



HONORING THE LEGACY OF

Mattie Bell Kinney

MATTIE LEGACY PROJECT

SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



LAURA KINNEY-PORTER

Granddaughter & Legacy Curator,
Mattie Legacy Project

My name is Laura Kinney-Porter, and I'm a researcher, writer, and granddaughter of Mattie Bell Kinney. For years, I've been piecing together her story through family archives, newspaper records, and community testimony — driven by a deep commitment to ensure that her life and impact are never forgotten.

This project is my way of honoring her legacy and offering it as a gift back to the city she helped shape.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this deeply personal and community-centered project. What you'll find in the following pages is an invitation to help bring to life a first-of-its-kind exhibition and documentary honoring the legacy of my grandmother, Mattie — a Black woman whose impact on Cincinnati's civil rights, health advocacy, and youth leadership is both historic and enduring.

A Woman of Honor

"Mattie Kinney is the only woman I know who ever told the Hamilton County Juvenile Court, 'Any child that needs a bed, food, or care is welcome in my home. I have a big house and plenty to go around.'"

—Judge Olive L. Holmes
The Cincinnati Enquirer, 1976



PURPOSE & VISION

PRESERVING A LEGACY. INSPIRING A FUTURE.

HONORING A LIFE OF IMPACT

This exhibition and documentary honor the life and legacy of Mattie Bell Kinney — a civil rights leader, health advocate, and community builder who helped shape the fabric of Cincinnati.

Through carefully curated visual panels and an original short film, this project brings to light her decades of work in racial equity, cancer awareness, youth advocacy, and women's empowerment.



RELEVANCE FOR TODAY

What began as a personal effort to preserve my grandmother's story quickly became a larger mission to share her impact with the broader public.

This project is not only a tribute to an unsung local hero, but a call to action — to remember those who came before us and carry their work forward.

A CALL TO ACTION

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THE VISION

We envision an experience that speaks to everyday citizens, families, and students, while also engaging city and community leaders, including elected officials, nonprofit directors, educators, and faith leaders.

Mattie's story belongs to all of us — and this exhibition creates a space for reflection, dialogue, and pride in our shared history.

Mattie's life was built on four pillars: family, civil rights, health advocacy, and youth mentorship—a legacy of service that shaped Cincinnati's future.

MOTHER

ACTIVIST

ADVOCATE

MENTOR

WHY MATTIE'S STORY MATTERS

ORGANIZATIONS

Civic & Political Engagement

- NAACP, Cincinnati Chapter
- Woman's City Club of Cincinnati
- League of Women Voters
- Avondale Community Council
- Human Relations Commission
- Al Bilik Campaign Committee
- Catholic Interracial Council

Health & Human Services

- American Cancer Society
- 1974 Cancer Crusader
- March of Dimes
- Catholic Support for Wayward Youth
- Opportunities Industrialization Center

Education & Youth Advocacy

- Catholic Interracial Council
- Urban League Guild
- Rent-A-Kid Program
- Citizens Committee on Youth
- Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Hughes High School

Arts & Media

- Friends of the Theater, Inc.
- WCET (Public Television)

AWARDS

- Mother of the Year, 1966 (Tau Chapter, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority)
- Etherlrie Harper Award, 1969
- Mother of the Year, 1969 (Wayfarers' Club of Cincinnati)
- Volunteer Award, 1974 (Urban League of Greater Cincinnati)
- Woman of the Year, 1975 (Cincinnati Enquirer)
- Outstanding Volunteer (American Cancer Society)

Mattie Bell Kinney was a trusted leader whose work improved lives across Cincinnati. She helped young people transition from school to work, organized cancer screenings for underserved women, and supported neighborhood recovery and political outreach during the civil rights era.

She served on civic boards, worked with public officials, and led efforts that gave families access to jobs, health services, and stability. Whether mentoring students at Hughes High School, co-chairing the Interracial Home Visitation Program, or launching early detection campaigns through the American Cancer Society, Mattie's impact was steady and far-reaching.

Her work was always hands-on. She trained women for employment, housed teens who needed a place to stay, and raised record-setting funds for cancer education. Mattie didn't just volunteer — she built programs, shaped policy, and opened doors for the people around her.

CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

- Served on the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and Avondale Community Council
- Active member of the League of Women Voters and the NAACP, Cincinnati Chapter
- Worked with on several political campaign committees to support inclusive leadership
- Advocated for school equity through neighborhood education councils

HEALTH ADVOCACY & PUBLIC SERVICE

- Assisted in the founding of the Center for Early Detection of Breast Cancer
- Led her district in fundraising as the 1974 Cancer Crusader and ACS district chair — raising the highest amount that year
- Presented health education and screenings for underserved women
- Honored as an Outstanding Volunteer by the American Cancer Society and served as a board member

YOUTH MENTORSHIP & EDUCATION

- Placement Specialist at Hughes High School, helping students access jobs
- Took in juvenile offenders and mentored them through life transitions
- Involved with the Citizens Committee on Youth and Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Active in programs like Rent-A-Kid, promoting dignity through work for youth

She's 'Mother Of The Year'

BY JO-ANN ALBERS
Assistant Women's Editor

TENACIOUS IS A GOOD way to describe Mrs. Sherman Kinney Jr., an attractive, dynamic, effervescent mother of eight.

Named "Mother of the Year" by the Wayfarers' Club of Cincinnati, she is in business with her husband and a supervisor for the Citizens' Committee on Youth, training youngsters from the Neighborhood Youth Corps in janitorial work.

The most surprising thing is that she could be old enough to have a 26-year-old son. She doesn't look much older than that herself.

THE KINNEYS were married during his military service in the Marine Corps. She is from Marion, Ala., "a city that never got on the map until Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s activities."

"In fact," she said in a voice with little trace of a Southern accent, "Coretta King is from Marion."

Mr. Kinney was born in Lexington but has lived in Cincinnati most of his life. A distinguished-looking, soft-spoken man with the air of a college professor about him, he encourages his wife in her community activities and work.



Photo

WAYFARERS' CLUB "Mother of the Year," Mattie Kinney, poses with her husband and six of their eight children, Teresa and John Francis sitting in front, are Aaron, Richard, Joseph and Sherman

she teaches youngsters he employ someday. between jobs, Mrs. Kinney finds to be a member of the Women's City Club, Urban League Guild, Catholic Human Relations Committee and to be chairman of the Dale Community Council's Up and Beautify Committee. She has been a member of Friends e Theater.

BECAUSE HER children are in y schools, she belongs to four at groups—North Endale P Teachers Association, War Faculty Council, Cincinnati Day Mothers Association and Heart Academy Mother

Richard, a graduate of Tennessee with a degree in business ad stion, is working with the n. tegrated employees. Organizing the Community Action Commis-

Sherman III, 19, will graduate Woodward next month. Robert, is living away from home now, help



Mrs. Sherman Kinney Jr., a cured cancer patient will

Rights Advocate Taken by Death

Mass of Christian burial for Mattie Kinney, whose involvement in community causes brought her the Ethelrie Harper award of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, was celebrated Aug. 11 in St. Peter in Chains cathedral.

Mrs. Kinney, 51, succumbed Aug. 8 to the disease she crusaded against for the American Cancer Society.

A native of Marion, Ala., Mrs. Kinney moved to Cincinnati in 1943.

An active member of St. Mark parish, the old Catholic Interracial Council and the Black Catholic Caucus, she held a full-time job as a job placement specialist for the Cincinnati Board of Education and worked on a volunteer basis for the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), the Urban League, the Avondale Community Council, Juvenile Court, voter registration drives and Cincinnati's public television station, among others.

The mother of eight, she was the first recipient of the Cincinnati Human Relations



Mrs. Kinney

After a cancer operation five and a half years ago, Mrs. Kinney became very much involved in the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, and co-chaired the 1974 Cancer Crusade for Hamilton county.

Mrs. Kinney is survived by her husband, Sherman; eight children: Marie, Teresa, Richard, Sherman III, Robert, Joseph, Aaron and John, and five grandchildren.

Burial was in Spring Grove cemetery.

'Attitude influences healing'

BY MARY LINN WHITE

Mattie Kinney — a vivacious black Cincinnati woman, a working mother of eight children — has had a mastectomy for breast cancer, and talks about it.

Most women don't. They "get fitted" for a false, watch their necklines and try to act as if nothing has happened while they wait out the hoped-for five-years-without-recurrence that will mean they are "cured."

