

# FREEMANTOWN NEWSLETTER



Issue 002

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## SUMMER EDITION

As summer warms our communities, the Freemantown Historical Foundation continues to build on the momentum of a meaningful year. This season reminds us of the strength found in connection within families, among generations, and across communities dedicated to preserving our shared legacy.

In this issue, we celebrate new milestones, honor loved ones we've lost, spotlight acts of generosity, and share ways to get involved from volunteering and storytelling to cookbook and genealogy pre-sales. Your continued support makes it all possible. Together, we are writing the next chapter in Freemantown's rich and enduring story one grounded in heritage and inspired by hope.

## Celebrating Our Top Donors!

We are thrilled to acknowledge the incredible generosity of individuals whose contributions continue to breathe life into Freemantown's mission:



Titiana Benton



Angela James



LaRita Allen



Angela Addison



Tony Weaver



Elissa Benford-  
Robert

Join Us in Making a Lasting Impact!  
Together, we can honor Freemantown's rich heritage while building a brighter, stronger future for generations to come.

## Fundraising ---



🎉 **Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle** 🎉

**A Huge Thank You!** 🇺🇸

### Reflecting on Generosity & Engagement Ahead

On May 30, we hosted our first Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle an initiative created to support the mission of Freemantown: preserving our rich heritage, empowering youth, supporting genealogy efforts, and building stronger community connections. 🌟

We are grateful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word. Your contributions directly support our work to keep the stories of our ancestors alive and relevant for future generations.

🌟 **Congratulations to Our Grand Prize Winner!**  
**Anthony Weaver** — 🌟 Thank You for your participation and Thank you for your generous donation! 💰

## Fundraising Ideas ---

As we look ahead, we're seeking fresh fundraising ideas from our family and community. Your creativity and involvement can make all the difference in reaching our goals. Together, we can continue honoring our past while building a brighter future for Freemantown and the communities that we serve! If you have a fundraising idea, please let us know.



## Ways to Give ---

### Matching Makes a Difference!

Does your company offer donation matching? Freemantown is now enrolled in both **FrontDoor CyberGrants** and **America's Charities**, making it easier than ever to amplify your giving!

### Community Rewards Program!

Want to support Freemantown with no extra cost to you? It's as easy as doing your regular grocery shopping!

By enrolling in the Kroger Community Rewards Program, you can help fund Freemantown's mission every time you swipe your Kroger Plus Card. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on each shopper's spending as it relates to total purchases across all registered supporters.

No cost to you, Kroger makes the donation on your behalf - you keep all your Kroger Plus Card benefits and fuel points. It only takes a few minutes to enroll, but the impact lasts all year.

ID Freemantown's Organization Number: **DR582**

 [Watch this short video on how it works](#)

Need help enrolling or have questions? ✉ Contact us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org) - we're happy to walk you through the steps!

Let's turn groceries into impact, one cart at a time.

## Community & Family Involvement ---

Preserving the rich history of Freemantown begins with community. By taking part in local events, service projects, and conversation and storytelling initiatives, you help keep our heritage vibrant and relevant. Every shared story and every act of service deepens our collective impact—honoring the past while empowering a stronger, more connected future.

### **\*\*Black History Celebration\*\***

A heartfelt thank-you to **Elissa Benford Robert** for her participation in the Black History Community Event. At the 'Eastside Conversation: Rockdale Black History' held on February 28th, Elissa celebrated Black History Month by speaking about our real Black history and proudly showcasing cousin Coach William Bill Moultrie's inspiring story.

### **\*\*Volunteering Opportunity\*\***

The Freemantown and Shelton families participated in a service day at Focus: HOPE in Detroit, Michigan - delivering food boxes to elderly and homebound residents. In attendance were **Cheryl Snipes and her daughter Alexis Snipes, Angela James her grandson Nash, Yolanda Baldwin, and Janelle Freeman.**

Another initiative, Forgotten Harvest, involved packing family-sized protein snack bags for those in need. We thank all our volunteers for their time and commitment. These activities are held every 90 days, and yes—we have fun doing it!

### **\*\*Wine & Conversation\*\***

Join us for our Monthly Wine & Conversation gatherings every 3rd Friday—an informal way to connect, reflect, and plan for our collective future.

### **\*\*Storytelling\*\***

Email [cfsnipes@freemantown.org](mailto:cfsnipes@freemantown.org) to schedule your storytelling session.

Have ideas for getting involved? We'd love to hear from you! Together, we can ensure Freemantown's history continues to inspire future generations.

Freemantown Online Store: New Items, Same Legacy
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As introduced in our first edition, the Freemantown Online Store continues to grow offering meaningful products that reflect our shared history and celebrate our community’s legacy. We’re excited to feature new and returning favorites that help support our mission and keep Freemantown’s story alive.

Freemantown Genealogy Book

We are currently featuring the 2024 - 2025 Freemantown Genealogy Book. Next edition will be December 2026.

Make sure your family’s history is included by submitting updates via our [Family Record Form](#)

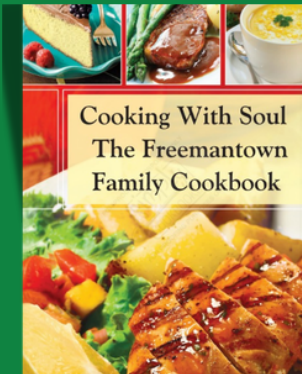


🇵🇸 Price: \$50 | Shipping: \$8

Freemantown Family Cookbook

More than just recipes, this special cookbook is a tribute to the traditions, flavors, and stories passed down through generations.

