



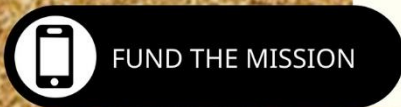
*To Baltimore, With Love...*

# *Gala*

A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

**ABC** Associated  
Black Charities

# Get Involved - Support ABC



Your support is critically important to the work at Associated Black Charities. All of ABC's efforts go toward achieving our goal of eliminating race-based structural barriers and advancing long-term solutions that create new opportunities for the Black community.

Your investment in our mission work provides support for our racial equity programming initiatives. Please consider a general donation.

TEXT "TOBMORELOVE" TO 44-321

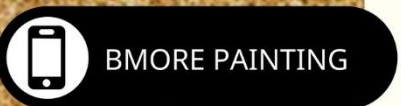
## AUCTIONS



LL COOL J is celebrating hip-hop on the road. The rap star announced his "The F.O.R.C.E. Live" tour, his first time on the road hitting arenas in 30 years — with the Roots, DJ Jazzy Jeff, and DJ Z-Trip!

Saturday July 1st at CFG Arena  
4 Seat Premium Theatre Box, a Premium Parking Pass, and 4 passes to one of the Premium Clubs in the Arena.

Courtesy: Oak View Group Value: \$1,150



To Baltimore, With Love...  
a commissioned painting  
for the 2023 ABC Gala

Sanah Brown-Bowers is a self-taught artist whose work focuses primarily on portraits of the Black American experience.

Courtesy: Sanah Brown-Bowers  
Value: \$5,000



# Program

Saturday June 10, 2023

- 5:30 PM** VIP Reception  
Live Performance – **Kondwani Fidel**
- 6:00 PM** Cocktail Hour  
Live Performance – **Chester Burke**
- 7:00 PM** Awards Dinner  
Welcome – **Persia Nicole**, *Radio One, Mistress of Ceremonies*  
Invocation – **Bishop Douglas V. Logan**, *Zion Hill Baptist Church*  
Greetings – **Tawana Bhagwat**, *ABC Board Chair*  
Recognition of Sponsors – **Byron Deese**, *ABC Board Development Committee Chair*  
Diamond Sponsor Remarks – **M & T Bank**
- 7:30 PM** Live Performance – **Navasha Daya**
- 8:00 PM** Greetings – **Wes Moore**, *Governor, State of Maryland*  
Occasion – **Nick J. Mosby**, *President, Baltimore City Council*
- 8:15 PM** Awards Presentations
- 9:00 PM** Mission Moment – **Chrissy M. Thornton**, *ABC President and CEO*  
Closing Remarks – **Brandon M. Scott**, *Mayor, Baltimore*
- 9:15 PM** Live Performance – **Dru Hill**
- 10:00 PM** ABC Dance Party – **DJ Tanz**
- 11:00 PM** Evening Closes

## Gala Menu

### Salad

Mesclun mixed greens salad, heirloom tomatoes, cucumber, carrots, radicchio, endive, white balsamic vinaigrette

### Entrée

Maryland surf & turf, braised beef short ribs and jumbo lump crab cake, potato dauphinois and sautéed broccolini

### Vegetarian Entrée

Mediterranean veggie palette, squash, zucchini, portobello mushroom, red bell peppers, charred red onion, and oven cured tomato

### Dessert

Vanilla bourbon layered sponge cake, vanilla syrup and Tahitian vanilla bean mousse, fresh berries and vanilla cream

### Coffee and Tea

*Dearest Guests,*

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honor that I welcome each of you to the 2023 Associated Black Charities Gala, ***To Baltimore, With Love...***

As ABC's new President and CEO, I would like to express my gratitude for your commitment to our organization's mission and the promising path that lies ahead.

For almost four decades, ABC has been a beacon of hope and empowerment for Black people, Black families, and the Black community in Baltimore and beyond. Our work, rooted in the principles of equity and justice, has been steadfast and unyielding.

I am humbled and inspired by the opportunity to lead this incredible organization. I stand today with a deep commitment to continue the essential work that has defined Associated Black Charities, and to build upon its past successes.

Our mission remains resolute: to work as an educator, advocate, supporter, and convener to address and eliminate the barriers created by structural racism and to advance long-term solutions that create new opportunities for Black people to thrive.

We will tirelessly advocate for equitable access and strive to dismantle the barriers that hinder progress, and work towards a future where every Black person can thrive and flourish.

I firmly believe that our collective efforts can create a lasting impact not only in Baltimore but also in communities across the nation. By fostering collaboration, nurturing strategic partnerships, and by making it a priority to amplify the voices of those we serve, we can effect measurable change.

Thank you for your presence at the 2023 Gala. It is a testament to your belief in our mission and your commitment to the advancement of Black lives. Tonight, we celebrate our shared achievements, honor those who are doing so much to address the disadvantages caused by structural racism, and we renew our commitment to the journey ahead.

With deep appreciation and warm regards,



**Chrissy M. Thornton**  
President and CEO  
Associated Black Charities





STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**Wes Moore**

June 10, 2023

Dear Attendees:

Welcome to the 2023 Associated Black Charities Gala.

