

AUG 2023

THE ANCHOR

Newsletter of Living Classrooms Foundation

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller Visits!

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller visited our Fresh Start and Crossroads School students, met with Project SERVE members at the Bauer Center, and concluded with a Living Classrooms Foundation luncheon at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park.



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Note from the CEO

JAMES PIPER BOND

As we wave goodbye to Summer, I wanted to take a moment to reflect and share the incredible journey Living Classrooms Foundation embarked upon together this season.

At the heart of Living Classrooms Foundation is our belief in "Learning by Doing." This isn't just a tagline; it's what drives us every day. Our key program pillars are:

- Hands-on Education: Truly experiencing "Learning by Doing"
- Skill-based Job Training & Workforce Development
- Comprehensive Health & Wellness Initiatives
- Community Safety Programs & Programs

In this newsletter, you'll get a glimpse into our far-reaching impact. We've expanded our interest and reach with over 75,000 enthusiastic visitors from all 50 states embarking on our beautiful Historic Ships and Paddle Boats. We empowered over 200 interns through our community programs (special thanks to our partnerships with YouthWorks & MOED - Mayor's Office of Employment Development), and we welcomed over 600 campers to our six Community Hubs (three of which are part of our Target Investment Zone): UA House at Fayette, P.O.W.E.R House in Perkins Homes, Park House in Patterson Park, along with Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus, Kingman & Heritage Islands near RFK Stadium offering hands-on education, workforce development, and health and well-being initiatives and community safety programs.

On top of that, NEW fresh faces joined the Living Classrooms family, and we celebrated the milestones of our Crossroads graduates. Our students explored our programs BEES and BUGS, we introduced new Rising Stars with the BBJ, continued to bolster our Community Safety program with Operation Respond, tidied up over 20 properties daily through Project SERVE, and had the pleasure of a visit from Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller at our Fresh Start program.

We've had a bustling Summer, and in this newsletter, we've distilled the highlights for your convenience. Each narrative underscores our dedication to our community's growth and learning.

As Fall approaches, I'd like to draw your attention to our Maritime Magic event on Friday, October 6, at 6:00 p.m., situated on the scenic Historic Fells Point Waterfront at our Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park. It's not just an event but a symbol of our collective commitment. Please join us for a beautiful evening:
<https://livingclassrooms.org/maritime-magic>.

To every member of our extended team – from families to friends, supporters, partners, sponsors, and our dedicated team – a heartfelt thank you. Your steadfast support and involvement are the winds in our sails. With every step, we're building an inclusive, vibrant community together.

“Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.”

– MINOR MYERS





GREAT FOOD
AND DRINKS

GREAT MUSIC
GREAT PEOPLE

GREAT
CAUSE

35th

ANNUAL
**MARITIME
MAGIC**

MARITIME MAGIC



Featuring: Tank & the Bangas

35th Annual Maritime Magic

DON'T MISS OUT | BUY TICKETS TODAY

With October on the horizon, Living Classrooms Foundation is excited for our annual bash, Maritime Magic. It's not just about the dazzling evening on the iconic Baltimore Waterfront. This shindig is a salute to everything we stand for hands-on learning, job training, health and wellness, and keeping our community safe. So, hang with us for a magical night and dive into the heart of Living Classrooms' mission. We promise it's a journey worth being part of!

Join us for Maritime Magic 2023, where Baltimore's finest food and drinks await! Dive into dishes from top restaurants, sip on local brews and wine, and enjoy our cash bars. Groove to the beats of Rufus Roundtree & Da B'more Brass Factory, and get ready to dance the night away with Grammy-nominated Tank and the Bangas. Don your favorite attire and enjoy the harbor view under the stars.

The Best Annual Benefit Party on the Baltimore Waterfront

35th Annual Maritime Magic

**Friday
October 6, 2023
at 6:00pm**

Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park
1417 Thames Street, Fells Point
Baltimore, MD 21231

 **BUY TICKETS**

<https://livingclassrooms.org/maritime-magic>



35th Annual Maritime Magic

Featuring: Tank & the Bangas

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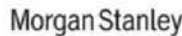
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www.livingclassrooms.org

<https://livingclassrooms.org/maritime-magic>



EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES



Empowering our Communities

MARITIME EDUCATION | SUMMER PROGRAMMING

We're sailing through an exciting season of learning and impact! Maritime education remains a steadfast, learning-by-doing anchor of Living Classrooms Foundation's mission.

Here's a snapshot of some achievements:

- Schools & Groups Collaboration: We've partnered with 65 unique schools and groups. 45% of these collaborations are with Title 1 schools, reinforcing our commitment to equity and access.
- Student Engagement: This season has been bustling with activity as we've engaged 2,064 eager learners.
- Programs Conducted: 126 programs already unfurled and were navigating towards our usual benchmark of at least 200 programs per season.
- Total Participation: Our engagement compass points in a positive direction, with 2,965 participants on board our ships, like Mildred Belle and our Skipjack, the Sigsbee. We're charting a course toward our 2023 goal of 4,800 participants!

