

# FREEMANTOWN NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2026 EDITION

## ENDING 2025 WITH MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS...

Freemantown is proud to announce, in partnership with **Berry College**, having been awarded a **Historical Trust Grant** for ground preparation and mapping of the sacred grounds of **Freemantown** and the **Shelton Family Cemetery**!

This important work will allow researchers and historians to better understand the land's historical use, uncover potential archaeological features, and document the site with greater accuracy. The project represents a major step forward in preserving Freemantown's legacy and deepening our understanding of the stories embedded in the land.

## CELEBRATING OUR DONORS



Pictured (from L to R): Angela Addison, Anthony "Tony" Weaver, Phillip Henderson, Elissa Bentford Roberts, Titiana Benton Ellis, and LaRita Allen

### GOLD LEVEL DONATIONS

- LaRita Allen
- Angela Addison
- Phillip Henderson
- Anthony "Tony" Weaver
- Titiana Benton Ellis
- Elissa Bentford Roberts
- **\*\*And our Angel Donors!**



**ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:**  
**ANGELA JAMES**  
**FOR HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE**  
**FREEMANTOWN COLLEGE FUND**

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## HONORING OUR FAMILY

Freemantown would like to congratulate our Affairs Director **Victor Hixon** who won the ballot to join the **City of Rome City Council!**

### **Congratulations Councilman Victor!**

Congratulations to **the Benton family** for hosting a successful family reunion in **July 2025** at their home property. Gathering on ancestral land made the occasion especially meaningful, honoring family roots while creating new memories for future generations.



Pictured: Victor Hixon

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## IN MEMORIAM

We pause to honor and remember members of our extended Freemantown family who passed away this year.

Their lives, stories, and contributions remain part of our shared history, and they will be remembered with respect and gratitude.

- **Audrey Henderson Allen**, passed on February 3, 2025
- **Royce Cameron Johnson**, passed on March 12, 2025
- **Titauna Benton**, passed on July 22, 2025
- **Leroy Ellis**, passed on August 26, 2025

We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, loved ones, and all those whose lives were touched by them. May their memories continue to live on through the stories we preserve and the community we uphold.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **The Detroit Chapter of the Freemantown Historical Foundation**, alongside the **Shelton Descendants Historical Society**, engaged in quarterly volunteer efforts with **Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan** and **Focus: HOPE**, helping package and deliver food and essential goods to those in need.



Pictured (L to R): Cheryl Freeman Snipes, Angela (Shelton) James, Alexis Snipes (Freeman), Janelle Freeman, Eddie Freeman



Pictured (L to R): Yolanda (Freeman) Baldwin, Cheryl Freeman Snipes, Wanda Cathey, Angela (Shelton) James

## HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Post you and your family's community service opportunities with the family on our facebook page to be featured in the bi-annual newsletter!

**We'd love to include you!**



## WHAT WE'RE BUILDING AT FREEMANTOWN

At the Freemantown Historical Foundation, our work goes far beyond preserving history — we're actively investing in the future of our community. Here's a look at a few initiatives currently in development that we're excited to share with you.

### **Skills-Building Courses & Workshops (In Development)**

We are actively working on creating courses and workshops focused on career advancement and professional development, including topics like:

- Interview preparation
- Public speaking & presentations
- Professional confidence and communication

These offerings are designed to equip our community with practical, real-world skills that open doors and create upward mobility. More details will be shared as these programs take shape.

### **1-on-1 Lineage & Ancestry Guidance**

We're also developing opportunities for one-on-one access with our President and Founder for individuals seeking deeper insight into their lineage and family history.

This personalized guidance will support members who are beginning (or deepening) their ancestry research and want informed, intentional direction rooted in historical expertise. **[Click here to schedule your 1-on-1.](#)**

### **Black History Month Merch — Available NOW**

In honor of Black History Month, we are preparing a special merchandise release that supports the mission and ongoing work of the Freemantown Historical Foundation.

 Stay tuned for the launch on [freemantown.org](https://freemantown.org)

Every purchase will directly support preservation efforts, educational programming, and future initiatives.

 **Keep an eye on our Facebook and our website for the official releases!**





**CALL FOR  
2026 MEMEBERSHIP**

**Make a donation to help fund scholarships,  
operational costs, and memorial tributes.**

**What's included:**

- Discounts on Events
- Quarterly "Freeman Talks" Newsletter
- Memorial acknowledgement
- and more to be announced...

**MEMEBERSHIP FEE**

**Adults (18+) \$30**

**Juniors (11-17) \$15**

\*Per family member

**Donation Link in Caption**

**Please make check/money orders to**  
Freemantown Historical Foundation  
PO Box 39100 Redford, MI 48239

**\*\* All donations and Membership Fees are  
Tax Deductable**

**BECOME A MEMBER HERE**

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

- **Dorothy Horton**
- **William G Harris**
- **Angela James**
- **Lindsey Audrey**
- **Elissa Benford**
- **Nicolle Brown**
- **Aija Edwards**
- **Michael Jones**
- **Eric Miller**
- **Dorothy Tatum**
- **Anthony Weaver**

**And their families!**



### THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE DONORS

We gratefully recognize **Titiana Benton and LaRita Allen** for their generous contributions to Freemantown through employer-sponsored giving programs.

Freemantown is enrolled in corporate giving platforms including **Frontdoor CyberGrants** and **America Charities**. Members may be able to donate through their employer's matching or workplace giving program—helping your support go even further.

### With Gratitude ❤️

*None of this work is possible without you.*

To our members, donors, volunteers, and supporters — thank you for believing in the importance of preserving our shared history and investing in the future of Freemantown.

Your continued support allows us to document stories, expand access to education, and create meaningful opportunities for generations to come.

Whether you give your time, your resources, or your voice, you are helping ensure that our legacy is not only remembered, but strengthened.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment and look forward to building what's next — together.

With appreciation,

**The Freemantown Historical Foundation**