Leaving no one behind requires a whole-of-community approach and relies on all Marylanders coming together to make our state a better place.

I am deeply grateful for the exceptional work of the Associated Black Charities in leaving no one behind. Their commitment to creating positive change in Baltimore City and in the Black community is both admirable and vital.

There is nothing we can't do when we come together, spread love, and uplift those around us. The Associated Black Charities does just that – they provide opportunities to thrive while addressing the very real race-based challenges that our community faces.

Congratulations on 38 years of service. I wish you a successful gala, and, in the spirit of this year's theme, I send all of you love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore'.

Wes Moore  
Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404  
(410) 974-3400  
TTY Users Call via MD Relay  
governor.maryland.gov

# U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



[www.cardin.senate.gov](http://www.cardin.senate.gov)



[@SenatorCardin](https://twitter.com/SenatorCardin)



[SenatorBenCardin](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorBenCardin)



[@senatorcardin](https://www.instagram.com/senatorcardin)

June 10, 2023

Dear Friends:


I would like to extend a warm welcome to all attending tonight's Associated Black Charities Gala. This year's theme "To Baltimore, With Love..." brings to mind the appreciation we all have for our city, while reminding us what we can do to contribute to its growth and success.

For nearly four decades now, Associate Black Charities (ABC) has been a profound force for good in our community, working on critical issues such as economic and health disparities. Serving in the role of educator, advocate, and supporter for the African American community, ABC has been able to effectively provide resources for people of color to empower themselves, while also doing the important work of advancing structural change to make a more equitable society for all.

I join you in celebrating tonight's honorees the Black Church Food Security Network, Fight Blight Baltimore, Black Arts District, Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, Squeegee Collaborative Leadership Team, Black Professional Men, Youth Resiliency Institute, Community Concert Choir of Baltimore, and your main awardee of the evening, The Afro. I am proud to recognize these organizations for their contributions to our community and commend ABC for highlighting their efforts.

I thank you all for the important work you do to uplift the African American community of Baltimore. You have my best wishes for your continued success in fulfilling your mission and for a wonderful Gala this year.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

KWEISI MFUME  
7TH DISTRICT OF MARYLAND



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 10, 2023

Dear Associated Black Charities (ABC):

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the entire ABC team on your 38th anniversary of service to the Maryland community. It is a truly remarkable accomplishment to have served so many people for over three decades. We are grateful for your dedication and commitment to improving the lives of those around us.

Throughout the years, you have worked tirelessly to provide support to so many organizations that are on the ground doing life-changing work. Your grassroots efforts have been instrumental in positively changing neighborhoods, families, and the lives of countless individuals. Further, you are a beacon of hope, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated organization working for all Marylanders.

As we look to the future, we are confident your stewardship and steely resolve will overcome any challenges and make our community an even better place to live.

Again, congratulations on this momentous occasion. Your 38 years of service are a testament to a resilient community of people. I am proud to stand alongside you as we work towards a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kweisi Mfume".

Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



May 19, 2023

Ms. Chrissy M. Thornton  
President, Chief Executive Officer  
Associated Black Charities  
2 Hamill Road  
West Quadrangle  
Baltimore, MD 21210

Dear Ms. Thornton:

Congratulations on your upcoming annual gala, "To Baltimore With Love...!" Thank you to everyone at Associated Black Charities for serving Baltimore for 38 years.

ABC goes above and beyond in honoring grassroots community organizations that have committed to creating a positive impact in Baltimore and their communities. You have led the charge for diversity, racial equity, and inclusion and for increasing accountability. Your commitment to dismantling racism, promoting equity throughout Maryland enriches and uplifts everyone. I truly appreciate all you do to help communities around the state reach their full potential.

You have my best wishes for continued success. Please let me know if I can ever be helpful in any way. I hope our paths cross soon! Stay safe and be well.

My best,

Brooke E. Lierman

BEL/jld







BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR  
*100 Holliday Street, Room 250  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*



June 10, 2023

On behalf of the people of Baltimore, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Associated Black Charities Annual Gala, “To Baltimore With Love...A Gala Celebration of Community.”

Since its founding in 1985, Associated Black Charities has worked to create measurable change in the lives of African Americans and to eliminate racial disparities resulting in improved outcomes for all. Through ABC’s leadership, service, and commitment, they have made major strides toward closing the health and wealth gaps that affect many of Baltimore’s citizens. Over the last 38 years ABC has been a respected convener of the community, advocate and grantmaker, tackling a variety of issues including economic empowerment and wealth building, health disparities, family preservation, youth development and community revitalization.

Tonight’s gala provides an opportunity to recognize local grassroots community organizations who have made the commitment to create a positive impact in Baltimore and in the Black community. As mayor, I am grateful for the many unsung heroes who are often force multipliers in our communities, doing the heavy lifting to fill in the gaps for those in need in Baltimore. With the help of tonight’s honorees, we are making Baltimore a more equitable and inclusive city.

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees, and best wishes for a memorable celebration!