A special shout-out to Baltimore City - our beacon this season, engaging 854 children. We've also cast our nets to regions like DC, Philadelphia, New York State, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and counties across Maryland.

With the winds of change at our backs and your invaluable support, we're excited to set sail for the remainder of this season. Let's continue making waves together!



MARITIME EDUCATION SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS





Empowering our Communities

MARITIME EDUCATION | SUMMER PROGRAMMING

This summer was spectacular for the Sigsbee ship and its dedicated crew. Together, they embarked on numerous voyages, positively impacting our community.

The season began with a memorable voyage involving the 8th-grade students from the Washington D.C. region. Over six days, they sailed to the Horn Point Oyster Hatchery in Cambridge, MD. Here, they actively constructed oyster cages, maintained oyster brooding tanks, and gained insights into Maryland's vital oyster recovery efforts.

But the early summer excitement didn't stop there. By the end of June, the Sigsbee had also hosted Boy Scouts Troop 601B for a 2-day immersive experience, introducing them to the art of seamanship and the wonders of life at sea.

Our ship's commitment to community collaboration was evident in its work with five in-house Living Classrooms programs this summer: Fresh Start, Crossroads/BUGS Summer Camp, POWER House, UA House, and a unique sailing experience for the Paddle Boats staff. Further strengthening community ties, Sigsbee proudly collaborated with several organizations and initiatives like I am Mentality, Bridges Baltimore, City Springs from our Target Investment Zone, St. Ignatius' 7th graders, and the heartwarming Casey Cares initiative.

The community outreach continued, with Sigsbee playing a pivotal role during the Latino Conservation Day at Masonville Cove. Here, nearly 100 participants came aboard to explore Baltimore's historical lineage and the enchanting ecology of the Patapsco River.

Another noteworthy event was the Tides and Vibes community gathering, where residents of the Baltimore Peninsula were introduced to the river's history and ecosystem.

In collaboration with Waterfront Partnership, we supported 40 Baltimore youth workers during the Blueway press conference with the Mayor, ending the day with an exhilarating kayaking session led by the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department.

In reflection, Sigsbee's summer was a harmonious blend of learning, community partnership, and celebration, truly embodying the spirit of the Living Classrooms Foundation.



SIGSBEE'S SUMMER ADVENTURES: MAKING WAVES WITH LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION





Empowering our Communities

MARITIME EDUCATION | SUMMER PROGRAMMING

This summer, Maritime Education sailed into vibrant new horizons! Especially on the decks of the Sigsbee and Mildred Belle, the latter making waves in Washington, D.C., for three exhilarating weeks in July. From dynamic ESTEM sessions and professional development workshops to intriguing charter programs, Mildred Belle was a hive of activity.

A captivating 3-day maritime journey from July 17-19! We embarked on an unforgettable adventure with a spirited crew of 7 young explorers who were strangers at the outset but a cohesive crew by the program's end. With the intertwining Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, our destination was the scenic Piscataway Park and Alice Ferguson Foundation's Hard Bargain Farm.

Onboard, the days were brimming with discovery 🐟🔍. The kids delved into local wildlife through trawl fishing while also trying their hands (and mastering the art!) at steering the vessel. And what's an adventure without a bit of camping? We pitched our tents with many partners, getting creative with painting on retired sails, breaking the ice with entertaining games, and cherishing those cozy moments around a campfire with delicious s'mores 🍷🔥. Each day unveiled new marine organisms and fresh land-based wonders to marvel at!



MILDRED BELLE'S
3-DAY ADVENTURE





Empowering our Communities

THE UA HOUSE AT FAYETTE



Operated by the Living Classrooms Foundation, the UA House at Fayette is a cornerstone of the Baltimore Target Investment Zone. Living Classrooms' Baltimore Target Investment Zone (TIZ) is our strategy to disrupt generational poverty in East Baltimore. Serving areas like the Fayette Street corridor, Perkins Homes, and nearby neighborhoods, our TIZ touches over 40,000 residents within 2.5 square miles. We run four Community Hubs: the UA House at Fayette, Broadway Overlook Center, POWER House in Perkins Homes, and Park House in Patterson Park, offering free education, workforce development, and health programs.

Daily, UA House welcomes over a hundred students, providing a rich blend of academic enrichment, health, physical education, and career guidance for our students. Additionally, adults find a haven here, with services ranging from workforce development to educational support.

Summer Highlights at the UA House: Over six dynamic weeks, it wasn't just about keeping our students occupied but about embarking on a transformative journey.

