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## Library and University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center Launch New Partnership to Support Early Literacy

By SILVANA QUIROZ  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 12, 2022)—Prince George's County residents with newborns at University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center have a special opportunity to kickstart a love of reading for their children thanks to a new partnership between the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), the PGCMLS Foundation, and University of Maryland (UMD) Capital Region Medical Center. Families who give birth at the hospital can now enroll their children in PGCMLS' Books from Birth program before returning home, and for a limited time they will receive a baby bundle tote as a thank you (while supplies last). The totes include early literacy resources, library information, a board book, rattle, and finger puppet.

Books from Birth provides a free book by mail to children in the county until they turn five years old. The program encourages reading at an early age and prepares young children for kindergarten by cultivating essential literacy skills. Made possible by PGCMLS and the Prince George's County government, Books from Birth started in July 2017 thanks to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and funding from the county government. To date, over 23,700 children under the age of five in Prince George's County have received free books mailed to their home to build their home library. There are currently over 13,500 participants, the highest number of Books from Birth registrants for a public library system in Maryland.

Beginning in May 2022, the UMD Capital Region Medical Center in Largo piloted this partnership with the Library to assist families with newborns in registering for Books from Birth. In celebration of the full partnership launch, the PGCMLS Foundation, which supports the Library's mission, contributed funds to offer 250 baby bundle totes to thank families that register for Books from Birth at UMD and another local hospital.

"The staff of PGCMLS are thrilled to be able to work with the UMD Capital Region Health Center to reach new families with



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

(From left to right)

**Michael B. Gannon, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officers PGCMLS**  
**Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officers PGCMLS**  
**Megan Sutherland, Interim Chief Operating Officer for Public Services PGCMLS**  
**Mariela Alvarez, Social Worker UM Capital Region Health**  
**Dr. Stacey Little, Vice President of Women's and Infants' Services and Community and Population Health for UM Capital Region Health**  
**Pam Hamlin, Family Literacy Specialist at the Program Services Department of PGCMLS**

our Books from Birth program! We hope that the materials inside of the Baby Bundle totes will encourage parents in their role as their child's first and best teacher! The totes can serve as a baby bag and a reminder to think of the library as a resource for the whole family." Pam Hamlin, Family Literacy Specialist at the Program Services Department of PGCMLS stated.

On Monday, August 8, PGCMLS leadership delivered the first batch of baby bundle totes to the hospital, where they were accepted by Dr. Stacey Little, Vice President of Women's and Infants' Services and Community and Population Health and Mariela Alvarez, Social Worker. Library staff participating included Michael B. Gannon and Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officers, Megan Sutherland, Interim Chief Operating Officer for Public Services, and Pam Hamlin, Family Literacy Specialist.

"The Library and PGCMLS Foundation

are tremendously grateful to Dr. Little and her team for prioritizing literacy as an essential part of early childhood development," said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer, PGCMLS. "This type of strategic partnership is a win-win for county residents, who can benefit from library services and programs in life's biggest moments."

### How it Works

Families discharged from UMD Capital Region Medical Center are offered the opportunity to register for PGCMLS' Ready 2 Read Books from Birth program before leaving the hospital. Social workers meet with each family before they are discharged and could share our bilingual registration form with families, and even fill out the form with them if necessary. A QR code is on each form so families can opt to register on their phones. For more information please visit [pgcmls.info/FreeBooks](http://pgcmls.info/FreeBooks).

## Wanda's Hope Klozet is Partnering With Crossland High School & Dance Company for a "Pull Up Pick Up Back To School Backpack Giveaway" to Help Local Residents in Temple Hills

By PRESS OFFICER  
Wanda's Hope Klozet

TEMPLE HILLS, Md. (Aug. 8, 2022)—Prince George's County Public School's Crossland High School Dance Company, students, staff, and Wanda's Hope Klozet Community Development Corporation are hosting their Annual "Pull-up Pick Up Back To School Backpack Giveaway" on **Saturday, August 20, 2022**, at Crossland High School, 6901 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, Maryland.

Wanda's Hope Klozet Community Development Corporation members and community partners assisted with resources and support community service event. Every year hundreds of NEW school supplies were donated and given away to local families as they drove through the school parking lot. The community is still significantly impacted by the school and government closures related to COVID-19 and Wanda's Hope Klozet and partners were able to serve the community through this coat give away. Principal Dr. Michael Gilchrist, Wanda J. Knotts, students, fraternity members, and Crossland staff and alumni helped children and families every year to make this event a success!

"Our mission, passion and purpose for the Backpack Giveaway Event is to help the community. We know that more and more citizens of this area are struggling, and we want to alleviate those burdens, even if it is just a little bit. We have a strong community

presence in the county, and we want to make sure we are moving forward in a positive direction for the students and their families. Throughout the school year, we give out backpacks and coats to those who are less fortunate and may need a hand up. We also try and provide shoes for those in need. We try to instill in the students community responsibilities and volunteering as a way to help others feel good and also to get a deeper understanding of self confidence in themselves to know that someone was helped out of the kindness and love of their hearts. We try to feed the community as well during the holiday season", says Wanda J. Knotts, Founder & CEO.

Wanda's Hope Klozet Community Development Corporation is a leading nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that addresses the basic clothing and shoe needs of under-represented families around the USA. We support children, women, and families as they navigate through life challenges and hardships. We assist the community in developing a positive power that aids them along in life while offering them some of the luxuries that we frequently take for granted. Wanda's Hope Klozet believes in a society that offers all humans irrespective of their status, race, and circumstances, equivalent opportunities to live a normal and happy life. Lack of access to clothes and shoes are some of the factors that are marginalizing our nation's neediest citizens. Please visit <https://www.wandashopeklozet.com>

## Governor Hogan Leads Dedication of New Administration Building at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
The Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 8, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today joined the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) for the official dedication of a new administration building at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery, which is the result of a federal-state partnership.

"Our veterans serve as a reminder every single day of the immeasurable cost of war and of the immense price of freedom, and we owe it to them to ensure that they have a final resting place that meets the high level of dignity and respect that they have earned," said Governor Hogan. "Maryland is proud to have the honor of operating one of the largest state veterans cemetery programs in the nation, and as long as I'm governor, we will continue to do everything we can to honor the service and sacrifice of our heroes."

The cemetery received two grants totaling \$15.9 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration's Veteran Cemetery Grants Program to move forward with a number of major expansion efforts. The project includes a new 3,000 square foot administration building, the addition of 8,200 burial sites, as well as major renovations of the maintenance building, vehicle storage building, and bulk storage building.

"We are grateful for our partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration and the Maryland Department of General Services," said MDVA Secretary George Owings. "The entire project, including the addition of new burial sites, ensures our ability to continue serving as a final resting place for those who have honorably served and their dependents."

The new administration building provides space for the honor



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**Ribbon cutting ceremony at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery administration building.**

guard, who perform at burial services, to practice their routines and drills, and the waiting area is more receptive to families of loved ones who are buried at the cemetery. The new facility also provides a kiosk for locating burial plots.

"DGS is proud and honored to be working with the Department of Veterans Affairs on this project," said DGS Secretary Ellington E. Churchill, Jr. "These men and women served our great country, it is the least we can do for these true American heroes."

The project was completed in approximately 15 months with 25% of the construction work fulfilled by five minority business enterprise (MBE) owned businesses and one veteran-owned small business, G&C Fab-Con, which accounted for 4.5% of the construction work.

## Hoyer, Van Hollen, Cardin Urge NASA to Extend University of Maryland, Goddard Research Mission on Climate Change

WASHINGTON (Aug. 11, 2022)—[Last week], Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) and Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) urged the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to extend the Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) led by the University of Maryland in collaboration with NASA Goddard. GEDI provides high resolution laser observations of global forests and topography with a mission to provide answers on how deforestation is contributing to climate change. The lawmakers note that extending GEDI is critical so it can complete its data collection and meet its mission to help inform climate change mitigation efforts.

"GEDI is a high-resolution laser that scans and collects data on Earth's forests and topography from the International Space Station (ISS). GEDI quantifies estimates of carbon stored in Earth's vegetation by collecting data from canopy structure which models

the horizontal and vertical distribution of above-ground biomass. This data improves scientific understanding of habitat viability for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and provides critical information for land use management to combat deforestation and the spread of destructive wildfires. Data collected from the GEDI mission will be used to evaluate and verify international carbon reporting and will help inform climate change mitigation efforts. GEDI is an important tool in our global response to climate change," the lawmakers said.