In service,

Brandon M. Scott  
*Mayor  
City of Baltimore*

*phone: 410.396.3835 fax: 410.576.9425 e-mail: [mayor@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:mayor@baltimorecity.gov)*



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY



June 10, 2023

Associated Black Charities, Inc.  
2 Hamill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Dear ABC Members and Supporters;

On behalf of the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, I welcome you to the Annual Associated Black Charities Gala! The theme, "To Baltimore with Love," resonates with me personally as I embark on my first year as the State's Attorney for the City, which is near and dear to my heart. Baltimore is where my family calls home, where I am raising my children, and its' residents are whom I'm devoting my profession to serving.

I want to applaud the honorees of tonight's gala for the work they do day in and day out to make Baltimore a better place to live, work, and thrive by dismantling structural racism and uplifting the Black community. I'd especially like to acknowledge The Afro, tonight's main honoree, for being the voice and advocate of our people for the last 130 years.

Tonight is about celebrating the changemakers in our city who represent the best Baltimore has to offer. Each of you inspires me to work harder and do more as your State's Attorney to ensure accountability and serve every single resident in every neighborhood of our great city. I applaud and thank you for your advocacy, courage, and commitment to the mission.

Once again, welcome to the Annual Associated Black Charities Gala!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan J. Bates". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial "I" and "B".

Ivan J. Bates  
State's Attorney

**NICK J. MOSBY**  
*Council President*



100 Holiday Street, Suite 400  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
410-593-4804 • Fax 410-539-0647  
council.president@baltimorecity.gov

**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

June 10, 2023

Greetings! On behalf of the Baltimore City Council, I wanted to congratulate Associated Black Charities (ABC) for hosting its annual gala and welcome you to this wonderful event! Under the theme, *“To Baltimore With Love,”* this gala isn’t just honoring some of the amazing individuals and organizations that truly make Baltimore Charm City; but it serves as a love letter to our city, an opportunity to let us all know more about what makes Baltimore so special.

Ours is a city that is full of resilient, talented, tenacious and committed people who care about the people who make their respective communities the bright lights that make the entire city shine. This evening, we celebrate the positive impact made by **Black Church Food Security Network, Fight Blight Baltimore, Black Arts District, Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood, Squeegee Collaborative Leadership Team, Black Professional Men, Youth Resiliency Institute, Community Concert Choir of Baltimore,** and the historic **Afro American Newspaper.**

Each of these organizations have created lasting impact for countless lives throughout Baltimore, in some cases doing so for generations. Their commitment to creating opportunities for children, adults, families and entire neighborhoods to thrive are wonderful examples of the great change that can grow out of people seeing a need and putting in the work to ensure that the need was met. From one small idea, people can be empowered, peace can be accomplished and excellence can be achieved. Tonight, I join you in expressing gratitude to the honorees and to the ABC for once again leading the charge to salute those who make a difference! And, I ask that you join me in lifting up ABC’s work to promote equity and dismantle the inequalities that have presented challenges for our people for far too long. The work ABC has done for nearly four decades is truly appreciated and we must all do our part to ensure that its work is always supported. By being here tonight, you are playing a part in advancing its mission! So, thank you!

Have a wonderful evening and may we all participate in serving and supporting the City of Baltimore...with love!

Sincerely,

Nick J. Mosby  
Baltimore City Council President

# Program Participants



**DRU HILL**  
**PERSIA NICOLE**  
**NAVASHA DAYA**  
**DJ TANZ**  
**CHESTER BURKE**  
**KONDWANI FIDEL**  
**SANAH BROWN-BOWERS**

# ABC Staff and Board



**Chrissy M. Thornton**

President and CEO

**Cynthia Todd**

Director of Operations

**Travis Curtis**

Director of Finance

**Bernard Sims**

Director of Culture and Community

**Shevelle Montgomery**

Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships

**Jonathan Law**

Manager, Programs & Workforce Strategy

**Akili Smith**

Development and Communications Coordinator

**Tawana Bhagwat**

Chair, Board of Directors

Founder and CEO

Organization At Its Best

**Tony Torain II, Esq.**

1st Vice Chair, Board of Directors

Shareholder

Polsinelli

**Kenneth Grant**

Treasurer, Board of Directors

Chair, Finance Committee

Retired Healthcare Executive

**Zed Smith**

Secretary, Board of Directors

Chief Operating Officer

The Cordish Companies

**Byron T. Deese**

Chair, Development Committee

Relationship Development Manager

Glass Jacobson Financial Group

**Laurie Benner**

Associate VP of Housing & Community Development

NFHA (National Fair Housing Alliance)

**Allyson Black**

Chief of Staff

Baltimore Gas and Electric

**Michelle M. Brown, MBA**

VP, Sr. Treasury Management Sales Officer

Fulton Bank

**Jean-Claude Fresnel**

Founder and CEO

Lenserf and Co.

