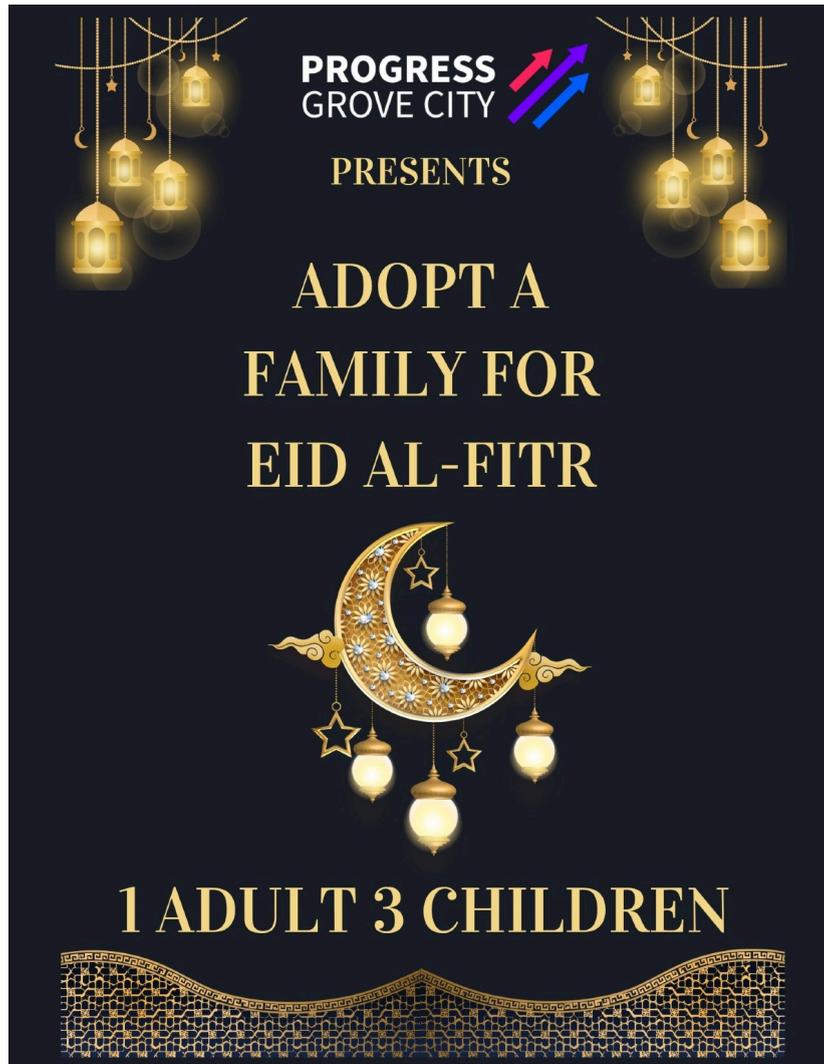




Eid Mubarak!



Ramadan will be beginning on the evening of Tuesday, February 17, and end with Eid al Fitr on March 20. This is Islam's holiest month, and Muslims who celebrate will spend much of that month in fasting, prayer, and reflection.

Just as we adopt Head Start families for Christmas, we like to adopt for Eid as well.

For more information on this family's needs and how to join in to adopt a member of the family, check out the post on Facebook [here](#), or reach out to a member of the Progress leadership team.

Visit Our Website

Become a Member

Donate to the Cause

Introducing: the Kindness Crew

In times when systems are built on cruelty, choosing kindness is a radical act. This February, Progress Grove City is inviting our community to show what resistance looks like — not just in words, but in action.

We're launching the [#PGCKindnessCrew](#) !

Our first community initiative is preparing for and participating in Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17, 2026!

From now through February 17th, we're encouraging neighbors to flood our city with small, intentional acts of care — for strangers, friends, workers, and anyone who might need a reminder that they matter.

What counts as a random act of kindness?