"GEDI is scheduled to be de-orbited in 2023. The GEDI mission Principal Investigator and members of the scientific community have requested an extension to allow GEDI to complete its data collection and meet its science requirements. We are supportive of this request and ask that you explore potential options to delay GEDI's decommissioning so that the mission may conclude its work," they continued.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Changing landscape: museums, libraries, casinos, bridges and cranes

The National Air and Space Museum will reopen Oct. 14 with an X-wing starfighter from the movie "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker." Eight of the museum's 23 galleries will reopen. Free, timed passes will be available on the museum's website starting Sept. 14, and same-day passes will be distributed daily. Timed passes are expected to be used for several months.

The Surratts-Clinton Library is due to open later this year. You can go online for a virtual tour—it is beautiful! The library has a temporary location at Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7400 Temple Hill Rd, Temple Hills, MD 20748. For information, call 301-868-9200.

Maryland casinos recorded a record-setting July, pulling in \$181.5 million in total revenue, a 0.8% increase compared to a year ago. The total revenue from slots and table games at Maryland's six casinos was \$1.4 million higher than July 2021's total, according to the latest numbers released by Maryland Lottery and Gaming.

When the 11th Street bridges were being reconstructed, Harriet Tregoning, the District's then-director of planning, sought to save the piers and pilings of one of the old bridges. It reduced demolition costs and left open the possibility of one day repurposing the infrastructure. Now, her vision is coming to be as D.C. wraps up a \$90 million plan to mount a new deck over those pilings and piers, where the city plans to build gardens, public art space and a platform for community events with views of the Anacostia River. It would be the first elevated park in the nation's capital, owned by the District and managed by Ward 8-based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River.

An endangered crane hatched at the National Zoo's research facility in Virginia on May 26. Without biological parents to care for the egg, surrogates—Tahya, a 16-year-old female whooping crane and Goliath, a 25-year-old male—were chosen. Whooping crane babies are called colts because they have long legs. They fledge when they're between 80 and 100 days, but typically stick close to

their parents' territory for up to nine months.

### Two Crab Feasts

Loyola on the Potomac in Faulkner is hosting Loyola's Annual Crab Feast on Sunday, Sept. 11. For more information, call 301-392-0800.

St. Philip's invites you to their All-you-can-eat Crab Feast fundraiser at Sarto Hall (K of C) on August 21. Feast on crabs, BBQ chicken, fried fish, hotdogs, beef/turkey burgers, potato salad, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob, soda, beer, music & more. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Cost: \$70 per person. For information and tickets: Andre Jordan, 841-0141; Renee at the church office, 301-423-4244; or Stephanie at the school, 301-423-4740.

### Town of Morningside

Morningside's Yard Sale is coming up Sept. 10 at the Fire Department. Table rental is \$15, or 2 tables for \$25. For information, email Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov or call 301-736-2300.

Halloween will be celebrated Saturday, October 10 with Trunk-or-Treating, Costume Contest and more, starting at 6 p.m. Concessions will be sold.

The Town rents out its meeting space for special occasions. They have had baby showers, weddings, birthday parties and receptions of all kinds. Call 301-736-2300 or go to [www.morningsidemd.gov](http://www.morningsidemd.gov).

### Aimee & Troy marry in the Barn

Aimee Crawford, daughter of Morningside's Clerk/Treasurer Karen Rooker, and Troy Taylor were married July 30 at the Barn at Pleasant Acres, in Leonardtown. They are making their home in Cheltenham.

### Neighbors & other good people

Edward Earl "Chap" Ivey Jr., Chief of the Fairmont Heights Police Department, died June 14. Family and friends gathered July 1 at First Baptist Church of Highland Park for a Celebration of his life. Burial was at National Harmony Memorial Park.

Peter Tureik took a photo back in 2016 of a ship in the "ghost fleet" of Mallows Bay in Charles County. Now that photo has been chosen as one of 16 new U.S.

postage stamps honoring the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Fr. James Morgan, newly ordained, celebrated his first Mass on June 19 at St. Joseph's Church in Upper Marlboro. He has been assigned, as of July 6, as parochial vicar pro tem at Saint Peter Parish in Washington.

Greta Davis called to let me know that Bell's Thrift Shop, 6016 Allentown Road, is open Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call her at 301-899-7521.

### New Suicide Prevention number

As of July 16, there is a new number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988. This is in response to a serious problem—suicide is the third-leading cause of death in the United States. Remember the number and pass the word: 988.

### For single adult Catholics

The 23rd Annual Bethany Beach Retreat/Vacation will be in Delaware, Labor Day weekend/week, Sept. 3-10. Very low prices (weekend or whole week): All meals, beach chairs, tennis included. Mass daily with Fr. T. Morrow; Holy Hour avail daily. \$340 men; \$320 women. For information: [morrowt@adm.org](mailto:morrowt@adm.org).

### Helen Cordori, Oxon Hill Class of '52

Helen Marie Cordori, of Clinton, 88, died June 13. She was born at the Old Providence Hospital in Washington to Edward Joseph Bucci, Sr., and his wife Cecilia Nancy Presutti.

Helen's father Edward was a tile setter and one of the craftsmen who built La Reine High School in Suitland. All five of Helen's daughters graduated there. Her father was also manager of the Silver Hill Sand & Gravel Baseball Team.

Helen graduated in 1952 from Oxon Hill H.S. where she was in the school's choral group, theater troupe, basketball team, cheerleading squad and Girl Scouts. After graduation she worked at Census and later as a secretary at Andrews AFB. She met Laurence Cordori at an Airmen's Club Dance: they were married at old St. Ignatius Church in Oxon Hill.

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## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### MAKAYLA EUGENE

Makayla Eugene is a professional dancer from the suburbs of Brandywine, Maryland. She is the daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene, sister of Morgan Eugene and granddaughter of Frank and Gwen DeVille.

Makayla's speciality is in tap dancing, where she began her pursuits at the age of three under the leadership of Noble Potts and Jodeci Millhouse. Makayla is a 2021 graduate of the prestigious school of Jacob's Pillow, created by her mentor Dianne Walker and under the program direction of her mentors Michelle Dorrance, Derrick Grant, Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards and Artist Faculty Jason Samuel-Smith. Makayla is a graduate of the Metropolitan School for the Performing Arts and the Metropolitan School for the Performing Arts and the Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble under the Direction of Charles Renato and the direction of Nick King. She has been a featured primary artist for the Tap Kids Spectacular 20th anniversary concert in addition to projects with Derick Grant, Michelle Dorrance and Sarah Reich.

In 2022, Makayla earned the honor to become a cast member of the Charles Renato Tap Project, Sole defined Live and Cartier Williams' "Visions Revolution Evolution" at the John Kennedy Center for the performing Arts.

In the fall, Makayla will be attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina as a Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Full Honors Scholar with a major in Agriculture Business and a minor in Dance with the ultimate vision to open a dance conservatory and creative sanctuary for inner city artists, in the Washington, DC area: the land that was passed down from her ancestors.

### MONTPELIER HOUSE MUSEUM

Friday, August 26, 2022, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. there will be activities at Montpelier House. Activities are Herb Garden Bingo for ages 3-7. Herb Garden Scavenger Hunt ages 10+, Tree and Shrub Scavenger Hunt ages 12+, Outdoor Adventure Hunt ages 13-17, Inspector Pediment Architecture Scavenger Hunt (indoors) ages 5+. Return your scavenger hunt/bingo sheets to the main office for a prize. Email for more information [montpeliermansion@pgparks.com](mailto:montpeliermansion@pgparks.com)

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

You are cordially invited to the Bowie State University National Alumni Association Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Thursday, September 1, 2022, from 7-11 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds. The address is 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

Celebrating inductees: Ceci M. Hatcher-Aikens, Women's Basketball 1975-1979, Stephen Lee, Football 1977-1980, Rodrick Ricky Missouri, Men's Tennis 1971-1974, Cheryl L.

Hatcher-Williams, Women's Basketball Softball/Track & Field 1980-1984, Gregory Tyehimba McCollough, Football 1972-1975, Dr. Bruce Purnell, Men's Basketball 1985-1988, Dr. Staley Jackson, Head Football Coach 1972-1973, Paul E. McGowan, Football 1972-1974, Stephen Smith, Football 1990-1992, Annette C. Wedderburn SHOF Board 2014-Present.

Tickets: \$100 per person/Tax Deductible Portion: \$25.00 Proceeds to Benefit BSUNAA Sports Hall of Fame Alumni Chapter General Fund and Student Scholarships. [bsushof@gmail.com](mailto:bsushof@gmail.com)

### BILL PICKETT CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO MATINEE SHOW

The Bill Pickett Championship Rodeo-Matinee Show will be held Saturday, September 24, 2022, from 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. at Show Place Arena Prince George's Equestrian Center. Address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo celebrates and honors Black Cowboys and Cowgirls and their contributions to building the west. They highlight the irrefutable global appeal of Black Cowboys and Cowgirls in the West and the stories behind a sub-culture that is strong today.

