

Comcast Cares Day Volunteers Spruce Up Park and Rec Center



Mayor Catherine Pugh joined youth volunteers to paint a mural inside the Farring Baybrook Recreation Center on Comcast Cares Day, April 22, 2017 in recognition of Earth Day. Volunteers, made up of Comcast employees and family members, local fraternities and civic organizations, to perform cleanup and other work at Farring Baybrook Park and Recreation Center— helping with landscaping, painting and the beautification of the park and center. (See article on page 11)

Courtesy Photo/Comcast

Art installation encourages reflection about Segregation Era, 21st Century Race Relations

By Deborah Bailey

An alternate reality that was once the center of summer fun and recreation for Baltimore's black population, Pool #2, which operated as a segregated pool in the "historically black" section of Druid Hill Park, is temporarily the site of an art installation and exhibit, featuring the work of the city's most imaginative artists.

"Everyday Utopias," an exhibition coordinated by Curator Sheena M. Morrison, brings together ten of the area's contemporary artistic talents to interpret through art how Druid Hill's once segregated Pool #2 and the history and trajectory surrounding that facility represent the "everyday" successes and struggles of civic life.

"From the initial campaign to construct the city's first public pool for black people to the resolute activism that led to its eventual closure, Pool No. 2 reflects the pragmatism of an "every day utopia" a term coined to define those creative practices that we engage in daily to find new and better ways to improve our lives and the world," said Morrison.

Known as the Colored Pool by local residents in the 1950s, Pool #2 was constructed in response to a 1953 drowning accident involving a young African American boy in the Patapsco River.

"The tragedy revealed the difficult circumstances for many African Americans looking for a place to swim in Baltimore. The boy lived near Clifton Park but swam in a dangerous river due to his exclusion from the park's whites-only pool," according to the Explore Baltimore Heritage website.

Baltimore sound artist and Maryland Institute College of Art graduate, Andrew Keiper created Summer Sonar, a sound installation to bring an awareness of water and its many personal and social meanings.

"The surface of water can figure as the threshold of conscious awareness and in the water below, swims our dreams, aspirations and fantasies," Keiper said. "Desegregation filled this pool," Keiper added referring to the ultimate closure and filling of Pool #2, "but did it bury white supremacy?"

After the Patapsco River drowning,



(Left) Artists Andrew Keiper and Tiffany Jones whose work is part of the "Everyday Utopias" art installation on display in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City until Sunday, May 7, 2017. (Right) Exhibition entry from Lauren R. Lyde depicting "swimmers in pool #2 during the 1950s."



Courtesy Photos/Everyday Utopias

the Baltimore NAACP subsequently mounted a successful campaign that closed the pool the same year it was opened. The pool lay dormant until local artist and 2016 MacArthur Genius Fellow Joyce J. Scott won a commission to transform the once "Colored Pool" into a memorial.

"How do we make this area useful and beautiful, and harken back to the pool era?" Joyce said when reflecting on how she would approach the work of memorializing the pool. The result was filling in the pool and creating a lawn. Scott kept the original metal diving board, chair, ladders and boys changing room to pay homage to the pool's original patrons.

"I, Colored," a mural and photographic collage with hand painted flags is the work of artist and photographer, Tiffany Jones. The multi-dimensional collage and flag installation is meant to encourage visitors to recognize that in spite of the hardships of Jim Crow life in the 1950's, African Americans still enjoyed rich, full cultural lives.

"We tend to forget that African Americans continued to live incredible,

textured, multi-faceted lives during the Jim Crow era," Jones said. "There was laughter and celebration."

Other artists who are part of the exhibition, include: Billy Colbert, Sutton Demlong, Fluid Movement, Lauren R. Lyde, Antonio McAfee, Kameelah Rasheed,

Edward-Victor Sanchez, and Michael Trueblood.

Until the Everyday Utopias exhibit, Scott's original work stood alone. Through May 7, 2017, Joyce Scott's lawn-filled Pool #2 at Druid Hill Park is alive with the art of Everyday Utopias.

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The Annapolis Times

(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore*, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

Why Early Learning Matters

By Laura Gamble

The quality of an early education can influence the opportunities for a young child's success in school and life. As an individual highly invested in early childhood education, I have witnessed the impact an instructionally rich learning environment can have on preschool students' development. Research supports the view that high-quality preschool programs necessitate resources and educational experiences that stimulate children's curiosity and love of learning. A high-quality pre-K classroom— where teachers have access to materials and activities to support their interactions with children— helps to advance students' cognitive, social and emotional skills.

Early Learning is Essential— The impact of the early learning environment is especially relevant for at-risk pre-school children. At home, many underserved children do not engage in the interactions - conversations and play - that help build vocabulary and the pathways that shape the brain's ability to organize information. A Stanford University study showed income-based disparities in children's vocabularies by 18 months of age. By 2 years, children from lower-income households fell six months behind children in higher-income homes with regard to how quickly they process language.

Though they face great odds to succeed, at-risk pre-K children are more likely to do well when they have access to quality resources. Recent research co-authored by Nobel laureate James Heckman shows that investing in quality early childhood programs can deliver a 13 percent per year return on investment— a net, long-term benefit of more than \$700,000 for every disadvantaged child served. That benefit comes via reduced need for special education and grade repetition, higher wages, increased high school graduation rates and even reduced crime.

The Need for Classroom Resources— When classrooms have the resources they need, teachers are better equipped to inspire a lifelong love of learning. However, funding is always limited, and teachers across the country are reaching into their own pockets to purchase education materials that cash-strapped schools can't provide.

A recent study by the National Head Start Association revealed that 88 percent of Head Start teachers spent up to \$500 on school supplies out of their own pockets last year, and 10 percent spent more than \$1,000. Many schools, especially those in low-income areas, just don't have enough resources.

What if you could personally help our youngest children most in need and their teachers receive more classroom resources with a few mouse clicks?

To enhance early childhood education, PNC recently announced a \$5 million grant to the online charity DonorsChoose.org. The new initiative helps teachers obtain additional classroom resources, such as books, art and school supplies, as well as transportation for field trips to child-friendly museums and other institutions.

Now you can donate to help fulfill local pre-K teacher requests and PNC will match those project donations made within our service area, subject to some restrictions and a maximum dollar amount.

