

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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The Nation Remembers George Floyd

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June 13 - June 19, 2020 55th Year Volume 7 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Joel Carter
(Entrepreneur and Global Humanitarian)



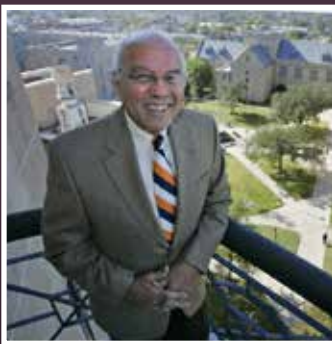
Dr. Corey Anderson
(Pharmacist, Writer, and Entrepreneur)



Dr. Britt E. Martin
(Pharmacist, Musician and Entrepreneur)

Black Men Letters to America... The Next Generation

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for
Excellence



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Black Men Letters to America... The Next Generation

*Reactions to George Floyd’s Death, Protest,
and the Demands for Justice*

Black Men United For Changing America

In these tough times, it is making the country consider questions of race, justice, and equality. Data News Weekly wanted to publish an open letter to America from young Black Men. We thought it was important to hear their voices.

Joel Carter

(Entrepreneur and Global Humanitarian)

We the People: The Right to Be Human

Experiences have engrained in me that I can make life what I want it. Evidence is in the opportunities I have had to culturally immerse myself into new and foreign places. I have found that the freedom to create life how I want it to be is sometimes more accessible outside the U.S. I think of the poet Langston Hughes and ask how you can be world famous yet ostracized in your own homeland?

Away from home, sometimes a lack of an opinion of who I should be leads to an openness of who I could be. Embracing the uncertainty of a new language and culture in a new land leaves space for me to create the reality of who I am in that moment. Without assumptions imposed upon you, it allows you to create life how you want it. It allows you to believe in yourself. Assumptions accepted by the masses, conscious or unconscious, lead to a decision on how a life should or could be lived. Or if it should live at all.

This ordeal specifically has led to stress, pain, and exhaustion for me. I realize that it is because it reminds me of the possibility of losing autonomy over my own life. And, the fact that many do not have that autonomy over their life.

Then, I remember that I choose to live in the US. My parents chose to flee a Civil War in Liberia. I chose to get two master’s degrees overseas. I chose to start my own business while living my life as an example for others to follow. Because autonomy is something, I don’t take for granted. It is refreshing for the world to fight for each personal autonomy again instead hanging on to tyrannical assumptions.



Joel Carter (Entrepreneur and Global Humanitarian)

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Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



Malachi McDougle

(High School Junior, Honor Roll and Student Athlete)

My Generation is Taking the Future into our Hands

As a young Black male growing up in America, I see a lot of hatred and wrongdoing to the Black community. For the past years for me growing up I have seen Black on Black crime and police brutality. This is evidenced by the many cases including Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Terrence Crutcher, Philando Castile, Samuel Dubose, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Walter L. Scott, Akai Gurley, and Laquan McDonald. All 10 of these names have been killed over simple confrontations with the police, which could have been easily resolved without death or any physical type of force resulting in a loss to the Black community. My thoughts on all of this going on is how are we going to survive, if the system is meant to set back the Black community and have us never be successful. That is why we never grow as a whole, we are used to the negative image and the thought that we won't ever be nothing and be unsuccessful. In the spirit of MLK and our continued struggle for equality I am encouraged when I see my generation standing up to make the world a better place for all people.



Tareen Rudolph

(Filmmaker, Educator and Activist)

"The Pendulum Shift"

When we look back on 2020, 3 months of mandatory quarantine from an Unexpected Pandemic that took the world by storm, citizens of the United States and Worldwide find themselves in another battle and elephant in the room! The dynamic we are faced with today regarding Policing Gone Bad has taken its toll amongst Citizens.

This issue has plagued our country for decades, our past great Civil Rights Leaders fought tirelessly during their era in hopes change would come someday. The late Tupac Shakur said our leaders sparked the flame for the movement, we should take the initiative to carry the dream on for our people.

These current times remind me of Ida B. Wells, MLK, Angela Davis, Malcom X, Stokely Carmichael and more Legends of the Freedom Movement who laid their lives down so we can live in a world without police brutality, more economic freedom and humanitarian rights!