- **Diverse Enrichments:** Every day was a chance to delve deeper into chosen fields. Whether students chose art, music, dance, or technology, they enthusiastically dedicated themselves.
- **Sailing & Oysters:** The magic of sailing became a reality for our older students, coupled with an educational dive into oysters.
- **Culinary Adventures:** With guidance from the American Heart Association, campers explored and mastered recipes for healthier meals and snacks.
- **Unity in the Community:** In partnership with Better Tomorrows Org, the National Night Out event became a canvas for our artistic students. The theme, "Unity in the Community," was brought to life through their expressive artworks.
- **Engaging Field Trips:** Each week culminated in an awaited Friday field trip. Activities varied from spirited Nerf battles at Wonderfly, sailing on the Sigsbee, to immersive sessions on the game truck.
- **Workforce Development:** UA House's first floor is a dedicated workforce development center that supported 50+ adults this summer with several customized job training programs.





Empowering our Communities

PATTERSON PARK HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER

In collaboration with Harlem Lacrosse, Park House buzzed with energy this summer as Patterson Park and UTZ Field hosted a 5-week camp. From lacrosse to basketball and even baseball, our young participants, averaging 145 students, were immersed in diverse athletic experiences. Not just a center for fun, Park House also stands strong in our partnership with Patterson Park Audubon as a haven, ready to support in any emergency.

A collaboration to celebrate! With partners like Southeast Youth Collaborative, Harlem Lacrosse, Youthworks, and the Department of Recreation and Parks, we provided employment opportunities for young minds. These young talents played pivotal roles in orchestrating our summer camps and sports clinics, bringing joy and education to many through music, art, sports, and even cooking classes. The result? An impressive 72 paid interns through Youthworks and the MOED staff at our various sites this summer.

Our dedication to community wellness was at its peak this summer. We ventured out with our partners from GBMC/Gilchrist, knocking on doors, engaging residents, and hosting pop-ups to spread awareness on essential health check-ups and services.

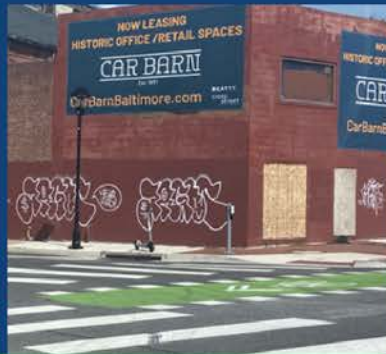
Rehab on the Horizon: The Car Barn Project:

We've been actively working with Historic Jonestown, Albermarle Square Tenant Council, and the Cross Street Partners team on the much-anticipated Car Barn project in our continuous efforts to rejuvenate and celebrate Baltimore's heritage.

We're thrilled to announce a great partnership with Cross Street Partners, a Land Disposition Agreement for the Car Barn property, a future home for Workforce Development Programming. And for those who've been eyeing the building, yes, rehabilitation is on its way!



SMILES, WELLNESS & CARS!





Empowering our Communities

THE COMMUNITY'S POWER HOUSE

The building that is now the community's POWER House center, which originally opened on July 8, 1910, as a firehouse, operating as Engine Company 34. It housed the horse-drawn LaFrance Steam Engine, one of the oldest fire engines in the United States. The horse stables can still be seen on the lower level of the POWER House.

At Living Classrooms, POWER is an acronym for Providing Opportunities to Work, Expand, and Rise. Our community's POWER House is dedicated to year-round out-of-school-time programming and services to hundreds of families in five core areas: Education and Career Development, Character and Civic Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Cultural Enrichment, and Health and Wellness. In addition, the POWER House offers financial literacy, English as a Second Language, GED preparatory classes, and job training courses for adults weekly.

This Summer, imagine a place where students not only had a blast but also delved into diverse activities. They danced, dabbled in art, took on STEM challenges, and even hosted a performance with a special touch from our alums, Braziah Murphy. And it wasn't just fun and games; they embraced healthy habits, understanding the essence of nutrition and staying active.

Special shoutout to our intern, Gerrod, for making learning about the food pyramid so engaging. And who could forget those boating adventures? The kids got a natural feel for the water, from paddle boats to sailboats. The summer ended with a joyous day at Greenbrier State Park, with families laughing, sharing, and making memories. What a summer to remember!



ART, STEM, OUTDOORS & MUSIC





Empowering our Communities

HEALTH FAIR




Community Health and Resource Fair



📍 UA House at Fayette

1100 E Fayette St
Baltimore MD
21202

SATURDAY
AUGUST 26
FROM 12:00PM -
3:00PM

- Join us for...
- School supplies giveaway
 - Vision screenings
 - Blood pressure screenings
 - Face painting for kids
 - Cookout
 - Free haircuts
- 



Thank you Partners & Sponsors 



Empowering our Communities



GEM (GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MISSION) PROGRAM

This summer, a group of 12 GEM girls and their leaders again experienced a unique summer program called WILD (Wilderness Individual Leadership & Development).

Thanks to a grant from the National Recreation Foundation and a partnership with Steve Schuler, these girls participated in a unique week-long outdoor recreation program in Torrey, Utah.