To Pre-order: visit [Freemantown’s product page](#)



🍽️ Price: \$30 | Shipping: \$8

Freemantown Boutique – Apparel & Custom Products

From heritage-inspired t-shirts to everyday accessories, the Freemantown Boutique offers items that reflect pride in our past and promise for our future.

🗨️ Shop now: [Freemantown Boutique](#)



🍪 Want something customized?  
 We’re happy to create something just for you. Contact us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org) for custom orders.

Freemantown 2024 Financials
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Total Deposited = \$4,202.18

- Donation / Membership = \$1,758  
 Fundraiser = \$1,222.64  
 Purchases = \$1,100.00  
 Scholarship = \$120.60

Total Expenses = \$3,954.75

- Marketing = \$735.90  
 Fees = \$85.99  
 Operation = \$1,193.66  
 Business Engagements = \$1,144.43
- Shipping = \$224.83  
 Donation = \$569.94

## Upcoming Events

- For Juneteenth Events, please stay tuned to the Freemantown's Facebook page
- Storytelling Event - TBD
- Wine & Conversation - Monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday
- July 18, 2025 The Benton Family will host a homecoming family reunion in Rome, Ga.

To make announcements of upcoming events please contact FHF at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org)

## Join the Movement—Become a Freemantown Member ---

As we move deeper into 2025, the Freemantown Historical Foundation continues to grow and we invite you to grow with us. Becoming a member means more than just staying connected; it's a chance to actively contribute to preserving our heritage and building a stronger future for generations to come.


Whether you're passionate about family history, community service, or cultural storytelling, your involvement helps us protect the legacy of Freemantown and expand our impact nationwide.

☀ We welcome new members with open arms and are happy to answer questions about donation levels, benefits, and opportunities to get involved. Reach out to us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org) to learn more, we'd love to have you join the Freemantown family.

To our current members: Thank you for your continued dedication and support in 2025. Your commitment keeps our mission alive. ❤

### We are proud to recognize our 2025 members:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Angela R. James | • Erica Hixon       |
| • Anthony Weaver  | • LaRita Allen      |
| • Dorothy Tatun   | • Lindsey Audrey    |
| • Elissa Benford  | • Dr. Michael Jones |
| • Cheryl Snipes   | • Angelita McGhee   |
| • Angela Addison  | • Titiana Benton    |



Annual Membership Fee  
Adults (18+) \$30  
Juniors (11-17) \$15

JOIN US

Go to [Membership](#) to complete your 2025 membership — let's continue this incredible journey together!

## Calling Passionate Leaders – Join the Freemantown Board ---

The Freemantown Historical Foundation is actively seeking new board members to serve a 3 year term. This is a vital time in our journey, and we are looking for individuals both within and beyond the family who are ready to contribute their talents, voice, and leadership to help guide our mission forward.

We welcome those who are:

- ✓ Passionate about historical preservation and community empowerment
- ✓ Experienced in nonprofit service, governance, or leadership (or eager to learn!)
- ✓ Committed to equity, family history, and community engagement
- ✓ Willing to attend meetings, support fundraising efforts, and act as ambassadors for Freemantown

Serving on the board is a rewarding way to make a direct impact on the growth and future of the foundation. Whether your strengths lie in fundraising, outreach, finance, events, or storytelling, your skills are needed and valued. If you or someone you know would be a great fit, we'd love to hear from you.

✉ Contact us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org) to learn more about board member expectations and how to apply.



## Spotlight – A Proud Accomplishment

We are thrilled to shine this edition's spotlight on LaTisha Diamond, who has proudly earned her degree in Social Work! Her achievement reflects not only years of dedication and hard work, but also a deep commitment to service, compassion, and community uplift. LaTisha's journey inspires all of us to keep pushing forward in pursuit of our dreams, no matter the challenges.

🎉 Congratulations, LaTisha! We celebrate you and all that lies ahead in your professional and personal journey.

### 🗣️ Know someone we should spotlight in our next edition?

We'd love to highlight the accomplishments of Freemantown family and friends, whether it's a graduation, career milestone, artistic achievement, or community recognition.

Please email us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org) with your recommendations. Let's continue to celebrate and uplift one another!

## In Loving Memory ---



As we move through 2025, we take a moment to honor and remember those we've lost along the way. Their presence, love, and lasting contributions to their families and communities will never be forgotten.

Though they are no longer with us, their legacy lives on in the stories we share, the values we uphold, and the lives they touched. May we continue to be inspired by their memory, and may their families feel the warmth of our continued love, support, and prayers.

**Audrey Henderson Allen – February 3, 2025**

**Royce Canmeron Johnson – March 12, 2025**



## Thank You for Being the Heart of Freemantown ---

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each supporter, volunteer, and friend of Freemantown. Your passion, service, and generosity drive our mission forward.

Let's continue working side by side to preserve the past, enrich the present, and empower the future. Whether through donations, volunteering, or storytelling, there's a place for everyone in this journey.

If you have any questions or need guidance on how to get involved, please contact us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org)

Thank you, and we look forward to another impactful year!

*We strive for accuracy and inclusivity in sharing updates about our programs, celebrating community milestones, and offering a glimpse into the future. If you believe that any important information has been overlooked or misquoted, please contact us at [info@freemantown.org](mailto:info@freemantown.org). We are committed to promptly addressing and correcting any errors. Thank you for your understanding and support as we reflect on a year of growth, accomplishments, and meaningful impact.*