The people of today has had enough of the Injustice which has taken place over the last couple of years when it comes to innocent citizens murdered on camera with no convictions. What we are witnessing is a culmination of what our ancestors fought for Now we are working for justice through their spirit!



Dr. Britt E. Martin

(Pharmacist, Musician and Entrepreneur)

Our job isn't done

Let us All Play Our Part!

White America:

Being the son of an African American couple who both grew up in Jim Crow South helps paint the picture of what I have to share. They were both born in 1946 and have been lifelong residents of the City of New Orleans. My father has been spat on for being Black at the wrong bus stop. My mother has been propositioned by a White man to be his "little nigger girl". Might I mention she babysat his children. My father told me the "legend" of an NOPD K9 famously named "Nigger", whose modus operandi is self-explanatory. My mother so vividly remembers the day MLK was assassinated, up to the detail of how many hours she cried that night.

These memories share a common theme. I need not waste your time in explaining the theme because it is apparent. People of color in America have been terrorized for generations, and it is in no way coming to a screeching halt. The frustration is beyond understanding at this point. The desire to be a person of integrity has been tested yet again. When will it stop? When will the disregard for another's autonomy be recognized?

We are tired White America. But guess what? We will prevail in the end. We are the most resilient demographic in this country. We make mountains out of mull hills. We are given pain and we turned it into the Blues. You tried to stop us from gaining fair and equal education, and in a few generations, we have infiltrated spaces from STEM to the Office of the Presidency of the United States. We will be alright. You cannot hide anymore. We see you for what you have done and continue to do. We want nothing but peace and fair shake for us and all those of color in this country. Nothing more. Nothing less.

New Orleans Moves to Phase 2 Re-Opening on June 13th

Data News Staff Edited Report

New Orleans is moving into Phase Two of its COVID-19 reopening efforts this weekend.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell made the announcement Tuesday during an interview with WBOK Radio in New Orleans. She plans to discuss Phase Two at a news conference later Tuesday.

Phase Two is set to begin Saturday, June 13, 2020.

Phase Two will allow those business that reopened under Phase One to move to 50 percent capacity. The City is still requiring staff to wear face masks.

Businesses allowed to reopen under Phase Two are bars without food permits (previously only bars with food permits could reopen), tattoo shops and casinos.

The last part means Harrah's and the Fair Grounds can resume their gaming operations.

Weddings, funerals, and other similar gatherings can resume with a limit of 100 people.

Mayor Cantrell stated in her press conference she will be guided by the data available on the City's COVID-19 numbers to determine how to chart reopening efforts.

She also said the City has seen no significant spikes in its COVID-19 outbreak. Rather, the mayor said New Orleans has seen steady declines, including when Phase One began.

Cantrell reported that New Orleans will remain under Phase Two for another 21 days and reassess whether the City can move forward into Phase Three.



Dr. Corey Anderson

(Pharmacist, Writer, and Entrepreneur)

A Few Thoughts...

I'm nobody special. I have a college degree. I have worked hard and have never been arrested. I pay my taxes. I give to the homeless. I feed the hungry. However, I have the same challenges that Will Smith, the actor, and George Floyd both face: being a Black man in America. This goes for Black women as well. The color of our skin,

as weird as it sounds...something that we were born with and have absolutely no control over... gives us disadvantages. Ones that we don't ask for...disadvantages that we don't deserve, but we still overcome. There is way too much for me to speak about being a Black man, especially in the southern part of the United States. I'm nobody special, but I will say that I am Black and would not change it for the world. I am ready for allies in the fight against racism to speak up. They are the ones who will turn the tide more than anything.

Left, Dr. Corey Anderson (Pharmacist, Writer, and Entrepreneur)



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New Orleans Protest For Justice

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Columnist

Across the world in the wake of the George Floyd killing at the hands of the police in Minnesota there's been protest across the world demanding justice.

In New Orleans thousands came out to protest across the City. From Jackson Square in the French Quarter, to City Hall and beyond demonstrations took place with people of all races standing united against injustice.

There were multiple groups who organized these marches and made speeches.

