



INVEST in Baltimore

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CONTACT: Hillary Reser
(410) 332-4172 ext 182
hreser@bcf.org

500-Plus Baltimore Area Children Enjoying Summer Camp Thanks to Fresh Air Fund at BCF

(Baltimore, MD, 07/10/08) The Children's Fresh Air Society Fund, a fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), awarded \$159,483 in grants this year to 26 summer camps in Maryland and Virginia. The grants, made in the form of "camperships"—scholarships equal to the amount of normal camp fees and tuition—give 526 disadvantaged and disabled Baltimore area children the benefits of a summer camp experience.

The Children's Fresh Air Society, founded in 1890, first arranged for 53 chronically ill children to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine of the Maryland countryside. In the century following, the Society's work grew and made it possible for well over a quarter of a million children to experience summer camp. In 1990, the Society was converted to a fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation. Since then, more than \$1.8 million has been distributed to enable low-income and disabled Baltimore area children to attend summer camp.

"Giving underserved youngsters from the Baltimore area unforgettable summer camp experiences has been a Maryland tradition for over a century," noted BCF President Tom Wilcox, "and the Baltimore Community Foundation looks forward to carrying out the mission of the Children's Fresh Air Society for generations to come."

The 2008 Children's Fresh Air Society Fund grantees include:

Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation, Science Enrichment Summer Program - \$3,750 / 50 campers

This 7-week day camp for low-income, at-risk youth who attend East Baltimore's Commodore John Rogers Elementary offers academic enrichment classes, recreational play, and artistic activities.

Baltimore/Washington Conference, United Methodist Church, Camp Manidokan & West River - \$11,100 / 74 campers

A one-week residential camp for youth recruited through local United Methodist churches, both locations offer activities such as swimming, boating, water sports, art and crafts, hiking, nature study, youth leadership, and Christian education.

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland, Kids' Independence Development & Skills Camp - \$1,750 / 5 campers

This week-long camp offers blind children opportunities to learn new skills, increase self-esteem and independence, and interact with blind peers and mentors. The camp also offers traditional camp activities such as swimming, hiking, and canoeing.

Camp Holiday Trails - \$6,720 / 12 campers

This camp is one of only a handful that serve children with special medical needs ranging from arthritis and cancer to sickle cell anemia or visual impairments. Campers range in age from 7 to 17 years old and are offered activities such as archery, swimming, wilderness education, horseback riding, arts and crafts, athletics, canoeing, and organized games.

Camp Opportunity, Inc. - \$7,620 / 12 campers

This 6-day residential camp serves children ages 7-11 who have been sexually or physically abused and/or neglected. Daily activities include swimming, computer games, fishing, outdoor games, a ropes course, arts and crafts, and canoeing, and are geared toward building self-esteem, goal setting, working as a team, and overcoming personal challenges.

Camp Pecometh - \$3,872 / 11 campers

A 6-day residential camp serving young people recruited through the Baltimore City Housing Authority and the Department of Social Services, activities include canoeing, swimming, sailing, arts and crafts, singing, horseback riding, and nature education.

Camp Puh'Tok for Boys and Girls - \$14,105 / 31 campers

Themed "Reliving Our American Heritage," the camp serves youth from diverse economic backgrounds and offers nature exploration, Native American culture discovery, camping, swimming, and canoeing.

Contemporary Arts, Inc., Summer Activity Extraordinaire (SAX) - \$3,300 / 11 campers

Instruction in music fundamentals, interaction with professional artists, and ensemble performances are central components of this two-week day camp for children and youth, ages 4-17. Campers also receive specialized instruction on an instrument of their choice.

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, Inc., Cultural Exchange Summer Fun Camp - \$7,000 / 60 campers

This month-long day camp serves African American and Korean American children and youth from Baltimore's Druid Heights community. The camp seeks to foster cross-cultural awareness and understanding by exploring traditions from around the world, as well as offering computer training, arts and crafts, music, and academic enrichment.

Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, Camp Fairlee Manor - \$14,250 / 15 campers

The residential camp for disabled children, teens, and adults offers arts and crafts, nature study, sports, swimming and boating, therapeutic horseback riding, music, drama, and computer education.

Echo Hill Outdoor School, Inc., Baltimore Explorer Program - \$5,138 / 14 campers

Serving low-income Baltimore City public school students ages 11-13, the camp allows participants to learn about nature, history, and personal relationships through activities such as studying the Chesapeake Bay while aboard camp work boats, engaging in group problem solving activities and challenges, going on night hikes, exploring local history in a nearby town, and studying a swamp.