From June 24 to July 2, WILD exposed GEM girls and leaders to dramatically new environments, cultures, activities, higher education, and career possibilities.

The program was fortunate to receive generous hiking boots and socks donations from REI.

In the 2022 - 2023 school year, GEM served 38 female students from low-income homes (27 African American students, 3 Caucasian students, 5 Latinx students, and 3 Asian students) that attend Chesapeake High School (CHS), plus a group of 165 GEM alumnae (girls who have graduated from CHS and are currently in college or other continuing education.). The newest group in GEM is the Peridot (Class of 2026).

Over 92% of this GEM group are young women of color, 63% of the girls come from a single-parent home, and more than 75% receive free or reduced lunch based on federal guidelines.

GEM (Girls empowerment mission) is a program to empower high school girls from underserved communities by providing opportunities and growth experiences that will enable them to become independent, self-sufficient, and confident young women.

Visit [www. GEMmaryland.org](http://www.GEMmaryland.org) to learn more.



Thank you Partners





Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus: BEES

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Masonville Cove, Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (The Port of Baltimore, Living Classrooms Foundation, the National Aquarium, and Maryland Environmental Service) is a leader in urban conservation, known for superior educational programs and as a community asset and recreation destination where everyone has equal opportunity to benefit from meaningful outdoor and stewardship experiences.

Masonville Cove was buzzing this summer, and it wasn't just the bees! 🌞 Living Classrooms rolled out the ultimate 4-week adventure with BEES (Baltimore Environmental Education Superheroes) for 40+ spirited young minds of Maree G. Farring Elementary Middle School. Think: Kids turning into mini-hydrologists, biologists, and engineers by day and heroes of their own academic stories by night. 🚀

BEES students triumphed over summer learning loss. 100% of program participants who regularly attended BEES increased their reading proficiency by at least 1 level according to the Fountas and Pinnell assessment, and 17% who attended BEES periodically increased by more than 1 level on the Fountas and Pinnell assessment.

Our students set personal and academic goals while at BEES. 100% of students completed milestones towards achieving their goals during the program. Completed milestones included independent reading for 10 minutes a day, using sight word flash cards, and multiplication practice.

Dive into a day with our BEES: Mornings drenched in hands-on science lessons, enriched with dashes of literacy and hearty spoonfuls of social-emotional learning (SEL). These super kids met and soared past their personal goals through this magic mix, with every student leveling up their reading game! 📖🌟

The cherry on top? Electrifying enrichment sessions! They teamed up with CoreShark H2O, diving deep into the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay, and with NatureWoRx, taking therapeutic trails into nature's embrace. 🌿🍓



Birdseye view of the Cove



KINGMAN ISLAND + HERITAGE ISLANDS | NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Kingman + Heritage Islands, located next to RFK stadium, are the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) property. Living Classrooms of the National Capital Region manage the islands,

Our vibrant park team consists of 5 Junior Rangers from local high schools, 4 Kingman Rangers steered by the Ranger Manager, two skilled Seasonal Rangers, and 59 youths from the GZEP MBSYEP.

This summer, over 130 students explored activities such as:

- Birdwatching with Dan Rauch from DOEE.
- Wetlands Exploration by Tess Danielson and Jen Dietzen.
- Water Quality Assessment with Brian Rodgers and Chesapeake Bay Landscape Students.
- An Anacostia River boat tour with Trey Sherard.
- Plant and Tree Workshop by Samuel Nelson from Casey Trees.
- Kayaking led by Adrienne Burke (Adrienne Burke is an employee of DPR, Department of Parks and Recreation) and Alex Wisbiski.
- Golf Course Management by Andrew Szunyog.
- The Angling and Fish surveys were led by LC-NCR staff (Education Ranger Lynn Coffee and Director of Kingman Island John Turvey)
- Financial literacy with Karida Green and Ahmari Thomas from Living Classrooms.
- Building projects supervised by the Kingman Island Ranger staff.

From June 26th to August 4th, our Junior Rangers immersed themselves in environmental and professional experiences at Kingman Island and LCF's Historic James C. Dent House.

This enriching program was backed by the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program and a Department of Energy and Environment grant.

Birdseye view of the Islands





National Capital Region Langston Golf Tournament & New Partnership

Langston Golf Course is located on Benning Road in Northeast D.C., at the end of the D.C. Street Car Line. This historic 18-Hole course was named after John Mercer Langston, the first African American elected into public office. The facility is a celebrated beacon of African American golf heritage.

“In 2013, Langston golf was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame because ‘it stands as the enduring symbol of the struggle to find equality in golf for black Americans.’”



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE 2023 LIVING CLASSROOMS CLASSIC HELD ON MAY 22ND. IT WAS A GORGEOUS DAY AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT NETTING OVER \$55,400 TO SUPPORT LIVING CLASSROOMS' HANDS-ON EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMMING IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.



On July 21, Kingman Island welcomed 26 attendees from Langston's Golf Course's Jack Vardaman Workforce Development Program (SYEP).

