



C4C

PRESENTS BLACK WOMEN LEADING CHANGE

**FEATURING:
OPAL LEE**

**Grandmother
of Juneteenth**

WE SEE YOU. WE HEAR YOU.

CAPITAL 4 COMMUNITY

Grandmother of Juneteenth

100 U.S. Senators
Unanimously
Pass the Historic
Juneteenth Holiday
Legislation

OPAL LEE: THE LIFE OF A CHANGEMAKER

Opal Lee was born October 7, 1926 in Marshall, Texas. Her mother moved to Fort Worth when she was ten years old. She earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in 1953 from Wiley College (now Wiley University) and returned to Fort Worth to teach at Amanda McCoy Elementary School for 15 years where she was regarded as one of the best educators in her field.

In 2016, at the age of 89, Mrs. Lee started her trek from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington D.C., with the goal of making Juneteenth a national holiday. She walked 2.5 miles a day as reminder that Texans in slavery did not know of their freedom for 2.5 years after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. And in June 2021,

President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Mrs. Opal is a venerated leader in her community and beyond. She continues to fight for the basic necessities of all people. The Community Food Bank, which Mrs. Opal served as Board Chair, now provides food to over 600 families a day. Mrs. Opal still personally delivers boxes of food to the elderly and shut in as she did when the former food bank was unable to operate.

Her continued efforts to better the lives of the unemployed or recently incarcerated has led her to develop a 5 acre farming project, Opal's Farm, to train citizens in the area of husbandry while providing education, jobs, volunteer opportunities and fresh vegetables for the community.

Opal Lee has been a long-time advocate for affordable housing and civil rights. After retiring as a school counselor, she helped build and lead a local food bank.

“Stand up for human dignity whenever possible.”

- Opal Lee



Now in its 39th year, the mission of Community Food Bank is to fight hunger and poverty by providing food, education, programs, and resources to families in a dignified, personal, and timely manner without zip code restrictions. Community Food Bank is the only nonprofit agency in North Texas to fill both the roles of a food bank and a food pantry with no zip code restrictions. Community Food Bank serves approximately 94,000 individuals and families annually, as well as over 30 human service agencies. The agency was able to serve children and families with more than 10 million pounds of food in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

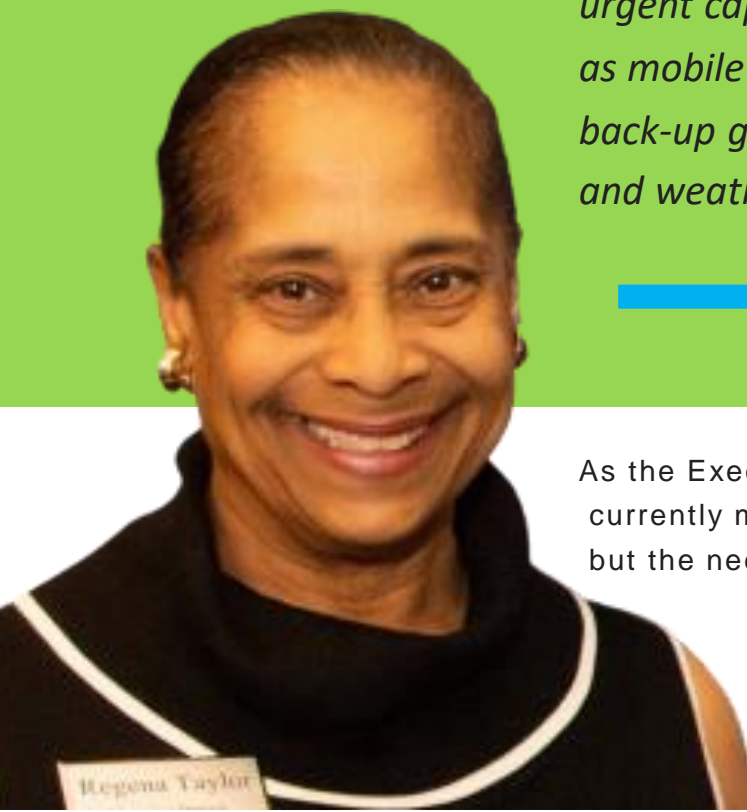
REGENA TAYLOR



“Many years ago, when the Community Food Bank suffered a devastating fire, Mrs. Opal Lee took the lead and ran the entire program from her home, with me as her volunteer assistant. She literally brought us back from the ashes.”