But Mrs. Kinney is not content with that. The woman who has picked cotton in the South, who has worked as a maid at both Cincinnati's Netherland Hilton and Terrace Hilton Hotels and gone on to college and a fulltime job finding jobs for Hughes High School graduates has become a crusader for the American Cancer Society here. She has worked as a volunteer in the breast cancer detection clinic and is vexed when high-risk patients miss or don't schedule appointments for their check-ups.

"THERE IS TOO much ignorance



MATTIE KINNEY

Mrs. Kinney said she suffered no post-operative depression and quickly resumed her busy schedule in Friends of the Theater, PTA, civic and cultural groups. "I wasn't going to be a do-nothing."

Cincinnati Enquirer

Mattie Kinney: Tireless Worker For All Ages

"The quality of many young lives has been enhanced through the concerted efforts of Mrs. Mattie Kinney," wrote one reader who nominated Mrs. Sherman Kinney Jr. as a "Mother of the Year."

"Mrs. Kinney was a valuable asset in a waiting line to the children's home. Children's Union School, residential treatment center for severely emotional disturbed youngsters, and more. Her motivation comes from a sense of caring about people."

"Mattie Kinney is the only woman I know who ever told the Hamilton County Juvenile Court 'anybody that needs a bed, food or

More than headlines. A legacy worth lifting.

Friday, May 28, 1965 CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH

A-16



... chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Clark, St. Mary's Hyde Park, chairmen; Mrs. Murray Rosenbluth, Jewish Community Relations Committee; and Mrs. Marjorie Porter, Cincinnati Herald. More

EVENT OVERVIEW & AUDIENCE

A TIRELESS ADVOCATE: THE LEGACY OF

Mattie Bell Kinney

EXIBITION & DOCUMENTARY PREMIER

EVENT MISSION

To honor and share the life of Mattie Bell Kinney — a powerful voice in Cincinnati's history whose work in civil rights, women's leadership, health advocacy, and community organizing continues to inspire generations today.



Concept Flyer, subject to change

EXPECTED AUDIENCE

We anticipate an *intergenerational* and *diverse* audience of over 100 attendees, including:

- Local families & Cincinnati residents
- High school & college students
- City leaders & elected officials
- Nonprofit directors & faith organizers
- Historians, artists & cultural curators

TARGET DATE

Spring / Summer 2026,
Ideally Mother's Day Weekend

LOCATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

ADMISSION

Free & Open to the Public

Mattie's work crossed lines of *race, age, and class*.
This event brings those voices together.

PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

EVENT OVERVIEW

EXHIBITION PREMIERE

Large posters or mounted panels showcasing Mattie's story through images, quotes, and themes:

- Civil Rights & Racial Justice
- Cancer Awareness & Health Advocacy
- Youth Empowerment
- Family Life & Legacy

OPENING REMARKS

Words from the project creator and invited civic or cultural guests.

LIVE PERFORMANCE

Musical tribute from a local artist.

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING

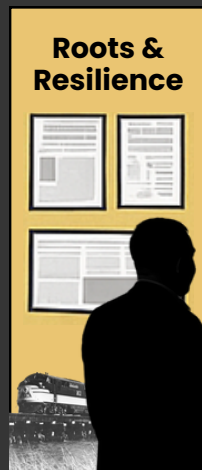
An original 25–30 minute short film narrated by her granddaughter, sharing Mattie's life in her own words and through historical commentary.

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION WALL

Guests leave notes reflecting on legacy and inspiration.

RECEPTION

Light refreshments, supported by sponsors or partners.



SPONSORSHIP INVITATION

We invite you to join us in honoring the life and legacy of

Mattie Bell Kinney



By supporting this powerful public tribute — a free exhibition and documentary that brings her work in civil rights, health advocacy, and community leadership to light.

Whether you're an individual, business, or organization, your support helps us create a lasting space for learning, reflection, and celebration. Every gift brings us closer to our goal of ensuring Mattie's story is preserved and shared with the community she served.



Each sponsorship level plays a vital role in bringing the Mattie Bell Kinney Legacy Project to life.

All sponsors will be acknowledged with gratitude, both at the event and in project materials, with recognition scaled to their level of support.

The higher your sponsorship, the greater the visibility and impact of your contribution.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

LEGACY PARTNER – \$5,000+

As a Legacy Partner, your support anchors this entire project. You'll receive top-tier recognition across all materials, ensuring your name or organization is forever tied to this tribute.

