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(912) 351-3434

311 or
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[1, 2, 3]

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General City Service Requests

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[1]

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(877) 467-2262
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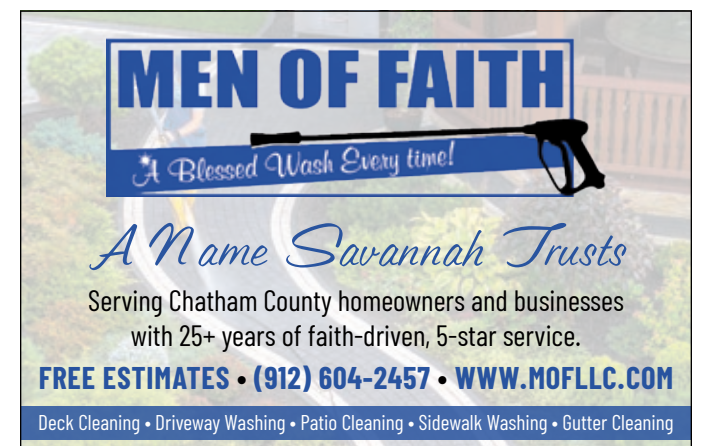
CONTACT YOUR AREA DIRECTOR

540-809-8059

Altimese Nichole
altimese.nichole@n2co.com

We are always looking for residents to follow up
on leads, find great stories, and send us ideas.
Let's celebrate the great things happening in our
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Please email (altimese.nichole@n2co.com) with
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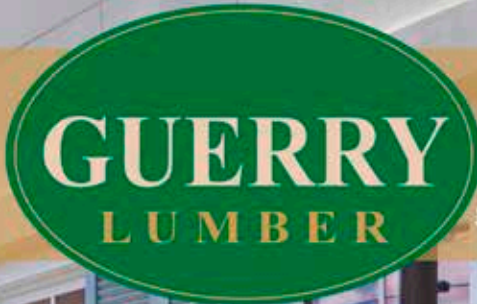
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Welcome to Greet Savannah!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Greet Savannah!

Holding this first issue is both an honor and the beginning of a vision I have carried with great care: to create a publication that reflects the heart of Savannah through the people who give it life.

Savannah is known around the world for its beauty, history, and unmistakable charm. But those of us who experience this community more closely know that its true character lives within its people, the families building legacies, the neighbors caring for one another, the local businesses serving with purpose, and the individuals whose courage and creativity continue to move our city forward.

For more than 20+ years, The N2 Company has helped neighbors connect through community publications centered on local stories and trusted businesses. Greet Savannah continues that tradition while creating something uniquely our own, a place where Savannah's pride, resilience, rich culture, and remarkable people can be seen, celebrated, and remembered.

Savannah has never been a city that simply preserves history; as a community, we continue to create it. With the launch of Greet Savannah, we are doing so once again as the first Greet publication of its kind in Georgia. We are incredibly proud to pave the way and create a platform that reflects the spirit, strength, and stories of the people who make this community extraordinary.

Storytelling has always been deeply personal to me. Throughout my career in communications and community building, I have seen what happens when people feel genuinely seen, and their stories are handled with care. Their contributions are given room to shine. That belief is at the heart of this publication.

My vision is for Greet Savannah to become more than just a monthly community publication. I want it to be a place of connection and belonging, and a publication where neighbors discover one another, local businesses grow through meaningful relationships, and the stories shaping our community are preserved with intention. I hope every issue reminds us that community is not simply where we live; it is what we create togetherness.

To our founding business partners: thank you for believing in this vision before there was a first issue to hold. Your trust made this moment possible. To every resident, family, organization, and community leader who shared a story or offered encouragement, thank you for helping us begin. None of this would be possible without you.

This is only the first chapter, and I am deeply grateful that we get to write it and make history *together*.

So, let's continue to do what we do best...writing our history and sharing our stories, one genuine lived experience at a time.



With gratitude,

Altimese Nichole

Publisher, Greet Savannah

Please contact Altimese Nichole by phone or email if you are interested in becoming involved in future publications - Altimese.nichole@n2co.com

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YOUR STORIES, OUR PAGES

Calling all residents... We want to hear from you!

Since this magazine is all about you, your neighbors, and *our community*, we want and encourage your involvement! We are looking for several types of articles to be submitted each month. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the types of articles we typically include. If you have any other article or story suggestions, I'd love to hear from you!