BPIR also serves as a cultural event and opportunity for families to enjoy and embrace the cowboy culture, while being educated and entertained with reenactments, history highlights, and western adventure.

Email: [showplacearena@pgparks.com](mailto:showplacearena@pgparks.com). Cost: Advance Price: \$27 Child/Senior; \$32 Adult Day of Show Pricing: \$32 Child/Senior; \$37 Adult.

Contact us: 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Phone: 301-952-7900, Fax: 301-952-8167.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Become a Volunteer! There are many ways you can help care for and contribute to the planning of your community. As a volunteer with The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Planning, Prince George's County (referred to as the "Commission"), the lasting impression you make on those you serve reflects directly on all of us. Please be sure your words and deeds will help build our program and its reputation for quality. For further information on what opportunities are available, contact Ellen H. Brous, Administrative Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator, Human Resources, Office of the Planning Director at 301-952-4674.

CONTACT: Human Resources Office of the Planning Director. Email Human Resources. Physical address is 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Phone: 301-952-3597.

## Around the County

### PGSPCA Low-Cost Shot Clinic

Sunday, September 4, 2022

The Prince George's County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PGSPCA) is holding walk-in, low-cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs, on the first Sunday of the month, from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. during the summer months (July-September) at 8210 D'Arcy Road in Forestville, Maryland. No appointment is needed. The gates open at 11 a.m., and anyone in line by 1 p.m. will be served. All dogs MUST be leashed or in a carrier. All cats MUST be in a carrier.

Rabies vaccination: \$15; Distemper vaccination: \$15; Microchipping: \$30 Cash or credit card only; no checks. Without documentation of a prior rabies vaccine, your pet's rabies vaccine will expire in one year. For more information, visit [www.pgspca.org/clinic/shots](http://www.pgspca.org/clinic/shots).

—DoE - Animal Chatter News, Aug. 11, 2022

### Bowie State Softball to Hold Fall Youth and Prospect Camp on September 10 and 11

BOWIE, Md. (Aug. 9, 2022)—Bowie State softball will be conducting a pair of camps during the month of September. A youth camp will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 10, while the prospect camp follows on Sunday, Sept. 11.** Both camps will be held at the BSU Softball Field on the beautiful campus of Bowie State University.

The youth camp is open to all youth ages 6-12 years old with the session running from 12 noon-3 p.m. on Sept. 10. Lunch will not be provided.

Geared towards grade school 7-12, the prospect camp will start at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday (Sept. 11) after the slapper's session from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. The slappers segment is for all ages. Lunch will be provided.

Both camps will be ran by the Bowie State softball coaching staff and players. In addition to teaching fundamentals of the game, the camp will also emphasize other elements including infield/outfield fundamentals, hitting, bunting, base running and competition.

### Costs

Youth Camp: \$25

Prospect Camp: \$100

Slappers Session: \$75 (All Ages)

It is strongly encouraged to RSVP for the camps prior to arrival, for registration please click [HERE](#). Payments via check, cash, credit card and apple pay will be acceptable the day of camps.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit [www.bsbulldogs.com](http://www.bsbulldogs.com).

—Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University

### Celebrity Charity Hockey Game to Take Place in Laurel

On **Thursday, September 29** at 8 p.m., a charity hockey event will take place at The Gardens Ice House in Laurel, Maryland, to raise money for Players Against Hate. The game will feature a hockey game featuring local celebrities and local hockey coaches, to include the following:

- Chris '#2' Barker – Bassist and vocalist from the band Anti-Flag
- Christopher R. Barron – Regular on Fox News and Fox Business, contributor to Human Events, Vice President of PR for International Health Brands
- Danielle McLean – University of Maryland women's hockey coach and senior editor for Smart Cities Dive.
- William Douglas – NHL Staff writer and founder of The Color of Hockey
- Shawn Steppner – Award-winning sports reporter for WMAR-TV, the ABC affiliate in Baltimore
- Joel 'Chef JoJo' Thomas – Founding chef of D.C. restaurant Kitchen-Cray.

There will be a post-game acoustic performance by Chris '#2' Barker of the band Anti-Flag.

Anti-Flag will be performing at the Black Cat in Washington, DC, Friday, September 30, 2022.

Players Against Hate is determined to increase awareness and stop racism and name-calling by youth athletes, their teams and coaches, their families, and spectators.

The goals of Players Against Hate are to:

- Develop educational materials against hate to be used to teach players, coaches, officials, sports organizations, and spectators that hate has no place on the bench, in the game, or in the stands.
- Sponsor scholarships with monies raised by Players Against Hate to support athletes of color who want to play sports that have traditionally been less diverse.
- Grow the movement beyond hockey to other youth sports where hate impacts the athletes.

More information about Players Against Hate can be found at [www.PlayersAgainstHate.org](http://www.PlayersAgainstHate.org)

—Players Against Hate

### UW-Stevens Point Spring Graduates 2022

STEVENS POINT, Wis. (August 10, 2022)—The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point conferred degrees 1,100 graduates for the spring 2022 semester.

The list of candidates for graduation includes the following local students:

Hyattsville, MD: **Abigail Adams**, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, Physics, Summa Cum Laude

—Carrie Heibler, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

### Bethel University Announces Spring 2022 Graduates

MCKENZIE, Tenn. (Aug. 8, 2022)—The following Bethel University students completed the requirements for spring graduation 2022.

"Graduation is a special time," said Bethel University President Walter Butler. "It's a celebration of a culmination of commitment, hard work and learning. I am so proud of these young men and women and excited for the impact that they will have in their careers, communities and families."

Congratulations to all of the spring 2022 graduates of Bethel University!

Bethel University is a private, not-for-profit university affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church located in McKenzie, Tenn., offering both on-campus and online courses.

Riverdale, MD: **Pascal Tabang Mohungsi**, Bachelor of Science

—Kaitlyn Scott, Bethel University



# COMMUNITY

## LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER National Juried Exhibition of Works on and of Paper

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS  
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Aug. 9, 2022)—LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER features 2D and 3D works on, in, and of paper. The exhibition showcases diverse practices and concepts in paper arts including trends and advances in the art of hand papermaking, politics of paper/papermaking, and explorations of the materiality of paper itself.

**LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER opens Friday, August 19 and runs through October 2, 2022 in Pyramid's Helen C. Frederick Gallery. An Artist Reception will be held opening night from 6–8 p.m. RSVPs are requested for social distancing. The event and exhibition are free and open to the public. The exhibition will be viewable online and without reservation starting Saturday, August 20. Gallery hours are Wed–Thu, 10–8 p.m.; Fri–Sat, 10–6 p.m.; and Sunday 12–5 p.m. Masks are required in the gallery. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville Maryland 20781. For more information and an RSVP link, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.**

The jurors—Cindy Cheng, Artist and MICA

Professor; Kelly Taylor Mitchell, Artist and Educator; and Gretchen Schermerhorn, Pyramid's Artistic Director—faced quite the challenge in reviewing and making selections from the 588 pieces submitted for consideration. In the end, they selected a group of 40 dynamic pieces from artists across the United States. Each Juror will also make a "pick" of their favorite piece in the exhibition, which will receive a ribbon (made of paper, of course!) and a cash award. These picks will be announced August 19 at the artist reception.

The wide-ranging works will show paper pushed to the limits: stretched, manipulated, recycled, cast, or otherwise transformed so conceptually and visibly, it becomes something else altogether. "I think the scale of the works will be surprising to visitors. We often think of paper in its 8.5" x 11" size, but that notion is very much challenged by accumulation, transformation, or repetition in pieces such as in Xuewu Zheng's "Zen Wall" of cast bricks," remarks Schermerhorn. "It's exciting to see how something as common as paper can be used to discuss current political events or philosophical conundrums, such as the piece by Kristen Tordello-Williams, "For Flags," that explores the history of labor in a common American work garment."