**Cheo Hurley**

President and CEO

THG Companies LLC

**Bianca Jackson, MBA**

Creative Experience Officer

BrickRose Exchange

**Brandon Lockett**

CEO/Chief Solutions Architect

Neutron Engineering LLC

**Cylia Lowe-Smith, Esq**

Supervisory Senior Assistant Regional Counsel

Federal Government

**Thibault Manekin**

Partner

Seawall Development

**Jason Murphy**

Chief Executive Officer

Murphy Enterprise, LLC

**Christopher "Chris" R. Rockey**

Market Manager, Greater Maryland

Community Development Banking

PNC Bank

**Taber J. Small**

Vice President

WesBanco

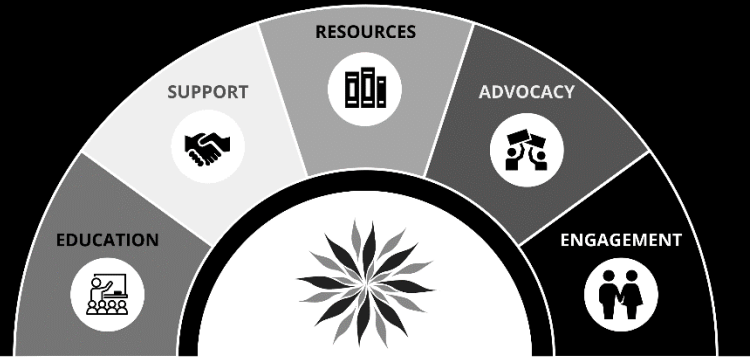
**Granville Templeton III, Esq**

Founding Partner

Templeton Law

# ASSOCIATED BLACK CHARITIES RACIAL EQUITY PROGRAMMING

The mission of **Associated Black Charities** is to eliminate structural barriers and advance long-term solutions that create new opportunities for African Americans to thrive. ABC acknowledges structural racism's effect on the racial wealth gap, workplace discrimination, health inequity, disparities in housing policies and practices, educational inequality, discriminating and dehumanizing laws and policies, and more. Using an equity framework as a convener and thought leader to end race-based barriers that impede African Americans from having an opportunity to succeed is at the heart of all of ABC's programmatic initiatives.



## WHAT WE DO

EDUCATION	SUPPORT	RESOURCES	ADVOCACY	ENGAGEMENT
<b>ABC Academy</b> DEI Leadership Black Wealth Series Financial Literacy Young Adult Development  <b>Equity In Action Conference</b>  <b>Webinars</b> Equity At Work Series DBM Equity First Speaker Series	<b>Equity Alliance</b> (Advisory Councils) Corporations Black Owned Businesses Charities/Non-Profit Organizations Health Advocacy Organizations Community/Faith Organizations  <b>Board Pipeline Leadership Development Training Program</b>  <b>Volunteer Career Mentoring Program</b>  <b>National Ambassador Initiative</b>	<b>Racial Equity Training</b>  <b>ABC's DEI Toolkit</b>  <b>Workplace Support</b> (Training, Workshops, Presentations, Clinics, Executive Coaching)  <b>10 Essential Questions</b>  <b>Film Screenings</b>  <b>ABC's Disruption Hour (Podcast)</b>	<b>Community Listening Sessions</b>  <b>Legislative Collaboration</b>  <b>Sound Bites and Scripting</b>  <b>Public Policy Impact</b>	<b>ABC Gala</b>  <b>Women on The Move</b>  <b>Workforce Collaborative</b>  <b>Digital Engagement</b> "First" Fridays Black Business Spotlights

*We believe in working to combat, dismantle, and eliminate the many outcomes of structural racism that continue to disadvantage African Americans.*

## ADVOCATE

Changing Systems

## BROKER

Expanding Opportunities

## CONVENER

Increasing Access

## Our Goals and Commitments

Associated Black Charities is committed to having impact on the many ways structural racism affects African Americans.



Racial Wealth Gap as a result of unequal opportunities to build wealth through access to home equity, high-wage jobs, and higher education.



Workplace Discrimination to include unfair hiring practices, higher low-wage representation and lack of equity, and inclusion creating unsafe conditions for the Black worker.



Health Inequities that are reflected in difference in length of life, quality of life, rates of disease, disability, and death, severity of disease, and access to treatment.



Housing Policies and Practices that have generationally excluded Black families from opportunities to build home equity.



Educational Inequality due to disproportionate public school funding that has exacerbated inequality in school resources and opportunities for students.



Discriminatory and Dehumanizing Laws and Policies contributing to Black voter suppression a flawed criminal justice system, and mass incarceration of Black adults.

# Celebrating Our Honorees

Recognizing community organizations in Baltimore that serve the Black community is essential for promoting equity, empowerment, and justice. By acknowledging their work, Associated Black Charities validates their efforts, amplifies community voices, mobilizes support, builds trust, and promotes sustainable change. By recognizing these organizations, we take a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive and vibrant city where all communities can thrive.

Baltimore, like many cities, has a history of systemic inequalities that have disproportionately affected the Black community. Recognizing community organizations that are actively working to address these disparities brings attention to the root causes of these inequalities. It allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by the Black community and encourages a collective effort to dismantle the barriers that perpetuate disadvantages.

Community organizations serving Black people often have an intimate understanding of the unique challenges faced by their constituents. Recognizing their efforts acknowledges their expertise and promotes community-led solutions that are tailored to the specific needs and aspirations of the Black community. Their work fosters sustainable change and ensures that solutions are relevant, culturally sensitive, and impactful.