If you or a family member would like to be featured in any of the stories, please contact **Altimese Nichole (540) 809-8059** or email **Altimese.Nichole @n2co.com** for more information. Don't forget to follow us on social media **@greetssavannah!**

PICTURES – We love your pictures! Neighborhood events, parties, graduations, family events, kids playing, holiday gatherings, and more! One of the best parts of your new community publication is the involvement of neighbors. Pictures are an easy way to help support the magazine's look and bring smiles to your neighbors and friends. Simply send an attachment of the pictures in an email.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS – Any activity going on in the neighborhood or the surrounding area, such as parades, block parties, barbecues, neighborhood clean-ups, social events, book clubs, school picnics, fundraisers, pool parties, or golf events. We want to let you know about upcoming events and highlight those that have taken place!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR – This is where we get to spotlight one of the neighborhood families or residents each month. Each resident or family can share their story. If interested, please let us know soon - this one is popular!

PRECIOUS PETS – If you have a pet and want them to be famous, nominate them for our "Precious Pets" article. Pets are our pride and joy, so let us feature yours! Past famous animals have been turtles, rabbits, birds, horses, dogs, cats, pigs, a lizard, and much more, so have fun with this one!

RESIDENT RECIPE – This is where you can let some of your cooking secrets out to the neighborhood! All that is required are the ingredients and preparation advice, plus a photo is always enticing, too!

STUDENT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH – Whether your child is a ballerina, soccer player, or football player, this section is for you! This section is dedicated to celebrating our young student-athletes and highlighting who's doing great things in sports in our community! Don't forget to share photos!

RISING STAR – Parents, do you want another way to recognize or congratulate your kids on their sports, academics, or other activities/achievements? Use us! This should include pictures along with what they achieved. Examples include black belts, honor rolls, scholarships, state champs, volunteer work, graduation, music, theater, or simply telling them you're proud of them. It's something they can cherish for a lifetime.

TRAVEL TALES – If you or anyone you know has gone on a vacation and would like to share the experience, then this is the place to be. We've seen some great photos, so please do share the backstories! Pictures are always a favorite feature, as well. (Follow us on Instagram **@GreetSavannah** and tag us in real-time!)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – We want to recognize the hardworking volunteers of the neighborhood. This is a chance to let others know about your passion for an organization and raise awareness of the cause or mission; plus, maybe your neighbors would want to get involved, too. Giving back to the community is a big deal, and we want to recognize you for it.

We're excited to feature and celebrate what makes Savannah a place that captures residents and tourists alike— our amazing neighbors like you!

Reach out today to nominate yourself, your family, or your neighbors! <https://bit.ly/4gxZ9Ec>



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Community, Culture & Creativity

Creativity is woven throughout Savannah—in our stories, performances, traditions, artwork, and fresh ideas. This section celebrates the people and experiences that keep our community inspired and connected. Know an artist, event, cultural experience, or creative project we should feature? Share it with us at altimese.nichole@n2co.com.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Local artists, authors, and performers
- Exhibits, productions, and cultural events
- Youth and student creative projects
- Neighborhood traditions and untold stories
- Fun workshops or events that foster community and innovation in Savannah

We look forward to hearing from you!

Creating something meaningful? We want to hear about it. Submit your story or nominate a neighbor for a future issue.



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Local Author: James C. Williams

A collegiate basketball coach, mentor, and community leader, James C. Williams has dedicated his work to developing people, especially youth, through service. His newest book brings that same commitment to growth into deeply personal conversations about faith, identity, and surrender for men.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAELEN FLOWERS OF CHOSEN CAPTURES



IN HIS LATEST BOOK, *Season of Surrender*, Lowcountry author and basketball coach James C. Williams explores what happens when life requires a different kind of strength—the courage to release control.

The book emerged from a deeply personal season shaped by illness, dialysis, kidney transplant recovery, career transition, marriage, and fatherhood. These experiences led James to examine how closely identity can become tied to position, performance, and the pressure to hold everything together.



Organized around four themes—**Purpose, Masculinity, Life, and Love**—*Season of Surrender* invites readers to look beyond outward success and consider what may be happening within. He explores the difference between following and forcing, strength and performance, simply moving through life and being fully present, and loving someone versus becoming emotionally safe enough to love them well.

