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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Gentilly Fest 2022



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YWCA Groundbreaking Ceremony



Stakeholders at YWCA Ground-Breaking Left to Right: Michael Merideth, Representative Matthew Willard, Cedric Pippins Senator Jimmy Harris, Adolph Bynum, Zach Kupperman, Gabriel Virdure, Andre Lewis, Vincent Weaver, Councilwoman Lesli Harris, Loyce Pierce Wright, Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Tina Herrera, Sheri Macdonald, Tamara Jacobson, Valerie Sholes, Shawne Fabre, Dr. Shelia Webb, Tracie Boutte.

Data News Staff Edited Report
Photos by J.R. Thomason

On October 4, 2022, the groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new YWCA facility in Mid-City marked a vital step in the return of crucial programs for women, children, and seniors in the Greater New Orleans area.

In 2005 when Hurricane Katrina’s floodwaters destroyed the YWCA building, they also washed away the YWCA’s hallmark services, including domestic violence and rape crisis counseling, financial education, daycare, after-school programming, and other offerings to enrich youth and empower women. These programs had been an integral part of the YWCA’s contributions to the Greater New Orleans area since the chapter was founded over a century ago.

Now, thanks to the tireless efforts of the YWCA Board of Directors, committed volunteers, and

fundraising partners, the YWCA will have a permanent home at the corner of South Norman C. Francis Parkway and D’Hemecourt Streets.

“This rebuilding effort has been a journey marked by faith, despite the many obstacles encountered throughout this process,” said Loyce Pierce Wright, President of the New Orleans YWCA Board of Directors. “For one hundred years, the YWCA of Greater New Orleans, has been a beacon of light for women and children in our communities, and we knew that we could not allow that light to be extinguished. And so, this groundbreaking is emblematic of a rebuilding effort marked by faith. In this new state-of-the-art facility, once again, women will be able to turn to us for support, guidance, and advocacy. Children will be able to receive assistance in their growth and overall learning in a safe, nurturing environment. Today is an example of our community’s collective power and its prioritization of caring for women and

girls. With this groundbreaking, we are on the path toward achieving what many deemed impossible. We will continue to chart the course towards eliminating racism and empowering women.”

The return of the YWCA has been a 17-year journey fueled by these determined volunteers despite fundraising challenges. Due to their fortitude, the project is now moving forward. Through lengthy negotiations with FEMA, a grant from the State of Louisiana, support from Mayor LaToya Cantrell’s office and other fundraising efforts, the YWCA Board and volunteers managed to secure the funding needed for the \$10 million construction budget.

“Today is a huge win for women of all ages, ethnicities, and demographics across the City of New Orleans,” said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. “For over a century, YWCA of Greater New Orleans has tirelessly served the women of this community, and while they have had no true place to call home since the

On The Cover: YWCA Board of Directors (Center L-R) Tina Herrera, YWCA National President and New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Michael Meridith, CEO of VPG Construction and Paula Peer, Principal/Architect at Trapolin-Peer Architects.



Vincent Weaver, President of VPG Construction, Gabriel Virdue, Associate at Trapolin-Peer Architects, Zack Kupperman, Founder and CEO of Kupperman Companies.

devastation by Hurricane Katrina, this is a major step to ensuring the services they provide can continue to positively impact the women of our great City. This new state-of-the-art community center will provide quality mental and maternal health services, as well as jobs for low-to-moderate income individuals, falling in line with the overall vision of the Mayor's Office of Youth and Families, which I created as one of first acts as Mayor, to provide much needed support to marginalized and underserved communities. We will continue to make the necessary and critical investments in our women and children to ensure we are moving this City forward and creating a more inclusive and equitable environment in which all people can live and thrive."

Trapolin-Peer Architects was chosen as the design team for the project back in 2009. The New Or-

leans firm drew on its extensive background in early head start/pre-school design to design the state-of-the-art two-story, 16,967 square foot facility. The firm consolidated the Y's multiple buildings to create one cohesive space the YWCA and the community can be proud of. Trapolin-Peer designed the women's center and daycare spaces with the Y's core mission to help women in mind. There are also multiple training spaces, resource areas, staff offices and flex spaces that can be used for a range of educational programs including parenting classes and counseling.

