

ADVOCACY

People First of Toledo Monthly Newsletter

Disabled Figures: Harriet Tubman

By Quinn Thomas

Harriet Tubman was born as a slave in 1820 in Maryland. Her birth name was Araminta Ross and her parents called her Minty, but she later started using her mother's name in order to honor her.

Harriet became disabled when she was twelve years old. She saw an overseer about to throw a heavy weight at a slave who was running away, and Harriet dove in front of them and was hit with the weight herself instead. This broke her skull. For the rest of her life afterwards, Harriet had severe headaches, narcolepsy, vivid dreams, and hallucinations.

In 1844, Harriet married a free Black man and plotted an escape for herself and two of her brothers who were about to be sold. She got her brothers off the plantation, but they turned back before reaching the North, and Harriet decided she didn't want to be free alone. She went back and rescued others.

It is estimated that Harriet Tubman freed between 70 and 300 people herself, and



UPCOMING EVENTS

BLIND AMBITION EMPLOYMENT CLASS

June 9th at the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio. Includes workshops, mentoring, and job club activities

WHITE HOUSE POLICY UPDATES

June 9th, 3:00. Community call to update people on disability policy

"LET'S GLOW" PROM

June 18th, 6:30, the Stranahan. Dinner and dancing for adults with disabilities. \$25 tickets

ASSISTANCE DOG VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

June 15th at the Ability Center, 4:30-6:30. Learn free information about fostering and training an assistance dog

taught dozens of others how to escape on their own. Harriet became known as "the Moses of her people." As a conductor on the Underground Railroad, she was never caught and she never lost a "passenger."

During the Civil War, Harriet saved lives as a nurse and also was the head of a spy network. She would free many slaves who went on to become Black Union regiments fighting in the war. She worked closely with others who wanted to end slavery and get women the right to vote.

When she was 49, she remarried and adopted a little girl. Harriet had an open door policy for anyone who needed help. She funded and opened



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the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Indigent Colored People, which she eventually moved into herself.

Harriet Tubman will replace President Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill. President Jackson was a slave-owner and committed genocide against Native American people.

Harriet Tubman was a hero to not only Black people, but disabled people and women as well. She did amazing things while having a traumatic brain injury. When people are discussing emancipation this Juneteenth, she deserves to be remembered.

OUR NEXT MEETING

June is our alternating social meeting. People First will be meeting at the Toledo Zoo on June 23rd at 6:00. We will take a tour of the zoo using their new sensory and accessibility guidance app. If you would like an electric scooter reserved in advance for you, please contact quinnt@ccsohio.org.