It is being led primarily by young people fighting for change. One of the groups who have come to speak out is "Take Em Down NOLA" who were at the forefront of removing confederate monuments as well as other social causes.

Today they and others are fighting for justice in not just the George Floyd case, but making a collective stand to let the world know that Black Lives Matter.



Michael "Quess" Moore of "Take Em Down NOLA" has been on the frontline of protests in New Orleans.



Thousands protests in New Orleans for justice in the aftermath of the George Floyd killing at the hands of the police.



Angela Kinlaw, educator and activist of "Take Em Down NOLA" who works around issues of equality and justice for all.



America at crossroads as young people protesting for justice.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

The Nation Remembers George Floyd

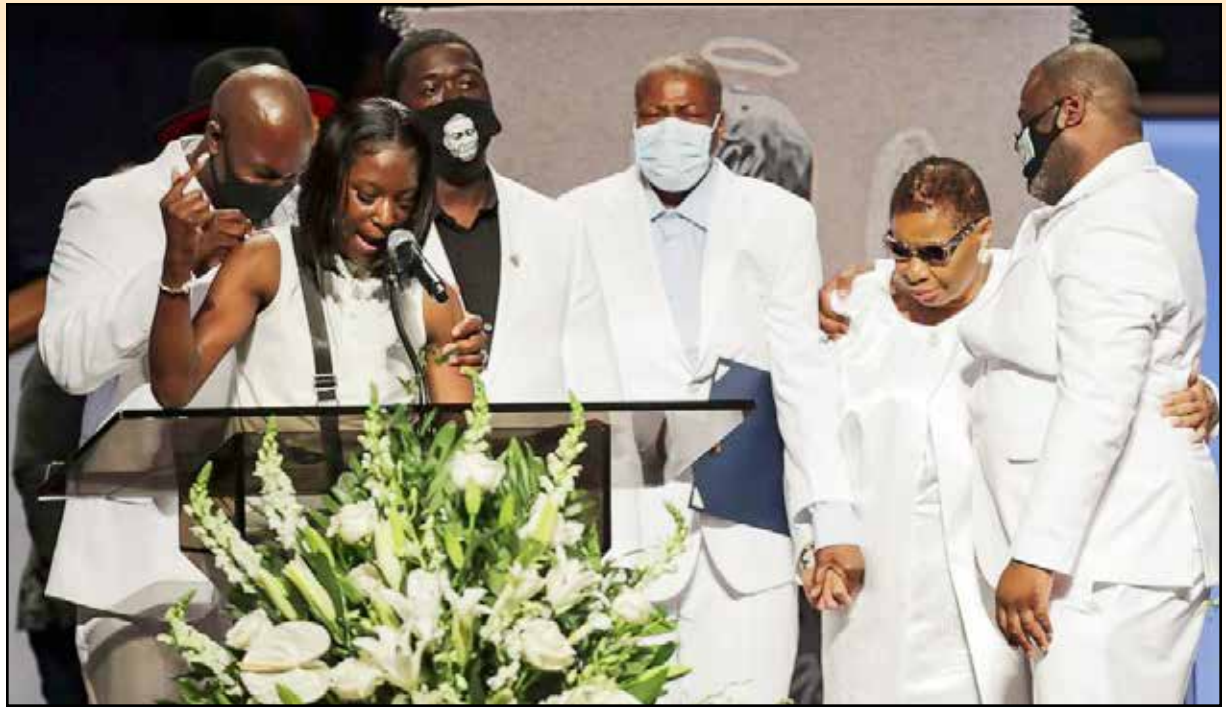
Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly Contributor

The killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minnesota and the cries for justice that's erupted in protests across the country against police brutality in all 50 states and across the globe.

The nation has tuned in to three services remembering Floyd in memorial services taking place in Minneapolis, in Raeford, NC, near Floyd's birthplace; and finally in Houston, TX where he will be laid to rest alongside his mother Larcenia "Miss Cissy" Floyd.

There was an out pouring of love there was public viewing in Floyd's former hometown of Houston, a funeral service will be held at the City's Fountain of Praise Church.

It was an emotional and inspirational service as Rev. Al Sharpton along with family members, friends and well-wishers spoke of the life of George Floyd and how he touched the lives of so many during his life and in his death he is changing the world.