The selected artists represent an array of approaches in art making, from traditional to experimental. Some are very fresh-on-the-scene of paper arts and some are accomplished, master-level artists with CVs that read like novels. Exhibiting Artists: Cathy Abbott (VA), Hannah O'Hare Bennett (WI), Nathaniel J. Bice (CA), Anne Burton (NE), Susan Casey (PA), Arden Cone (SC), IBe' Bulinda Crawley (DC), Stephanie Damoff (NY), Priya Dave (MA), Mary Early (DC), Elaine Elledge (PA), Amze Emmons (PA), Andrea Sherrill Evans (MD), Lanie Gannon (TN), Reni Gower (VA), Melissa Harshman (GA), David Joo (VA), Nilou Kazemzadeh (MD), June Linowitz (MD), Christine Medley (PA), Emmett Merrill (MO), Samantha Modder (MO), Hannah Moog (VA), Phuong Nguyen (VA), Kimberly Obee (NH), Anela Oh (TN), Katie O'Keefe (MD), Mariceliz Pagán-Gómez (IA), Ransome (NY), Nicole Salimbene (MD), Katie Schutte (WI), Megan Singleton (MO), Briana Stanley (CA), Barbara Straussberg (PA), Kristen Tordella-Williams (MS), Jocmarys Viruet (PR), Isabella Whitfield (VA), Frances Vye Wilson (DC), Amy Yoshitsu (CA), and Xuewu Zheng (NY).

This exhibition is made possible in part through a gift from The Nora Roberts Foundation and support from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center is a nonprofit contemporary art center fostering the creative disciplines of papermaking, printmaking, and book arts within a collaborative community. We equip, edu-

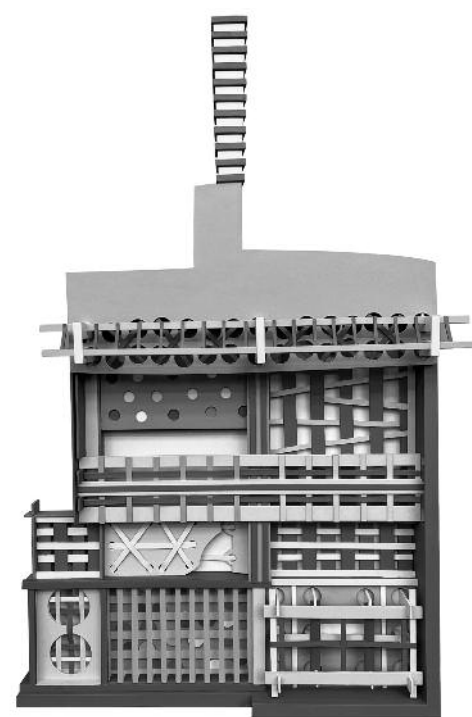


PHOTO COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER  
**LUDIE** by Lanie Gannon, hand cut paper board and acrylic paint.

cate, and exhibit in our historic Hyattsville home. Our vision is to create an artistic hub in Hyattsville that inspires and enables local, national, and international artists to create and innovate in our core disciplines; elevates the local arts and small business scene; and enhances the quality of life for artists and neighbors. We value artistic excellence, infrastructure for artists, hands-on experiences, and collaboration.

## Family, Mandalas, Cooking and Pets Are all Part of Fall Grief Programs

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

See page 6 for  
Fall Grief Support  
Groups for  
Children and Teens

PASADENA, Md. (Aug. 11, 2022)—

From creating mandalas from nature to learning how to cook and dine without your loved one at the table, Chesapeake Life Center is offering creative programs for adults to find a path to healing from grief this fall.

- **Family Night** will use creative expression for families to learn to cope with the grief process. This workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 29**, in our Prince George's County location at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo. The cost is \$25 per family.
- Someone once said that another part of grief is learning to cook for oneself. **Cooking While Grieving** is an opportunity to share a meal and conversation about what it's like to cook and dine after a loss. In partnership with Whole Foods Market in the Annapolis Town Center, join a small group of other grievers for a chef-prepared dinner in the market's Culinary and Community Center from 6 to 8 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 5**. The cost is \$40. Space is limited.
- **Fall Nature Mandala Workshop** combines an appreciation for the woods and gardens on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus with the restorative practice of creating nature mandalas. Sanskrit for "circle," a mandala is a geometric design that represents a journey, starting from the outside and working inward. By slowing down and listening to the voices of nature, people can gain an opportunity to know themselves and the healing qualities of mother nature. Participants will meet outdoors at 90 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena campus to gather natural materials and then create their own mandalas. The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, **Friday, Oct. 21**. The cost is \$10.
- **Pet Loss Workshop** is a free program for adults mourning the loss of a beloved animal friend. It will include a welcome, a time to share individual stories, an introduction to the grief process, an art activity to honor your beloved pet, brainstorming and suggestions for healthy coping. This workshop is sponsored by Perfect Pet Resort and will be held from 10 a.m. to noon **Nov. 12** at their location at 840 W. Bay Front Road, Lothian, Maryland.

Attendance restrictions and requirements will be updated using the most recent Centers for Disease Control guidelines and organizational policies prior to each event. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org). Visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org/events](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/events) for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

*Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit [www.chesapeakelifecenter.org](http://www.chesapeakelifecenter.org).*

### Morningside from A2

In the '60s she began to sell Avon. She went on to become a district sales manager, earning trips all over the world. She enjoyed baking, sewing, birthdays, family vacations, Irish dancing, holiday decorating and more.

Helen is survived by her husband of 58 years, Laurence; daughters Ann Marie, Nancy, Margaret, Michele and Jeanne; two grandsons, and two brothers. Mass of Christian Burial was at Most Holy Rosary Church with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Melody Barnes, Aug. 20; Austin Michael Fowler and my daughter-in-law Denise McHale, Aug. 21; Wayne Anderson, Barbara Phipps and Gavin Michael Glaubitz, Aug. 22; Shelly Sansbury, Edith Hull and Joseph R. Maiden, Jr., Aug. 23; Chris Busky, William Fowler, and twins Anthony and Avery Simmons, Aug. 27.

Happy 19th anniversary to my next-door neighbors John and Stacie Smith on Aug. 23.

## University of Maryland Extension Internship Experience Builds Professional Development and Community Connections

By LAURA WORMUTH  
University of Maryland  
Extension

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 10, 2022)—From the first steps in implementing a research project to educating the public through workshops and field days, the first cohort of University of Maryland Extension (UME) interns completed the Workforce Development & Extension Internship, experiencing first-hand the land-grant mission of research and community outreach.

Working with county agents and statewide specialists, seven UME interns participated in hands-on field research, data collection and interpretation, and community outreach and educa-

tion beginning May 31. The ten week program selected the students from local educational institutions including St. Mary's College of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, University of Maryland College Park, Morgan State University, College of Southern Maryland, and Salisbury University.

"When I was 10 years old in 4-H, I didn't really know what Extension was," said Brian Wathen, recent graduate of the College of Southern Maryland, during closing ceremonies held on Aug. 3 at the Prince George's Soil Conservation District in Upper Marlboro, Md. "This intern-

See INTERNSHIP Page A5



IMAGE CREDIT: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

**University of Maryland Extension Workforce Development & Extension Internship students. (From left to right) Back Row: Nathan Villiger, St. Mary's College of Maryland; Cai Diggs, University of Maryland-College Park Middle Row: Grace Tisone, University of Maryland-College Park; Makayla Kret, University of Maryland-College Park; Kendell Weingard, Salisbury University Front Row: Khylah Harris, Morgan State University; Brian Wathen, College of Southern Maryland**

## Monumental Sculpture of Harriet Tubman by "Genius" Fellow Dr. Joyce J. Scott at Banneker-Douglass Museum

On Display Starting September 1, 2022

By JAN F. LEE

**Banneker-Douglass Museum & Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 9, 2022)—Come to the Banneker-Douglass Museum starting September 1st to stand in awe of the monumental sculpture, *Araminta with Rifle and Vévé* (2017), created by MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Dr. Joyce J. Scott. Viewing the sculpture will be a perfect way to continue celebrating the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial and to start off International Underground Railroad Month.

Standing at 10 feet tall, the Harriet Tubman monument is made of painted milled foam with found objects, blown glass, and mixed media appliques. Tubman holds in her hands a beaded rifle adorned with flowers and a beaded staff, called a vévé.

Provocative and piercing, the sculpture was originally a part of Joyce J. Scott's 2018 exhibition entitled Harriet Tubman and Other Truths at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, N.J. The Banneker-Douglass Museum is honored to have it as its new temporary home, on view through September 30, 2023.

"Dr. Joyce J. Scott's work is a touchstone in the museum's history. Two years after opening in 1984, Banneker-Douglass Museum had its first group art exhibition and Joyce J. Scott was the only woman artist featured. As the daughter of quilter/textile artist Elizabeth Talford Scott, Joyce's work often centers legacy and defiance. This sculpture allows visitors to celebrate both concepts," said Schillica Howard, Curator of Collections

at Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Dr. Joyce J. Scott is a Baltimore native whose work examines the extremes of human nature—the beauty and the brutality—to create artworks that not only illustrate the stories of a complex collective history, but that also reveal universal truths. In 2016, Dr. Scott was awarded the MacArthur Fellowship, known as "a genius grant," which has brought national and international acclaim to "a woman who is frequently touted as one of Maryland's greatest living artists" according to Baltimore Magazine.