Under the guidance of the Kingman Island Jr Rangers, the group delved into the history and ecological challenges of the Anacostia Watershed. Their hands-on experiences included fishing to identify Anacostia River's aquatic species and kayaking on the Anacostia River Green Boats to assess trash in the Kingman Lake wetlands. Post activities, they gathered for lunch at the historic Langston Golf Course Clubhouse.

A subsequent visit on August 3 saw our Jr Rangers touring the Langston Golf Course with Andrew Szunyog from the National Links Trust. He enlightened them about the ecological considerations of golf course management, shed light on Langston's environmental restoration, and offered a practical putting lesson.

Thank you

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FOURSOMES OF THE 2ND
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT
LANGSTON

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- BALTIMORE ORIOLES



NEW! ↗



Empowering our Communities Maritime Education: Historic Ships

FAREWELL & AHOY!

Captain Chris Rowson has been a foundational pillar in our Historic Ships Programs. His dedication and steady hand have consistently steered our endeavors in the right direction. We deeply value Chris's time and effort at Living Classrooms and sincerely thank him for his unwavering commitment. While Chris is stepping away from the day-to-day of leading our Historic Ships programs, we are grateful that Chris will continue to work with Living Classrooms Foundation by leading Fleet Week in 2024 and several inspiring historic ships capital projects. Thank you for all you do and have done, Chris!

As one chapter closes, another begins. We're pleased to welcome Steve Bountress as he takes the helm. With Steve's extensive history at Living Classrooms Foundation and his genuine connection to our community, we're confident in the continued success of our Historic Ships programs.

We look forward to the fresh perspective and leadership Steve will bring.

Sailing Through Summer: A Season of Exploration and Community!

Living Classrooms' docks and decks were abuzz with excitement and exploration this summer. Here's a quick glimpse of our vibrant season:

- Boating Adventures: Over 45,000 visitors set sail on our Paddle and Electric Boats.
- Historical Journeys: Our Historic Ships in Baltimore welcomed over 30,000 visitors, making history come alive.

And that's not all. The footprints of our visitors stretched far and wide:

- From sea to shining sea and beyond, The Historic Ships have hosted enthusiasts from all 50 U.S. states (encompassing 2,278 zip codes), the District of Columbia, and even 13 countries worldwide.
- Engaging Programs: Across the ships, over 3,000 participants were part of our diverse 22 program offerings, making every visit a unique experience.



HISTORIC SHIPS
in BALTIMORE



Empowering our Communities Living Classrooms Marina



GREAT NEWS!

Exciting News from Living Classrooms Foundation! 🚢
Brace yourselves, boat lovers! We're on the cusp of unveiling our brand-new marina in collaboration with our trusted partner, Oasis Marinas.

Dive into the Details:

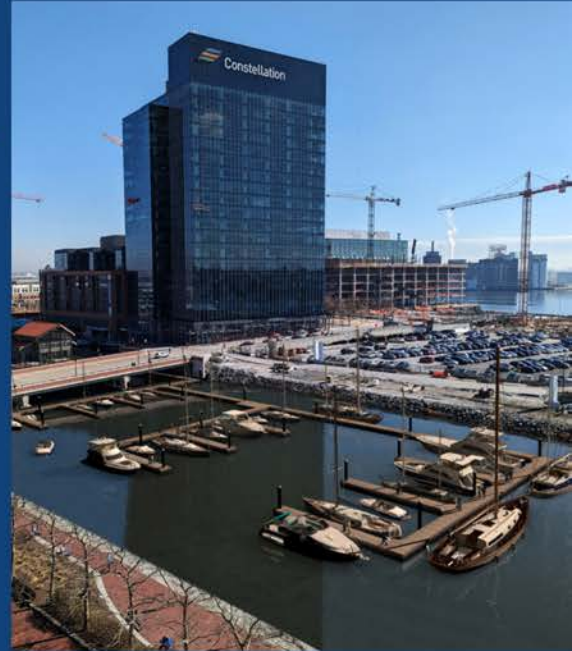
- **Seamless Operations:** As we hoist the final sails and fine-tune our services, anticipate our marina welcoming you with open arms seven days a week.
- **Easy Bookings:** No more waiting lines or lengthy processes. With the Snag-A-Slip app, booking a spot for your boat is just a tap away, any time of day.
- **Friendly Faces:** Pop into our offices between 10 AM and 5 PM from Monday to Friday. Need to visit over the weekend? Just give us a heads-up, and we'll arrange it.

What's Left on our Checklist?

Final touches are underway to ensure we provide an unmatched experience. These enhancements include top-tier amenities, state-of-the-art security measures, and a dedicated team ready to assist. Although our full launch is slated for October 2023, we welcome annual boaters. Don't wait; join us now!

But here's a hint: While the grand launch awaits, we will only keep you for a short time. Stay tuned for more updates and some early bird surprises!

