policy priorities at local, state, and federal levels across our service area, the beginning of each year brings a critical opportunity to achieve our goals in the Commonwealth—the Kentucky legislative session. The Kentucky General Assembly convened on January 4 and has 60 working days to pass a two-year budget and accomplish key legislative priorities.

Ensuring crucial education, economic mobility, and health policies and investments move forward is the work of the moment - and we need you with us! Visit [metrounitedway.org/advocate](https://metrounitedway.org/advocate) to join our advocacy network, learn about our full policy agenda, and receive alerts when it's time to act. A few leading priorities for the session include:

- **Increasing access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education programs**
  - The child care sector is in crisis, resulting in 40% of working-age Kentuckians citing care-giving responsibilities as reason for not working in 2021. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is a vital workforce and family support specifically designed to build self-sufficiency for working and degree-seeking parents. To serve pressing needs, this budget must ensure CCAP is accessible to parents living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and participating child care providers are reimbursed for the cost of quality care.
  - Children who participate in high-quality early education programs are 40% less likely to drop out of school and 50% less likely to be placed in special education. Public Pre-K programs are an essential part of the early childhood ecosystem and should also be available to families living below 200% FPL.
- **Establishing effective economic mobility drivers for individuals and communities**
  - The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a pro-work, anti-poverty tool that reduces tax liability for low-income households, incentivizes work and earnings, and grows local economies. Kentucky should join more than 25 other states in implementing a state-level EITC.
  - Kentucky must allow voters the choice to empower local governments to invest in regional needs and opportunities by modernizing the tax code in Kentucky's Constitution and allowing more local revenue options.

For more information regarding MUW's Policy and Advocacy initiatives, check out our website or reach out to Mandy Simpson, Chief Public Policy Officer, directly at [mandy.simpson@metrounitedway.org](mailto:mandy.simpson@metrounitedway.org).

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