Tonight, Associated Black Charities amplifies our partners, and seeks to provide a platform for their stories, experiences, and perspectives to be heard and understood by a wider audience. By recognizing them at our 2023 ABC Gala, we uplift and empower these organizations to continue making a positive impact in Baltimore and beyond.

*We celebrate*

## **AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS**

**COMMUNITY CONCERT CHOIR OF BALTIMORE**

**YOUTH RESILIENCY INSTITUTE**

**BLACK PROFESSIONAL MEN**

**SQUEEGEE COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**MENTORING MALE TEENS IN THE HOOD**

**BLACK ARTS DISTRICT**

**FIGHT BLIGHT BMORE**

**BLACK CHURCH FOOD SECURITY NETWORK**



*To Baltimore, With Love...*



**The AFRO-American** has crusaded for racial equality and economic advancement for Black Americans for 130 years. In existence since August 13, 1892, John Henry Murphy Sr., a former slave who gained freedom following the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, started the paper when he merged his church publication, The Sunday School Helper with two other church publications, The Ledger (owned by George F. Bragg of Baltimore's St. James Episcopal Church) and the AFRO-American (published by Reverend William M. Alexander, pastor of Baltimore's Sharon Baptist Church). By 1922, Murphy had evolved the newspaper from a one-page weekly church publication into the most widely circulated black paper along the coastal Atlantic and used it to challenge Jim Crow practices in Maryland. Following Murphy's death on April 5, 1922, his five sons, each of whom had been trained in different areas of the newspaper business, continued to manage the AFRO-American. Two of his sons, Carl and Arnett Murphy, served respectively as editor-publisher and advertising director.

The Afro-American rose to national prominence while under the editorial control of Carl Murphy. He served as its editor-publisher for 45 years. The newspaper was circulated in Baltimore, with regional editions circulated in Washington, D.C. twice weekly and in Philadelphia, Richmond, and Newark, once a week. At one time there were as many as 13 editions circulated across the country. The Afro-American's status as a black paper circulating in several predominantly black communities endowed it with the ability to profoundly affect social change on a national scale.

Carl Murphy used the editorial pages of The Afro-American to push for the hiring of African Americans by Baltimore's police and fire departments; to press for black representation in the legislature; and for the establishment of a state supported university to educate African Americans.

In the 1930's The Afro-American launched a successful campaign known as "The Clean Block" campaign which is still in existence today. The campaign developed into an annual event and was aimed at improving the appearance of, and reducing crime in, inner-city neighborhoods. During World War II, The Afro-American stationed several of its reporters in Europe, the Aleutians, Africa, Japan, and other parts of the South Pacific, and provided its readers with firsthand coverage of the war. One of its reporters (and Carl Murphy's daughter), Elizabeth Murphy Phillips Moss, was the first black female correspondent.

The Afro-American collaborated with The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on numerous civil rights cases. In the 1950s the newspaper joined forces with the NAACP in the latter's suit against the University of Maryland Law School for its segregationist admission policies. Their combined efforts eventually led to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision outlawing segregated public schools. The Afro-American also supported actor/singer Paul Robeson and sociologist W.E.B. DuBois during the anti-Communist campaigns of the Joseph McCarthy era.

The Afro-American has employed many notable black journalists and intellectuals including Langston Hughes, William Worthy and J. Saunders Redding. In the mid-1930s it became the first black newspaper to employ a female sportswriter when it hired Lillian Johnson and Nell Dodson to serve on its staff. Renowned artist Romare Bearden began his career as a cartoonist at The Afro-American in 1936.

Sam Lacy, who was hired as the paper's sports editor in 1943 and who, at the age of 94, still wrote a weekly column for the paper, used his weekly "A to Z" column to campaign for integration in professional sports. Using their writing to protest racial inequities in professional sports, Lacy and sports writers such as Wendell Smith of The Pittsburgh Courier helped to open doors for black athletes. Following the death of Carl Murphy in 1967, his daughter Frances L. Murphy II served as chairman and publisher. In 1974, John Murphy III, Carl's nephew, was appointed chairman and eventually became the publisher. Fourth generation members of the Murphy family, John "Jake" Oliver, Jr. and now Pastor Frances "Toni" Draper with a governing board of family and community members, manage the paper in recent years.



Founded by Marco K. Merrick in July 2010, **The Community Concert Choir of Baltimore** was established to help preserve the musical heritage of the African American Church. On November 7, 2010, the inaugural concert at the Historic Union Baptist Church met with an overflowing crowd, acclaimed reception and enthusiastic support. To promote good sacred music, as well as educate our children and communities of the rich music legacy unique only to the Black Church, this aggregation has quickly grown to more than 150 members, spanning age, race, cultural denominational and geographic lines. It celebrates the music that has shaped history and reinforced our faith with hope over generations. The mission, “To preserve and promote the sacred music tradition of the African American Church” is a driving force and magnetic attraction for participants and supporters. The choir’s repertoire spans the Negro Spiritual, Western European hymns and anthems, and the evolution of gospel music. The Community Concert Choir of Baltimore is deeply committed to preserving the sacred music of the African American Church and meeting the growing needs of those hungering for good music in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.



