

# *Tocqueville Society* NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 / FEBRUARY 2023

## MEET ROBERT E. GUNN JR., METRO UNITED WAY'S CHIEF EQUITY AND IMPACT OFFICER

### HOMETOWN:

South Bend, Indiana

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT LOUISVILLE:

I have several favorite things about the city I now call home. First, I love the location. Louisville is a short drive to cities I frequent such as Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Nashville, while also being close to my hometown of South Bend, Indiana. In addition to its location, I love that Louisville can accommodate all of my needs in terms of entertainment and dining. From sporting events, concerts, shows, festivals, and great restaurants, Louisville has it all. Finally, I appreciate and enjoy Louisville's bourbon scene. As the epicenter for great distilleries and historic brands, Louisville is a great place to be if you enjoy this fine elixir.

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

When I was ten, like many young men from my neighborhood, I most likely wanted to be a professional athlete. However, with the nickname of "Chubb," being about 5'4", weighing nearly 200 pounds, and playing a whopping two minutes of the entire basketball season at my elementary school, the likelihood of that occurring was lower than the 1% average of those who go on to play sports professionally. At 10, my fall back was being a lawyer, but my great grandfather told me he believed I was likely to be a preacher or a teacher.

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

In all honesty, I wanted to further impact our community, outside of one school (DuBois Academy). My body of work in education clearly demonstrated my ability to lead staff, students, and a school community. And I have no doubt that the legacy created at DuBois is sustainable, and the young men who graduate will lead lives of leadership, prosperity, and excellence. Knowing this, I was ready to embark on a new journey to further impact our city at an even larger level. As I answer these questions, I am in my 126th day of service and without question, I made the right decision. Seeing our work as an organization to strategically invest in solutions that meet the needs of our community is truly humbling and inspiring work. I am and will remain forever grateful for this opportunity.

### WHERE DO YOU SEE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON THIS PATH TO BUILDING EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL?

In the next five years, through the work of MUW and partners in the community, I see our 7-county footprint living more united than we have previously. I see our city and surrounding counties working collaboratively to ensure equitable access, practices and policies, in academic and workplace settings; thus, promoting positive outcomes for all members of our community.

### HOBBIES (LIFE OUTSIDE WORK):

I enjoy traveling both domestically and internationally, "hunting" for bourbon, spending time with family and friends, watching all kinds of sports, and being the best soccer and dance dad I can be for my children.



SAVE THE DATE

## LIVE UNITED DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Wednesday, February 15, 2023

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Kentucky State Capitol, Frankfort, KY

Through personal meetings with your legislators, remarks from legislative and executive leaders, and meet-and-greets, you'll advocate for the issues most important to YOU and share the work of MUW. Use the QR code or visit [metrounitedway.org/advocate](https://metrounitedway.org/advocate) to register today.

## RACIAL WEALTH GAP SIMULATION



Tuesday, February 21, 2023

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

A FREE virtual event.

To register, use the QR code to the left or visit:

[metrounitedway.org/rwgs](https://metrounitedway.org/rwgs)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LONDON ROTH & RYAN GEHRING, EMERGING TOCQUEVILLE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



**London Roth**  
*Humana*



**Ryan Gehring**  
*GE Appliances*

### HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN MUW?

**London:** I came by my connection to Metro United Way through a couple different ways. Firstly, my role with Humana in 2016 involved partnering with community sectors – government, education, private industry, and social services – to understand the impact of basic needs on health outcomes, and identify solutions to support these needs. Metro United Way was a key partner in this work, offering its space for meetings, its data to understand the needs and progress against them, its team members to serve on various work committees, and its partner organizations to share with us potential solutions. I came to deeply appreciate the outcomes-focused investing that MUW facilitated. Then, I had a mentor involved in MUW who modeled philanthropy and its significance – for the community, the connectivity, and the heart. She inspired me to learn more about the Emerging Tocqueville group, and it was then that my husband, Richard, and I were appreciative for the opportunity to learn about and step into a more strategic and significant giving strategy for our family.

**Ryan:** My wife, Taylor, and I became involved through Metro United Way's partnership with the Employee Giving Campaign at GE Appliances.