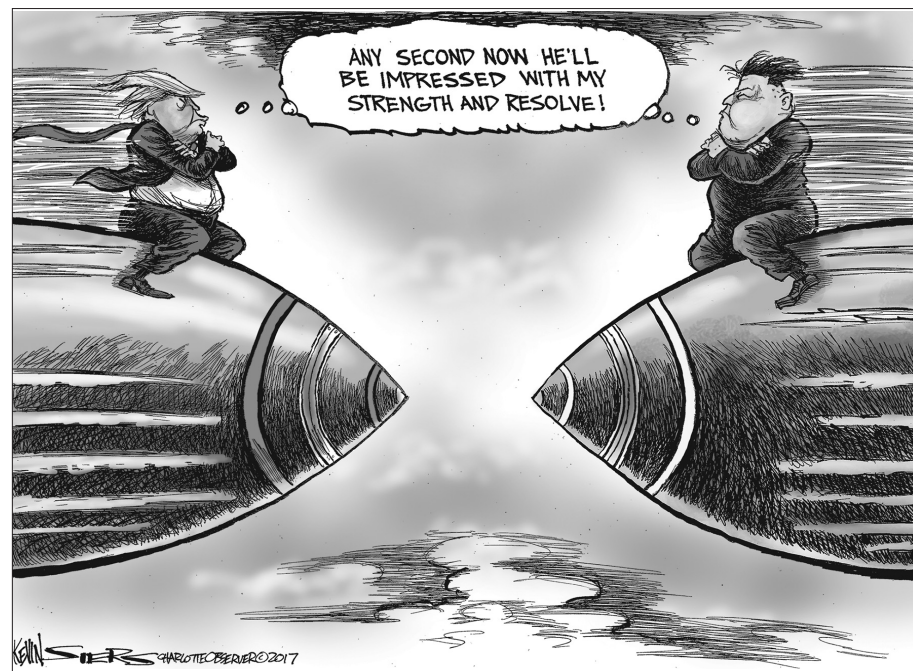
On the initiative's first day, PNC fully funded \$504,000 in projects that will help improve the learning environments in preschool classrooms throughout the 22 states and Washington, D.C. where PNC has a significant presence.

Our investment to help teachers build a foundation for high-quality learning was made as part of PNC Grow Up Great®, a \$350 million, bilingual multi-year school readiness initiative for children from birth to age 5. Through the program, we will continue to enrich early learning for the benefit of our youngest students.

As invested member of this community, I ask you to become advocates for quality early education. Follow local initiatives such as Ready At Five. Look for ways to enhance the resources for early learning in your local schools. In addition, I urge you to visit DonorsChoose.org and consider supporting a project in your local community.

The nature of the classroom experience can make a significant difference in the lives of children. Let's work together to ensure that they receive a quality education and the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability.

Laura Gamble is the PNC Regional President, Greater Maryland



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Degrade North Korean Economy

President Trump has pointed out the strong linkage between China and North Korea, and he correctly assumes China can influence North Korea's weapons development program. We must work with China on resolving this situation, and also on the Chinese encroachment in the South China Sea and the trade deficit imbalance.

At this juncture, the North Korean nuclear missile program is of primary concern. China can bring pressure on North Korea to stop its development of these weapons systems by reducing its trade with North Korea.

One area of trade that comes to mind is the large quantity of coal China imports

from North Korea. It is estimated this amounts to 22 million tons per year, which is 40 percent of North Korea's coal exports. A reduction in the importation of North Korean coal would significantly impact the North Korean economy, and could force it to change its position on arms development.

The U.S. has large quantities of coal available for mining which could be sold to China, if cost effective, to fill its coal importation needs. This would help our trade imbalance with China, boost our coal mining industry, and put our coal miners back to work.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH



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Environmental justice must be a national priority

*By Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.
(N.J.-10)*

Too often, missing from discussions about the challenges facing African Americans is any focus on environmental justice, the idea that all people should enjoy a clean, healthy environment while being treated equally with regard to environmental policies, regulations and laws. African-American communities are disproportionately burdened by environmental degradation, and unless real action is taken, the environmental and health risks facing our communities will persist.

For decades, African-American communities in urban areas have been treated as dumping grounds for pollutants at the expense of community members, the environment, and the economy. The effects are felt every single day.

In Congress, I represent Newark, New Jersey, home to a dense transit network, waste and sewer treatment facilities, industrial plants, the third largest port in the nation, and the largest trash incinerator in the Northeast. In other words, the city and its residents are overburdened

with concentrated environmental pollution, the cumulative impacts of which are making people, especially children, sick.

Newark residents face the nation's second greatest cancer risk due to diesel emissions. Asthma is now the leading cause of absenteeism for school-age children in Newark, Bayonne, and Elizabeth, New Jersey. According to the Village Voice, "One in four Newark children suffers from asthma; the hospitalization rate is 150 percent greater for kids living in the city than in the rest of the state, and more than thirty times the rate nationwide."

Environmental injustice, of course, is not unique to Newark. In the United States, 13 million people, including 3.5 million children, are concentrated in the vicinity of transportation facilities and are exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution from busy diesel trucking routes, ocean-going vessels, cargo handling equipment, railroad locomotives, and cargo handling equipment. Across the nation, communities of color suffer from higher rates of exposure to air pollution, higher rates of lead poisoning, and higher rates of water pollution. This is made even worse by their lack of equal and meaningful access to the environmental decision-making process.

What can we do about this?

In Newark, the City Council passed a first-in-the-nation ordinance requiring developers requesting environmental permits to inform the city of any environmental impacts. As a result, decision-makers and the public will be able to make informed decisions about sustainable development. Other municipalities

should follow Newark's example and pass similar ordinances.

Of course, we also need a commitment from the federal government, including the Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency, to secure the health and safety of all communities across the country. Sadly, we do not have this buy-in from the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans.

Against public sentiment, President Trump has prioritized rolling back environmental regulations, from emissions rules for power plants to the mandate that federal decision-making must take into consideration climate change impacts. At the same time, the president has proposed slashing the EPA's budget by 31 percent, eliminating climate change programs, cutting funding to protect water and air quality, and eliminating 19 percent of the agency's workforce.

The President's EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, shares the president's vision of drastically limiting, if not eliminating, the agency's scope, and moved quickly to roll back President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which aimed to limit carbon pollution from power plants. Pruitt also doubts basic facts on climate change and supports dismantling the historic Paris climate agreement.

The positions and policies of the Trump Administration are a direct threat to the health of African-American communities. Their anti-science, anti-environmental regulation will only exacerbate the environmental threats that disproportionately impact African Americans, from climate change to harmful exposure to toxic substances.

With threats of excessive cuts to the

EPA, air quality across the nation may be worse than expected. In the American Lung Association's "State of Air," my district and many other metropolitan areas ranked as having the most polluted air in the country. Unfortunately, only one-third of counties have ozone or particle pollution air monitors. I will fight to ensure funding for more air monitors for environmentally vulnerable communities.

Given the Trump Administration's relentless attack on environmental protections, we need to make it clear to our elected officials that we will hold them accountable for any actions they take to dismantle environmental protections and any failures to fight for environmental justice. We can't let any votes they take against environmental protections go unnoticed, or any harmful policies go unanswered. We also need to make it clear that environmental justice is a civil rights issue—that is, it's not only about the health of our communities, but about fair treatment and equal involvement in environmental planning and decision-making.

So, call your senators and representatives to let them know that you are paying attention. Environmental justice should be a national priority, not a problem confined to minority communities.

Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. represents New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. He serves as Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications and also sits on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Follow Representative Payne on Twitter @RepDonaldPayne.

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**Mailing Address
The Baltimore Times
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Baltimore, MD 21218**

**Phone: 410-366-3900 Fax 410-243-1627
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Baltimore & Me

Community Policing: Outreach minister serves BPD as civilian chaplain



Tiffany Christie

This Part II of a three part series about Community Policing

Minister Debora Berry's work in the southeastern district as a chaplain for the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) has aroused in her a deeper appreciation for the men and women who suit up everyday to protect and serve the citizens of this city.

Earlier this year, Berry graduated with the third class of the civilian chaplain academy, the faith-based program of the BPD's Community Collaboration Division—ready to serve.

"I'm truly honored to be called to this," said Minister Debora Berry, whose previous work in ministry centered around planning faith-based activities for youth with Greater Harvest and Beyond the Walls ministries in East Baltimore.

"It's new to me, but I accept the calling. I'm excited about what God is truly doing, not just for me but, for them. They are the ones that have to be out here each and everyday to deal with what's going on [in the city]," she said.

Understanding the inherent interdependency in the relationship between police officers and city residents, Minister Berry's service to the program is split between manning one of the dozens of prayer alters strategically located throughout the city and providing spiritual care for first responders and officers on beat.

She credits the training she received from the academy for expanding her consciousness about topics, including: domestic violence, racial bias, and principles of community policing and mental health.

"My job is to be there to pray when called," said Minister Berry, who was called to a shooting on the first day of field training with the chaplain academy.

"We are there to pray with the officers... to cover for the first responders... to pray for the community," she said. "We're there praying for whoever is going through what they're going through."

Another call, took her to the scene where a man attempted suicide by jumping in front of a bridge in Dundalk toward a moving train.

"He missed," recalled Minister Berry. "It was hard to be up close with someone who wanted to take their life. When I saw him there I just asked God to transform his mind. Life is too precious just to throw away like that, regardless of what you're going through."

Minister Berry brings a warrior's spirit to her work with the faith-based program. More months than not, she exceeds the 20-hour expectation set for volunteer clergy because sometimes, she says, that's what it takes.

During one-on-one with officers, the outreach minister helps them to spiritually digest what they experience physically on the job—to see things through the eyes of love, to work through the toxic emotions that have the potential to drive police, as well as any other human being to take their own lives or to complicate the lives of others.

"I was pretty much there everyday at one point," said Minister Berry. "Every day that the partner officer I was assigned to was working, I was there; I had to develop a rapport. I had to build that relationship to where he could open up."

When they first met, Minister Berry says, her partner was numb. From what she could gather in the beginning, he was facing challenges with balancing work and home, and adjusting emotionally to his experiences on the job.

"He would never open up, he would



Debora Berry, an outreach minister who serves as a civilian chaplain for the Baltimore City Police Department, graduated from the chaplain academy of the Community Collaboration Division's faith-based program.

Photo by Tiffany Ginyard

just walk around saying, 'I'm OK. I'm OK. I'm OK.' But now today he opens up—we talk outside of the district. He calls and checks up on me—and I [check on] him, and the relationship we have is mutual."

Prayer, as Minister Berry employs it, is not just about the words. It's about the infinite power activated when people take courage to stand with one another, in the face of the appearances that make them different, to make a commitment to collectively, acknowledge the source of absolute good—God, a higher power or whatever connects all humanity.

For all the good seeds planted in the hearts and minds she has touched with her service, Minister Berry says she has reaped a harvest that has transformed her life. She recalled being called to the scene of a fatal house fire in North East Baltimore that claimed the lives of six children, earlier this year.

"My biggest challenge was seeing those babies, innocent souls, being

pulled out of that fire. It really touched my heart. I thought about my babies, my [five] grandchildren," the mother of two daughters and one son said.

With first responders since 10 a.m, she stayed and prayed until the fire was extinguished and everyone was out of the house. She was drained, and just when she thought she had no more to give, her partner officer stepped in.

"He covered me in prayer," she said. "You have to love one another. It's all about love. We have one big happy family over at the southeastern district—we stand together, civilians and police officers."

Tiffany Christy is an urban educator, youth advocate, and multimedia editor and producer. She enjoys capturing the beauty of her beloved Baltimore in words and pictures. Follow Tiffany on Facebook/tiffany.ginyard and visit her blog, Fly Lyf, at www.flygirlnetwork.org/blog.

CORRECTION:

In Part I of this series about Community Policing, which appeared in the April 21, 2017 issue of The Baltimore Times, the name of Detective Quinese Green, the officer in charge of the faith-based program was inadvertently spelled incorrectly. It was shown as Quintese and it should have been Quinese.

Millennials pay it forward with startup

By Stacy M. Brown

After attending multiple networking events, Ashley Grimes and Destiny Jones say they were left unfulfilled and dissatisfied. Because of those repeated experiences, the budding business owners realized that there was a need to establish a platform for female entrepreneurs to continually connect, share information and gain support.

In February, the two founded The Millennial Entrepreneur Network, LLC, which they say will accelerate the advancement of female entrepreneurs with an objective to provide members with the essential tools and connections needed to succeed in the competitive business world.

“Women are already a minority in the business world, therefore it is imperative for them to be educated on how to run a business,” said Grimes, 26, of Randallstown. “My mom would always say when odds are already working in your favor you have to try two times harder to be better than the competition.”



In February this year, Ashley Grimes (left), and Destiny Jones (right) founded The Millennial Entrepreneur Network, LLC. They say the organization will accelerate the advancement of female entrepreneurs by providing members with the essential tools and connections needed to succeed in the competitive business world.

Courtesy Photo

Currently pursuing a master’s in business administration with a concentration in entrepreneurship at Morgan State University, Grimes teamed with Jones, 23, a Baltimore resident and graduate of Salisbury University, where she earned a Bachelor’s of Science in international business and marketing.

“We help aspiring female entrepreneurs to establish a supportive community through powerful connections,” Grimes said. “We encourage, enlighten and empower women to become leaders in the business world.”

The company hosts a series of brunch events for women entrepreneurs that include those from diverse backgrounds and occupations.

“The Millennial Entrepreneur Network, LLC speaks on topics that are relative to entrepreneurs at any stage in business.

We also bring speakers that share their failures and successes; and how they got started; and what they have done to sustain in order to enhance the experience,” Grimes said. “Our attendees are able to have an open dialogue through Q &A,

have meet and greets after the event is over as well as build their network up through mixing and mingling with other entrepreneurs.”

The company chose brunch because it’s typically cheerful, sociable and insightful, according to Grimes.

“It is talk-compelling. It puts you in good spirits, it makes you satisfied with yourself and your fellow beings, and it sweeps away the worries and cobwebs of the week. Brunch is a communal experience,” Grimes said.

Diversity remains key because of the varying perspectives involved, which is essential in business, she said.