Please mark your calendars and prepare to embark on a new journey with us! 🚢 ⚓





CROSSROADS SCHOOL



Crossroads School

GATEWAY CEREMONY | CELEBRATIONS | WELCOME, DR. V

Living Classrooms is excited to introduce Dr. Denisse Villaran Zariquiey (or “Dr. V” as the students know her), the new Principal of the Crossroads School.

She received her Doctorate in Education and Leadership from Johns Hopkins University. She earned her Master’s in Leadership and Special Education from Notre Dame of Maryland and her Bachelor of Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Towson University.

Dr. Villaran's prior experience includes serving as a Special Education Teacher, IEP Chair, and Assistant Principal at Kenwood High School in Baltimore County.

She is bilingual (English and Spanish), has a strong background in data-driven decision-making and special education, and is excited to bring her expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment to the growth and learning of every Crossroads student and staff member.

On May 20th, The Crossroads School marked a significant milestone: our 20th anniversary. Over 350 attendees – a vibrant mix of students, families, alumni, staff from both past and present, and cherished community partners – graced our Open House. It was a nostalgic day, reflecting on our school's rich history and honoring Principal Ebert, who is concluding his memorable decade-long journey with us. As we bid adieu to one chapter, we warmly welcome Dr. Denisse Villaran as our incoming principal.



Warmly welcoming Dr. V!
☀️ A heartfelt thank you to Eddie and Sylvia Brown for their enduring support of Living Classrooms, Crossroads School, and the Turning the Corner Achievement program.

Your commitment continues to make a difference!




The celebrations continued as the Crossroads Class of 2023 stepped into the limelight on June 6th, commemorating their Gateway Ceremony at the UA House. This significant occasion was elevated by the inspirational keynote address delivered by Michele Jones, the distinguished 9th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Reserve. With proud hearts, we celebrated our students' milestones, surrounded by elated families.







Crossroads School: BUGS (Baltimore Urban Gardening w/ Students)


SUMMER PROGRAMMING

 As budding apiarists, they unlocked the secret lives of bees, celebrating the sweet culmination of their learning with a taste of fresh honey.

 On the Skipjack Sigsbee, our students sailed back in time, discovering Chesapeake Bay's rich maritime tales and the aquatic treasures of the Inner Harbor.

 Donning the hats of urban farmers, they nurtured gardens while tending to a lively flock of baby chickens

 Channeling their inner techies, campers piloted NASA-designed rovers and maneuvered drones, solving real-world water health puzzles.

 Embracing their inner scientists, they dissected squids and owl pellets, unveiling the intricate wonders of nature.

 Outside STEM, their creative spirits soared, showcasing their theatrical flair in improv and grooving as drummers with the Ascend Through Music Program.

 With Salvage Arc, they unearthed maritime mysteries, fishing intriguing artifacts from the Inner Harbor - even an electric scooter!

 The grand summer finale? A festive cookout featuring DIY quesadillas and ice cream, followed by exhilarating adventures at Six Flags!

 At Crossroads this summer, students delved into a vibrant mix of nature, STEM, and academics with the BUGS Summer Bridge Program.





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Fresh Start

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Our work is about empowering youth to become sustainable adults.

Fresh Start is a national model program of the US Department of Labor. It has provided vocational, academic, and social skills development training services to out-of-school youth ages 16-19 since 1989.

The Fresh Start program exemplifies how Living Classrooms teaches marketable job skills. The U.S. Department of Labor and the National Youth Employment Coalition continue recognizing Living Classrooms' Fresh Start program for "best practices working with opportunity youth" and embodying a "continuous improvement process."

We can assist youth with reducing barriers and obstacles that may advance them into sustainable wage occupations, earning their high school diploma, and obtaining industry-recognized credentials.

- Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller toured Living Classrooms and met the Fresh Start students on May 11, 2023
- Youth recognition/awards ceremony on Wednesday, June 7, 2023
- Sailing on the Mildred Belle on Thursday, June 15, 2023
- Open House on Friday, July 14, 2023
- Fresh Start built Fells Point Chairs for area residents. In addition to being a vendor at the Fells Point Farmer's Market on Saturdays.
- As a part of the program, students have participated in financial literacy sessions, job readiness sessions, one-on-one tutoring, and life skills classes to prepare for the real world.



LT. GOV. ARUNA MILLER TOURED LIVING CLASSROOMS

The Fells Point Farmer's Market
Welcomes Fresh Start



Fresh Start

SUMMER PROGRAMMING | SUCCESS STORY

Meet Sade!

Sade enrolled in the Fresh Start program in November 2022. She has consistently participated in all programming sessions since joining the program.

Sade cares for and supports her family members while maintaining her Fresh Start schedule and working towards her own goals.

With the assistance of Fresh Start, Sade obtained her Maryland State ID and registered for the Maryland GED exam.

Sade passed the GED exam and earned her high school diploma on August 1, 2023, from Fresh Start.