And there's more coming to the Banneker-Douglass Museum this fall. This piece is a part of an upcoming exhibition, *The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy*, which presents multidisciplinary works of art by a superlative of fifteen cross-generational Black Maryland-based artists and the Banneker-Douglass Museum Fine Art Collection. Guest curated by Myrtis Bedolla of Galerie Myrtis in Baltimore, this exhibition explores America's fraught history of systemic racism with thought-provoking narratives while celebrating the resiliency of a people who have persevered despite social and political devices to suppress them. *The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy* opens on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

The sculpture will be installed outside the main entry doors of the museum, greeting visitors with grandeur. Banneker-Douglass Museum is located at 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum is the State



PHOTO BY KEN ECK, COURTESY GOYA CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

**Araminta with Rifle and Vévé (2017)**

of Maryland's official museum of African American heritage and culture. It is operated by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Admission is free. To learn more, visit <http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov>. Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.



# COMMENTARY

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## The Inflation Reduction Act: Celebrating, But Continuing the Work

In a week full of headlines, President Biden was celebrating a series of key victories for his priorities in Congress and beyond. One of the biggest was the Senate's hard-fought passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which is expected to head to President Biden's desk soon to be signed into law. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) applauded the Senate for passing this bill, which will provide some needed relief for children and families across the country and represents an important step forward in the fight to protect our planet and people from uncurbed climate change and corporate greed. But the Senate also passed up opportunities to go even further.

CDF joined others pushing Congressional leaders to add a provision that would have closed the Medicaid coverage gap by increasing eligibility in the 12 states that have refused federal funds to expand health care coverage. Without it, more than two million people—primarily Black and Brown individuals and families who live in the South—are still being unjustly denied health coverage. Congressional leaders also failed to make critical investments in child care, nutrition, housing, and fighting child poverty in our rich nation through an expanded and permanent Child Tax Credit (CTC).

CDF co-chairs the Automatic Benefit for Children

(ABC) Coalition, a group of national, state, and grassroots organizations seeking to create a child allowance, or a guaranteed minimum income for children, that provides regular, meaningful assistance to families, promotes racial equity and justice, enjoys broad public support, and serves as a foundation for a more equitable and inclusive social support system. An expanded, fully inclusive CTC is a critical step towards that goal. As the ABC Coalition notes, when the CTC was expanded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 35 million families with 65 million children—approximately 90 percent of all children in the United States—benefited from its immediate and consistent relief before the Senate allowed the program to expire in December 2021. Kali Daugherty, a member of the ABC Coalition's Parent Advisory Board, explained how the CTC helped her family and others she works with in social services: "[For other families,] it meant they could pay their utility bill, get a new pair of shoes for their children, and have enough food for their family. For my family it meant making it to the end of the month without having to [put] gas, groceries, or other needed items on a credit card. It meant I could avoid the constant circle of high interest payments to get our basic needs met." She added: "I implore Congress to address the financial burden children and families in our country are facing and to bring back the monthly CTC payments that helped to eliminate this."

By leaving the expanded CTC out of the Inflation Reduction Act, Congress shirked their responsibility to answer that plea and continue the CTC's demonstrated success. The ABC Coalition sums it up this way: "It is a missed opportunity to improve the health and well-being of families with children across the country. It is a missed opportunity to support families and keep millions of children out of poverty. It is a missed opportunity to help families meet the rising costs of raising children. It is a missed opportunity to help families offset the economic burden imposed by inflation. It is a missed opportunity to advance racial equity. It is a missed opportunity to invest in local communities . . . It is our duty as a nation to protect all children and families and give them the resources they deserve not only to survive, but to thrive. As policymakers return to Washington, they can and must prioritize policies like the expanded CTC and send relief to families now."

Our failure and refusal to center our children's needs and invest in policies to end preventable child poverty and deprivation is a moral blight on our nation. We know what works, which makes it all the more shameful that we've let the CTC lapse and let millions of children fall back into poverty. We cannot let politics stand in the way of good policy. We must keep up the faith and the fight to extend the expanded CTC and end child poverty once and for all.

—August 12, 2022

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Nichelle Nichols' Legacy: "Out of This Madness, Uhura Appeared"

"Everybody, come quick, come quick; there's a black lady on television and she ain't no maid!"  
—Whoopi Goldberg

Fed up with racist insults on set and longing to make her way as a Broadway musical star, Star Trek actress Nichelle Nichols already had given showrunner Gene Roddenberry her letter of resignation when she met Martin Luther King, Jr., at a Beverly Hills fundraiser.

He implored her not to quit, telling her that Star Trek was the only television show he and his wife allowed their three young children to stay up and watch. "For the first time on television, we will be seen as we should be seen every day, as intelligent, quality, beautiful, people who can sing

dance, and can go to space, who are professors, lawyers. If you leave, that door can be closed because your role is not a Black role, and is not a female role; he can fill it with anybody—even an alien."

Nichols retrieved her resignation letter—Roddenberry had torn it into pieces, and went on to inspire not only a generation of entertainers and artists but real-life astronauts as well. Before launching into history aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992, Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to travel into space, called Nichols to thank her for the inspiration.

Nichols, who passed away last month, portrayed a character who exuded intelligence, glamor, competence, and an authority that was re-

spected by men and women of all backgrounds at a time when such roles were rare not just on television, but in American life.

"Black people of all abilities and professions were still being relegated to the corners of restaurants, hotels and offices," journalist Stacy China wrote in the New York Times. "Black women, if ever mentioned in the larger media, were portrayed as either loud, undignified troublemakers or genial, overweight maids and nannies who supposedly delighted in doting on white folk's children."

"Out of this madness, Uhura appeared."

Representation for people of color in the entertainment industry is a founding principle of the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, celebrating its 20th anniversary this week. The National Urban League continues to be an active participant in the festival, hosting and participating in panels and discussions, including a conversation with filmmaker Andre Gaines, whose film, *After Jackie*, tells the story of the second wave of Black baseball players after Jackie Robinson—Bill White, Curt Flood and Bob Gibson—"who put their lives on the line to integrate baseball and demand a fairer, more inclusive America for African American athletes around the world."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of a Supreme Court ruling known as the Curt Flood decision that opened the door for free agency in Major League Baseball. The film has re-ignited the push to induct Flood into the Hall of Fame.

"One of the powers of this festival, and the

work that [festival organizers Stephanie and Floyd Rance] have done, is to lift up stories that too often have been lost in the flow of time," said former President Barack Obama, producer of another festival entry, *Descendant*, a documentary about the descendants of the slave ship *Clotilda*. "Because we believe that everybody's stories matter. Everybody's got a sacred story that motivates us, moves us. It's not just a matter of nostalgia. It powers us into the present and the future."

Visibility for Black history, for the diversity and richness of Black experiences, are essential in breaking down Black stereotypes and shattering the myth of white supremacy.

"There is still a very long way to go in the representation of Black women and femmes on modern-day screens and stages, but Nichelle played a pivotal role in shifting our stories out of the lives of servants and sidekicks," wrote actress Celia Rose Gooding, who reprises the role of Uhura in a Paramount+ series. "She taught us we all deserved to have our dreams come true because our dreams mattered, whether we were officers with a hand in protecting the future, space explorers, dancers who bring smiles to their spectators, or those of us with songs in our hearts we must set free."

"And she taught us we deserved representation and the preservation of our futures not only because of what we could do for the world, but simply because it was our God-given right."

—August 11, 2022

## Lt. Governor Rutherford Celebrates Historic Acquisition of Property Connected to Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches

Parcel To Become Community Park, Preserving Iconic History on the Chesapeake Bay

By BRITTANY MARSHALL  
The Office of  
Lieutenant Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 12, 2022)—Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford [last Friday] celebrated the acquisition of a 5.17-acre parcel known as Elktonia Beach, which is connected to the historic Black beaches, Carr's Beach and Sparrow's Beach. In March, Governor Hogan announced the state's investment of more than \$4.8 million for the acquisition, which sets in motion the development of a heritage community park dedicated to preserving the legacy of the once popular resorts that served the Black community during segregation.

"This project is important to our administration, and this land is connected to my personal history, as my mother once enjoyed concerts at Carr's Beach in the late 1940s," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "I look forward to visiting the waterfront heritage park when it opens, and watching future generations of Marylanders create their own memories, while learning about our past."