The Millennial Entrepreneur Network, LLC aims to become the premier organization of women serving women in business, said Grimes, noting that they are already an active and inclusive organization, which fosters professional mentorship, resources and a diverse network of members supporting one another and the business world.

The company prepares young women for success; promotes women entrepreneurship; addresses the barriers to entrepreneurship; and finds solutions by advocating the measures meant to promote women entrepreneurs.

“We are able to ensure positive outcomes through providing members with the appropriate tools in order to develop and grow their business and be successful. We provide our members the opportunity to meet, exchange information and develop business relationships as well as help build profitable relationships,” Grimes said.

The Millennial Entrepreneur Network, LLC will also link members with mentors in their industries as well as have one-on-one strategy meetings with our members. We understand that women’s entrepreneurship is the best way to achieve economic, financial and social impact however; it can be hard being a double minority.

“Women in business encounter unique challenges and we wanted to provide a supportive community that provides the knowledge and skills in order to excel as an entrepreneur in the business world,” she said.

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Committed volunteer receives financial education award

By Stacy M. Brown

Colleagues and friends describe Tisa Silver Canady as a champion of financial education both at work as an advisor to UMB graduate students and as a volunteer across the state with the Maryland CASH campaign.

Canady has even published a book that draws parallels between financial education and life goals.

With the month of April noted as National Financial Education Month, it's fitting that Canady has been honored with the Maryland CASH campaign's 2017 Community Champion Award.

"It [the award] means I have succeeded in making a difference for the better. It is nice to be recognized, but many accolades are tied to a job," said Canady, who, after earning a bachelor's degree and an MBA at the University of Delaware, went on to become a professor at that school before going to work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

"This is a special honor because it is related to a series of personal choices as opposed to professional obligation. Service is and always will be a part of my life," she said. "To be able to serve and make a difference is more than enough for me. To be recognized for it, especially by organizations across my home state that are involved in the work of financial education; its a huge bonus."

Having grown up in Mitchellville, Canady now makes her home in Bowie. She is married to a teacher from Northeast Baltimore. Canady says she is a "huge advocate" of financial education, which she has made her life's work. Canady also works with young individuals, including incarcerated youth.

The annual financial education and



Tisa Silver Canady was honored with the Maryland CASH campaign's 2017 Community Champion Award recently. The annual financial education and capability awards are handed out by the nonprofit to highlight the dedication and success of public school teachers, community champions and outstanding organizations who deliver financial education. (Left to right front row) Ezel Silver (Tisa's father); Tisa Silver Canady; State Senator Douglas J.J. Peters; and Michael Canady, Tisa's husband (standing back row). Courtesy Photo

capability awards handed out by the nonprofit Maryland CASH campaign, the Maryland Council on Economic Education and the Maryland State Department of Education highlights the dedication and success of public school teachers, community champions and outstanding organizations who deliver financial education, according to a news release.

Financial education focuses on a range of financial management concepts and behaviors including budgeting, careers and income, credit, savings, financial decision-making, and understanding

values and habits about money, according to the release.

For Canady, it's all a reminder of where she began and where she still hopes to go. "I think the turning point came in middle school when I seriously began considering the cost of college. My parents had talked about college for as long as I could remember," said Canady, who is also a student in the Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at Morgan State University.

"On one hand, my Grandma Lucille talked about selling Avon to help put my father through Howard University. On

the other hand, my mother talked about working summer jobs and gaining independence during her college years.

"In the seventh grade, I had a forward-looking principal who had her students take the SAT in middle school. Around the same time as the test, I began thinking about two goals: paying for college and getting a car. Soon after the test, I approached my parents with a deal. I asked them if they would buy me a car if I received a full scholarship to college. They agreed and obtaining a full scholarship became my first major financial goal," she said.

In the spring of 1996, Canady accepted a full scholarship from the University of Delaware and in August, her parents purchased her a car.

The college selection decision taught Canady much about weighing financial options such as in-state versus out-of-state, rural versus urban, on-campus versus off-campus housing, she said.

The car decision exposed her to the importance of credit and the nuisance of haggling--the overall experience made her look at financial decisions more deliberately, she said.

"When you know better, you can do better. I wanted to do better and I wanted to help others to have the same opportunity," Canady said.

The importance of recognizing National Financial Education Month is underscored by the attention given to making informed decisions, she said. It's also a reminder that financial education starts at home.

"Children begin learning financial lessons long before they begin school, so the best thing a parent or guardian can do is lead by example and get educated and, it's never too late to learn," she said.


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Alan Amrhine, Communications Director
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The Look that Gave Birth to A Mother's Cry

By Ursula V. Battle

This is Part One of a Three-Part Series on A Mother's Cry. Founded by Millie Brown "A Mother's Cry" is a foundation that supports mothers who have lost their children to violence.

Television shows such as Homicide: Life On The Streets and The Wire often depict the violence that has claimed so many lives in Baltimore. But, for Millie Brown, the impact of the violence she has seen comes unscripted. There are no actors and there are no production crews. The young men and women she saw coming through the ER of Johns Hopkins Hospital suffering from fatal gunshot wounds and other injuries were real people...and so were the bereaved families they left behind.

"As an Operating Room Associate at Johns Hopkins Hospital, my job was preparing the rooms for surgery," recalled Brown who retired last year. "I worked in the cardiac and trauma room. So often, young people would come in shot or stabbed and would have to be taken to the morgue. I have seen so many children die."

However, one day, the eyes of a young man who came through Brown's area would forever change her life.

"They brought in a young man who had 30 gunshot wounds," said Brown. "I remember him having \$20 dollar bills in his pocket. They stopped him in front of me, and he looked at me as if to say, 'please don't let me die'. There was nothing I could do for him. The young man expired, and I had to take him to the morgue."

She continued, "The young man's family was there at the hospital. I held the mother's hand when she was told her son had passed, and she wept. I will never forget that cry. I went home and told my son about it, and he said 'what you heard was a mother's cry'. I wanted to stop mothers from crying, and asked God what can I do? I can't give them their children back, but let me do something to make them smile."

And with that, Brown says God gave her the vision to found A Mother's Cry. Brown started the foundation in 2007. A Mother's Cry supports mothers who have lost their children to violence.

"The goal is to get their minds off the tragedy and put it someplace else," said Brown. "If I can get one mother to do that, I know I have done what God has called me to do. After the cameras have stopped, and after the family members and friends go home, often-times, there is no one there for these mothers. I call them to let them know I am there for them, love them, and if they need me, to call me. I used to have three phones that stayed on 24-hour-a-day."

"I started having events," added Brown. "I would have events on Mother's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving and other holidays to get the mothers together to let



Denise Green, whose son was killed in 2009, receives a hug from Millie Brown.