"While the loss of their buildings and staff was a major challenge for the YWCA, it gave them the opportunity to re-imagine and re-organize the facility into a safe space for learning and counseling for the next generation," said Gabriel Virdue, Associate at Trapolin-Peer Architects



Loyce Pierce Wright, President of the New Orleans YWCA Board of Directors with New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

"Consolidating the buildings gave the YWCA the ability to determine how to best utilize their property while providing a familiar presence in their Mid-City neighborhood.... The YWCA is about resilience, and we hope this building will be a testament to their determination and

dedication to the community."

"Equity in education starts before kindergarten," said Paula Peer, Principal/Architect at Trapolin-Peer Architects. "There is nothing more valuable and empowering to a mother than to have a trusted preschool/daycare. The YWCA Wom-

en's Center is also an important part of the building's programming, creating a hub for all of the Y's services to the community."

"The long-awaited return of YWCA programs and services brings hope to hundreds of women, girls and families in the Greater New Orleans area who are suffering from the ravages of domestic violence, rape, child abuse/neglect or elderly isolation," said Gail Glapion, Executive Director (ret.) YWCA of Greater New Orleans.

Construction on the new YWCA will begin later this month with plans to open the facility in late 2023. VPG Construction is serving as the General Contractor. Real Estate Developer and Investment Firm, Kupperman Companies helped to secure the gap funding and Real Estate Law Firm Steeg obtained the funding from the State Office of Community Development for the project.



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Let's Get Ready To VOTE

Election Day is November 8th

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special election issues!

Gentilly Fest 2022

Data News Staff Edited Report

It was an amazing weekend as thousands came to Pontchartrain Park to the Gentilly Fest. It was great food, fun, music and family. A great time was had by all who were in attendance.



U.S. Congressman Troy Carter, Gretchen Bradford, President the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association and Co-Founder of Gentilly Fest, and DJ B-Sharp.



One Face at a Time

Local Makeup Artist is Ready to Shake-Up the Beauty World



Wandella Dolliole models a fresh glam look.



Domonique Dolliole, Mikita Edwards and Renee Dolliole model holiday glam looks



Make-up artist Mikita Edwards models her own googly eyes look for Halloween



Make-up artist Mikita Edwards models a basic beat look.

Corbin Johnson
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Being in the beauty business can be very challenging.

It's competitive, requires a lot of marketing, and the pressure to keep a steady stream of clients. In New Orleans it also means taking advantage of the many festivals and events to make a living. This did not deter Mikita Edwards, a local makeup artist, to start her own makeup business called "Makeup By Mikita."

With over a thousand followers on Instagram she offers the works: a basic beat makeup, cosplay makeup right in time for Halloween, and look-alike make-up from your favorite celebrities. She's been into makeup ever since she was a little girl because of her parents having creative backgrounds and Edwards hopes to inspire more Black business owners to come out and start their own companies as well.

"Makeup has always been my calling," Edwards said. "My father was a painter, and my mother was a hairdresser, and they both taught me the ins and outs of the creative arts industry," she said.

The idea of being a makeup artist was instilled into Edwards and she has been practicing and perfecting her craft since she was in high school. Her first job was doing makeup for models at a fashion show, and it was her first big step into the makeup world. She had no

work experience at all, but she knew she could do it by all the practice that she had before.

"That was a very nerve-wrecking experience for me," Edwards said. "I had an hour and a half and was extremely nervous. Luckily, the owner of the clothing brand gave me a pep talk and I was set, and all of the models were raving about the looks I did," Edwards said.

She started her own makeup business because she always felt like her own boss. So, after working for a company, she was not a big fan of because of complaints due to her schedule, Edwards created her own limited liability company in 2019.

"This is a field I knew was meant for me because of how beneficial it was," Edwards said. "Starting my own business has helped me to grow into a better businesswoman and a better artist," she said. Even when the COVID-19 Pandemic happened, Edwards still managed to overcome it due to having other part-time jobs, which allowed her to stay afloat financially. She has since quit her other job and her business was able to start back up again.

"My business is thriving, clientele is booming, and my name is getting out there," Edwards said. "People now recognize me, and it has been amazing thus far to see people appreciate my work," she said.

Her family has been the backbone of her business.

Data Zone,
Continued on page 7.

FRIENDS OF TREMÉ CULTURE PRESENTS
THE 7TH ANNUAL

2022 TREMÉ FALL FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF TREMÉ
HISTORY & CULTURE

PATRON PARTY

Thursday, October 13

New Orleans Jazz Museum
400 Esplanade Ave

6PM - 9PM

Tickets on Sale Now

FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 22

St. Augustine Church
1210 Governor Nicholls

11AM - 7PM

Second Line @ 10 AM
1501 Esplanade Ave



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TREMEFEST.ORG

The Annual Tremé Fall Festival is Back! Proceeds will Continue to Benefit St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cultural Groups in the Community

Come enjoy live music, food, fun and help keep the history and culture of Tremé alive!