The family of George Floyd onstage sharing a moment reflecting on his life and how his death is changing the world.



If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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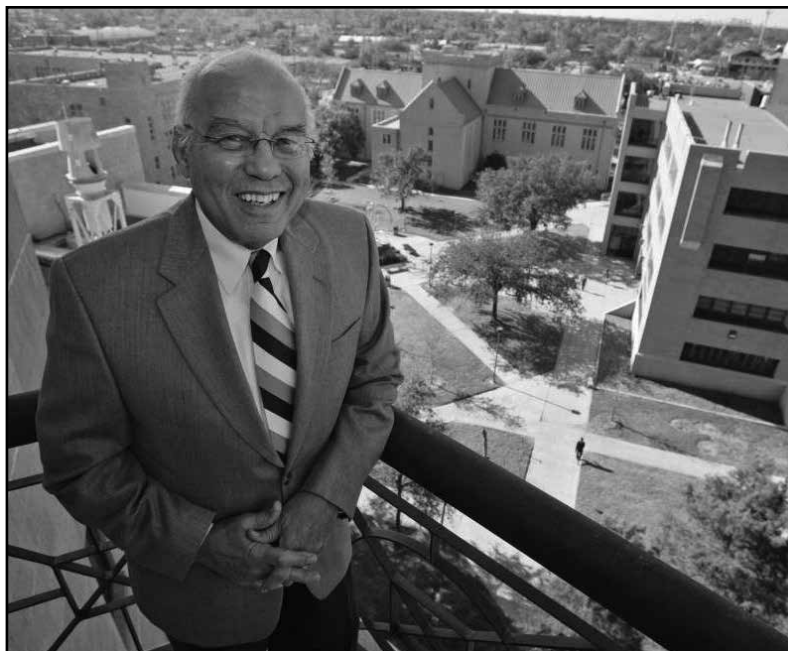
Xavier Submits Official Request to City of New Orleans to Rename South Jefferson Davis to Norman C. Francis

More than 5,000 Sign Change.Org Petition in Only 24 Hours

Data News Weekly Staff Report

NEW ORLEANS - Reynold Verret, current President of Xavier University of Louisiana, yesterday resubmitted the official request to rename South Jefferson Davis Parkway in honor of President Emeritus Norman C. Francis. Originally submitted in January 2018 with the support of the entire Xavier community and Board of Trustees, the university leadership was compelled to resubmit this request in honor of Dr. Francis' work in the field of higher education and the role it plays in creating a just and humane society.

"Dr. Francis understood more than most that education is the pathway to social justice," said President Verret. "His unwavering commitment and courage in the face of adversity spanned 50 plus years at Xavier and taught us all many lessons on how we must serve and lead our community. It



Xavier University President Emeritus, Dr. Norman C. Francis.

is an honor for me to submit this request on behalf of all Xavierite's and New Orleanians to whom he remains an example."

During his nearly 50 years as President of Xavier University of Louisiana, the University more than doubled its enrollment, broadened

its curriculum, expanded its campus, and strengthened its financial base. Never one to ignore the call to do more to improve the nation, Dr. Francis housed Freedom Riders during their stops in New Orleans. He spearheaded efforts to create the state's first African American owned bank, Liberty Bank and Trust Company.

Despite all the accolades, Francis remains a humble servant leader who prefers to advise and interact with others and share his knowledge to empower the next generation of leaders.

He has been a bridge builder whose reach spans ages, races, and generations. As noted by five New Orleans Mayors - LaToya Cantrell, Mitch Landrieu, Marc Morial, Sidney Barthelemy and Moon Landrieu - published a powerful op-ed supporting the initiative by Councilmembers Helena Moreno and Jason Williams to rename the current Jefferson Davis Parkway

for Dr. Norman C. Francis.

Their statement of support read in part:

"In light of the racial moment that we find ourselves in today and the fact that we are moved once again to set history straight, we believe that it is fitting to rename Jefferson Davis Parkway to Norman C. Francis Parkway. This is not solely to remove the reference to Jefferson Davis, although that notion stands on its own and requires no explanation. This particular roadway runs through Norman Francis' legacy to New Orleans and America, Xavier University, which has graduated more African American students earning undergraduate degrees in the biology and the life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy than any other college or university. By standing at the helm of Xavier, Dr. Francis planted the seeds of academic excellence. This is the road that runs through it. And we believe it should bear his name."