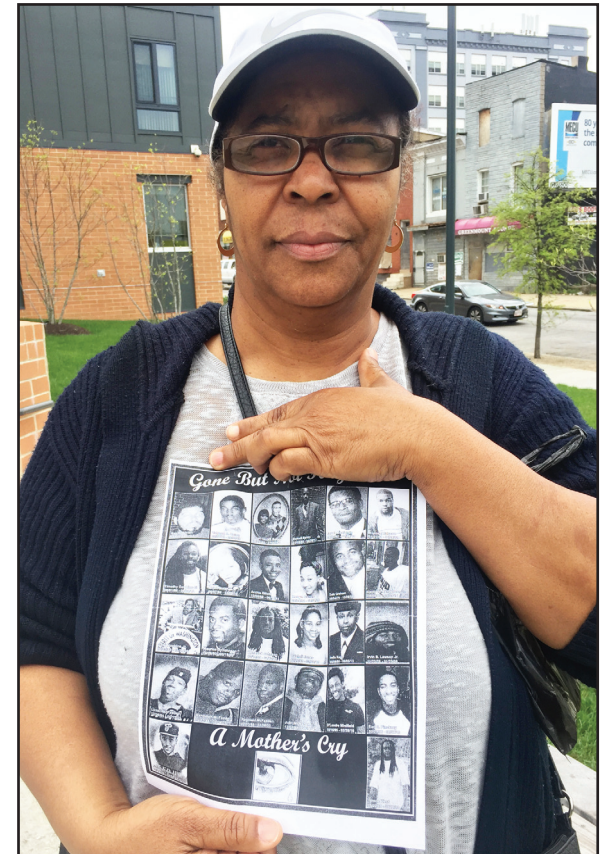
them know they are not alone. I started asking for donations to give to the mothers. I have never asked for money – only gifts, which have come in a variety of forms, including manicures, pedicures, gift cards, dinner, appliances, jewelry, flat screen televisions, and tickets to shows."

Brown's efforts have caught the attention of former Ravens middle linebacker Ray Lewis.

"Ray Lewis decided to partner with me," said Brown. "We met at an event at Morgan. With Ray Lewis' involvement, I believe this organization will now go to another level."

Recently, the mothers enjoyed a special dinner at Ciao Bella Restaurant on High Street in Little Italy. During the event, each of the mothers were presented with "A Mother's Cry Courage Award", a flower, and a large bag containing a variety of items, which included beauty products, and a bracelet. The items also included a tote bag, which features Ray Lewis' "RL 52" on the front and A Mother's Cry artwork by William Brown.

Lewis' business partner Rob Wallace attended the event. Lewis and Wallace are the founders of Power52, Inc., which seeks to strengthen communities and inspire people to achieve their potential through hands-on job-training in the energy sector.



Millie Brown is the Founder of A Mother's Cry, which supports mothers who have lost their children to violence. Brown is holding a flyer showing photos of some of the mothers' children.

Photos by Ursula V. Battle

"A Mother's Cry is important to us," said Wallace. "We try to catch these kids early before it gets to a loss. Each of these kids represents a soul that has been lost, that could have done great things. Now because of the violence they don't have the opportunity to do that. We want these mothers to know we care about them, and haven't forgotten about their loss."

During the event, some of the mothers shared stories of their loss, including one mother who lost three sons in one year.

Denise Green lost her son in 2009. She talked about Brown, whom she affectionately calls "Miss Millie".

"I went over to Johns Hopkins to meet Miss Millie," said Green. "She has been such a blessing to me. It's good to know someone like her when you are down and out. When she takes us out, it eases my mind. My son is on my mind every day, and the things that Miss Millie does to help me really helps a lot. Sometimes I walk over to her place just to talk. It helps me so much, because what happened to my son is still fresh."

For more information on A Mother's Cry, call (443) 303-6289 or send an email to brownmillie98@gmail.com.

Comcast Cares Day Volunteers Spruce Up Park and Rec Center

By Stacy M. Brown

With more than 100,000 volunteers helping to improve 1,000 project sites at community centers, schools, gardens, parks, beaches, and more throughout the United States and in 20 other countries, Comcast Cares Day was a hit.

The April 22, 2017 event called for volunteers, made up of Comcast employees and family members and local fraternities and civic organizations, to perform cleanup and other work at Farring Baybrook Park and Recreation Center— helping with landscaping, painting and the beautification of the park and center.

A staple each year for Comcast, cleanup and beautification work was happening at other locations in recognition of Earth Day, including the Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training; The Arc of Baltimore at Homeland and The Arc of Baltimore at Dundalk; sorting, packing, weighing and labeling food boxes at the Maryland Food Bank in Lansdowne; and planting trees, picking up trash, painting and other work at the Northwest Academy Health Sciences and surrounding communities in Pikesville.

The 16th annual Comcast Cares Day met and in some cases exceeded expectations as approximately 500 volunteers braved the rainy and wet conditions to perform work at Baltimore City parks and other areas.

“I’d say it was successful, that it met expectations,” said Brad Palazzo, the director of external affairs at Comcast.

“Everyone was really galvanized. Our company comes out in force and it brings a sense of pride and hope in those communities that there’s a company willing to devote their Saturday and pool together resources and people for a great day,” said Palazzo, who joined Comcast 12 years ago and almost immediately began taking part in Comcast Cares Day.

The special day of service has become an annual tradition for tens of thousands of Comcast employees, their friends and families, and numerous nonprofit partners who join with the cable company to



Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, Bill Vondrasek, Director, Baltimore Recreation and Parks Department and Antoine Banks, Sr. Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs for Comcast’s Beltway Region joined volunteers for a group photo on April 22, 2017. Courtesy Photos/ Comcast



Despite the rain, volunteers worked on mulching newly planted tree beds.

make change happen in communities and celebrate the company’s culture of caring year-round, according to Palazzo.

“The park in Baltimore is where these residents go on a sunny day or, even in this case on a rainy day, and our volunteers worked through the rain. It’s special,” Palazzo said.

Volunteers spent the day mulching, caring for flower pots and trees, picking up debris and trash at the park and inside the recreation center at Farring Baybrook, and putting smiles on the faces of many, including Mayor Catherine Pugh who also came out with the volunteers.

“The mayor was out there and that was really nice and inspiring of her,” Palazzo said. “I talked to a couple of our employees who were all muddied and wet from the rain, but they wanted to make their lasting impression, leave their lasting mark on the community.”

“We had a lot of stuff to do inside too, so folks were able to come in and paint murals and put together things for kids, and repair tables and chairs,” Palazzo added.

The park and recreation center is known for hosting therapeutic recreation services; Special Olympics; five-on-five outdoor soccer; track and field; a Bocce

program; wheelchair softball and a variety of other recreation.

Other nearby locations that Comcast volunteers performed work included joining the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, Inc. for bowling and pizza; landscaping, painting and cleanup at The Harford Center in Havre de Grace; partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Westminster to beautify Francis Scott Key High School in Union Bridge and Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster; assisting with indoor and outdoor renovations at the Boys & Girls Club of Westminster’s headquarters and future location; repairing fences, cleaning barns and relocating the antique supplies at the Carroll County Farm Museum; and painting fences and bathrooms, consulting dug outs, mulching, planting and general cleanup with the North East Action Club at North East High School.