While the book speaks directly to men, its message is relevant to anyone navigating change, uncertainty, disappointment, or the weight of expectations. At its heart is a question many people may recognize: **What are you still holding on to, and what has holding on to it cost you?**

Rather than presenting surrender as defeat, James reframes it as freedom: the decision to trust God, release what can no longer be controlled, and make room for transformation.

Season of Surrender offers an honest, faith-centered reflection for readers ready to reconsider what strength truly looks like.

To learn more or purchase the book, visit www.jamescwilliams.com.

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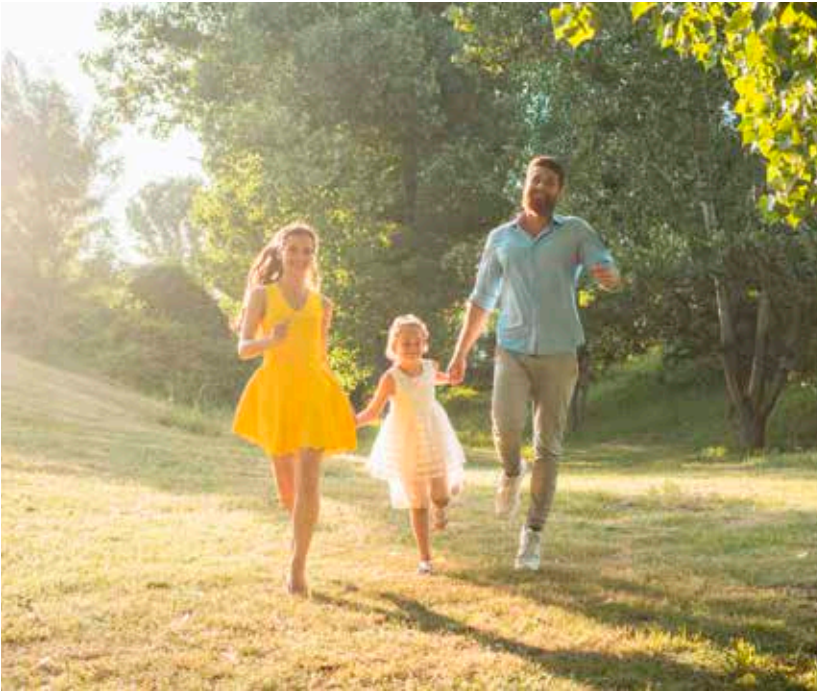
HONOR WHERE YOU ARE. EMBRACE WHAT'S NEXT.

What if, whether you are ready for change or grateful for the life you have, there is still more for you to discover?

MATILDA COOPER, THE CEO OF TILLA EMBRACE

Savannah is shaped by people who know how to persevere, create, and pave their own way. Our city's pride runs deep, our culture tells a powerful story, and our resilience has carried families and communities through generations. But even the strongest among us need space to rest, reflect, and reground within.

As you care for your loved ones and move through your day-to-day life, I invite you to EMBRACE. The EMBRACE Framework is a seven-step journey designed to help you take an honest look at your life, recognize what may be holding you back or calling you forward, and move with greater intention.



In the months ahead, the *A Better You* series will explore each step of the framework. We will talk honestly about strengthening your mindset, believing in your potential, letting go of what you were never meant to carry forever, and making room for rest and renewal.

This is not about becoming perfect or forgetting the experiences that shaped you. It is about embracing the strength that brought you this far while giving yourself permission to continue becoming.

You do not need to have everything figured out. You simply need the courage to choose your next step—and make it your own.

Welcome to EMBRACE.

I'll be here to support you.

Matilda



Matilda Cooper, MSN, RN, is a nurse educator, leadership coach, and entrepreneur specializing in emotional intelligence and team communication. Creator of the EMBRACE Framework and a Certified DiSC Trainer, she helps individuals build self-awareness and lead with greater purpose. Matilda hosts women's and men's retreats, coaches with Luminary Leadership Academy, and is Founder/CEO of The TILLA Group. She believes transformation is always possible.



Urban Christian Academy Honors Savannah's First Responders

Ribbons in the sky: honoring those who serve our community, presented by Ms. Charli's Travels

Urban Christian Academy brought Savannah together on June 6 for *Ribbons in the Sky*, a black-tie celebration honoring local first responders and community leaders whose service strengthens our city. Held at the Hirsch Crowder Gymnasium, the evening featured Grammy-nominated gospel artist J.J. Hairston and highlighted the vital work of the 200 Club of the Coastal Empire. The celebration's impact reached beyond the room, earning coverage from WSAV, WTOG, and AOL.com, and shining a well-deserved spotlight on Urban Christian Academy's commitment to service, education, and community.







