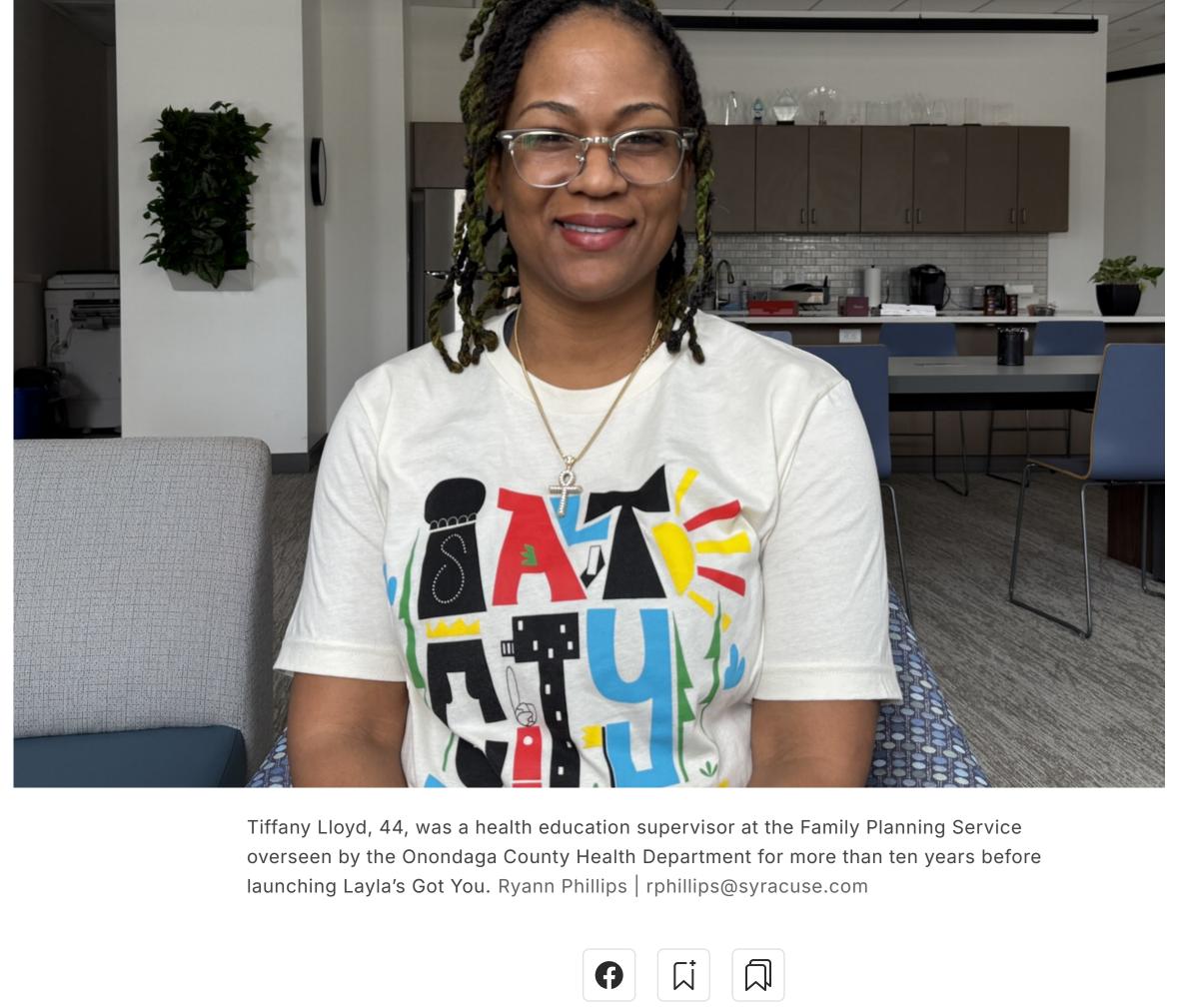
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teens with sexual health questions Updated: Feb. 13, 2025, 10:46 a.m. | Published: Feb. 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Hey girl: Syracuse-based website aims to help



Syracuse, N.Y. -- When J'Viona Baker found out that her teenage cousin had a boyfriend, she wanted to make sure that she was practicing safe sex.

website that answers questions about sex, pregnancy, birth control and sexually transmitted diseases.

Baker, 21, told her cousin to visit Layla's Got You, a Syracuse-based

By Ryann Phillips | Contributing Writer

An ambassador for the organization, Baker knew that her cousin could get confidential answers to her questions on the website. Layla aims to be a friend for girls and teens when it comes to sexual

health. The online character is a chatbot that responds to women's health questions in an understandable way for 11- to 18-year-olds. Last month, dozens of new users visited the website.