- Leave an encouraging note or painted rock in a public space

- Buy for someone's coffee or groceries

- Pay for someone's coffee or groceries
- Tip generously
- Write a thank-you note to a teacher, librarian, or service worker
- Offer to help a neighbor with chores or errands
- Donate food, supplies, or mutual aid
- Speak up when you see harm — and choose compassion instead
- Simply check in on someone who might be struggling

Kindness doesn't mean being quiet.

Kindness doesn't mean ignoring injustice.

Kindness is how we care for each other while we work to change the system.

Join us & spread the ripple effect:

Do a random act of kindness

Share it on social media

Use the hashtags

[#KindnessIsResistance](#)

[#PGCKindnessCrew](#)

[#RandomActsOfKindnessDay2026](#)

Let's prove that compassion is contagious — and that our community chooses care over cruelty, every time.

Be kind. Be bold. Be the resistance.

Grove City Area Progress
is excited to announce we're launching the
PGC Kindness Crew
*to help spread kindness in our community, foster unity,
 and to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day
 on February 17th, 2026.*

**This February, Progress Grove City is inviting our
 community to show what resistance looks like –
 not just in words, but in action. We're encouraging neighbors
 to flood our city with small, intentional acts of care –
 for strangers, friends, workers,
 and anyone who might need a reminder that they matter.**

**In times when systems are built on cruelty,
 choosing kindness is a radical act.**

#PGCKindnessCrew

**PROGRESS
 GROVE CITY**

Celebrating Black History

BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY

Black History Month offers us an important opportunity to reflect on the people, stories, and movements that have shaped our nation. It is a time not only to honor the resilience and achievements of Black Americans, but also to recognize that their contributions are woven into every chapter of our shared past. From science and the arts to education, business, public service, and community leadership, Black history is not a separate narrative—it is American history.

To understand the United States is to understand the profound influence of Black Americans from the very beginning. Despite enduring slavery, segregation, and systemic barriers, generations of Black leaders, thinkers, creators, and everyday citizens pushed our country closer to its founding ideals of liberty and justice. The Civil Rights Movement, for example, did more than secure legal protections—it strengthened our democracy and expanded rights that benefit people of all backgrounds today. These milestones remind us that progress is often driven by those willing to speak up, organize, and persevere in the face of injustice.

Black history is also a story of innovation and cultural transformation. Music genres that define American culture—jazz, blues, gospel, hip-hop, and rock—trace their roots to Black communities. Groundbreaking inventions, medical advancements, literary works, and artistic expressions have reshaped how we live and connect with one another. When we celebrate these contributions, we are celebrating the creativity and determination that continue to move our country forward.

At the same time, honoring Black history calls us to engage honestly with the more difficult parts of our past. Recognizing historical inequities is not about dwelling on division; it is about fostering understanding and ensuring that the lessons of history guide us toward a more inclusive future. When we commit to learning the full story, we create space for empathy, growth, and stronger relationships within our community.

As we observe Black History Month, let it be more than a moment on the calendar. Let it inspire us to listen, learn, support Black-owned businesses and organizations, explore diverse perspectives, and uplift voices that have too often gone unheard. By honoring the past and embracing the richness of our collective history, we help build a future that reflects the contributions, dignity, and promise of all Americans—because when we recognize that Black history is American history, we strengthen the story we are writing together.



Progress Grove City - How We Operate

Our Values and Approach

Things you'll notice about how we operate:

We let people engage when and how they're able and willing. There is no single "right" way to participate, and we don't believe commitment is measured by volume, visibility, or proximity to leadership.

We meet people where they are, and when they're ready to take bigger steps, we're there to walk beside them — not push, pull, or pressure them.

We encourage people to follow their passions, and we're excited to support those efforts, because we trust our community to grow ideas, build momentum, and make us all better together.

We value connection and collaboration, and we actively look for opportunities to share space, platforms, and credit with other organizers and community leaders doing good work.

We will never gatekeep. None of us have fancy titles or paychecks, and we don't wait for permission to care about our community. When traditional gates are closed, we find another way forward — and we're better for it.

We are open to transparent conversations, in the open, and grounded in facts. When questions or concerns come up, we deal in evidence and receipts. We don't bring accusations, especially when doing so could risk real progress or harm good work happening in our area.

