



“Improvise, Adapt and Overcome”
-Marine Corps Motto

LIBERIA SENATOR TOURS TURN AROUND COLUMBUS INITIATIVES



Liberia Sen. Joseph Jallah (on the Mayor’s left) is welcomed to Columbus by Mayor Skip Henderson, along with TAC’s Ronzell Buckner, School Board Member Pat Fraye, State Representative Teddy Reese, TAC Hope Dealer T J McPherson,, Eagle Scout Maddie Burgess, TAC Hope Dealers Valdez Walker, and Mahogany Davis.



The daughters of Mrs. Zelma Hennessey, Dr. Lizzella Dodson and Juanita Hennessey (in the purple shirts) showing Sen. Jallah and others the “Zelma Hennessey Memorial Bridge” that she crossed many times on anti-drug marches . She as known as “the Godmother of Drugfighting”



Sen. Jallah learning about Columbus history along the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail. This is the marker on the A. J. McClung YMCA.

Saturday July 1

An excited group of TAC members, supporters, city and state officials greeted an international visitor, Senator Joseph Jallah from Lofa County Liberia. Ronzell Buckner, TAC founder & executive director welcomed everyone to the TAC's George Washington Carver Victory Garden and Farm.

"We're very honored and pleased to welcome Sen. Jallah to Columbus to see TAC efforts. It is a powerful statement of friendship and his interest in reducing youth violence. We share a common commitment to save our children's lives and stop the killing of our youth by violence and drugs. We're planting seeds and saving lives through entrepreneurship and agriculture. We welcome you to Columbus & TAC's George Washington Carver Victory Garden & Farm."

Mr. Buckner continued, "In the battle to take back our neighborhoods from drugs and violence and build peace and hope we need to join hands. We would love to learn more about the youth in Liberia and share our efforts and hear from them on theirs. Please tell the youth of Liberia we join them in creating new futures."

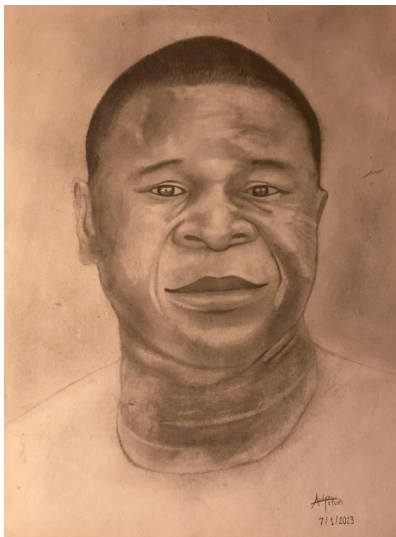
As the Hope Dealers learn how to run a farm they also learn about giving by delivering fresh vegetables to neighbors in need and those in senior living facilities. Mary Rogers, Garden Manager reported many of the attendees Saturday purchased vegetables and were invited back to volunteer.

Sen. Jallah stated "I was overwhelmed at the reception and warmth of the people. Thank you. And thank you for allowing me to see firsthand your innovative efforts to build peace, stopping violence and creating hope and opportunity for youth. I am inspired by TAC's George Washington Carver Victory Garden and Farm and by the amazing job the youth Hope Dealers have done. I'm excited to share your Hope Dealers idea using youth entrepreneurship and agricultural training to build peace and address our common problems of drugs, violence and crime. My hope is for us to continue to learn from each other. To that end I'd like to offer to share some of our rich history and culture with your students."

Sen. Jallah also established Turn Around Liberia after he marched with several Turn Around America - Wrice Process drugfighting groups in the late 1990s. The Process model was utilized by Mrs Hennessy and Southwest View Against Drugs(SWAD) and Columbus Against Drugs. (CAD) and Turn Around Columbus. This model was very effective in helping to get rid of drugs in the neighborhoods throughout Columbus.

Sen. Jallah presented Mayor Henderson with a handmade cloth of indigenous design from cotton grown in Liberia. "From our hearts in Liberia to yours." said Sen. Jallah in offering the gift.

Artist and Hope Dealer Andrew Tatum also presented Sen. Jallah with a hand drawn portrait of the Senator.



TAC Hope Dealer Mahogany Davis gave a certificate making Sen. Jallah an honorary member of Turn Around Columbus. The certificate includes George Washington Carver's favorite poem "Equipment " by Edgar A. Guest. The last stanza is as follows:

*Courage must come from the soul within,
The man must furnish the will to win.
So figure it out for yourself, my lad.
You were born with all that the great have had,
With your equipment they all began,
Get hold of yourself and say: "I can."*

After touring the Farm, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail, the participants and guests were led by Mrs. Hennessey's daughters. Dr. Lizzella Dodson and Juanita Hennessey over to the Zelma Hennessy Memorial Bridge to take pictures on the bridge in loving memory of Mrs. Zelma Hennessy, a Community Activist, known as "The Godmother of Drugfighting ", who fought fiercely to eradicate drugs in her community and throughout Columbus, Ga.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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