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They wanted to know about abortion and STD testing. Where can I get

Tiffany Lloyd, the director of women's health and empowerment for the

Syracuse-based program in 2019 to reduce the number of women getting

Allyn Family Foundation, is the brains behind Layla. She launched the

Signed in as:

pregnant unintentionally. The website was created for Black and Latina young women by Black and Latina young women. Women in the community chose the name "Layla" after Lloyd presented different options at local high schools and colleges. Advertisement

chatbot feel authentic to a teenager. "When you look at it from that perspective, we do see Layla as being living and breathing, because she is able to learn as she goes," Lloyd said. While the chatbot targets younger teens, Layla's Got You also has

ambassadors. Those "Laylas" work with teens and college-aged women

throughout the community to educate them about sexual health and

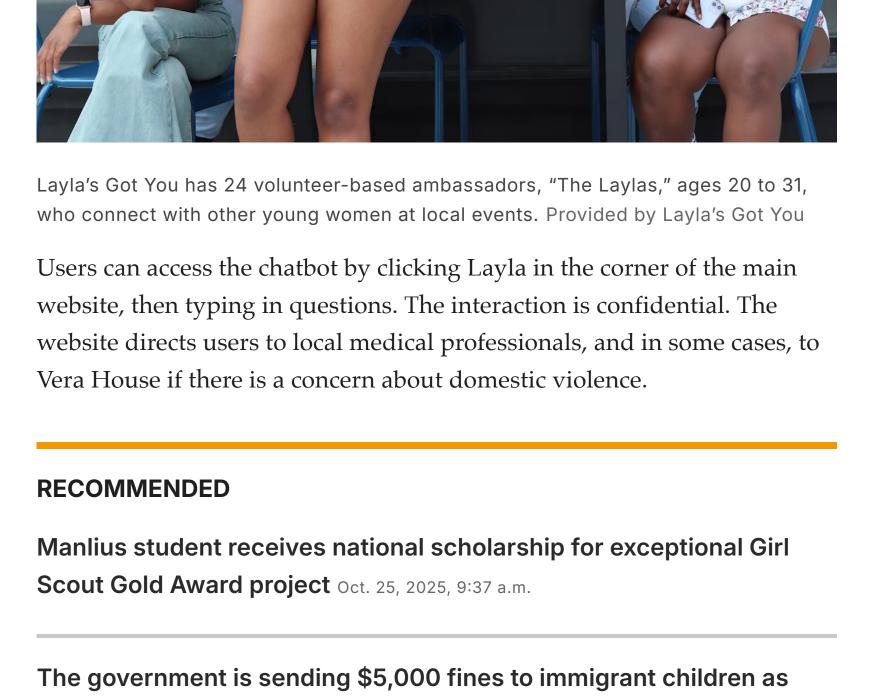
provide support.

There's no human that monitors the chatbot 24/7. But if someone asks a

You will update the answers. After talking with medical professionals,

ambassadors for the organization make sure that all responses in the

question that hasn't been answered yet, a representative from Layla's Got



Lloyd, who worked at the Family Planning Service overseen by the

Onondaga County Health Department for more than 10 years, is working

sexual health. Recently, she created playing cards with the "Laylas" about

at Salt City Market, connecting with women at local bars and attending

community...Maybe they're not going to involve their parents. We always

think it's a plus if a young person can have a strong relationship. But we

don't think whether or not you have a relationship with your parents, and

you're talking about sex should dictate whether or not you have access to

"This is about the plight and fight for Black women in our

the things you need to keep yourself safe," Lloyd said.

on meeting more young women where they are to educate them about

social, emotional and sexual health to put on tables at restaurants in Syracuse. It's called, "Put It On Da Table." The Layla ambassadors also hold other events. They are often downstairs

young as 14 Oct. 26, 2025, 6:00 a.m.

Syracuse events curated for Black women.

Ryann Phillips Contributing Writer rphillips@syracuse.com

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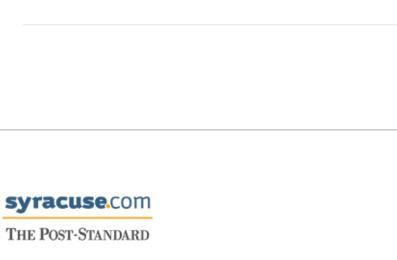
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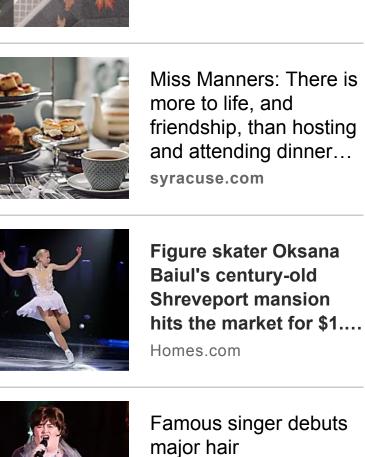
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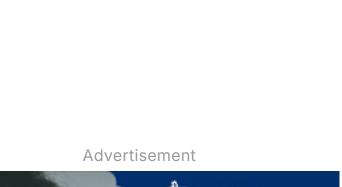
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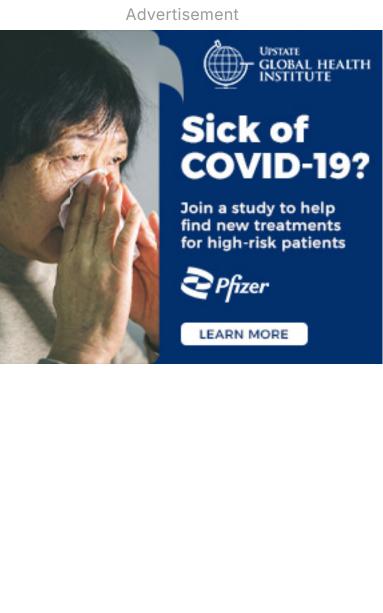
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