Data News Staff Edited Report

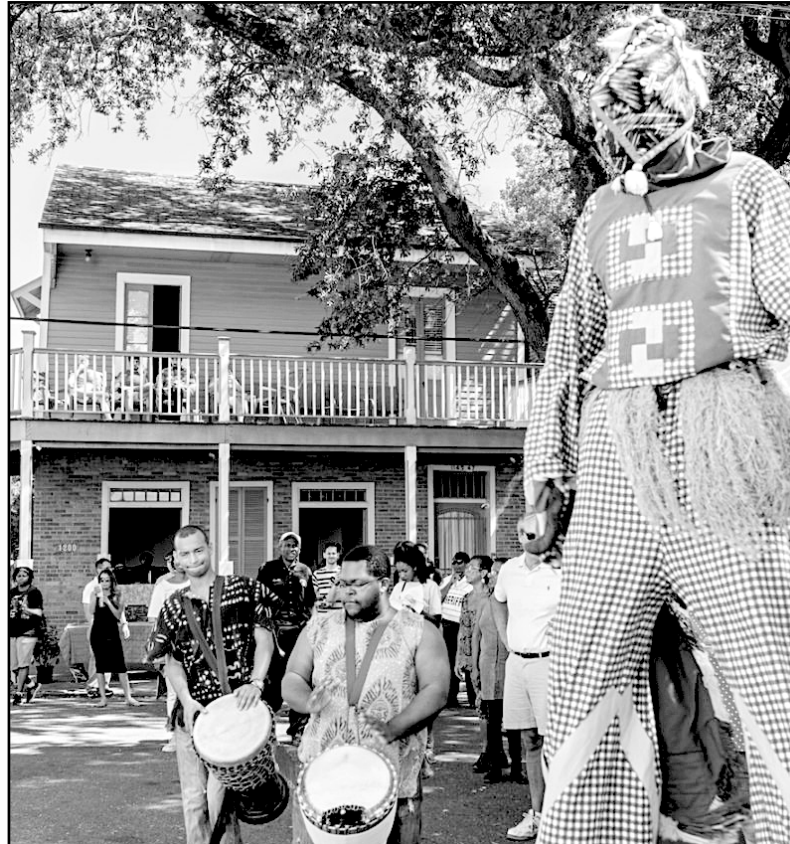
NEW ORLEANS, LA – The Friends of Tremé Culture (FOTC), a non-profit community organization, will host the 7th Annual Tremé Fall Festival with a Patron Party on Thursday, October 13th and an outdoor festival on Saturday, October 22, 2022. The purpose of the festival is to highlight the rich culture and history of the Tremé community and raise funds to help with the extensive repairs of St. Augustine Catholic Church and to help the struggling music and cultural groups stay alive and functioning.

Partnering with the New Orleans Jazz Museum, the October 13th Patron Party will be held at the museum located at 400 Esplanade Ave. from 6 pm to 9 pm. Attendees will have access to visit all of the museum's exhibits while enjoying the music, food, beverages, and open bar. This year the festival

will honor the Andrews family (James, Troy, and Lois) with music provided all by Reginald Moses and James Andrews & the Crescent City Allstars. A variety of auction items will be available. Discounted entrance tickets are available for a limited time and can be purchased by visiting tremefest.org.

On Saturday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m. (for the first-time as part of the festival), a second line parade in the Tremé neighborhood will precede the festival. Representatives from various culture groups such as the Baby Dolls, Mardi Gras Indians, and Social Aid & Pleasure Clubs along with Sheriff Susan Hutson and other political supporters will be a part of the procession. The second line will end on the grounds of St. Augustine Church in the 1100 block of Henriette Delille and Gov. Nicholls Streets where the festival activities will begin.

The outdoor festival will feature food, crafts, and music performances by The New Orleans Groove Masters (featuring Herlin Riley, Shannon Powell, & Jason Marsalis), Erica Falls, Sunpie



Tremé is the oldest African American neighborhood in the United States. This year's festival continues in the tradition of preserving this cultural treasure bringing people to the neighborhood to enjoy food, fun and music.

