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# UPLIFT Florida Network

January 2022

UPLIFT Florida Network's mission is to improve the well-being of individuals and communities via a network of villages and organizations supporting them. For more information or to get involved, contact UPLIFT Formation Body's chairperson Emile Gauvreau: [revgauvreau@protonmail.com](mailto:revgauvreau@protonmail.com).



## Welcome Bill Little and LaVerne Green!

UPLIFT Florida Network is excited to announce two new community leaders, Bill Little and LaVerne Greene, have graciously accepted an invitation to join UPLIFT's Formation Body which will become UPLIFT's Initial Board of Directors in January. Bill and Laverne bring mountains of experience and are deeply engaged in our communities, and they bring a wealth of knowledge related to UPLIFT's work ahead. We warmly welcome Bill Little and LaVerne Green to our already strong leadership team. We are excited about the future of UPLIFT with these two exceptional individuals joining us.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Roger Blanken



Roger Blanken has been a volunteer with UPLIFT since July 2021. Recently retired, Roger oversaw the financial activities of a large, multinational company. As part of the senior management team, he helped build and deliver financial policies and strategies to improve the company's financial status. With this rich experience, Roger has been instrumental in developing the business model for the organization. He continues to support the team in creating the financial systems infrastructure.



UPLIFT Florida is very grateful for our relationship with [Senior Friendship Centers](#) (SFC). SFC graciously agreed to serve as UPLIFT's fiscal sponsor until UPLIFT received approval for its own 501 (c) 3 from the IRS. SFC has also been an important partner in the rollout and operation of UPLIFT's CallConnect program. We, at UPLIFT, are looking forward to the possibility of a more robust working relationship with SFC as we move into the new year. As our organizations serve a similar population in different ways, we have begun to explore some of the synchronicities in delivering and funding services. We consider our relationship with SFC as key in the future of UPLIFT.



Smartphones have become the Swiss Army knife of technology, going way beyond making and receiving calls while you're on the go. Yes, they're often described as a minicomputer in your pocket. But you also have a radio, flashlight, and even a level for when you're doing handiwork around the house.

As smartphones added features through the years, people began relying on them to take pictures, be their address book, wake them up in the morning, and manage their appointments. According to an AARP research report released this year, more than 8 in 10 people age 50 and older own and use a smartphone, including 7 in 10 who are 70 and older. But your smartphone can do much more. Learn 19 additional ways to use your iPhone or Android device and how to tap into those capabilities.

[Explore the Possibilities!](#)

Volunteers interested in helping to create a financially sustainable and innovative organization for community care throughout Florida can request more information by emailing [Emile Gauvreau](#).



The Neighbors Network in Lee County announces its first village, located along the Six Mile Cypress Parkway in Fort Myers. Approximately 20,000 residents live in this area. Once the network has established one village, it will help other communities in Lee County start their own. The support of the Aging Coalition in Lee County and the UPLIFT Florida Network has been critical in providing the rock-solid foundation required to begin an initiative that will change the lives of so many older adults who wish to age in community.

Residents along the Six Mile Cypress Parkway corridor are joining together to:

- **Inform** Six Mile Cypress neighborhood residents of the benefits of membership.
- **Identify** residents who want or need support and those who wish to volunteer. Ideally, members both volunteer and are helped by others.
- **Invite** neighbors to join the Neighbors Network at Six Mile Cypress.

Barbara Shearer, Patty Duncan, and James Brooks — Formation Team

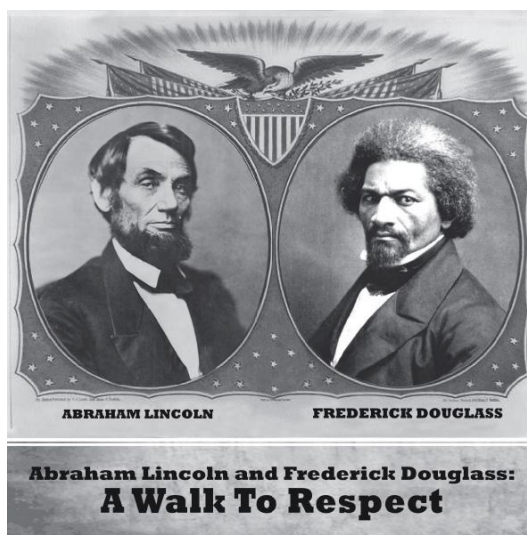
# Glimpse the one-act play by Beth Duda with original spoken word poetry by Cedric Hameed.



## TOP THREE REASONS TO TAKE A WALK TO RESPECT

1. FREE, high-quality virtual engagement. Yes, FREE!
2. *Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: A Walk to Respect* presents history in a relatable and easy-to-remember format. Invest 90 minutes and watch your trivia and Jeopardy scores rise!
3. *Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: A Walk to Respect* illuminates the importance of human connections, active listening, and civil discourse. What? Opposing views aired without name-calling? Perhaps a lesson for us all.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The Patterson Foundation is pleased to announce [Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass: A Walk to Respect](#) is returning on January 25, 2022 at 7p.

As a gift to the community, there is no cost to participate. Guests will have access to the full-length recording as well as a live Zoom panel discussion with actors Michael Krebs and Joel PE King, spoken-word poet Cedric Hameed, and playwright Beth Duda to dive into the themes of respect, community, and civil discourse.

When our divided nation faced annihilation, these two self-made

**This taped one-act play by award-winning playwright, Beth Duda, with original material by celebrated spoken-word poet, Cedric Hameed illuminates the importance of human connections, active listening, and civil discourse.**

**Featuring (L-R) nationally known actor and historical impersonator, Michael Krebs as Abe Lincoln, award-winning actor, Joel PE King as Frederick Douglass, and Spoken-word Poet, Cedric Hameed.**



men faced their differences with courage and compassion, forging a friendship that helped end the Civil War and reunite our nation. Through their own words, we will explore the walk of these two great American leaders from conflict to understanding.

**REGISTER HERE**

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