Benefits include:

- Premier name/logo placement on event signage, program, website, and film credits
- Verbal thanks during opening remarks
- Reserved seating for up to 6 guests
- Optional dedication panel or acknowledgment space within the exhibit
- Highlighted as a foundational supporter in all event communications

STORYTELLER – \$2,500+

Storytellers help bring Mattie's story to broader audiences, with premium recognition at the event and in the documentary.

Benefits include:

- Featured name/logo placement on event signage, program, website, and film credits
- Verbal thanks during opening remarks
- Reserved seating for up to 4 guests
- Optional dedication in honor or memory of a loved one

BRIDGE BUILDER – \$1,000+

Bridge Builders help ensure Mattie's legacy reaches new generations with visible recognition in key materials.

Benefits include:

- Name/logo in program, website, and film credits
- Reserved seating for 2 guests
- Name listed on event signage
- Optional dedication in honor or memory of a loved one

NEIGHBOR – \$500+

Neighbor sponsors reflect Mattie's spirit of community care with acknowledgment in key event materials.

Benefits include:

- Name listed on event signage and in printed program
- Optional dedication in honor or memory of a loved one

FRIEND – \$100+

Friend-level sponsors are recognized for their meaningful support in the event program.

Benefits include:

- Name listed in printed event program

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPACT

This project is being launched as a labor of love, with funding to be raised entirely through community support and sponsorship. It is made possible through the generosity of individuals, families, and organizations who believe in honoring stories that matter — especially those too often left out of history books.

Your support will directly fund the exhibit design, documentary production, public presentation, and guest experience. Every contribution — large or small — helps ensure that Mattie's legacy is honored with the care, visibility, and dignity it deserves.

BUDGET OUTLINE

Item	Estimated Cost
Exhibit Design & Printing (10–12 large boards)	\$2,500 – \$3,000
Documentary Production (filming, editing)	\$3,000 – \$4,500
Venue Rental	\$500 – \$1,000
Graphic Design & Printed Programs	\$500 – \$800
Reception Food & Drinks	\$1,000 – \$1,500
Signage, Wall Mounts, Setup Supplies	\$500 – \$750
Honorariums (musician, guest speaker)	\$500 – \$1,000
Miscellaneous (transportation, gifts, insurance)	\$500+

Estimated Total: \$8,500 – \$13,000

WHY SPONSOR THIS?

Sponsoring this exhibition and documentary is more than an act of generosity — it's a direct investment in truth-telling, representation, and community healing.



Mattie's story is one of resilience, leadership, and service — yet her legacy, like that of many local changemakers, has not been publicly preserved. By supporting this project, sponsors help bring long-overdue recognition to her life's work, ensuring her contributions are seen, remembered, and honored by the wider public.

THIS EVENT OFFERS

CIVIC & CULTURAL RELEVANCE

The project reflects Cincinnati's rich and complex history, spotlighting a local Black woman whose work in racial justice, public health, and youth advocacy continues to resonate today.

LASTING IMPACT

Sponsors help create a permanent public record: a short film, archival exhibition materials, and the foundation for future educational programs or community partnerships.

COMMUNITY REACH

The exhibition is designed to engage a wide audience — families, students, civic leaders, historians, and artists — and serve as a space for both education and inspiration.

MEANINGFUL RECOGNITION

All sponsors will be acknowledged in a way that matches their level of support, with opportunities to be honored in print, online, during the event, and within the documentary credits.

Whether you are a neighbor, small business, institution, or foundation, your support helps bring this powerful story forward — one rooted in Cincinnati but echoing far beyond.



THIS IS MORE THAN AN EVENT

This is a homecoming for a story that has waited far too long to be told. By joining us as a sponsor, you are helping to preserve the legacy of a woman whose life made a difference, whose voice challenged injustice, and whose work still speaks to the needs of today.

We invite you to be part of this milestone. Your support ensures that Mattie's legacy is not only remembered, but shared — boldly, beautifully, and publicly.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. I welcome the chance to speak with you further and answer any questions you may have.

With gratitude,

Laura Kinney-Porter

Curator & Community Archivist

Mattie Legacy Project

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  @MATTIELEGACYPROJECT

Become a Sponsor



[BIT.LY/MATTIELEGACYSPONSORSHIP](https://bit.ly/mattielegacysponsorship)

↳ CLICKABLE LINK