**Youth Resiliency Institute** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring realization of the authentic self in children, youth, and young adults in Baltimore. The exemplary ways in which Black children and youth create meaningful identities in relation to larger socio-political forces carry rich activist ingredients and draw from the Black community’s existing strengths based upon historical concepts and restorative capacity.



The Youth Resiliency Institute admits children, youth, and families of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, with an emphasis on Black children and youth. Viewing the transition from child to adult not as a time of risk, but as a time of opportunity and profound promise, the main goal of YRI is to elevate the understanding and value of Black youth resiliency and cultural consciousness as a foundation for activism, community regeneration, and grassroots public policy development through a holistic approach and process, combining rites of passage and performing arts

**Black Professional Men, Inc. (BPM)** is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization based in Baltimore, Maryland. BPM was established in 1991 to address the social, economic, and political awareness needs of the African American community, especially those of the African American male. The mission of BPM is to “Ensure the Future of the African American Male.” BPM is a 100% volunteer-run organization. Black Professional Men, Inc. members participate in a variety of community service initiatives to provide the youth with exposure to different experiences, and positive role models. BPM hosts seminars, workshops, and field trips within the Baltimore metro area for the young men and boys that they mentor. Moreover, BPM sponsors mentees on cultural and educational trips; attends Baltimore Raven’s games; and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Conference. Each year, BPM hosts the Rays of Hope Scholarship Breakfast, where college scholarships are awarded to 10 deserving young men.



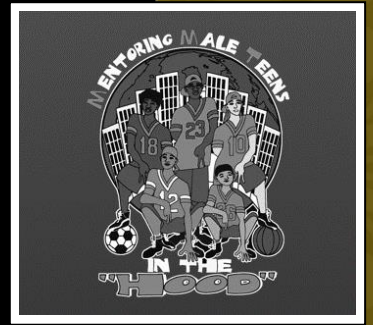
Dating back as early as the 1980’s, Baltimore had grappled with a persistent challenge with youth panhandling – notably, squeegee workers who dart across high traffic intersections washing windshields to earn money. Over the past 40 years, the City had developed multiple plans and deployed a series of strategies aimed at curbing the activity. Mayor Brandon Scott convened the ‘Squeegee Collaborative’ – a cross-section of youth, business, community, and government leaders to develop a city-wide, public, private, and community-based response to the challenges and opportunities squeegeeing presented to the City of Baltimore. Since, young people have been connected to workforce opportunities, including work readiness programs, training, and full-time employment. Several of the former squeegee workers have stepped up to serve on the **Squeegee Leadership Team** as positive examples for others.



The **Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood** program is a nonprofit organization established in 1996, with 5 boys and a goal to save young lives from falling prey to the evil forces that exist in many of our neighborhoods. Since then, the program has helped over 3,000 young men with a goal to encourage each one to reach their potential.

Director and Founder Cameron Miles wants to change the narrative surrounding the lack of resources, role-models, and experiences that many Baltimore youth have exposure to, by way of introducing them to new experiences, such as learning how to barbeque, chopping wood, harvesting honey, or even just a thoughtful discussion about life lessons.

Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood celebrated 25 years of helping young men in 2022 and plans to continue inspiring young Kings and deepen their work in investing and building strong men.



The **Black Arts District**, through an anti-displacement framework, empowers Black creatives and continues community-based revitalization efforts in West Baltimore through culture, arts, and entertainment. It is Maryland's only A&E district uniquely dedicated to the cultural production of African Americans. The Black Arts District was designated by the Maryland State Department of Commerce in July 2019 to honor the storied legacy of Pennsylvania Avenue and to carry the torch forward from many iterations of organizing efforts in the past. The district is a result of the organizing efforts of a coalition of community organizations. The organizations included: Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, Historic Pennsylvania Avenue Main Street, Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, the Arch Social Club, Arch Social Club Community Network, The Office of Councilman Leon Pinkett, Fight Blight Bmore and the Avenue Bakery. The work of the coalition was also supported by partners such as the Neighborhood Design Center, University of Baltimore and the Department of Transportation.



Founded by Nneka N'namdi in May of 2016, **Fight Blight Bmore** was established as an economic, environmental, and social justice initiative led by the community and informed by data to address the issue of blight. On Mother's Day 2016, N'namdi witnessed what could have been an awful tragedy. A few children were riding their bikes down the sidewalk of Fremont Avenue, crossing Lafayette Street, where four brownstones were being demolished. The demolition site was filled with debris, gaping holes about six feet deep in the ground, and no gate to prevent site access. She witnessed the potential danger associated with these unsafe conditions such as a child falling into the unsecured debris. That day, she began researching, documenting, reporting, and tracking environmental hazards created in part by the demolition sites around the city and the structures that preceded them. That effort and research has resulted in the development of an environmental justice innovation titled Fight Blight Bmore.



The **Black Church Food Security Network (BCFSN)** is the fruit of Maxine's Garden at Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD. After years of seeing the benefits of integrating a vegetable garden into the ministry of the church and growing frustrated with food access and charity models, Rev. Heber Brown, III began dreaming of what could happen if more Black churches started growing food on their land and worked in coordination with other congregations and farmers to co-create, local Black-owned food systems. Amid the Baltimore Uprising of 2015, while protests and demonstrations engulfed parts of the city after the death of Freddie Gray, Rev. Brown took what was an idea and launched it into reality alongside farmers, public health professionals and partnering pastors.