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Meet LouLou Silber

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Chris found her at a shelter in LA. She was categorized as “challenging” because of her fear of strangers. We accepted the challenge and got nothing but love in return!

If she could introduce herself, what do you think she would say?

“Yo, I’m LouLou, and you better leave my family alone or else! Unless you become family. Then it’s cuddles for life.”

What are three words that best describe her personality?

Loving, attentive, playful.

What is her funniest or most unusual habit?

Smelling her own butt when she gets mad at another dog.

What is her favorite treat, toy, or activity?

Playing catch with the teenager in the house.

Does she have a favorite person—or does she spread the love equally?

Everyone she regards as family gets equal love and excitement from her!

What is the most mischievous thing she has ever done?

She would run away to bark at other dogs and have us chase her around the neighborhood when she was a puppy.



How does she let you know when she wants attention?

She’s very quiet. She’ll just come near us and wait to be acknowledged.

If she had a job, what would it be?

She’d probably say a secret agent.

What is her favorite place to visit in Savannah?

Forsythe Park is our family favorite!



LouLou embodies that it’s okay to be blemished by a painful past - we all still deserve love, and we have so much to give.

all still deserve love, and we have so much to give.

Complete this sentence: “Life with her is never boring because…”

...she never runs out of joyful excitement and curiosity.

Does she have any nicknames? How did she get them?

Hula LouLou because of the vigorous booty shake when she’s excited.

What special joy has she brought to your family?

She’s great at bringing us together to share love and laughter.

What is one thing you wish everyone knew about her?

LouLou embodies that it’s okay to be blemished by a painful past - we



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Savannah Black History Tours

MORE THAN HISTORY: A SAVANNAH STORY STILL IN BLOOM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAELEN FLOWERS OF CHOSEN CAPTURES



Savannah is a city that wears its history proudly. It lives in our squares, churches, architecture, neighborhoods, and cobblestone streets. But behind some of the city's most familiar places are stories many residents have walked past without ever knowing.

Historian, author, and storyteller **Rita Fuller-Yates** created Savannah Black History Tours to help change that.

The mission was shaped long before she arrived in Savannah. Growing up in a predominantly Black neighborhood

in Columbus, Ohio, Fuller-Yates knew her community by the labels others had given it, not by the extraordinary history surrounding her. Only later did she discover that prominent Black leaders had lived just doors away and nationally recognized figures had once moved through the same neighborhood.

She had grown up surrounded by history without knowing it. "Those experiences taught me that history is more than stories from the past—it shapes how communities are valued in the present," Fuller-Yates shared.

That realization became a calling: people should know the significance of the places they call home before those stories disappear.

Savannah gave that calling new ground. After earning her Master of Arts degree from SCAD, Fuller-Yates fell in love with the city. She recognized an opportunity to tell a deeper story of Black Savannah—one that acknowledges enslavement without allowing the Black experience to begin and end there.

Through **Savannah Black History Tours**, guests meet the builders, entrepreneurs, educators, faith leaders, artisans, preservationists, and families who helped shape the city. Historic places, photographs, video, music, storytelling, and conversation transform the experience into what Fuller-Yates calls a "living, evolving classroom."

Her approach is intentional. "I never want visitors to leave thinking only about what was taken from our community," she explained. "I want them to leave understanding what our community built, created, preserved, and passed on."

There are also thoughtful touches woven throughout the experience that Fuller-Yates intentionally leaves for guests to discover on their own. Each one reinforces the idea that Black history is not only something to study but also something to feel, honor, and celebrate as our collective history.

That balance is central to her approach. The tour does not shy away from difficult history, but it refuses to let struggle be the final word. Instead, guests encounter a story filled with resilience, creativity, leadership, achievement, and joy.



I want Savannah residents to leave our tours seeing themselves not as spectators of history, but as its caretakers.

—RITA FULLER-YATES,
SAVANNAH BLACK
HISTORY TOURS

That message feels especially important as Savannah continues to grow. Fuller-Yates points to legendary Savannah preservationist W.W. Law as an inspiration—a man who understood that history survives because someone decides it is worth saving... and that responsibility now belongs to another generation.

For Savannah residents, the tour offers something especially meaningful: the opportunity to rediscover home. To look beyond the beauty of a familiar building or street and recognize the lives, dreams, and accomplishments that gave it meaning.