“It’s great for our employees. It’s a day where you can loosen up your tie and wear comfortable clothes and bring your family and interact on a social level in an environment where you’re giving back,” Palazzo said.

32nd Fallen Heroes Day honors police, firefighters killed in line of duty

Baltimore— The 32nd annual Fallen Heroes Day ceremony will be held on Friday, May 5, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. The annual event, which attracts more than 1,500 guests from across the state of Maryland, honors and remembers police and correctional officers, firefighters, and emergency medical/rescue personnel who died in the line of duty during the past year. It is the only statewide ceremony in the nation that brings together all segments of the public safety community. Fallen Heroes Day is also an opportunity for the public to show their appreciation for those who risk their lives every day to protect the citizens of Maryland.

The 2017 Fallen Heroes Day ceremony will honor Firefighter/Paramedic Lieutenant John Ulmschneider of the Prince George's County Fire Department who died just weeks before the 2016 ceremony. On April 15, 2016, Firefighter/PM Lieutenant Ulmschneider and another medic responded to a "welfare call" at the home of a man suspected to be suffering from a medical emergency. When there was no answer at the door, forcible entry was used. The occupant of the home shot at the medics, mortally wounding 37-year-old Firefighter/PM Lieutenant Ulmschneider, a 13-year member of the Fire/EMS Department.

The ceremony will begin with a procession of more than 25 honor guard units from across the state, police motorcycle and mounted units, bagpipers, and drummers. Kai Jackson, veteran journalist and Fox 45 News anchor will be the keynote speaker.

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and Keiffer J. Mitchell, Jr., Special Advisor, Governor's Legislative Office, will give memorial addresses. Princella Hunter, the mother of Fallen Hero Trooper First Class Shaft Hunter who was honored at the 2012 Fallen Heroes Day Ceremony, will speak as a survivor. Television news anchor and radio host Mary Beth Marsden will serve as MC.

During the ceremony, the family of



This year's Fallen Heroes Day ceremony will be held on Friday, May 5, 2017 at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens located at 200 East Padonia Road in Timonium at 1 p.m. Courtesy Photo

Firefighter/PM Lieutenant Ulmschneider will be presented with a replica of the Fallen Heroes Memorial and a resolution from the Maryland General Assembly. Additionally, one police officer and two firefighters who died in the line of duty, before Fallen Heroes Day was established in 1986, will be remembered and their families will be presented with a Governor's Proclamation.

"Our hearts go out to the Ulmschneider family as we remember Firefighter/Paramedic Lieutenant John Ulmschneider and those public servants across the nation who have died in the line of duty," said John O. Mitchell, III, Chairman of Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens. "This year, as always, Fallen Heroes Day provides an opportunity for the citizens of Maryland to take time to show appreciation and respect for the men and women who risk their lives each day when they report to work."

Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens was established in 1958 by John Armiger, Sr. In 1976, he set aside 330 burial spaces for fallen heroes and their spouses. Ten years later, he established the tradition of Fallen Heroes Day.

Keeping with tradition, Governor Larry Hogan has issued a proclamation declaring May 5, 2017 as Fallen Heroes Day in Maryland and has ordered flags flown at half-staff at the State House and all state facilities.

The Fallen Heroes Memorial is located within Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, 200 East Padonia Road in Timonium.

Caribbean author debuts children's fantasy book at African American Children's Book Fair

"Exciting and fun filled...The tale is emotionally alive with vivid, engaging characters, memorable scenes, full of magic and light...Sprinkled with beautiful prose and descriptions." – 2016 Burt Award Judges

Baltimore— Children's author Danielle Y.C. McClean will debut her fantasy adventure book, *Secrets of Oscuros: The Protectors' Pledge* on May 6, 2017, at the 5th annual African American Children's Book Fair at the Reginald F. Lewis useum, 830 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A third-place winner of the CODE 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature (the largest prize for Caribbean children's literature), *The Protector's' Pledge* is a fast-paced adventure set deep in a Caribbean forest with JV, a twelve-year-old hero who must risk everything to save the forest and his village.

McClean breathes life into the exciting story, which is centered around JV who can't wait to spend his vacation exploring the Oscuros Forest. Everyone in the village of Alcavere believes the Oscuros Forest is a place to be feared, inhabited by dangerous and magical beings. But JV is not afraid, even after his first trip into the forest brings him face-to-face with a mysterious creature.

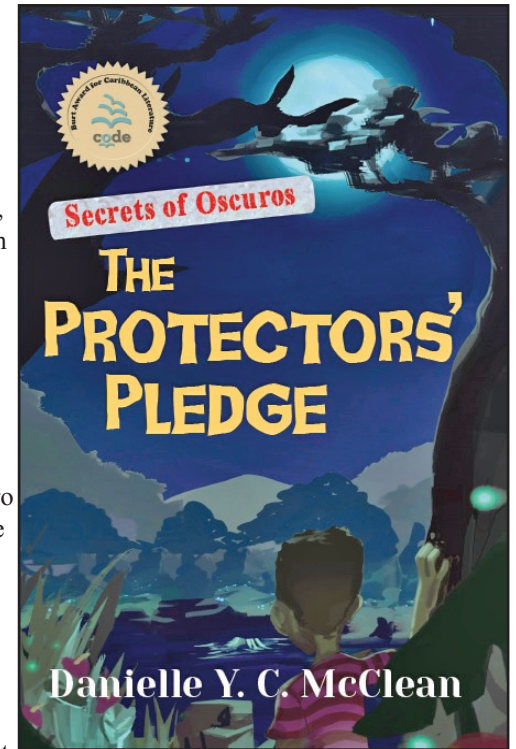
Then the disappearance of one of their own shakes the village and JV joins the search. He finds himself deep in the Oscuros Forest on a rescue mission and committed to a promise, which the Protectors of the forest insist he keeps no matter how dangerous things get.

Can JV complete his daring quest even as he uncovers in the process, a shocking secret that will force him to question everything he thought he knew?

"Writing *The Protectors' Pledge* was a labor of love to celebrate and share my Caribbean heritage with children in an exciting and engaging way. To win a CODE 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature means I achieved that goal and inspires me to keep moving forward on my journey as an author," said McClean.

Danielle Y. C. McClean was born on the Caribbean island of Trinidad in a home where books were valued and plentiful. Though she went on to earn advanced degrees in French and Spanish translation as well as a law degree, she retained a love of books and a desire to become an author. In 2016, her debut novel, *Secrets of Oscuros: The Protectors' Pledge*, won a CODE 2016 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature. McClean lives with her husband and two children in Tennessee, where she is a translator, interpreter and Spanish teacher.

The Protectors' Pledge is published by CaribbeanReads Publishing. E-books and print books are available for purchase at select bookstores and all online booksellers. For more information, visit: www.daniellemclean.com.