Sade brings her energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn to Fresh Start daily, which is a pleasure. She has overcome several obstacles in her life that would have broken others. However, Sade doesn't allow her disadvantages to derail her progress.

We look forward to assisting Sade in succeeding and accomplishing her goals.



Summer Programming Flyer



Operation Respond

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

A note - from our Director of Community Safety, Dante Johnson:

As we reflect on our journey and look forward to chronicling our endeavors, our hearts swell with gratitude. We offer our most profound appreciation to our community, families, friends, supporters, and tireless teammates who made this summer unforgettable. Join us as we celebrate our collective stories of change, collaboration, and aspiration.

July 7

Operation Respond staff assisted the statewide efforts in response to the horrific mass shooting in the Brooklyn Park neighborhood in South Baltimore.

Operation Respond worked alongside first responders and other critical state and local agencies in reaching out to residents and educating them about the resources available to help them heal from the trauma stemming from the tragedy.

July 19

Operation Respond hosted a community engagement activity in the Belair Edison community to educate the residents on our services and introduce them to our partners who work with us to meet the needs of our residents.

August 2

Operation Respond partnered with the Belair-Edison Community for the National Night Out.



Operation Respond is a dedicated Crisis Management Intervention Team (CMIT) that comprises trained Resource Navigators supported by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, along with Career and Workforce Development Case Managers.

Our mission is to provide comprehensive services through our mobile Crisis Response Resource Center, focusing on responding to the needs of individuals and families in the Belair Edison and McElderry Park communities. Our holistic approach aims to empower those at the highest risk of community gun violence, helping them heal from unresolved trauma and transform their lives for the better.



Project Serve

SUMMER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Project SERVE (Service, Empowerment, Revitalization, Validation, Employment training) addresses high recidivism rates and barriers to meaningful employment among returning citizens in Baltimore City.

While still incarcerated, participants begin to learn about Project SERVE and, once released, are employed as SERVE members for 4 to 6 months, where they are provided with on-the-job training and rapid attachment to work, all leading to sustainable living-wage employment.

Living Classrooms Foundation Project SERVE has recently partnered with the Baltimore Tree Trust (BTT), launching a tree maintenance crew learning skills in urban forestry. Impressively, the BTT crew has maintained over 600 trees across three areas: 80 in Park Heights, 250 in Southwest Baltimore, and they're presently tending to 300 trees in Broadway East Community.

In tandem, our Project SERVE Neighborhood Stabilization crew has cleaned up 2,230 properties this year. This includes Project SERVE crews working across the city cleaning vacant lots, green spaces, sidewalks, and alleyways, emptying street cans, and collectively removing 1.15 tons of trash this year.

SERVE was awarded grants this year from the following:

- Hearst Foundation \$100,000
- GOCCP \$150,00
- Knott Foundation \$35,000
- Mile One \$5,000
- DCHD - \$25,000
- MONSE - \$500,000

SERVE has renewed contracts with:

- Waterfront Partnership
- Midtown
- South Baltimore Gateway Partnership

Project SERVE is a fully paid workforce development, with a rapid attachment to job readiness training program, that primarily serves returning citizens.

We provide employment alongside on-the-job training averages the cleaning of 20+ properties a day around Baltimore City.



GRADUATES	27
MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED THEIR FORKLIFT CERTIFICATION	42
% RETENTION CURRENTLY	84
PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT	21



JOIN US!



Congratulations to our Rising Stars

2023 RISING STARS

A big round of applause for this year's brilliant cohort of young professionals chosen as the Rising Stars by Living Classrooms Foundation and proudly presented by the Baltimore Business Journal. These outstanding individuals, all under 40, embody the spirit of the next wave of Baltimore's philanthropists and business visionaries.

Throughout the year, our Rising Stars have been deep in action, showcasing their flair for philanthropy and fundraising, all while building robust networks. Always full of creativity, they've conceived engaging and distinctive ways to rally funds that champion Living Classrooms' impactful programs.

And it's not just about the journey! This year's Rising Star initiative will culminate with an awards ceremony at the much-anticipated Maritime Magic event on Friday, October 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

- ✦ Mike Barillo
- ✦ Thomas Black
- ✦ Allison Bortner
- ✦ Brian Ceraldi
- ✦ Mary Dunn
- ✦ Ryan Gardner
- ✦ Robert Hanlon
- ✦ Ashley Hare
- ✦ Patrick Harhai
- ✦ Darius Jennings
- ✦ Noah Kness
- ✦ Lauren Novsak
- ✦ Lucy Schultz
- ✦ Rylie Shewbridge
- ✦ Luke Smith
- ✦ Jack Taylor
- ✦ Jillian Willis

Congrats

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

CONTACT TRACY BASKERVILLE
TBASKERVILLE@LIVINGCLASSROOMS.ORG

**BALTIMORE
 BUSINESS JOURNAL**





Star-Spangled Spectacular

DON'T MISS OUT!

