

Neighborhood Leadership Institute Graduates Inaugural Class



The inaugural class of the **Neighborhood Leadership Institute of Summit County** graduated on Thursday, May 21st at the Quaker Square Inn on the University of Akron campus. The Neighborhood Leadership Institute of Summit County was designed to increase grassroots leadership engagement in the community by training and empowering local residents and community leaders to promote positive changes in Summit County communities.

Through participation in the program's classes, these graduates have learned a wide variety of skills, including how to serve as an advocate for their families and communities, find and utilize resources, and work with government agencies and social service providers. Participants have also gained insight on community development, criminal justice, how to assess their neighborhood, as well as many other topics.

Leaders representing the Buchtel area are Jonathan McCray, Gerald Gould, Ayesha Nurrudin, Jerry Williams, and Mexie Wilson. Lakemore graduates are Marlene Hill and Kelly Kortvejesi. On behalf of Summit Lake are leaders Rosa Dortch-Robinson, Shirley Finney, Michael Starks, Dilisa Townsend, Danmark Cunningham, and Paul Ware, Jr. University Park is represented by Deborah Cunningham, Debi-Ellen Beckett, Jack Bird, Ann Lane Gates, Jacquelyn Lewis and Khamseng J. Vue. Keith Harris and Ada Hazly are leaders for Twinsburg. William Judge and Martha Scott represent Barberton.

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