As Fuller-Yates puts it, "I want locals to leave our tours seeing themselves not as spectators of history, but as its caretakers."



You don't have to travel somewhere new to discover something extraordinary. Sometimes, you simply have to look again at the city you already call home.

EXPERIENCE SAVANNAH'S STORY FOR YOURSELF.

Residents can explore upcoming experiences and book Savannah Black History Tours at **SavannahBlackHistoryTours.com**. Bus tours depart from the Savannah Visitors Center at **301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.**, with private and group experiences also available.

THE

Thayer

FAMILY

A Love You Can Feel

What began as a Rising Star story about Blake became a portrait of the Thayer family - and a love that fills the room.

PHOTOGRAPHY TAKEN BY GRACE MORRIS WITH GEM PHOTO



Originally, we wanted to introduce Blake Thayer as the *Rising Star* of our inaugural issue. Her smile, her spirit, and the remarkable life she is living deserve to be honored. But something happened in the process. We had the honor of being in the room with the entire family, and the picture seen was something different.

It looked like love.

It looked like family.

As Kaitlynn, Dave, Blake, and their family settled into the photography session, the room filled with laughter, tenderness, and the unmistakable comfort of people who delight in one another. This was not joy summoned to counter something painful or a brave face arranged for the camera. It was simply who they were together. Their love was so present that it brought tears to the eyes of those watching.

By the end of the session, one thing was clear: Blake was still our Rising Star, but the story had grown. The Thayers were showing us what family can feel like - warm, joyful, and deeply connected. They had become our feature family.

MEET BLAKE

The Thayers first learned about Blake through a foster-care call

CONTINUED ►

when she was three weeks old. By about six months, they sensed something was wrong, but it took another year to receive answers. After the onset of diabetes insipidus, Blake was airlifted to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and diagnosed with ROHHAD, a rare, serious syndrome affecting the body’s autonomic and endocrine systems.

That hospital stay caused the family to miss Blake’s original adoption date. Three weeks later, in October 2025, the adoption became official. Since then, hospital rooms, specialist conversations, and long admissions have become part of their reality. Her parents say Blake is one of roughly 800 people worldwide living with ROHHAD and the second-youngest documented case.

The Thayers are honest that Blake’s condition is terminal. That truth is part of their life, but it is not the whole of her life. Blake’s life is happening now - in cuddles, kisses for her favorite stuffed animals, hard-won milestones, and the smile her family calls infectious. “Blake is the happiest child I have ever met,” Kaitlynn says. “She loves her people hard.”

LOVE IN THE
EVERYDAY
MOMENTS

Caring for Blake has taught the Thayers that parenting does not look the same for every child. It has asked them to slow down, celebrate every win, and understand love as more than emotion. Love lives in the daily work of advocating, learning, waiting,

Anytime we get to do something that includes our entire family, we feel complete.

—KAITLYNN

comforting, and beginning the next morning again.

During hospital admissions, Kaitlynn writes Blake a nightly letter in a journal, a practice encouraged by one of our very own Greet Savannah Business Partners, Susan, at **First Day Home Care**. At home, happiness looks beautifully ordinary: movies, traveling for sports, summer nights around the grill or bonfire, and simply being together.

A FAMILY THAT
SHOWS UP

That love extends into the Savannah community. Kaitlynn and Dave own *White Pine Property Group*, which includes real estate, investments, staging, renovations, and grounds management. Their paths have not been linear, but their work is grounded in passion, integrity, communication, and genuine relationships.

They also operate the White Pine Foundation Foster Closet, serving local foster youth and families. For the Thayers, community involvement is not separate from family life. Giving back to

children and families who need support is part of who they are and a calling they feel led to follow.

THE VILLAGE
AROUND THEM

Before Blake, the Thayers say they had the privilege of not knowing what life was like for a medically complex family. Now they understand that compassion rarely requires a grand gesture. It may be a text, a hot meal, a few hours of babysitting, or simply giving someone room to process.

Their village has shown up in those ways. Family, friends, healthcare professionals, and First Day Home Care have supported the entire household. First Day’s flexibility, preparation, and commitment to educating Blake’s nurses allow Kaitlynn and Dave to trust the people caring for their daughter while preserving as much family normalcy as possible.

STILL RISING

Blake is a Rising Star because of the light she brings, the love she gives



freely, and the strength her family feels privileged to witness. During one unforgettable photography session, she illuminated something else: the family surrounding her.