Today, the BCFSN spans much of the country with member congregations as far west as Omaha, Nebraska, throughout the east coast and throughout the southeastern United States.



# Getting involved is important.

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At PNC, we're proud to celebrate Associated Black Charities for making our community an even better place to be. Thank you for all you've done and all that we know you plan to do.

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The university and health system were previously honored by the Associated Black Charities, receiving the Community Investors for More in the Middle Award for the HopkinsLocal initiative. Efforts like HopkinsLocal leverage Hopkins' economic power to expand participation of local and minority-owned businesses in construction opportunities; increase the hiring of city residents with a focus on neighborhoods in need of job opportunities; and enhance economic growth, employment, and investment in Baltimore through purchasing activities.



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*Frances "Toni" Murphy Draper, CEO and Publisher*



# Helping our **community** work better

Strengthening communities is a priority for BGE. That's why we work with a range of organizations that address income disparities and promote economic opportunities and equity. We salute Associated Black Charities and their love for Baltimore, the heart of our region.



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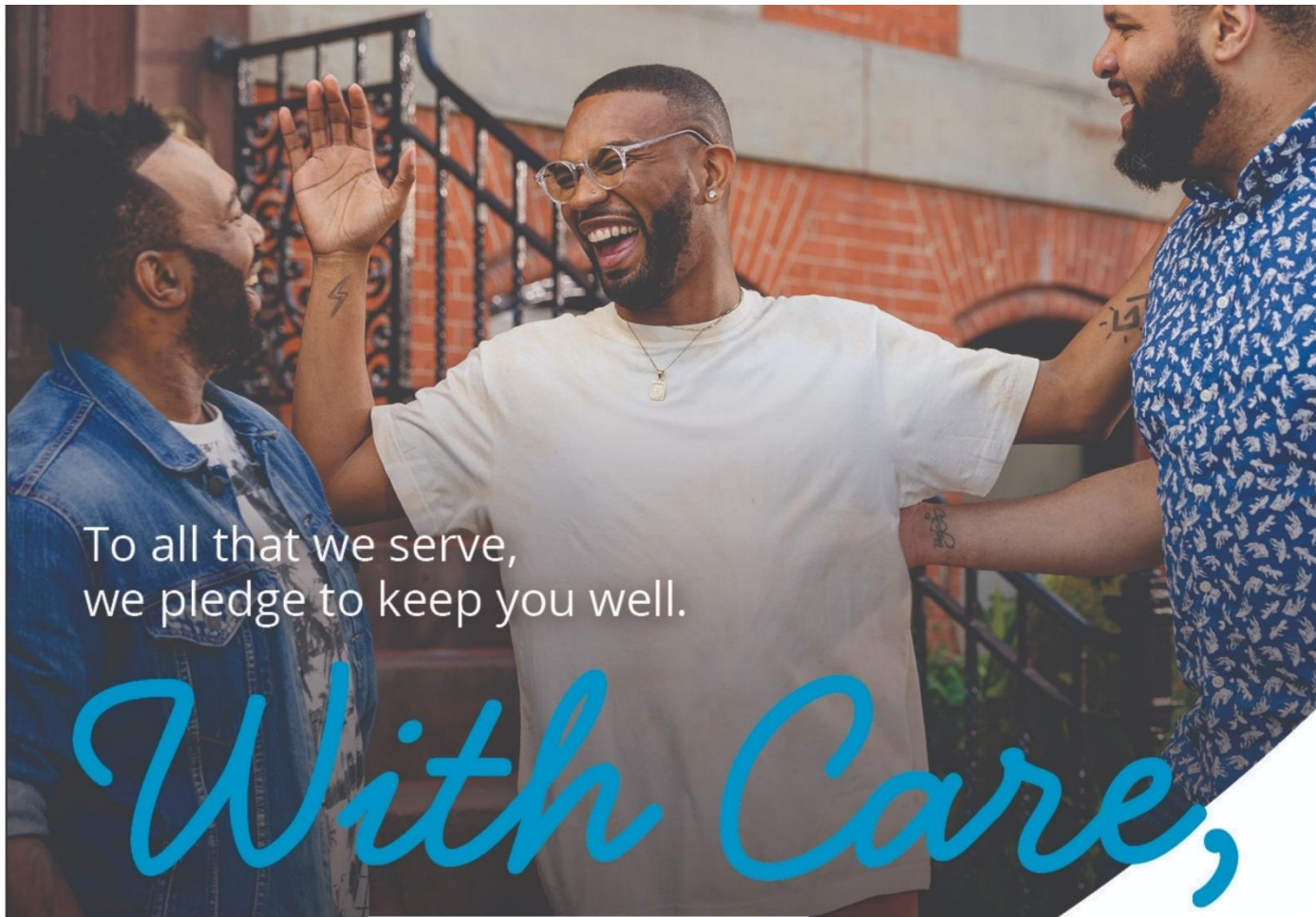
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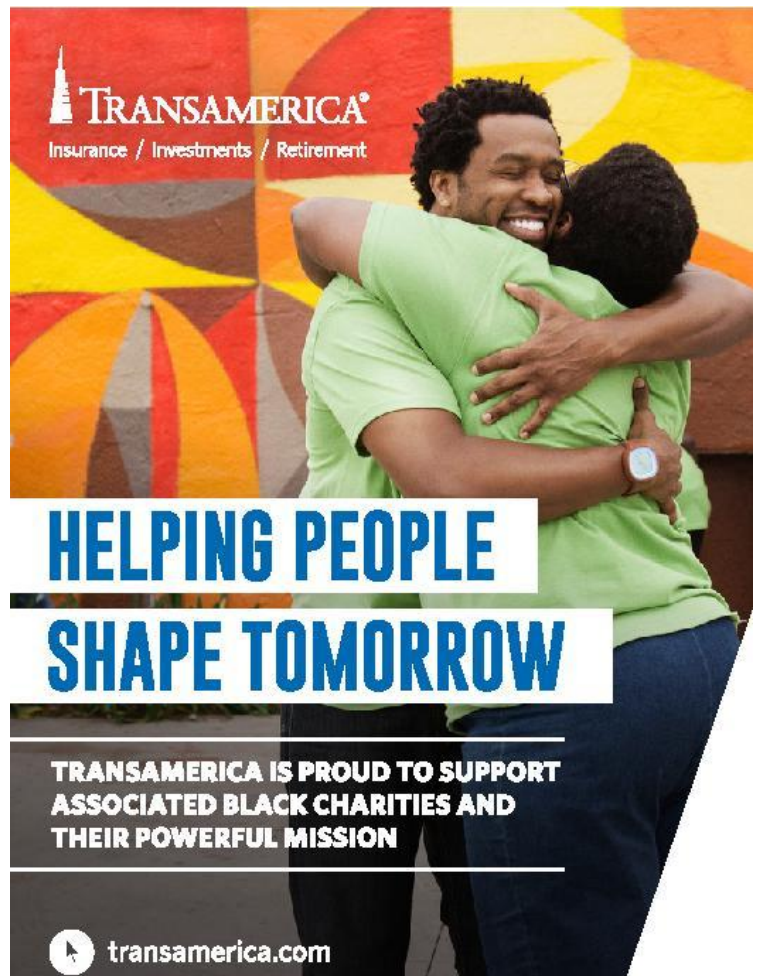
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The University System of Maryland Foundation is proud to support the 2023 Associated Black Charities Gala and Congratulate this Year's Honorees!