Caribbean born author Danielle Y.C. McClean will debut her children's fantasy adventure book "The Protectors' Pledge" at the 5th annual African American Children's Book Fair at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum on Saturday, May 6, 2017 Courtesy Photo

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136th My Maryland State Fair calling for scholarship applicants

Timonium— MY Maryland State Fair is currently seeking applicants for the Maryland State Fair and the Marlin K. Hoff Scholarship programs. Applications may be obtained at www.marylandstatefair.com. Completed applications and attachments must be postmarked on/or before July 1, 2017. Recipients of the scholarships will be recognized at special ceremonies during the 2017 unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair.

“Since its inception in 1879, agriculture education has been one of the Maryland State Fair’s top priorities,” said Maryland State Fair General Manager Andy Cashman. “Our competitive scholarships highlight and reward the accomplishments of youth, help them with their educational pursuits, and promote the importance of agriculture to our state and our world.”

The Maryland State Fair \$2,000 Scholarships recognize the importance of education and participation in the Maryland State Fair. Applicants must be permanent residents of Maryland and active participants in the 2017 Maryland State Fair. They must be currently enrolled in an accredited college/university or be a high school senior entering their college freshman year in 2017. The applicant must complete an essay on the impact of their experience participating in the Maryland State Fair and how the scholarship will be beneficial in helping them with their career goals. Nine winners will be selected and will each receive \$2,000 in scholarship monies.

The Marlin K. Hoff \$2,000 Scholarship will be awarded to one Maryland youth enrolled in a four-year college, and currently or previously enrolled in a 4-H, FFA or breed organization dairy project. The recipient will be selected on the basis of involvement in the dairy industry, academic performance, leadership qualities, future goals and financial need. The Marlin K. Hoff Scholarship will be awarded during the Maryland Holstein Futurity at the 2017 MY Maryland State Fair.

For more information, visit: www.marylandstatefair.com

Obituary

Elliott O. “Phil” Phillips, Sr., SFC (Ret.)

August 4, 1940 - April 18, 2017

On April 18, 2017, Elliott O. “Phil” Phillips Sr., SFC (Ret.), passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. He was 76. Phil was one of 10 children born to Thomas, Sr. and Juliette Phillips in Chicago, Illinois.

After extensive travels with the U.S. Army, Phil settled and resided in Gambrills, Maryland for 38 years. He was the devoted husband of 53 years to Juanita B. Phillips (nee Beaton); and beloved father of Elliott O. Phillips, Jr. (Lillian) of North Carolina and Brian K. Phillips of California.

Phil was a proud member of the United States Army for 27 years, serving first in the Field Artillery and then in the Signal Corps. He also participated as an instructor with the Army Training Board out of Ft. Eustis, Virginia and traveled with a team out of Ft. Gordon’s Second Signal School Brigade. After retirement he turned his passion for photography into a business, “Phil’s Photos”.

In seeking to serve his community, Phil has served as President of the BWI-Linthicum Rotary Club, three time Commander of the American Legion (lifetime member) Post #141 in Annapolis, and President of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) (lifetime member), Chesapeake Chapter 24. He was member of the West County Democratic Club.

Phil also enjoyed charity work donating both his time and talents in the area.



He helped with the photography and other activities for the Annapolis Drum & Bugle Corps, The Youth Corps, the Annapolis Boys and Girls Club, the Stanton Center, The Banneker Museum, “Take Back The Streets”, and various other organizations.

Phil served as on call photographer during the reconstruction from start to finish of the historical Bates High School in Annapolis. He freelanced for the Annapolis Times Newspaper, and photographed the yearly Dr. Martin Luther King Awards Dinner, and the Annapolis Chapter of the NAACP Awards Dinner.

After reading an article in the Stars and Stripes while vacationing in Germany, he became interested in the Global Soap Project. This was a project started by a native of Uganda living in Georgia who was bowled over by the endless array of soaps in stores in America and the fact that the hotel he was staying in actually threw the soap away each day.

For Uganda’s destitute soap is a luxury. He started a process recycling all of those precious bars of used soap from hotels to distribute to his people which in turn could have actually prevent disease. A bar of soap cost 500 Ugandan shillings (about 10 American cents) on a continent where many refugees had a dollar to live on daily. After seeing first hand what any war did to people and mostly what it did to the children, Phil

became a representative of the Global Soap Project in Maryland organizing hotels to donate soap for humanitarian missions in Africa.

Phil was also once an avid member of the CARRS Beach Hand Dancing Association and until he became disabled, all it took was a few notes to get him on the dance floor.

He worked as a volunteer and photographer with the Bea Gaddy Foundation until her passing, feeding the homeless in Baltimore at Thanksgiving. Helped provide donated clothing, food, water and toys to various shelters in and around Odenton.

Services were held at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory in Odenton, Md. on Friday, April 28, 2017 at noon. His interment with honors at Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Brownsville.

Charitable donations may be made to: Wounded Warrior Project P.O. Box 758517, Topeka KS, 66675 Tel: 1-877-832-6997 Web: www.woundedwarriorproject.org and to the American Legion Post 141 1707 Forest Drive, Annapolis, Md. 21401

“Phil had his hands in everything, went everywhere and enjoyed every minute of it. I don’t think he ever met anyone he didn’t care for, even his slight acquaintances became his friends. We’ve traveled in Europe many times since his retirement from the Army in 1985 and have run into retired military in the most remote villages who recognized him instantly. Here, in the states at various airports changing planes, we have run into people who knew him.” — Juanita B. Phillips, wife

Memories from The Baltimore Times/The Annapolis Times Archives



Left: Phil’s Installation as President of The North Anne Arundel County Rotary Club in 2008. (File Photo)

Right: Mr. Mark Allen (left) became the proud owner of a new 60 inch television after his name was drawn in the raffle sponsored by Chesapeake Chapter 24. Presenting the television is Chapter President Elliott O. Phillips Sr. (File Photo)



Nonprofit, It Takes Two, Inc. Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

By Andrea Blackstone

Money is tight for some people at one time or another. Single mothers and fathers may particularly find themselves in greater need of a financial hand-up at some point while raising children. Jaemellah Kemp, founder and CEO of It Takes Two, Inc. knows the struggle very well.

The Crofton resident developed an avenue to enrich the lives of youth through her Anne Arundel County-based nonprofit. She once faced a difficult decision years ago when her son, Brandein Savage was headed to kindergarten. Should the single mother buy food for the week or should she pay for her son's school supplies? Kemp worked out a solution through personal support.

She later listened to her God-given vision to develop leaders of tomorrow by creating a nonprofit, which includes a Tools for Success Scholarship for students between 4th grade through college (or age 26). The applicant must be a single parent who meets an income requirement.

"Our income requirement is exactly the same salary or income level as the free and reduced lunch schedule. So, our target population are those families who are at the poverty line, or below the poverty line," Kemp explained. "They're not able to provide the basic necessities for their young people, and for us that's school supplies, books and uniforms."