Elktonia, Sparrow's, and Carr's beaches were owned and operated by the Carr Family



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford speaking at the celebration of the acquisition of a 5.17-acre parcel known as Elktonia Beach, which is connected to the historic Black beaches, Carr's Beach and Sparrow's Beach: "I look forward to visiting the waterfront heritage park when it opens, and watching future generations of Marylanders create their own memories, while learning about our past."

from the mid 1920s to the late 1960s, and served as a safe haven for the Black community when they were prohibited from using other beaches. Carr's Beach was a popular location for concerts featuring many prominent Black performing artists, including Chuck Berry, The Temptations, Ike and Tina Turner, The Shirelles, Little Richard, and Billie Holiday. The

newly acquired parcel contains more than 300 feet of sandy beach area with direct waterfront access to the Chesapeake Bay.

"DNR is pleased to support this acquisition, which preserves important history and provides public access to open space along the Chesapeake Bay," said Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio of the Maryland Department

of Natural Resources (DNR). "Working together with our partners, we have furthered the cultural preservation and land conservation goals of both the City of Annapolis and the State of Maryland."

A majority of the land acquisition was funded by the state. DNR committed \$3.68 million in grant funding from Program Open Space (POS)

Stateside, which will supplement POS Local funds from the City of Annapolis and Anne Anne Arundel County. In August, the Board of Public Works approved \$1.2 million in Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure funding to the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation in order to help the development of the new park.

The City of Annapolis, in partnership with the Blacks of the Chesapeake and the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office, will lead the planning and design of the waterfront heritage community park.

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs Announces Fiscal Year 2023 Procurement Forecast Mid-Year Technical Training Classroom Schedule

*Business Intelligence Database Assists Small Business Community Seeking Procurement Opportunities*

By PRESS OFFICER

Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 11, 2022)—The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs today announced the State of Maryland's procurement forecast for fiscal year 2023. The office's online database, populated with solicitations of \$100,000 or greater, is now available on the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs website.

"This is a powerful tool for small, minority, women, and veteran business owners who are seeking to perform in the state contracting arena," said Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs Jimmy Rhee. "It provides insight on what is likely to be coming down the pipeline and helps vendors make connections with buyers at the agency level."

The database comprises both new and recurring items, including task orders issued under master contracts. Users can choose from six different options to focus their search. By downloading the search results, users can get expanded information, including the buyer's name and contact information.

Small businesses are also often looking for contracting opportunities below \$100,000. As a result, many state agencies also include supplementary information on projected contracts between \$15,000 and \$99,999.

"Access to this information reinforces the open and transparent nature of Maryland's public contracting arena," said Rhee. "Entrepreneurs also have 24/7 access to a video and a slide deck with instructions on how to mine this valuable pipeline."

To access the database, view the video, and download the slide deck, visit the Procurement Forecast tab at <https://gomdsmallbiz.maryland.gov/Pages/Forecasting.aspx>.

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## What Are My Wife's Benefits While I'm Living and as My Widow?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** I will be 70 in January and my wife will be 65 in February, at which time we will both go on Medicare. I am currently working, and my approximate Social Security benefit will be around \$2,900. My wife was a stay-at-home mom and, therefore, has minimal Social Security benefits on her own. At 65 she is eligible for \$870 and at full retirement age will qualify for \$990. A few questions: if she starts to draw benefits at 65, what would be her total spousal benefit? If she waited until her full retirement age, what would the amount be? Of greater concern, what would be her survivor benefit given the same criteria as mentioned above. **Signed: Planning Ahead**

**Dear Planning Ahead:** Based on the Social Security amounts in your email, your wife is eligible for a spousal benefit while you are both living. Her spouse benefit when she claims will consist of her own Social Security retirement benefit plus a spousal boost to bring her payment to her spousal entitlement. Spouse benefits are computed using full retirement age (FRA) benefit amounts, so if your age 70 benefit is "around \$2900" then your FRA (age 66) benefit amount (known as your "primary insurance amount") should be around \$2,225. Your wife's base spousal boost would be the difference between her FRA amount and 50% of your FRA amount, so her total benefit, if taken at her full retirement age, would be about \$1,112 (her \$990 plus a \$122 spousal boost). But taken at age 65, both her own benefit and her spousal boost would be reduced. At age 65 your wife's total benefit would be around \$963 (her own \$870 plus a reduced spousal boost of about \$93).

Regarding your wife's survivor benefit as your widow, if she has reached her full retirement age (66 years and 8 months), at your death she would get the same amount you were getting when you died—the \$2,900 you will get by claiming at age 70. Your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will replace the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were both living. Since your wife will be already collecting a spousal benefit from you, if she has reached her FRA when you pass your wife will be automatically awarded her survivor benefit at that time. If she hasn't yet reached her FRA when you pass, the spousal portion of her benefit will stop but she can request a reduced survivor benefit early. In that case her early survivor benefit will be actuarially reduced by .396% for each month before her FRA it is claimed. If you were to die in the month your wife turns 65, her early survivor benefit would be about \$2668.

One final thought about Medicare: if you continue to work and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), thus avoiding the Part B premium until you stop working. If your wife is covered under your "creditable" employer healthcare plan, she can also defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until that coverage ends ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants). However, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), for which there is no premium, is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

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## Maryland Delegation Members Applaud President's Signing of Veterans' Health Care Bill With Funding for Two Maryland Veterans Clinics

By MAYA VALENTINE,  
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON (Aug. 11, 2022)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), as well as Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02), John Sarbanes (MD-03), Kweisi Mfume (MD-07), and Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) applauded President Biden's signing of legislation to open two veterans' outpatient clinics in Baltimore and Prince George's County. The bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) provides healthcare benefits for all generations of toxic-exposed veterans for the first time in the nation's history and will improve access to care for all those who served in our nation's armed forces.

The lawmakers fought to include authorization and funding for the two Maryland veterans' health clinics—one in the Baltimore region and another in Prince George's County. \$43 million will support the construction of a new Baltimore Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), which will replace and expand the outpatient services currently provided at the existing Baltimore VA Clinic Annex on Fayette Street while reducing the strain on the Baltimore VA Medical Center. \$32 million is set aside for the construction of a Prince George's CBOC; this new facility will be significantly larger than the existing clinic in the southern part of the county and represent a major upgrade for area veterans, as the new clinic will be equipped to provide services beyond the capabilities of the current clinic as well as the Southeast D.C. CBOC.

"This historic piece of legislation will have a significant impact on the lives of Prince George's County veterans, improving the quality of their health care and ensuring that they receive the benefits and services they deserve. I am glad that President Biden has signed this historic bill into law, and I look forward to witnessing the positive difference it will make in the Fifth District and throughout the state of Maryland," said Congressman Hoyer.

"We've got to keep our promises to veterans who put themselves as risk to serve our country, and that includes ensuring they have access to high-quality health care. The bipartisan PACT Act does just that—ensuring every veteran exposed to burn pits or other toxins gets first class care and provides \$75 million for the VA to expand and upgrade its network of veterans outpatient clinics in Maryland," said Senator Van Hollen. "This is a big win for our communities and a critical step forward in improving access to quality health care for veterans across our nation."

"Maryland veterans served this nation with honor and they deserve access to top-notch health care services in a timely and convenient manner," said Senator Cardin. "Providing health care benefits to the thousands of American veterans exposed to toxins emanating from burn pits is essential. Expanding

the network of Community Based Outpatient Clinics available to Baltimore area veterans and greatly upgrading the facilities and services for veterans within Prince George's County will bring much needed, state-of-the-art health care services within easier reach for all veterans who call Maryland home."

"Our veterans deserve state-of-the-art healthcare in state-of-the-art facilities," Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger said. "They also deserve a healthcare system that is accessible and convenient. This new clinic will help us deliver on all of these promises and I am proud of the team effort that went into making it happen for our local veterans."

**"Prince George's County is home to more than 60,000 veterans, the highest number in our state, and we must continue to do all we can to ensure that they have access to the quality healthcare they need and deserve."**

—Prince George's County Executive  
Angela Alsobrooks

"If you put your life on the line abroad to protect Americans' freedoms at home, you deserve to be taken care of both during and after your military service," said Congressman Kweisi Mfume. "I'm proud to have supported the Honoring Our PACT Act, which furthers our nation's commitment to our brave servicemembers by guaranteeing that their health needs will always be met no matter the circumstances."

"We make a sacred promise to our servicemembers when they return home—to provide our veterans with the best health care our country has to offer. Critical to upholding that promise, is a commitment to access in the communities our veterans live in," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "This legislation and funding will help meet Maryland veterans where they are and provide the quality care that they deserve. We'll never stop fighting for the brave men and women who have served and we'll always have their backs."