We're honored to sponsor the Associated Black Charities Gala.

Caring for the community starts with providing support for the people who live in it. So we're proud to work with Associated Black Charities. Together, we can inspire and build better lives and communities.

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UMB is a proud sponsor of the 2023 Associated Black Charities Gala and supports its mission to advance racial equity.

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# United in Purpose

## Helping Our Community Reach the Height of Its Potential

Morgan State University celebrates Associated Black Charities and its continued commitment to service and the people of Baltimore.

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## ABC Partner Highlight

Esther is an imaginative and passionate creative with over 30 years in event planning, project management, community outreach, and production. She is a wife, a mother, daughter, sister, and community activist who thrives in creating all things beautiful around her while taking pride in personally being the hands on engineer and architect of her estate. Esther's detailed approach helps clients, vendors, partners, and the community exceed their goals and expectations.

Esther has access to make it epic and engages her solutions-oriented team to provide expert strategic consulting, project management, production, decor and photo booth experiences. She thrives in delivering unexpected presentations with monumental impact. Esther's ability to wear multiple hats simultaneously is nothing short of being a magician while successfully operating her Decor & Photo Booth company, Sparkle and Shine Creations.

grei**BO**

## Esther Kane Corbett

Chief of Operations & Community Outreach Engagement Design

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## To Baltimore,

Tonight, we express our love and appreciation for all that you are and all that you have done for us and for Black communities across this country.

As an organization that is deeply committed to improving the lives of Black people, we are proud to call Baltimore our home. The rich history and opportunity that you offer are unparalleled, and we have been honored to work in this great city for over 38 years.

From your bustling energy to the quiet beauty of your historic neighborhoods, you are a city of contrasts and contradictions, and that is precisely what makes you so special. Your people are resilient, hardworking, and proud, and we are inspired by their strength and determination.

We work tirelessly to improve the lives of Black people because you have provided us with the hope, the space and the resources to do so. Through our community initiatives, our advocacy efforts, and our partnerships with other organizations, you have always been there to support us and guide us along the way.

As we reflect on our years of work in Baltimore, we are reminded of the many ways in which you have served as a base for our efforts. Your rich history, your diverse communities, and your unwavering spirit have all played a crucial role in our success, and we are forever grateful.

We know that there is still much work to be done to ensure that our communities can thrive, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to make that vision a reality. We know that with your continued support, we will succeed and have impact that changes lives.

Thank you, Baltimore, for all that you are and all that you do. We look forward to continuing our work together to build a brighter future for us all.

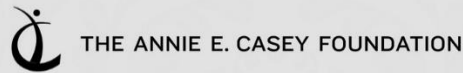
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