We build bridges and ladders wherever we can. You will not see us burning bridges or pulling ladders up behind us. We believe progress is stronger when access expands, not contracts.

We are not afraid of hard conversations, reflection, or transparency. In fact, we believe communities are made stronger by engaging honestly, learning, and adjusting when needed.

Our story does not change depending on who we are talking to. We work with facts, not narratives, and we strive to be consistent and accountable in how we show up everywhere.

Our Work and Our History

Because accuracy matters, we want to be clear about our leadership history. Progress has had six total leaders since its founding. Four individuals were part of the original founding leadership team, and two joined later. Two leaders have stepped away — one founding leader who felt more aligned with focusing on more liberal areas, and one who joined later and departed following an intentional and thoughtful conversation. This information has always been publicly documented on our website.

Between our leadership team and our incredible members and supporters, we have accomplished a great deal in our community, for our community, and alongside our community.

Our work has included community service projects like gift drives, food drives, holiday collections, and operating free stores and pantries, as well as political engagement such as candidate meet-and-greets, five-minute activism, hours of action, canvassing, petitions, and more. We are committed to continuing to offer many ways to be active locally and to lowering the barrier to participation wherever possible.

This work has continued even when support, collaboration, or engagement from the establishment has not.

Political Context (Correcting the Record)

Politics is complicated. Local politics can be even more so. Because we value civic engagement so deeply, it has been confusing and disappointing at times when people in positions of power — including within the local Democratic establishment — have been unwilling to communicate, collaborate, or work together.

There have been public acknowledgements that no actual offers of partnership were extended to Progress, despite repeated attempts to engage.

There's been a narrative that we're unwilling to communicate, work together, or compromise. That hasn't been our experience.

Over the course of years, we've sent multiple messages and invitations trying to talk things through and work together. When those efforts are consistently declined or ignored, it's hard to square that narrative with what's actually happened.

Our community needs leadership that listens, communicates, and shows up. Holding tightly to power while refusing dialogue or access doesn't strengthen our community — it weakens it.

It may feel easy to assign blame when elections don't go well. What would be far more productive is communication: listening, sharing, and showing up.

When people show us — consistently and over time — that they are not interested in working together, we believe them, and we adjust our focus accordingly.

Boundaries and Focus Going Forward

Reaching a point where we can't fit all of our friends at the table every time is a bittersweet milestone. Our takeaway is to stay centered on the people who show up in good faith, who want to collaborate, and who want to see this work succeed.

We do not have room at the table for people who have demonstrated, through their actions over time, that they do not want the table to exist at all.

We don't spend our time monitoring or reacting to what others choose to do. Our focus is on the work in front of us and the people doing it in good faith.

If you want to work with us, we genuinely welcome that. If you don't, that's okay too. What matters to us is that people show up and do the work.

Closing

We've seen these dynamics play out nationally, and we've experienced them locally as well — a lack of communication, an unwillingness to collaborate, and an expectation that voters simply fall in line without engagement, answers, or genuine relationship-building.

We're not a Democratic Party organization. We're progressives who want progress. We welcome community feedback, and we've consistently demonstrated a commitment to building solutions — with or without establishment support.

Progress doesn't happen by accident. It isn't the result of indoctrination, narratives, or control. We're proud of what we've accomplished without establishment backing — and in many cases, despite it.

We believe our actions speak for themselves.

For anyone who's frustrated or interpreting our work through a different lens, we genuinely wish you well and hope your efforts to care for this community are successful.