"I want to thank Senator Van Hollen and the members of our Federal Delegation for pushing forward this important legislation. Prince George's County is home to more than 60,000 veterans, the highest number in our state, and we must continue to do all we can to ensure that they have access to the quality healthcare they need and deserve. Providing a new and improved CBOC will ensure that they can receive that care close to home in a facility with all the resources they need for high quality, comprehensive healthcare," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

"Baltimore's veterans are essential to our vibrant and diverse communities, and they deserve access to the best health care we can offer. I am grateful to our incredible federal delegation and the Biden Administration for reaffirming our shared commitment to our veterans by opening a new outpatient

clinic right here in Baltimore. These brave women and men have gone above and beyond in service to our country, and now they can get the care they need close to home. The PACT Act is a win for Baltimore and veterans across our nation," said Mayor Brandon M. Scott.

### Additional Background on the Baltimore and Prince George's County CBOC Plans

For the Baltimore CBOC, this legislation provides for a lease of an approximately 112,624 square foot outpatient clinic, including 800 parking spaces. The new facility would enable VA to enhance outpatient services and provide more primary care space than is currently available at the Baltimore VA Clinic Annex.

For the Prince George's County clinic, the PACT Act provides for a lease of an approximately 85,116 square foot outpatient clinic, including 600 parking spaces. The new facility would enable VA to accommodate the workload that the Southern Prince George's County and Southeast D.C. CBOCs currently service, which has increased since the closure of the Greenbelt CBOC in 2015, and allow more patients to receive care closer to their homes.

Both clinics will allow for the full implementation of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) model of care delivery, improving operational efficiencies and the veteran experience. They will be state-of-the-art, energy-efficient health care facilities offering primary care, mental health, specialty care, and ancillary services to veterans.

### About the PACT Act

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the Ohio National Guard. He died in 2020 from toxic exposure as a result of his military service. Among its many priorities, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 will:

- Expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans;
- Create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension;
- Expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure;
- Includes Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Strengthen federal research on toxic exposure;
- Improve VA's resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans; and
- Set VA and veterans up for success by investing in:
  - VA claims processing;
  - VA's workforce; and
  - VA health care facilities.
- Establish 31 new VA health care facilities across 19 states, including the two in Maryland.

## Internship from A3

ship really opened my eyes to what Extension is all about."

Students worked with mentors in various roles to experience the full scope and variety of agricultural careers in Maryland. The charter class took on current research in trending topics like hemp production, cover crops, and field evaluation with precision ag technology like drones.

"I gained experience with problem solving in the field and dealing with whatever comes your way," said Kendall Weingard, a senior at Salisbury University. "I gained different experiences through collaborations with other

Extension agents and specialists. I got to do things in agriculture that I never even thought about."

UME has offices in every county and Baltimore City to provide Marylanders with the knowledge they need to grow local businesses, and live healthy, sustainable lives through educational programs and opportunities in agriculture, 4-H and youth development, environment and natural resources, and family and consumer sciences.

"I was interested to see what happens when research is complete," said Grace Tisone, a junior at UMD College Park. "This internship showed how things come full circle in Extension."

"This is a portal for people to access

university knowledge. You can develop educational programs others will appreciate, and really engage with communities," said Dean Craig Beyrouthy of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "What you learn in Extension multiplies everywhere else."

To learn more about all of the student interns and the projects they worked on, check out the blogs of their experience at <https://umextensioninternships.blogspot.com/>. To learn more about the Workforce Development and Extension Internship, go to <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/workforce-development-extension-internships>.



# HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

## New Maryland Data Show the Pandemic's Toll on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Children and Families

*There is an urgent need to address youth mental health as one in eight young people in Maryland deal with anxiety or depression, Annie E. Casey Foundation report finds*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Annie E. Casey Foundation

BALTIMORE (Aug. 8, 2022)—Maryland ranks near the middle of the pack among states (19th) in child well-being as Maryland families deal with persistent economic challenges, according to the 2022 KIDS COUNT® Data Book, a 50-state report of recent household data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how children and families are faring. The report sheds light on the health, economic and other challenges affecting American children as well as how those challenges are more likely to affect children of color.

The report also shows children in Maryland, as well as children throughout the United States, are in the midst of a mental health crisis, struggling with anxiety and depression at unprecedented levels. This is the first time this annual resource has focused on youth mental health, concurring with a recent assessment by the U.S. surgeon general that conditions amount to a youth “mental health pandemic.”

“The links between economic well-being and health are well established. It’s not surprising that the lingering effects of the pandemic include a greater number of young people facing mental health challenges. It’s critical that Maryland policymakers increase access to mental health care while continuing critical support for families who are having a hard time making ends meet,” said Benjamin Orr, president and CEO of the Maryland Center on Economic Policy (MDCPEP), Maryland’s member of the KIDS COUNT network. One critical policy step to advance family economic security the next legislative session will be making permanent the 2021 expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit and strengthening the modest state Child Tax Credit.

The Data Book reports that children across Maryland were more likely to encounter anxiety or depression during the first year of the COVID-19 crisis than previously, with state figures jumping by 36%, from 9.4% of children ages 3–17 (105,000 young people) to 12.8% (143,000 young people) between 2016 and 2020. This increase represents 38,000 more children who are struggling to make it through the day. Maryland children experienced anxiety or depression at slightly higher rates than the national average in 2020, the report found.

Racial and ethnic disparities contribute to disproportionately troubling mental health and wellness conditions among children of color. Nationally 9% of high schoolers overall but 12% of Black students, 13% of students of two or more races and 26% of American Indian or Native Alaskan high schoolers attempted suicide in the year previous to the

most recent federal survey. Further, many LGBTQ young people are encountering challenges as they seek mental health support. Among heterosexual high school students of all races and ethnicities, 6% attempted suicide; the share was 23% for gay, lesbian or bisexual students.

Each year, the Data Book presents national and state data from 16 indicators in four domains—economic well-being, education, health and family and community factors—and ranks the states according to how children are faring overall. The data in this year’s report are a mix of pre-pandemic and more recent figures and are the latest available.

Financial and economic instability leads to greater stress and anxiety for families and children. When a child is living in poverty or in a household facing financial difficulties, they are never immune from the stress of their environment. Uninsured or under-insured children are also less likely to have access to mental health services, preventing them from securing the help they need in times of crisis. The report finds that in Maryland in 2016–2020:

- 153,000 or 12% of children lived in households with income below the poverty line with Maryland ranking fourth nationally.
- 315,000 or 23% of children lived with parents who lack secure employment with Maryland ranking 10th nationally.
- 414,000 or 31% of children lived in households with high housing cost burdens with Maryland ranking 39th nationally.
- 49,000 or 3% of children did not have health insurance with Maryland ranking fourth nationally.
- 42,000 or 3% of children lived in high poverty areas with Maryland ranking eighth nationally.

“While Maryland compares favorably to other states on many measures of economic security because of past policy decisions, the reality is that hundreds of thousands of Marylanders are still struggling to get by. In particular, Maryland’s housing costs are unaffordable for many families,” said Nonso Umunna, MDCEP’s KIDS COUNT director. “Unstable housing is also a major cause of stress and anxiety. Maryland policymakers must continue to take steps to ensure everyone can have a safe, affordable place to live.”

The Maryland General Assembly passed several important new protections for renters in the 2022 legislative session aimed at reducing evictions. However, addressing housing needs as costs continue to rise demands significant new funding for housing assistance, changes to local zoning rules, and continued support for eviction prevention programs.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation calls for lawmakers to heed the surgeon general’s warning and respond by developing programs and policies to ease mental health bur-

dens on children and their families. They urge policymakers to:

- **Prioritize meeting kids’ basic needs.** Youth who grow up in poverty are two to three times more likely to develop mental health conditions than their peers. Children need a solid foundation of nutritious food, stable housing and safe neighborhoods—and their families need financial stability—to foster positive mental health and wellness.
- **Ensure every child has access to the mental health care they need, when and where they need it.** Schools should increase the presence of social workers, psychologists and other mental health professionals on staff and strive to meet the 250-to-1 ratio of students to counselors recommended by the American School Counselor Association, and they can work with local health care providers and local and state governments to make additional federal resources available and coordinate treatment.
- **Bolster mental health care that takes into account young people’s experiences and identities.** It should be trauma-informed—designed to promote a child’s healing and emotional security—and culturally relevant to the child’s life. It should be informed by the latest evidence and research and should be geared toward early intervention, which can be especially important in the absence of a formal diagnosis of mental illness.