Hey, Baltimore enthusiasts and history lovers! 🎉 Ready to jump into a bash that's so Baltimore? Let's dive into Defenders' Day – our city's Battle of Baltimore! Join us, support the Friends of Fort McHenry, and let's make some memories! 🌟 Huzzah!

🌟 Why this is a can't-miss event:

- Revel in a delectable buffet dinner and sips, all under Fort McHenry's historic gaze.
- Get swept up in the Star-Spangled Spectacular, filled with music, presentations, and oh-so-much more.
- Witness ceremonies that tip the hat to our city's heroes brought to you by the National Park Service.
- Mix and mingle with living history buffs, our city's decision-makers, and supporters like you!
- Raise a toast to our Star-Spangled Banner and that epic win against the British. Cheers to Baltimore! 🍷

Ready to be part of this historic revelry? Book your spot now:

<https://tinyurl.com/star-spangled-spectacular>.



Buy Tickets Today!

*The Friends of Fort McHenry
in partnership with
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
is proud to offer exclusive sponsorship opportunities for the
Star-Spangled Spectacular
Saturday, September 16, 2023
5:30PM to 9PM*



VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORT



Volunteerism

BRAVO TO OUR COMMUNITY HEROES THIS SUMMER



TOTAL ADULT VOLUNTEERS - 1,180
ADULT VOLUNTEERS HOURS - 4,055

Genetech

On Tuesday, June 13th, 12 volunteers from Genetech spent the afternoon volunteering with Living Classrooms. Volunteers participated in a trash cleanup around the Park House and added some excitement to the process by making it a competitive game around who can pick up the most trash.



Morgan Stanley

On Wednesday, June 7th, 80 volunteers from Morgan Stanley spent the afternoon volunteering with Living Classrooms. Volunteers picked up trash around Park House. They remained invested and even engaged in a "who could find the strangest item" game. The strangest item found was a broken shopping cart.



SC&H

On Friday, June 9th, 20 volunteers from SC&H spent their morning at our East Harbor Campus, collecting trash, removing invasive plants, and painting benches.

Morgan Stanley

On Wednesday, June 21st, 15 volunteers from Morgan Stanley spent their morning collecting trash and removing debris at the Park House



Union Church

On Sunday, July 16th, 15 volunteers from Union Church spent the morning volunteering with Living Classrooms as part of their Serve Day. Despite rainy weather, volunteers remained invested in a trash pickup around Park House.



Oxford Club

On Wednesday, July 19th, six volunteers from Oxford Club spent the morning volunteering with Living Classrooms. Volunteers swept trash around the Constellation and waxed brass. They even received a tour and a brief history of the ship.



TOTAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS - 163
STUDENT VOLUNTEER HOURS - 1,604

THANK YOU!



Volunteerism

SIGN UP! FIND YOUR SPOT TODAY!

🌱 Join the movement and participate in the change in our community.

🇺🇸 Tutoring Heroes Wanted! 🧑🎓 Dive into the world of education and make a difference! We're on the hunt for passionate tutors for K-12 in both ELA and Math. Channel your inner educator and be a beacon of knowledge for our students.

🏡 Maritime Magic Needs You! ✨ Join us on the magical nights of Oct. 4, 5, and 6, 2023! Be a part of the enchantment and lend a hand at Maritime Magic - one of Baltimore's most anticipated events of the year.

🦃 Thanksgiving Drive - A Season of Giving! 🍁 Mark your calendars for the week of Nov 13! With your help, we aim to assemble 400 food baskets and turkeys at the UA House. Together, let's spread the warmth of the season.

🏥 Health Care Fair with Gilchrist - Coming Soon! 📅 Keep an eye out for the Health Care Fair on Aug. 26, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at UA House, a fantastic collaboration with Gilchrist. For a deeper dive into the event details, chat with Travis.

☀️ Let's make these events vibrant and memorable!



Living Classrooms Foundation could not do the work it does without thousands of committed individual volunteers and a range of student, corporate, and other groups who dedicate their time to supporting our programs. Living Classrooms accepts individual volunteers, interns (including for school credit), and volunteer groups of all ages and sizes – everything from high school student groups to corporate days of service.

There are countless ways to engage with the mission of Living Classrooms Foundation.

Volunteer projects for large groups can be customized based on interest, group size, and availability. Individual volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application before registering for a service opportunity.



Thank you from the CEO

FROM JAMES PIPER BOND

Thank you for reading through this issue of The Anchor. Your support and interest drive our mission forward. We're eager to share more news and stories with you in our upcoming editions.

Remember, please save the date and join us on October 6 for Maritime Magic, a night to celebrate and support our ongoing programs and mission!

Finally, we are excited to welcome Nikki Schiavone, our new Director of Communications. A Baltimore native, Nikki brings a wealth of experience and has already made her mark with the refreshed look of our newsletter, The Anchor. We hope you enjoyed it!

Warmest regards,

