

## Just Do Good; Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself

By Aaron Wilson

Compton, California is situated in the center of Los Angeles County and possesses a reputation as one of the most dangerous cities in America, according to FBI crime data. It is also home to an organization dedicated to serving their neighbors and the city of Compton.

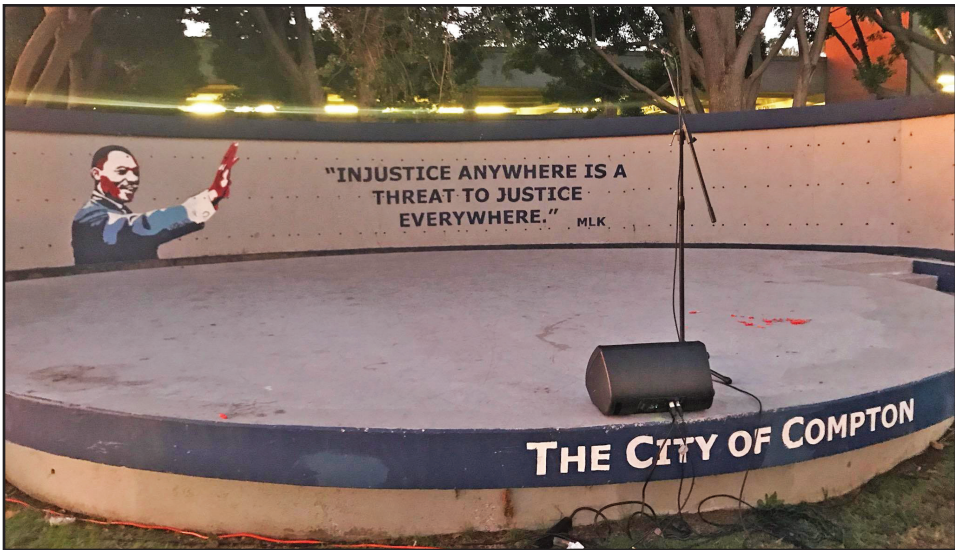
The Compton Initiative, a small non-profit charity organization founded in 2006, has made an impact in the city by painting homes, schools, and churches in the community and partnering with local volunteer organizations. Their slogan is “Just do good” and they can be recognized by their yellow t-shirts .

On Saturday, Jan. 25, twenty students from TMU worked with the organization and helped them with their usual tasks. The first location for one of the teams is College Bridge Academy, a charter high school partnered with SHIELDS for

Families that provides core requirements and on-site mental health services to kids who have been expelled or dropped out of high school. “It’s a school unlike any public school around... we try to eliminate the barriers that [students] have,” says Kimberly Brown, an employee of the school.

The Compton Initiative visits different schools, churches, and homes every couple of months, re-beautifying the area with groups ranging from 20 to 100 volunteers. The partnership with CBA began when youth services administrator at SHIELDS for Families contacted Jeudy Mom four years ago. SHIELDS For Families was initially founded to serve the special needs of a population of children exposed to drugs and their families, and are now known for providing many programs for Los Angeles’ most challenged communities.

This type of partnering is typical for Compton Initiative. “The Compton



Martin Luther King Jr. never spoke in Compton but they do have a memorial dedicated to him.

Photo by Kinsley Lively



Becca Sims fixing a rooftop in Compton

Photo by Kinsley Lively

Initiative is all about partnerships...” says Mom, the director of the Initiative since 2014. The organization partners with other groups and individual volunteers who come to help beautify the area every time there is a work day.

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As well as serving the community’s physical needs, there are plenty of opportunities for sharing the gospel. While the Compton Initiative was initially started by Mom’s church, since the organization has grown many unbelievers have joined, and there are many more opportunities to

witness to people within the community. “... It’s a great opportunity to get away from the school, but at the same time immediately go out and take what we learned during Truth and Life and just apply it, and just spend time rubbing shoulders with the community and share the gospel,” says Ethan Ohler, a junior from TMU.

The group was led by Ethan Meng, a junior at TMU who had connected with the Compton Initiative when leasing an outreach group in Compton, last October. “They are doing big stuff for the community there and I thought it was rad opportunity to take a group to help serve and evangelize!” says Meng. “It was awesome to take what I had learned at TLC and put it into practice the very next weekend - to live for the Gospel.”

## New, possible changes for college students in America

By Michael Brown

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos proposed a number of changes that would alter the way reports of sexual harassment are handled on college campuses.

The proposed changes would overhaul how schools nationwide address sexual harassment complaints, alter the definition of what sexual harassment is on campus, and reinforce due process rights for the students accused of sexual harassment.

“Reports of sexual misconduct are taken seriously at TMU,” said Chris Powell, director of Campus Safety and Title IX Coordinator for TMU. “It is also our responsibility to ensure everyone involved is afforded the appropriate due process.”

Under the Obama administration, sexual harassment was defined as “unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature,” according to the U.S. Department of Education.

However, under the proposed changes, harassment would be defined as one of three categories: “Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school’s education program or activity;” “quid pro quo harassment” that would “condition an educational benefit” on a person’s sexual conduct; and sexual assault.

“Reports of sexual misconduct are taken seriously at TMU,” said Chris Powell. “It is also our responsibility to ensure everyone involved is afforded the appropriate due process.”

“Any perceived offense can become a full-blown Title IX investigation,” DeVos said in a statement. “But if everything is harassment, nothing is.”

Additionally, the changes would allow for students accused of sexual harassment to cross-examine accusers during sexual misconduct hearings, although officials with the U.S. Education Department say it would be carried out through a representative to avoid confrontation between students.

“I would say that being cross examined by someone that harassed me would be pretty horrific,” said Monique Barnard, a senior liberal studies major from Dixon. “Even if I knew exactly what happened and knew for a fact that the other person was in the wrong.”

Barnard, like many students across the country, has concerns over the proposed changes.

“I think there’s some good stuff in it,” said Juan Moncayo, a senior kinesiology major. “But there is some stuff in there that’s a bit concerning.”

One of his concerns is the redefining of the term “sexual harassment.”

“It seems to me like they’re just adding conditions onto things that they can later on cling on to,” Moncayo said. “What does ‘so severe’ mean, you know?”

TMU has a number of trained individuals who function as investigators or adjudicators to the Title IX processes, according to Powell.

“Faculty and staff identified as mandatory reporters, or ‘responsible employees,’ are required to view a training video which outlines their responsibilities to pass on reports of sexual misconduct to the Title IX office,” Powell said.

While the changes were proposed at the end of 2018, they are not expected to go into effect any time soon, as they will likely face a number of hearings, according to government officials.

“TMU does not currently allow cross examination through a hearing,” Powell said. “But if federal law required this change we would adjust both our policies

and practices to comply.”

“Any perceived offense can become a full-blown Title IX investigation,” DeVos said in a statement. “But if everything is harassment, nothing is.”

Additionally, approximately 100,000 comments were made on the proposed rules during a mandatory period for public comment. The Department of Education will have to go through all of them before deciding whether to continue the process of mandating changes, according to federal law.

“It worries me because there are many times when people are not even willing to share about it,” Moncayo said. “Now they might be even less willing to share when the rule says that it has to be ‘so severe.’”

“I would just worry that it would scare women off from wanting to share what happened to them, which is already difficult in the first place,” Barnard added.

If anyone feels as if they have been sexually harassed, they can find the TMU grievance procedures in the student handbook under the “Sexual Misconduct Policy” appendix, which outlines how TMU will respond when provided with actionable complaints of sexual misconduct.

For more on this story, head to [tmumane.com](http://tmumane.com)

## TITLE IX



Graphic by Bethany Reeves