### Release Information

The 2022 KIDS COUNT® Data Book will be available at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Additional information is available at [www.aecf.org/databook](http://www.aecf.org/databook). Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the Data Book can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

*The Maryland Center on Economic Policy advances innovative policy ideas to foster broad prosperity and help our state be the standard-bearer for responsible public policy. We engage in research, analysis, strategic communications, public education, and grassroots alliances promoting robust debate and greater public awareness of the policy choices Maryland residents face together. For more information, visit [www.mdeconomy.org](http://www.mdeconomy.org).*

*The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s young children, youth and young adults by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.*

## Fall Grief Support Groups for Children and Teens

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Aug. 8, 2022)—Chesapeake Life Center’s grief support programs for children and teens are meeting in person on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, in Pasadena, Maryland. The schedule through December is as follows:

- **Stepping Stones**, a monthly support group for children ages 6 to 12 grieving the loss of a loved one, will meet from 10 a.m. to noon **Saturdays, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3**. Breakfast, games and activities are included. The cost is \$10 per participant, with a maximum of \$20 per family.
- **Phoenix Rising**, a monthly support group for teens ages 13 to 18 grieving the loss of a loved one, meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, **Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21**. A meal is provided along with games and other activities. The cost is \$10 per participant, with a maximum of \$20 per family.
- **Pre-Teen Group** is a monthly support group for pre-teens and early teens to connect and share with others who have lost a loved one. It meets at the same time but in a different room as the Phoenix Rising group—from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, **Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21**. A meal is provided along with games and other activities. The cost is \$10 per participant, with a maximum of \$20 per family.

Attendance restrictions and requirements will be updated using the most recent Centers for Disease Control guidelines and organizational policies prior to each event.

Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org). Visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org/events](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/events) for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

## What a Formula Change May Mean for Black Patients in Need of a Kidney Transplant

By PRESS OFFICER  
Mayo Clinic

ROCHESTER, Minn. (Aug. 3, 2022)—Experts are hoping a new requirement that all U.S. transplant centers use a race-neutral formula to determine eligibility for a kidney transplant will improve African American access to lifesaving transplants.

“This is an essential step toward reducing racial inequity in access to kidney transplantation,” says Naim Issa, M.D., a Mayo Clinic nephrologist. “The inclusion of race in the calculation of kidney function has been linked to disparities in care for African Americans, including delays in diagnosis of kidney disease and eligibility to be put on the waiting list for a kidney transplant.”

### Role of race in estimating kidney function

The new requirement, which was recently approved by the Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network’s board, centers on how a patient’s glomerular filtration rate, or GFR, is calculated. This rate estimates how much blood the kidneys’ filtering units clean every minute based on a person’s body size.

Some transplant centers, including Mayo Clinic, directly measure the glomerular filtration rate to determine a patient’s kidney function. But direct measurement of kidney function is not widely available across laboratories and is cost-prohibitive for routine clinic use. Therefore, many health care professionals rely on calculated estimates of the glomerular filtration rate known as eGFR. This estimate is important because it determines whether a patient qualifies to be put on the transplant waiting list.

Some formulas commonly used to estimate kidney functions include a Black race variable. Those formulas report higher eGFRs for Black people, compared to non-Black people with similar characteristics. Recent research has found that these race-based calculations can end up overestimating a Black

patient’s kidney function by as much as 16%.

### What change means for health equity

Racial disparities surrounding access to kidney transplants remain an issue. African Americans are more than three times as likely to have kidney failure than white people and less likely to be put on a waiting list for a kidney transplant. Once on a waiting list, Black patients often end up waiting longer than white patients for a kidney transplant. The reason behind these disparities is complex.

African Americans are at high risk for kidney failure due in part to high rates of diabetes and high blood pressure. Recent research also has discovered a genetic predisposition to kidney disease for some people with Western African ancestry. Economic and social conditions also play a role, as does a lack of access to health care and structural racism.

“African Americans are markedly overrepresented among patients on dialysis and are less likely to be referred for or receive a kidney transplant,” Dr. Issa says.

### Encouraging more diverse donors

Experts are optimistic this transplant policy change will encourage more people, especially people of color, to consider becoming organ donors.

**August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month.** Of the nearly 90,000 people in the U.S. on the waiting list for a kidney transplant, more than one-third are Black.

While organs are not matched based on race and ethnicity, people will generally have a better chance of matching with someone from a similar racial or ethnic background. While most people in need of a transplant in the U.S. are people of color, 30% of donors come from communities of color.

Mayo Clinic has one of the largest living-donor programs in the country. People can register to become organ donors on the Donate Life America website: <https://www.donatelife.net/register/>.

## “Howard County Unsweetened” Campaign Led to 30% Drop in Soda Sales

*Sales of other sugary drinks also fell*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Horizon Foundation

COLUMBIA, Md. (August 10, 2022)—Residents of Howard County, Maryland bought fewer sugary drinks compared to residents in a control community after extensive community engagement, a media campaign, and policy changes—according to a study by the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health at the University of Connecticut.

The study, published in *AJPM Focus*, tracked supermarket sales data to measure the effectiveness of the community-led campaign which was designed to reduce consumption of sugary drinks, the largest source of calories and sugar in our diets. The researchers compared sales data in 2012, before the campaign began, to sales data for each successive year and found notable declines in purchases over the six-year period.

Over the first six years of the campaign, there was a:

- 29.7% decrease in soda sales;
- 7.5% drop in fruit drink sales; and
- 33.5% drop in 100% fruit juice sales.

In addition, to see if residents were making a change from sugar-sweetened beverages

to water, the team also examined sales of plain water from 2016 to 2018. Overall, the amount of plain water sold in Howard County significantly increased by 81.4 ounces per week.

“The findings from this study reflect the long-term power of policy and systems change, especially when combined with effective community engagement and social marketing efforts,” said Dr. Marlene Schwartz, Director of the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health, and the study’s lead author. “We are pleased to see sugary drink sales continuing to fall over the course of this campaign.”

The Horizon Foundation—an organization focused on improving the health of people living in Howard County—and several community partners launched the Howard County Unsweetened campaign in 2012 to encourage local residents to reduce their consumption of sugary drinks including sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, fruit drinks, flavored waters, and sweetened teas. Daily consumption of at least one sugary drink is associated with significantly increased risks for chronic diseases like heart disease, some cancers, stroke, diabetes, and obesity.

“Sugary drink sales are down and water consumption is up. These are early indicators of a healthier nutrition environment in Howard County, though more work needs to be done,” said Nikki Highsmith Vernick, president and CEO of the Horizon Foundation. “We are grateful to our partners in this campaign and look forward to continuing our joint work to improve the health of county residents.”

Howard County Unsweetened partners successfully pursued policy changes including strengthening the school system’s wellness policy to eliminate sugary drinks in student-accessible vending machines and increasing access to water; enacting a 2014 state law prohibiting licensed childcare centers from serving sugary drinks to children in their care and encouraging breastfeeding; enacting a 2015 local law making healthier food and drinks more widely available on local government property; and engaging nearly 50 community organizations in the effort to improve the food and beverage choices they offer at meetings and in vending



# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Unsweetened from A6

machines. These organizations included faith communities, health groups, businesses, and nonprofits.

- Community-wide public health outreach efforts included:
- Marketing such as TV ads, social media messages, and online ads.
  - Directly educating parents and kids about the risks associated with daily sugary drink intake at community and athletic events, local swimming pools, and health fairs.
  - Training of healthcare professionals to improve patient counseling on the dangers of sugary drink consumption and the diagnosis and treatment of children with obesity.

In determining the campaign's impact, researchers compared weekly beverage sales of top-selling brands in 15 Howard County supermarkets with a matched group of 17 supermarkets in southeastern Pennsylvania. The study did not include sales data from non-supermarket vendors such as convenience stores or restaurants, but other research shows most sugary drinks are most commonly purchased from supermarkets. The Horizon Foundation funded the study.

Co-authors of the study include Glenn Schneider and Nikki Highsmith Vernick of the Horizon Foundation; Marlene B. Schwartz, Yoon-Young Choi, Ran Xu, Abiodun T. Atoloye, and Brooke L. Bennett of the UConn Rudd Center, and Lawrence J. Appel of the Horizon Foundation Board of Trustees and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The Rudd Center for Food Policy & Health at the University of Connecticut is a multidisciplinary center dedicated to promoting solutions to food insecurity, poor diet quality, and weight bias through research and policy. For more information, visit [www.uconnruddcenter.org](http://www.uconnruddcenter.org), follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We lead community change so everyone in Howard County can live a longer, better life. We are committed to improving health through innovative initiatives, collaborative partnerships, strategic grantmaking and thoughtful advocacy. Learn more at [www.thehorizonfoundation.org](http://www.thehorizonfoundation.org).

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