



# NORTH END MATTERS

## Letter from the Director

As we settle into 2018, we at NECIC and Temp2Higher are looking forward to another exciting year of working to improve the quality of life and economic landscape of the North End! We welcome the New Year and are grateful for another year to work with our elders, youth, residents, faith, non-profit, business and public-sector partners in improving the North End neighborhood.

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## NECIC Wins Planning Award

On Wednesday, January 17, 2018, the Richland County Regional Planning Commission selected NECIC for their *Excellence in Planning Award*.

I was honored to have been able to participate in the awards Program as one of five keynote speakers,

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## Elders at the Movies

The North End Elder Program, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, attended a private screening of *Marshall* at Cinemark 14 Mansfield Town Center earlier this week.

The movie stars Chadwick Boseman as a young Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American supreme court justice, as he battles one of his career-defining cases.

The group was treated to a small movie snack pack with popcorn and drink, and a bagged lunch made by Miss Lil.

It was another great outing with the North End Elders, and there are always exciting things happening with this lively group. If you are aged 60 or older and would like to join, give us a call at 419-525-3101.





### ***The Black Cyclone:* Inspiring Youth to Change the World**

The props are ready and the stage is set for the Mansfield Senior High and community production of *The Black Cyclone* this weekend, sponsored by North End Community Improvement Collaborative. Students and community members have been rehearsing for weeks, and on Monday evening, the high school auditorium was electric with anticipation for opening night. "People should come see it. It's very inspiring," said 15-year-old Aneesa McGregor, who portrays a reporter in the production.

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### **My Experience as an AmeriCorps VISTA Member**

Read Edward Akinyemi's tale of life as an AmeriCorps VISTA Member.

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## **Prejudice Isn't Something We Are Born With**

I always knew, growing up, that white people were perceived differently than I was. I was told that there were reasons – reasons that didn't make sense to me then, and still don't make sense to me now. I grew up in a poverty-stricken neighborhood. I went to school and played with Black, White, Asian, and Hispanic children. We all shared the common bond of poverty. This was normal living to us; it was what we were used to.

The first real revelation that we were different was in second grade.

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