

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

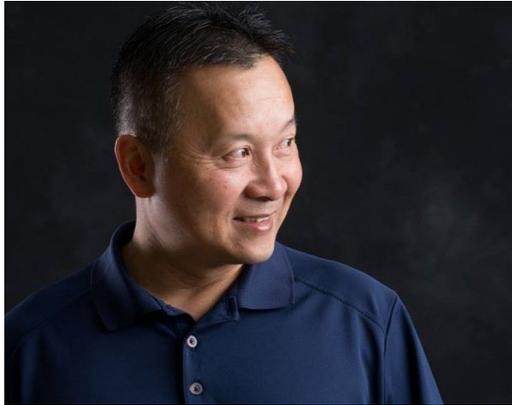
Contact:

Tracey Robertson, Executive Director

Fit Oshkosh, Inc.

phone: 920-267-8687

email: [colorbraveconversations@gmail.com](mailto:colorbraveconversations@gmail.com)



### **Fit Oshkosh Color-Brave Photo Exhibit Extends Its Fox Valley Run**

Oshkosh, WI - (October 24, 2018) -- Due to popular demand, Fit Oshkosh is extending its run of the *Color-Brave Photo Project: Black and Brown Faces, a New Narrative*. The exhibit, which launched in April at the Paine Arts Center and Gardens, has been to eight sites in the Fox Valley to date, and is extending its run to Aldo Leopold Community School (Green Bay), Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Oshkosh), First Congregational UCC (Appleton), and United for Diversity's *Celebrate Community* event (Fond du Lac). The schedule for an additional number of sites is still being finalized.

The exhibit chronicles the experiences of 20 local Persons of Color with a portrait and story of each individual. Photojournalist Colleen Bies, herself a Person of Color and Oshkosh native, said "I wanted to capture the emotions and personalities of people in the moments between the smiles."

The individuals' stories were compiled from interviews done by Roberta McGuire, chair of the English department at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Alicia Johnson, director of the Women's Center at UWO; and Susan Resnig, associate professor of women's and gender studies and African American history.

According to Tracy Abler, Board President of United for Diversity, the main goal of their *Celebrate Diversity* event is to bring people together to celebrate, and be educated on, the

diversity in Fond du Lac. Ideally, guests at the exhibit will break out of their comfort zone and talk with hosts about a culture, religion, or experience that is different than theirs. Abler adds that “For some, diversity is uncomfortable. With the Color-Brave photo exhibit, guests can read the stories, engage in the faces, and process the experiences in a safe, personal space”.

Ron Kuehl, lay member and chair of Our Savior’s Outreach Team, has a similar goal for his congregation. “Our Savior’s is a welcoming, loving faith community that continues to grow in understanding, compassion and getting to know our neighbors. The Color-Brave Photos are a means to continue to share with our members and surrounding neighborhood the richness of the diversity in Oshkosh”.

Jamie Danen, middle school teacher at Aldo Leopold, looks forward to having the Color Brave exhibit at her school. “It will give our students and community an opportunity to come together, experience and discuss these powerful images and stories. It further cements our ties to our community and our desire to continue to reach out from our classroom into the larger community around us.”

For a detailed schedule of locations and hours, and times of related guided conversations, go to [www.fitoshkoshinc.org/photo-exhibit-schedule](http://www.fitoshkoshinc.org/photo-exhibit-schedule). There is no charge for exhibition viewing and participation in these community conversations.

The event is sponsored by: The Wisconsin Humanities Council, the Oshkosh Community Foundation, The Paine Arts Center and Gardens, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and Candeo Creative.

#####

### **About Fit Oshkosh**

Fit Oshkosh is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that seeks to promote social transformation through Color-Brave conversations, education, advocacy, and research in order to achieve race equity and justice. We believe in the importance of a multicultural community and strength in diversity. We value a community where People of Color fit in without having to conform to the dominant culture. [www.fitoshkoshinc.org](http://www.fitoshkoshinc.org)