& The Louisiana Sunspots, Lil the Crescent City Allstars with Freddie King, James Andrews & Naydja CoJoe, and the Andrews

Family Brass Band. A Kids' Tent, involving coconut painting, umbrella decorating, line-dancing, and more, will be available for both the kids and their parents to learn and enjoy. The festival is free and open to the public.

"We are excited to have Patrick Henry as the artist for our limited-edition poster for this 7th Annual Festival. He has captured the Andrews family along with the many cultural groups and beautiful Tremé neighborhood in this one-of-kind poster" said Naydja Bynum, President of the Friends of Tremé Culture organization. She added, "we are also glad to continue working with Artist Terrance Osborne who works as our poster consultant and mentor for our young artists." The poster will be available to purchase on the website and in person at the patron party and festival.

To understand the needs that will be supported by FOTC, festival goers will be able to view the damage of St. Augustine Church from the front door. The festival will conclude with a gospel mass to be held in the hall of St. Augustine Catholic Church on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 10 AM.

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Black Cardinal Calls on Businesses to Benefit the Community during New Orleans Symposium



Cardinal Peter Turkson visits with Xavier University's Chaplain Fr. Victor LaRoche and Archbishop of New Orleans Gregory Aymond.



Cardinal Peter Turkson meets with Xavier University administrators and faculty including Dr. Reynold Verret (far left, sitting).

Cardinal Peter Turkson serves the title of many firsts.

Mckenzi Neal
Data News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Veronica Farve/
Xavier University of Louisiana

The first Ghanaian Cardinal, first African to lead in the Vatican, the first president of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in 2016 and the first Black Cardinal to advise Pope Francis and lead the Vatican's efforts on social justice and equality.

As a high-ranking Black man in the Vatican, he is pioneering ways to support communities through the teachings of the Catholic faith. During a visit to New Orleans, he met with community members and students and faculty at both Xavier

University of Louisiana and Loyola University, New Orleans, two Catholic universities in the city. He shared how business leadership is also a vocation.

"When we refer to it as a vocation, it just means it doesn't derive only from ourselves, but we see how our activity or whatever we do also fits into God's program," Turkson said in an interview for The Catholic Herald.

The three-day event titled "The Catholic Business Leader: A New Orleans Symposium" was hosted by Xavier and Loyola universities allowed Turkson to lead panel discussions and services with business educators, business executives, and civil leaders. Turkson's community engagements began on September 29th and ended with a vigil mass ceremony October 1st.

"This symposium is intended to initiate a much-needed dialogue

amongst business leaders, educators, and clergy to instill the importance of integrating business practices and applications of the faith," said Dr. Jose Bautista, a Professor of Business in the Division of Business at Xavier. "Business operations and the practice of one's faith have been considered as mutually exclusive endeavors where there is little or no common ground," Bautista said in a statement.

The Cardinal shared how business and vocation can co-exist for the good of communities. Turkson advised business leaders to consider that the products they put into society should better the lives of their consumers and involves God's will. Turkson made it a point to inform business leaders that it was possible for both worlds to coexist and create a common good.

"We are inviting people to be

transcendent and go beyond themselves, to see meaning in what they do and how it fits into God's plan, especially when the individuals are Christians," Turkson added.

Appointed by Pope Francis as Chancellor of the Pontifical Academics for Science and for Social Sciences, Turkson's mission is to promote "the study and progress of the social sciences, primarily economics, sociology, law and political science, thus offering the Church those elements which she can use in the development of her social doctrine."

"Our attempt is simply to carry the church's message to all these companies," Turkson said. "It's not to say they've never heard the Gospel...we know clearly faith without work is dead. To connect our faith with work means that we engage society to make our faith have an impact," Turkson added.

Data Zone, Continued from page 5.

They have supported her from the start and helped spread her name around on social media and have introduced her to new clients from her parents' childhood. She has booked over a thousand clients and has even done looks for big names such as Big Freedia.

"My daughter is truly a force to be reckoned with," said Wandella Dolliole, Mikita Edward's mother.

"I helped her with business cards and helped set up her email accounts, and set up her in my house," Dolliole said. "I really went above and beyond with helping my child, and I just know she's going to be a big name in the industry," she said.

Edwards said getting started in the industry was a bit hard at first because of the previous companies she had to work for. She hopes that people are enthusiastic about being

in this field and make sure they look for the best product. She loves making bold and dramatic looks that help bring out people's outer beauty. Her favorite was a sea-witch look she did for Halloween where she created her own crown from scratch, and painted her face half-green, half-white.