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

**London:** Our family engages in the community in a variety of ways. We frequent our city's park systems, as well as its zoo and museums. We enjoy patronizing the many local eateries and boutiques that make this community special. And, in addition to Metro United Way, we are connected to and volunteer with multiple nonprofit organizations including Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana, Whitney/Strong, and the Louisville Sustainability Council.

**Ryan:** I serve as co-chair on the Emerging Tocqueville Leadership Committee and participate in several volunteer opportunities each year throughout the community with GEA's Blue Wave Volunteer Network. Taylor serves on the Executive Board of Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS) and we are both active parent advocates for the services VIPS provides to children with blindness or low vision in our community.

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

**London:** My vision for Metro United Way's Emerging Tocqueville would be to see it continue to grow – in both membership and engagement – thoughtfully leveraging those at the front-end of their philanthropic journey to share new ideas and ways of thinking about the space. Additionally, I'd like to see a deepened integration with our established Tocqueville Society members, sharing their expertise, experience, and interests for the future of giving. I think there could be some very interesting insights at the intersection of these groups, and I'd love to see the Louisville community gain value as a result.

**Ryan:** My vision for MUW's Emerging Tocqueville is to generate an engaging runway for young philanthropic leaders to learn and grow together, while providing fresh insight and strength to MUW's impact in the community.

# BEYOND BUZZWORDS

"How to Be an Antiracist," featuring Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Event.

To register, use the QR code to the left or visit:

[metrounitedway.org/beyond-buzzwords](https://metrounitedway.org/beyond-buzzwords)



# COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS

2023 Community Impact Awards (IMMIES)

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Speed Art Museum

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast/Networking

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Program

Learn more, buy tickets and see sponsorship information:

[metrounitedway.org/immies](https://metrounitedway.org/immies)

or use the QR code to the left.



## IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: IMPACT TRACKER

At Metro United Way, we prioritize achieving gains in educational success and wealth attainment, while also meeting the basic needs of our community by investing in solutions to challenges that we see. The Impact Tracker is a way for us to share the transformative work that we do each and every day in a transparent manner.

The results of a recent survey revealed to us that about 90% of people in our community trust and respect the work that we do. However, less than 50% of people actually can explain what we do and how we do it. So, the Impact Tracker is a way to give our community firsthand knowledge about what is going on at Metro United Way and how we're working to positively impact our community each and every day in the following key areas – all through a lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion:

- **Early Care & Education: Creating equitable access to high-quality education**
  - As a result of the extremely successful and valuable children and youth programs like On My Way Pre-K, MUW's Ages & Stages, Youth Success Network Partner Count, Ready for K Alliance's Access & Quality Action Network, Health Development Partners, and Family and Caregiver Action Network, and collaborations with a host of community partners, MUW helps ensure that our community's youngest are prepared for kindergarten, as well as success in school and life.
- **Economic Mobility: Creating Pathways Out Of Poverty To Prosperity**
  - Results from this year's AcceLOurate Savings program show consistent surpassing of goals ranging from the number of new participants engaged or improved in achieving financial goals to those who have established a pattern of savings or reached their emergency savings goal.
  - Furthermore, efforts in investing in young adults through YALift!, a guaranteed income pilot program to empower young adults to forge their own path towards financial security, have demonstrated many positive benefits for those who receive payments, including reduced income volatility, increased wellbeing, and increased participation in the workforce.
- **Health & Basic Needs: Addressing Urgent, Short-Term Needs**
  - Currently, MUW is working on a Shelby County Community Needs Assessment. More information on this is forthcoming!
  - In Southern Indiana, our next Build-A-Bed is planned for Saturday, February 18.



For more information regarding MUW's Impact Tracker and the what and why behind it, scan the QR Code to the left. You may also reach out to Robert Gunn, Jr., Chief Equity and Impact Officer, directly at [robert.gunn@metrounitedway.org](mailto:robert.gunn@metrounitedway.org).





**Metro United Way** recognizes the individuals who serve on its **Board of Directors, Advisory Boards, Committees, and Cabinets** who have stood with our community and served tirelessly – sharing their time, talent, and treasure to set a high bar in philanthropic and servant leadership for our beloved community throughout our 7-county, bi-state region. Their unwavering commitment and extraordinary advocacy, generosity, and volunteerism create transformative change and provide an example for others to follow. Thank you very much!

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# THANK YOU!