The Thayers’ joy is not a reaction to hardship, and their love is not waiting for life to become easier. It is already

alive in the laughter, the letters, the advocacy, the service, the cuddles, and the relief of being together.

We began by honoring one remarkable little girl and discovered a family whose love deserved the cover.

Meet the Thayers - and the light they carry together.

May their family be an inspiration to us all, and a beautiful reminder that the presence of love can illuminate any room, and path, any heart.

If your family would like to be featured in an upcoming issue of the magazine, reach out to Altime at: altime@nichole.com

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CARMEN CALHOUN

Helping Our Community, One Breath at a Time

Carmen Calhoun speaks on releasing what weighs us down, reconnection, and creating room for peace, freedom, and wholeness.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE CREATOR OF BREATHWORK360™



Meet your neighbor, Carmen Calhoun. Carmen is a transformational speaker, certified trauma-informed

breathwork facilitator, author, and creator of Breathwork360™. Blending biblical wisdom with compassionate, embodied practice, she helps people release emotional weight and move from survival toward wholeness. Her journey began with a breathwork experience that created space for a deeply personal encounter with God, herself, and her body. What began as healing became a calling to help others experience greater peace—one intentional breath at a time.

Who are you beyond your titles, accomplishments, and work?

First and foremost, I am a daughter of the Most High. That identity reminds me that whether I am meeting my goals or falling short, I am still His. My worth is not determined by productivity, achievement, or the approval of others.

As my faith has deepened, I have learned to see myself through God's eyes, with greater grace, compassion, and purpose. Becoming a better version of myself does not mean becoming perfect. It means growing in faith, walking confidently in who God created me to be, and trusting Him through every season.

What introduced you to the healing power of breathwork?

My wealth coach introduced me to breathwork, and it became one of the most transformative experiences I had ever had. Through my breath, I encountered God, myself, and my body in a deeply personal way. Emotional weight was released, creating room for peace, clarity, and freedom.

I wanted others to experience that connection, but I also understood the responsibility of guiding people through vulnerable moments. I earned my certification and became trauma-informed so I could hold space with

wisdom, compassion, and care. Breathwork became more than a personal practice—it became something I felt called to share.

What changes when we breathe consciously and intentionally?

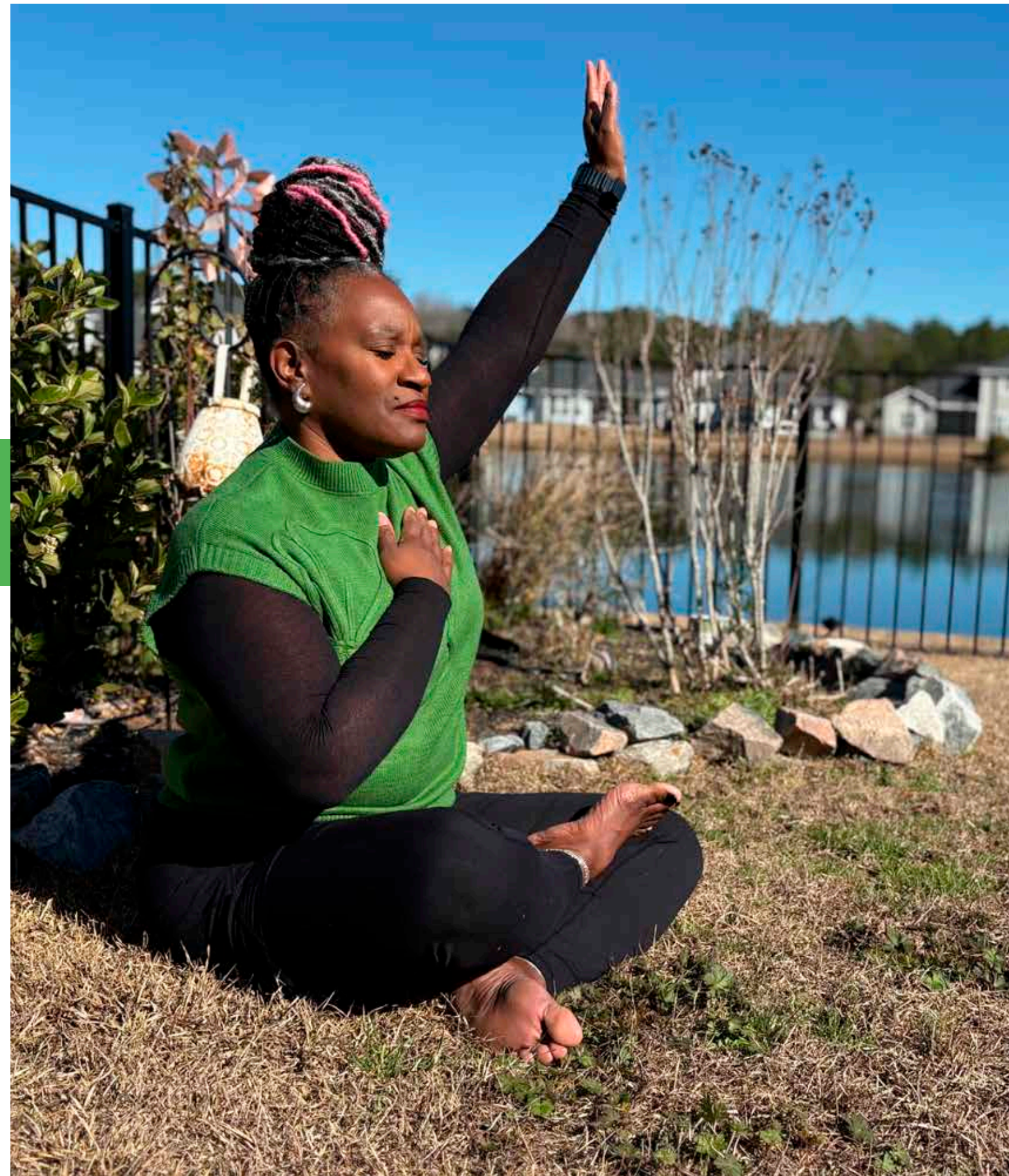
Intentional breathing helps us slow down, notice what is happening within our bodies, and acknowledge what we may be carrying. It creates a pause between a trigger and our response, allowing us to pause instead of reacting immediately.