"I'm really proud of her, and the things she's done thus far," said Maci Abrams, Mikita Edward's niece. "She doesn't realize the

impact that she's going to have as years go by," Abrams said. "I can't wait for everyone to see my aunt's name and just how talented she truly is," she said.

Edwards hopes to create her own makeup line in the future and wants to go into skincare in the next couple of years or so. "That will be the next step in my business, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for me and what ventures will come my way," Edwards said.

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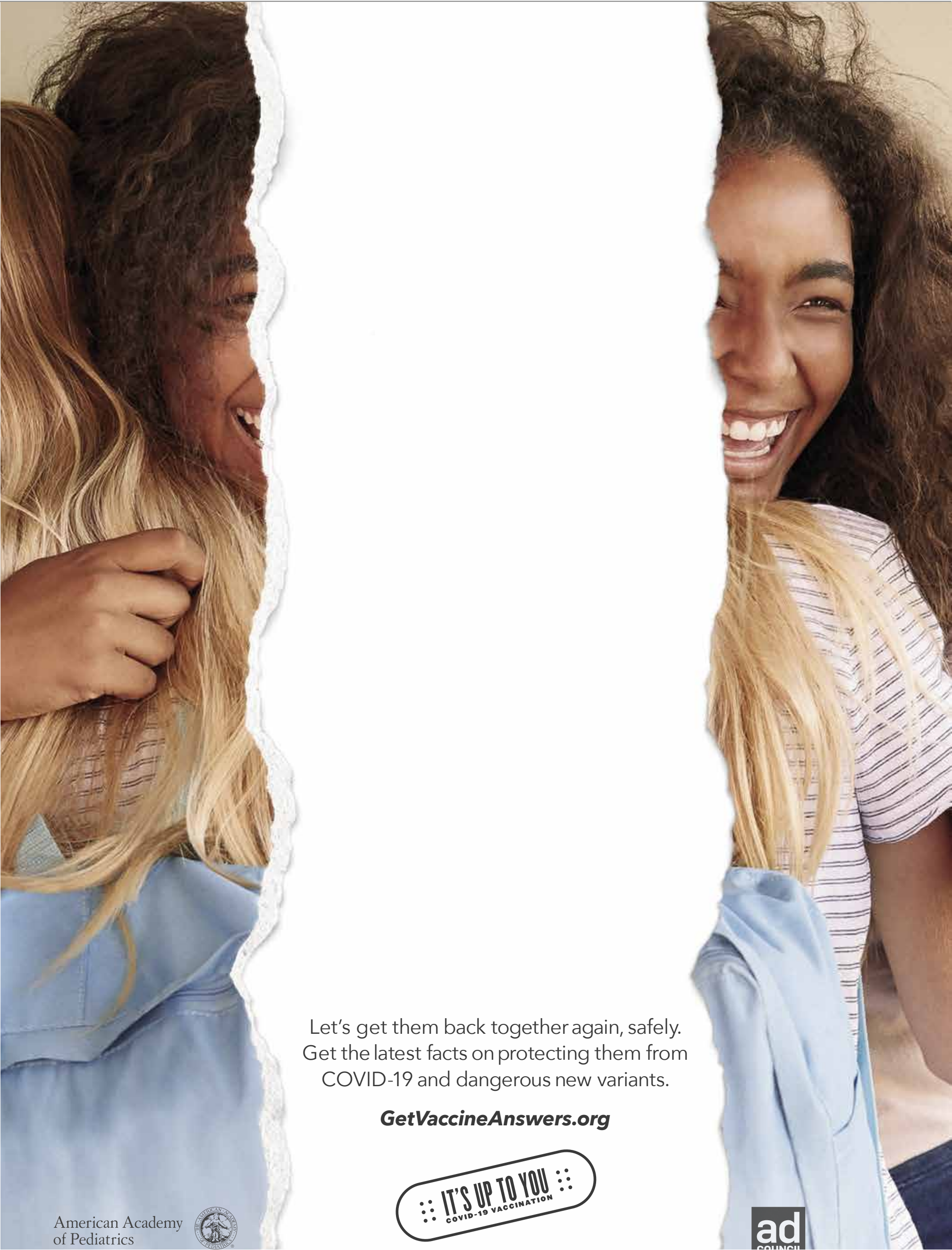
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