



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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'CONFRONTING POVERTY WITH COMPASSION' SUMMIT

Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter Presents Day-long Insight into Understanding Poverty; Impact, Challenges, Solutions

Rochester, NY (May 3, 2019) – On today's date, Friday, May 3, 2019, Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter hosts a 'Confronting Poverty with Compassion' summit; a day-long insight into understanding the complexities associated with poverty. The summit is designed to help participants from all facets of our community, including but not limited to, mental health, law enforcement agencies, community outreach partners, better understand the culture of poverty; its impact, challenges, and solutions to overcome.

The summit includes a presentation by **John Strazzabosco**, local author of 'Ninety Feet Under – What poverty does to people,' Keynote Speaker **Tonier Cain-Muldrow**, Founder and CEO of Healing Neen, Inc.; a non-profit dedicated to helping trauma-afflicted individuals transition into society, and a poverty simulation; a three-hour highly interactive experience designed to immerse participants in role-playing exercises simulating poverty and the culture and challenges associated with it. The poverty simulation, hosted by Coordinated Care Services, Inc., includes a 30-minute debriefing session, allowing participants to discuss the experience and identify opportunities.

"Poverty is often difficult to define, understand, and embrace unless you're living it or have lived it," said Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter. "The culture of poverty has lasting impacts and effects on those who are experiencing it and on our community. Today's summit aims to help all of us better understand and empathize with what it's like to be poor, the challenges associated with poverty, and ways that we, as a community, can help offer hope and solutions to those afflicted with it. We all have a role to play in this complex societal issue. My hope is this summit will help guide us in presenting and offering tangible options and compassion for those in need."



Biography Brief – John Strazzabosco



Presenter John Strazzabosco, local author of ‘*Ninety Feet Under: What poverty does to people*,’ is an educator, lecturer and writer. A retired math teacher with 33 years in the Pittsford Central Schools, Strazzabosco has presented many workshops on understanding poverty to teachers, administrators and staff, most recently including the Pittsford Central School District, Webster Central School District, Rochester Area Literacy Conference, Hillside Crestwood Children’s Center, Villa of Hope, and the Mary Cariola Center. Strazzabosco’s active involvement in the poverty community spans the past 13 years and has included tutoring, mentoring, and training mentors for a self-sufficiency program run by Action for a Better Community, participation in the Rochester Children’s Zone, and work with Rochester youth at a city drop-in center. Strazzabosco currently mentors and tutors several young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Biography Brief – Tonier Cain-Muldrow



Keynote Speaker Tonier Cain-Muldrow, a trauma survivor and internationally recognized trauma informed care expert, is the founder and CEO of Healing Neen, Inc.; a non-profit dedicated to helping trauma-afflicted individuals transition into society. Ms. Cain-Muldrow’s work focuses on heightening the awareness and effects of trauma, while improving the performance of service providers, government agencies and others who interact with trauma victims and survivors. Cain-Muldrow speaks about her own life experience and the important role that trauma informed care played in her recovery process. Ms. Cain-Muldrow’s experience illuminates a reality in the shadows that costs businesses and society in turnover and customer relations, undermines the effectiveness of public agencies and care providers, and artificially constrains the prospects of people who deserve understanding and genuine opportunities.

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