For me, breathing consciously is also sacred. It quiets the outside noise and creates room to connect more deeply with God. The breath does not erase every burden, but it can help us face life with greater peace, grace, and intention.

How can our bodies hold emotions after we believe we have “moved on”?

Our minds may decide that we have moved on, but our bodies can still carry what we have not fully

CONTINUED ►



Transformation isn't something you force. It's something you receive.

—CARMEN CALHOUN, CREATOR OF BREATHWORK360™



processed. Stress, grief, and fear may manifest as tension, shallow breathing, exhaustion, headaches, difficulty sleeping, or a constant feeling of being on guard. Breathwork creates space to acknowledge and gently release what the body has been holding.

What does “full-circle healing” mean?

Full-circle healing means caring for the whole person—mind, body, and soul. It looks like gaining clarity in the mind, releasing what the body carries, and creating space for the soul to reconnect with God. Breathwork360™ brings these areas together, helping people move toward greater peace, freedom, and alignment.

How do faith and breathwork come together in your practice?

Breathwork is not a replacement for prayer or Scripture. It is a tool that helps us become still, present, and open to God. By combining intentional breathing with Scripture, prayer, and reflection, I help people quiet the noise, release what they have been carrying, and rest in His presence. Each breath becomes a reminder of the life God

breathed into us and an invitation to receive His peace.

What might people need to “throw overboard” to experience freedom?

Sometimes, we need to throw the S.H.I.T. overboard—shame, hurt, insecurities, and trouble. We may also carry fear, unforgiveness, limiting beliefs, the need for control, or expectations that were never ours to hold. Releasing these weights does not deny what happened. It means surrendering them to God and making room for greater freedom, peace, and wholeness.

How do you help someone who is uncomfortable with stillness?

I meet people exactly where they are. There is no judgment, condemnation, or attempt to “fix” anyone. Because I am trauma-informed, I prioritize choice, clear guidance, and permission to pause or stop.

We begin gently and move at a pace that feels safe. I remind each person that they are in control of their experience, God is present, and they do not have to confront everything at

once. Healing is a journey—and it can happen one breath at a time.

Your Invitation to Breathe

As you exhale, Carmen invites you to release the shame, hurt, insecurities, and trouble you were never meant to carry alone. As you inhale, receive peace, grace, and love.

If you are ready to slow down and make space for healing, book an individual Breathwork360™ session or join a group experience designed to help you breathe, reflect, and move forward with renewed clarity and peace.

CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR, CARMEN

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