



Taylor Ryan, 30, grew up poor in Paducah, Kentucky, and, in her words, has always jumped in to help those in need, even when her family didn't have much to give.

She began doing service work as a teen and entered the nonprofit sector after earning degrees in communication from the University of Louisville and in adult education from Marshall University in West Virginia.

"It's like a natural drive," she has said. "When I see people on the street, I just want to help them. It's definitely not for the money. I have two master's degrees, and before I started my own organization, I never made more than \$12 an hour."

She saw great need in Louisville in September 2019 and founded *Change Today Change Tomorrow*. According to their website they, "Provide access to resources, education, and community engagement to all African Americans in the Greater Louisville area." Starting with six Black women on the Board, CTCT assessed the needs of the Black community and jumped into action.

Their main focal areas include:

Education - They have opened an *Education Hub* on East Broadway that offers free tutoring, free mentoring for Black males, free monthly virtual literary programming, workshops on business development, etc.

Food Justice - Through *Feed the West*, a barrier-free grocery delivery program for West Louisville launched by Black Market CEO and Founder, Shauntrice Martin and sponsored by CTCT after the closure of the West End's Kroger.

Public Health -Through the *Umoja Project*, every Thursday they bring 100 hot meals, snacks and toiletries for the unhoused community in downtown Louisville.

**Since the Board is on a daily group chat, they are also able to respond quickly when things change--as they did on Feb. 15, when the Umoja Project team was preparing to board a bus downtown to help Louisville's houseless community. But, as Ryan describes in an interview, the weather kept worsening: It started snowing, and temperatures were set to drop below 20 degrees that evening. Instead of sticking to just offering supplies, CTCT made some calls and arranged the opening of a pop-up shelter at Louisville Recovery Community Connection. They had to collect blow-up mattresses, food, fresh linens and pillows, as well as recruit volunteers. That weekend, the shelter held 25 people a night!

Responding to various needs as they come up, CTCT has launched numerous initiatives to help the Black community, the homeless, and over 100,000 marginalized Louisvillians. Some of these include

Change Gardens -- The offer is, "Getting fresh food to the people is one thing, let's grow the food too! Join us every Saturday in the spring for West Louisville garden development."

Community Baby Shower - A collaborative effort with Diversity at the Table to bring resources to new mamas in West Louisville.

It's Friday, Period. Every first Friday of the month they distribute period products to folks who menstruate and those who serve menstruators.

Pocket Change - provides local Black-Owned Businesses a storefront residency to gain exposure and increase their customer base.

And there are sure to be more. Taylor Ryan, along with the dynamic leaders at CTCT, look for needs and create solutions. As Taylor has said, "We may do a sock drive one day, and the next day it isn't socks that are needed but something else. We have to adapt to the need."

Learn more about CTCT through the links below:

Change Today Change Tomorrow: <https://change-today.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0zckf6f7mw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yr1BCmz-nVg>