Community Food Bank

The agency is seeking \$2M funding for urgent capital improvements such as mobile food delivery vehicles, facility repairs, back-up generators and other critical infrastructure and weatherization requirements.



As the Executive Director of CFB, Regena Taylor currently manages a \$20 million annual budget, but the needs continue to outpace contributions.



RENEE SATTIEWHITE

Renée Sattiewhite is the President and CEO of the African-American Credit Union Coalition and is responsible for the execution of the strategic vision of the AACUC Board of Directors. Renée is a former Instructor for Spelman College’s Continuing Education Department, a Facilitator for United Way of Greater Atlanta’s VIP Board Development Program and member of the board of directors of the World Council of Credit Unions. She is Certified as both a Credit Union Development Educator and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant. Following the murder of Mr. George Floyd, she established an industry-wide initiative called The Commitment to Change: Credit Unions United Against Racism.

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African-American Credit Union Coalition

DEBRA HURSTON

Debra Hurston is the Executive Director of the Association for Black Economic Power. Hurston's management background includes six years as Executive Director and CEO of the Minnesota Chiropractic Association, six years as Director of Marketing and Communications of the Minnesota Bankers Association and two years as President of DLS Communications, Inc., a public relations firm that specialized in consultant work for state government, not-for-profit and political organizations.

She is leading the charge for the creation of a Black-led credit union in a community that is riddled with payday lenders. Notably, this is the same North Minneapolis community where Mr. George Floyd was killed in 2020. Joining her in these efforts are a host of local community-based organizations, and credit union industry supporters such as the African-American Credit Union Coalition, Inclusiv, and the Minnesota Credit Union Network.



"THE CREDIT UNION HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A SOURCE OF HOPE, A SOURCE OF PRIDE, AND JUST A NEW BEGINNING."

- DEBRA HURSTON



Village Financial Cooperative

NASHLIE SEPHUS



JXN Tech District

What's Inside her \$150 Million Plan?

Dr. Nashlie H. Sephus is returning to her hometown, Jackson, Mississippi, where she is working to turn 12 abandoned acres into a Hub for Tech entrepreneurs. Her plan includes a grocery store, restaurants, and office space making the Jackson Tech Hub, "a place where you can be around like-minded people, grow your business, and learn how to create technology that helps improve the world."

A \$500,000 grant furnished by the Kellogg Foundation, encouragement from investors and city officials, a personal contribution of \$500,000, and \$150,000 collected as a result of a friends-and-family round, and encouragement from investors and city officials has propelled her forward. She plans to further fund her project with private investments, crowdfunding rounds, grants on the nonprofit side, tax credits, and opportunity zone funding. Sephus says the project will earn money with rental payments and membership fees.

Dr. Nashlie H. Sephus is the Applied Science manager for Amazon Artificial Intelligence (AI) focusing on fairness and identifying biases in these technologies. This technology was a result of former startup Partpic (Atlanta) being acquired by Amazon, for which she was the Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

Prior to working at Partpic, she received her Ph.D. from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2014 and worked for a year with Exponent technical consulting firm in New York City. Her core research areas were digital signal processing, machine learning, and computer engineering. She received her B.S. in Computer Engineering from Mississippi State University (2007).

Dr. Sephus had several internships and research experiences worldwide with companies such as IBM, Delphi, University of California at Berkeley, GE Research Center, GE Energy, Miller Transporters, and Kwangwoon University in Seoul, South Korea. Recently, Dr. Sephus became founder and CEO of The Bean Path non-profit organization based in Jackson, MS assisting individuals with technical expertise and guidance to fill the tech gap in communities.

NASHLIE SEPHUS

"I'm inspired by the fact that she is from Jackson and it's very easy to leave and not come back. She is not that individual,"

- Toni Cooley



IMPACT FOCUS

LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED. DONATE NOW.

<u>Community Food Bank</u>	<u>JXN Tech District</u>
<u>Village Financial Cooperative and ABEP</u>	<u>Bean Path</u> <u>KITT Labs</u>
<u>African-American Credit Union Coalition</u>	<u>Impact Focus</u>

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN
THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES

CAPITAL 4 COMMUNITY