State & Local News

Prescription for Excellence

Meet the Inspiring Mother-Daughter Duo Starting their Medical Careers Together

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

In March, Dr. Cynthia Kudji Sylvester, and Dr. Jasmine Kudji made headlines for becoming "the first mother and daughter to attend medical school at the same time and match at the same institution," according to Kudji Sylvester's Medical School.

The mother-daughter duo both committed to start their medical careers at the LSU Health System in Louisiana. Kudji Sylvester is one of nine incoming family medicine residents at LSU Health Lafayette and Kudji joins 10 other general surgery residents at LSU Health New Orleans, both part of the National Resident Matching Program.

For Kudji Sylvester, it has been a 27-year dream come true. "I've always wanted to be a physician," the 49-year-old told TODAY. She and her family first came to the U.S. from Ghana when she was

two years old and eventually settled in Louisiana. During a family trip back to the West African country, a young girl approached Kudji Sylvester and her mother, asking them to help her sick child, an indelible experience that affirmed her desire to help others. "Seeing that disparity really, it shook me, you know, and it made me want to do something about it.

She started her career in Health-care as a nursing assistant for two years, before becoming a registered nurse for eight years and then returning to school again to become a nurse practitioner for nearly a decade. "When Jasmine was in college, I was like, you know what, this is the perfect time for me to pursue my dream of being a physician." So, in 2013, at the age of 43, Kudji Sylvester enrolled at University of Medicine and Health Sciences on the Eastern Caribbean Island of St. Kitts.

Kudji's journey to medical school was more traditional. As a



Mother and daughter Dr. Cynthia Kudji Sylvester and Dr. Jasmine Kudji (Adrienne Battistella).

young girl, she would frequently shadow her mother at work. "Being exposed to patients and being exposed to medicine at such an early age, it wasn't really something I just decided to do. It's just something that was always a part of my life ... so much of it was just natural," Kudji told TODAY. She started medical school in 2015

two years after her mother, going immediately after her undergraduate studies to Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

Although it has been 156 years since Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first African American woman to earn a medical degree and 121 years since Dr. Emma Wakefield-Paillet became the first

Black woman to practice medicine in Louisiana, the number of Black females pursuing medicine hasn't grown much since.

In a 2019 report from the Association of American Medical Colleges, only about 5%, or 45,534 of physicians surveyed identified as Black or African American. Kudji said, "It's honestly not very common. Like 2% of physicians are African American women.

To give young Black girls and women a look into their lives, the Kudji's are sharing their personal experiences online. Kudji explained, "We created a blog called The MD Life, where we try to explain some things that we struggled with, like how to apply to medical school, how to get into medical school, how to become a surgeon, and explain it to people and provide information that we wish we would have had from the beginning."

Edited from Yi-Jin Yu June 7, story that appeared on TODAY show.

Los Angeles Lakers Legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is no Stranger to Social Activism and Protests

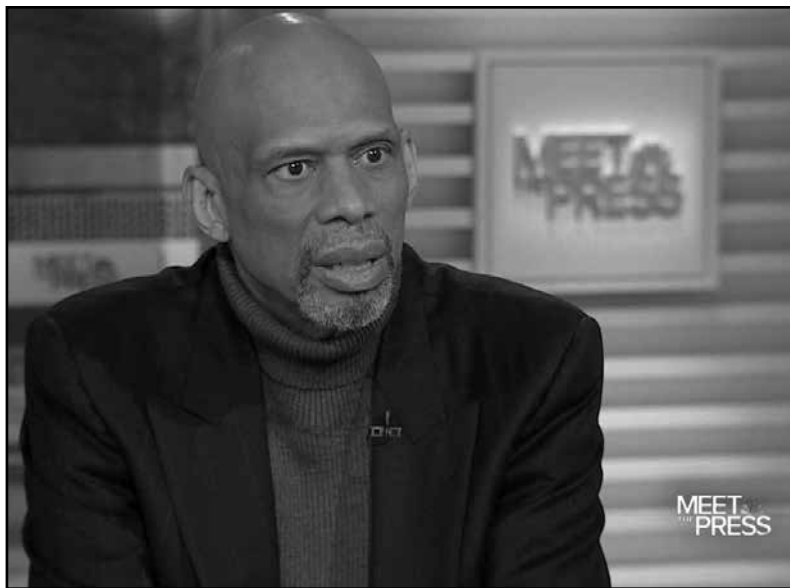
Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