Prospective scholarship applicants living in or stemming from a single-parent household in Anne Arundel County, Prince George's County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City must also have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 at the time of applying and submit an age-appropriate essay. The nonprofit also offers life skills workshops throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Four pillars focus on bullying, financial literacy, college and career readiness, and youth entrepreneurship.

Additionally, It Takes Two, Inc. will hold a gala to celebrate the organization's fifth anniversary on May 5, 2017, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Village Commons Community Center, located at 1326 Main Chapel Way in Gambrills. The nonprofit's first black-tie event will include dinner, live entertainment and the recognition of youth honorees and community partners.

"It's a major milestone in business for any business but especially a nonprofit to have lasted for five years—so we celebrate that. The fundraising aspect is to support our Tools for Success Scholarships. The scholarships are micro in that they range anywhere from \$200 to \$500, so with the support of this fundraiser, we hope to increase the amount that we're able to award," Kemp said. "We're also



Mikeya Dunnigan (right), a sophomore who attends Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), is an IT TAKES TWO, INC. scholarship recipient. The nonprofit founded by Jaemellah Kemp (left), offers Tools for Success Scholarships for school supplies, books and uniforms to help youth from single-parent households. The scholarship season for applicants in Anne Arundel County, Prince George's County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City is now open.

Courtesy Photo

looking to increase the amount of the awards that are given out. Our goal is to award 10 scholarships in this scholarship season alone... and we're also looking and hoping to provide a free summer tutoring camp to those families who can't afford tutoring, but they know that their... children need help."

Kemp balances single motherhood, helping 12-year old Brandein with his clothing line, working for the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, guiding nonprofit startups through Jaemellah Kemp Consulting, and running a growing nonprofit.

The impact of her organization's work is evident through scholarship recipients like 19-year-old Mikeya Dunnigan. The sophomore who attends Pennsylvania State University heard about Kemp's nonprofit during morning announcements while in the tenth grade at Charles Herbert Flower High School in Prince George's County.

Dunnigan wrote down the information and applied. Her mother died of breast cancer when she was nine years old and her father became a single parent of four children. The grateful scholarship recipient received uniforms, school supplies, \$400

for college tuition expenses and also a care package from Kemp's nonprofit. Dunnigan added that Kemp is a third wheel of support who checks on her.

"People should help It Takes Two because it's a pillar that makes a significant difference in everyday people's lives," Dunnigan said.

The organization's sixth scholarship season opened on April 1, and will close on July 1, Kemp says the scholarships will be awarded on August 1, 2017.

"I always like to say this is truly a faith walk. I am out there on the water. We have not sank, we have not drowned. As long as we are being obedient in following what it is that God has for us, and opening the doors... actually He's creating some doors for us, so we're thankful for that," Kemp said. "We're just trying to relieve some of the financial burden for single parents through the scholarship."

To learn more about of It Takes Two, Inc., or to make a donation, visit: www.ittakestwoinc.org.

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Chesapeake Life Center's Emily Schindler lecture focuses on substance abuse

Pasadena, Md.— Chesapeake Life Center invites the community to the 12th annual Emily Schindler Memorial Lecture, "Navigating the Substance Abuse Continuum: Replacing Stigma through Understanding," with presentations by D. Andrew Tompkins, M.D., M.H.S. and Susan Coale, LCSW-C from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at The Meeting House, 5885 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia, Maryland.

Participants will come away with increased understanding of the substance abuse landscape in our region as well as knowledge about ways to support grieving families. This highly acclaimed and clinically relevant workshop provides an opportunity for mental health professionals to improve on their therapeutic practice while earning up to three continuing education units.

Tompkins, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will share his research on opioid use disorders and their treatment. Tompkins' work has been published in many medical journals and periodicals and he is a frequent presenter concerning his primary area of research, which is to better understand how to treat pain in people with a history of substance abuse disorders.

Participants also will hear from Coale, Manager of Bereavement Counseling with Chesapeake Life Center. She will explore a variety of issues facing families suffering from substance abuse loss, such as feelings of guilt, questions of



D. Andrew Tompkins, M.D.
*Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine*
Courtesy Photo

intentionality and the impact of potential years of struggle with addiction and mental health.

A discussion panel with members of Anne Arundel County's overdose prevention initiative, Not My Child, will round out the half-day professional training.

The Emily Schindler Memorial Lecture was created in 2005 through a gift to the Schindler family from the Saint Agnes D. Andrew Tompkins, M.D., Cancer Center. Emily Schindler was an 18-year-old freshman at Frostburg State University and a member of the SPY swim team in Severna Park, Maryland, when she was tragically killed in a car accident in 2004.

The cost is \$40. Parking is free. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and a light breakfast will be provided. Those who qualify can earn three Category I CEUs. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at <http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/events-calendar/event/299-12th-annual-emily-schindler-memorial-lecture>. Click the "Join" button. For details, call 888-501-7077.

Applications are being accepted for Fall 2017 WomenHeart Science & Leadership Symposium

Hospitals encouraged to nominate patients for nationally-renowned training program for women living with heart disease

Washington, D.C.— WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease has announced that applications are now being accepted for the Fall 2017 WomenHeart Science & Leadership Symposium. The Symposium is taking place October 6-October 9, 2017 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. The application deadline is July 31, 2017.

disease outcomes.

"So many women experience feelings of fear, anxiety and isolation following a heart disease diagnosis. However, women who regularly attend a support group led by a trained peer leader are more engaged in their health care and experience lower levels of stress, anxiety and depression," she said. "This is just one example of the real impact made by participating in the WomenHeart Science & Leadership Symposium, and we're so proud to see the difference it makes in each WomenHeart Champion's local community."



The four-day Symposium brings together dedicated female heart patients and provides a rigorous training for them to be WomenHeart Champions— patient volunteers who work in their local communities to lead support network meetings with heart disease survivors and/or participate in other WomenHeart education and advocacy activities.

"Education, advocacy and support are at the core of the fight against heart disease in women. WomenHeart Champions trained at this prestigious program are equipped to improve awareness, increase action and lead peer support efforts in their local communities," said Mary McGowan, CEO of WomenHeart. McGowan referenced research that underscores the impact of peer support in helping women improve their heart

Members of WomenHeart's National Hospital Alliance are encouraged to nominate patients that they believe would be best suited for this leadership opportunity. The organization is also seeking nominations from hospitals not currently affiliated with the National Hospital Alliance, as well as directly from women living with heart disease. Patients are asked to complete a short survey to begin the application process.

WomenHeart was founded in 1999 and the Science & Leadership Symposium at Mayo Clinic was founded as an integral part of WomenHeart in 2002. WomenHeart currently boasts more than 800 WomenHeart Champions and 97 WomenHeart Support Networks that reach more than 10,000 women heart patients nationwide every year.

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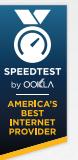
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