

Dear Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Committee:

My name is Sandy Blackman and I live in Newport. I have been swimming at the Toledo Pool for 65 years. I am a retired P.E. teacher and high school counselor and currently an artist and a published author. I am advocating for the HEART of our community ... the Greater Toledo Pool.

In the 1950s-60s, the Toledo Pool was the ONLY pool in Lincoln County. I learned to swim there and joined the swim team as a teen. As an adult I took skin diving lessons and taught swim lessons to all Second Graders for the Lincoln County School District. I taught my 4 children and my 9 grandchildren how to swim at the pool.

As a Counselor at Toledo High School registering new students, the families often remarked that having a pool in our town was a factor in moving to Toledo. Toledo has always had a "can do" pioneering spirit. We are middle class, with a good work ethic and moderate incomes. If we see a need, we band together as a community and we work hard to get things done.

The Greater Toledo Pool and the surrounding facilities are a "family friendly", cultural, artistic, recreational and learning area. The Toledo pool is the HEART of this unique complex and it has brought us together as mill workers, boat builders, fisherman, loggers, school personnel, educators, health care providers, artists, and local businesses to create a healthy environment.

Our pool, like any HEART has served us well but is aging. It needs a transplant to sustain this wonderful body we call Toledo. Don't let the heart of our community limp along or die. We need her too much and with your help she will have plenty of good years ahead as the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

We are asking for your financial assistance. Thank you and PLEASE give our application the deepest consideration.