Jabbar, the all-time leading scorer in NBA history who earned six world titles, boycotted the 1968 Olympics in the wake of social unrest and the aftermath of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In a live interview with the BlackPressUSA, Jabbar said he believes the murder of George Floyd by police and the subsequent protests around the globe, signal a sea change.

"Across America, people of all descriptions got an understanding of what it means to be a Black American, to be singled out and discriminated against," Jabbar said during the interview, co-hosted by Brandon Brooks, Managing Editor of the Los Angeles Sentinel.

"For so many Black Americans,



Los Angeles Lakers Legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

it's just a daily grind of possible bad situations that you come across just because of the color of your skin. And people are starting to realize

that and understand that it can't be tolerated," Jabbar stated.

The Hall of Fame center has worked almost his entire life to

help bring change. He said he even changed his name and became a Muslim because he sought ways to make a difference.

Jabbar commended his fellow athletes for their history of activism, including LeBron James, who has spoken out about Floyd's murder.

"It is really important for athletes, especially those in African-American communities and communities of color, to speak out because the young people in those communities look up to athletes as the people that set the tone and have the knowledge and courage to do what is right," Jabbar insisted.

"They look upon athletes in a way that is just a little bit less than how they look at their own parents. So, athletes are very important to the hopes and dreams of young people in those communities."

Commentary

HousingNOLA Launches Pilot to Convert Short-Term Rentals in Temporary Housing

Participants Housed for 3 months, given Long-Term Housing Help and Support Services



Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

Last week, HousingNOLA announced the official start of a COVID-19 Short-Term Rental Pilot Program, which gives temporary housing and supportive services to the homeless or housing insecure families and young adults during the Pandemic. The current COVID-19 climate has shone an even brighter light on the need for Affordable Housing in our city, because as everyone was told to "stay home," many were asking "where's that?"

The program aims to pair supportive services with temporary housing for homeless or housing insecure families and young adults. The funding for the pilot was provided by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and Funders for Housing and Opportunity. "It's been heartening and tremendously impressive to see all the ways our partners are stepping into this challenging time with programs to keep people stably housed and provide supportive services," said Diane Yentel National Low-Income Housing Coalition President and CEO. "During a time when more than 560,000 Louisianans have applied for unemployment and our collective health depends on people's ability to stay home, we commend HousingNOLA for doing incredible work to address the urgent and immediate housing needs of people in the New Orleans community."

This new HousingNOLA Initiative offers an immediate answer and provides the support and services to stabilize and secure housing long-term. Program participants are referred through community partners like CASA New Orleans and Louisiana Center for Children's Rights and will have their rent and utilities covered for three months while working with Community Navigators to achieve long-term housing. HousingNOLA This pilot program will serve as a model to utilize occupiable units during this COVID-19 emergency. Referred families or roommate pairs will enter a matchmaking process to find an appropriate housing unit. For three months participants in the program will have their rent and utilities covered according to HUD2020 Fair Market Rent valuations by zip code and unit size. Throughout the three months families in the program will receive help from supportive services to stabi-

lize and secure long-term housing.

On the first day, a family and a young roommate pair were the first to (separately) enter the program after signing all program documentation and a lease with the landlord. Their new homes are in the Tulane-Broad Corridor. For the next three months, while living without the burden of rent and utilities, they will receive program support and guidance through case management and navigation to achieve their goals of higher education, career skills building, and housing sustainability. HousingNOLA hopes that other partners like UNITY will be able to continue to work with the landlords after the initial funds are exhausted. HousingNOLA's process, from referrals to matchmaking to lease signing, is hands on because there is so much need in New Orleans now that the economic impact of the novel coronavirus is worsening New Orleans' Affordable Housing Crisis.

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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