Five Minute Activism

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES, CIVIL RIGHTS, & PUBLIC SAFETY

House Democrats are introducing bills and resolutions to strengthen accountability, safeguard privacy, & protect our communities

	Community & Police Protection Act (Brownlee, Thomas) <ul style="list-style-type: none">No face coverings for law enforcement on duty (limited exceptions)Officers must clearly display badge & ID
	Limits on Collecting & Sharing Data (Russo) <ul style="list-style-type: none">State entities cannot collect, share, or disclose personal data/personal information; data & information used only for purpose it was disclosedCertain exceptions as comports with law and narrowly defined in bill
	Preventing Profit from Sensitive Data (Cockley, Rader) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bars selling or sharing of Sensitive Data in most instances.Data may be shared under law for limited and defined "Permitted Uses"
	Protecting Sensitive Locations (Mohamed, Synenberg) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prohibits immigration enforcement in a place of worship, courthouses, hospitals, schools, during public religious ceremonies, or at organizations assisting children, pregnant women, victims of crime or abuse, or individuals with mental or physical disabilities
	Investigation of Law Enforcement (Sigrist, Piccolantonio) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure local law enforcement can investigate crimes in their districtEnsure OAG & ODPS can access evidence/materials and conduct investigations
	Minimum Standards for Immigration Detention (Bryant Bailey, Sims) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure detainees have adequate meals, medical/health care, and basic living needs - ensure reasonable wage for all detainees laborEnsure access to religious materials & access to legal representative
	Nat. Guard Deployment Requires Gov. Approval (White) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governor can decline the deployment of out-of-state National Guard in Ohio
	Oversight of Detention Facilities (Humphrey) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Resolution re-affirming Lawmakers can enter or conduct oversight visits of any jail, prison, and detention facility at any time



For this month's five minute activism, we have some exciting and hopeful updates!

These bills and resolutions listed above are currently being proposed by our House Dems. It is crucial that we contact our reps and urge them to support all of these. Once these bills get assigned to a committee, we will need to then follow up with the Chair of the committee and DEMAND that they give the bill a hearing, so these are not pushed back and delayed.

Monthly Meeting Recap - January

Progress got an incredible opportunity in January, so we had to pivot and do a little something different than usual for our monthly meeting.

We hosted a private, invite-only conversation with Dr Amy Acton, and it just... worked. We had 70+ people in the room. Not a rally. Not a campaign stop. Just a room full of regular humans who care enough to show up, listen, ask real questions, and sit with real answers.

Dr. Acton didn't breeze in, do the greatest hits, and bounce. She stayed. She listened. She didn't pretend everything is simple. And you could feel people relax as the night went on — like, oh, okay. I get it now!

This photo is our Progress Grove City leadership team with Dr. Acton, and I'm really damn proud of these folks. None of this happens without a lot of behind-the-scenes work, trust-building, and showing up even when it would be way easier not to. So thanks to the leaders, and to everyone else who helped make it happen! What a team effort!!

This is what we keep trying to build — not hype, not noise, not performative politics. Just spaces where people can come as they are and leave feeling a little more hopeful than when they walked in.

If you're curious about Dr. Acton and what she's actually about, her campaign website has all the policy stuff. I'd encourage you to look it over and make up your own mind. If you were able to attend, please include a picture and a comment about what really stuck with you after the event. We'd love to hear your perspective!

Grateful. Tired. Fired up.
And really glad to be doing this with this community.



Next Up...

A graphic for "PROGRESS 2026" featuring three upward-pointing arrows (red, purple, blue) and the text "PROGRESS GROVE CITY". Below this is a large box with the text "SAVE THE DATE & AGENDA COMING SOON" and "FEB 16, 2026". At the bottom, it says "REGISTER ON WEBSITE FOR LOCATION". The graphic has a black background with blue and red accents. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The date "FEB 16, 2026" is in a large, blue font. The text "REGISTER ON WEBSITE FOR LOCATION" is in a red font. The graphic is framed by a blue border.

Register [here](#) for the location, stay tuned for more information, and as always, bring a friend!

Join Our Partners In Action

If you're eager to make a significant impact in your community, consider taking action now. It's time to address the issues that matter to you and express your concerns about leadership. Our friends with Indivisible Central Ohio are planning in person visit's to Senator Moreno's office. Please consider joining them to share your thoughts and help drive meaningful change! You can find the sign up sheet at [this link](#).

Thanks everyone!!



ProgressGroveCity.com



If you would like to unsubscribe, please [click here](#).