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Camp Amazing Grace - \$3,000 / 6 campers

The camp serves children of incarcerated parents by providing a positive camp experience featuring arts and crafts, music, games, swimming, hiking, storytelling, a ropes course, woodworking, drama, and worship.

First St. Stephen's Missionary Baptist Church, 2008 B.E.S.T. Camp - \$3,300 / 11 campers

Serving children and youth from Baltimore's Park Heights neighborhood, the 6-week day camp offers arts and crafts, self-esteem and character building, swimming, skating, academic enrichment, and Christian teaching.

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, P.A.V.E. the Way Baltimore Day Camp - \$4,163 / 23 campers

This camp serves boys and girls ages 5-13, providing environmental and nature studies, outdoor sports, positive self-esteem exercises, and training in conflict resolution, substance abuse prevention, and gang resistance techniques.

Hampden Family Center, Inc., Summer Enrichment Camp - \$7,700 / 11 campers

This camp works to ensure that children in Baltimore's Hampden community retain and enhance their reading and math skills by introducing the students to the arts, nature exploration, and reading and math enrichment.

Helping Up Mission of Baltimore City, Inc., Camp Wabanna - \$5,135 / 13 campers

A week-long residential experience on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay, this camp provides low-income Baltimore City youth ages 7-17 with activities such as conflict resolution education,

hiking, swimming, sailing, canoeing, fishing, crabbing, crafts, sports, team competitions, and life skills classes.

Junior Achievement of Central Maryland, Inc., BizTown Summer Camp - \$5,070 / 26 campers

The camp provides students ages 10-14 with the opportunity to operate their own business and direct government agencies and services in a life-size replica of a real city. Such activities target skills in the areas of financial literacy, mathematics, communication, analytical thinking, teamwork, citizenship, business and social ethics.

The League for People with Disabilities, Inc., Camp Greentop - \$9,850 / 10 campers

Serving young people with physical and mental disabilities, the camp encourages self-determination and positive decision-making skills by offering activities such as therapeutic horseback riding, swimming, the performing arts, hiking, and sports.

Lions Camp Merrick, Inc. - \$4,050 / 9 campers

The camp provides a week-long residential experience for deaf and hearing-impaired youth from the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan area. Activities such as archery, hiking, swimming, bicycling, canoeing, arts and crafts, a ropes course, and nature education promote social and educational growth, self-development, confidence building, self-respect, and positive attitudes amongst campers.

Living Classrooms Foundation, BUGS Summer Camp - \$5,600 / 7 campers

The Baltimore Urban Gardening with Students (BUGS) camp gives rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Baltimore's Johnston Square Elementary School the opportunity to explore horticulture and ecology through cooking, gardening, the creative arts, and fitness/movement.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Outdoor Discovery Camp - \$5,250 / 15 campers

This camp for youth ages 14-17 introduces participants to the natural environment, offering activities such as fishing, canoeing, mountain biking, rock climbing, white water rafting, and horseback riding.

National Aquarium in Baltimore, Inc., Henry Hall Program - \$4,344 / 8 campers

Located on an 850-acre environmental and marine research facility, this camp gives Baltimore City public school students the opportunity to explore aquatic environments through beach seining, marsh walks, water testing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and interactions with research scientists.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation, Camp Invention - \$4,056 / 26 campers

Serving students in the first through sixth grades, this week-long day camp engages participants in hands-on activities that incorporate teamwork, problem solving skills, inventive thinking, the scientific method, and creating fantasy inventions.

The Salvation Army, Franklin Square Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp - \$2,160 / 6 campers

A summer-long day camp for disadvantaged Baltimore youth ages 5-13, this camp offers activities such as swimming, basketball, flag football, kickball, arts and crafts, as well as academic enrichment in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and foreign language.

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Baltimore, Camp St. Vincent - \$13,200 / 40 campers

A two-week day camp for homeless and low-income children in Baltimore City ages 5-11, the camp is organized around six subject areas (math, language arts, nature, arts and crafts, athletics, and character development) that encompass a variety of hands-on activities.

Woodberry Crossing, Inc., Wonderful Water Camp - \$4,000 / 20 campers

Located on a 100-acre farm in Parkton, Maryland, this camp allows low-income Baltimore City students to explore nature and learn about the importance of water and the environment. Activities include nature education, swimming, hiking, gardening, biking, and arts and crafts.

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Baltimore Community Foundation distributed \$30 million in 2007 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$194 million, BCF comprises more than 500 different charitable funds.

BCF invites donors to **Invest in Baltimore** through its civic agenda, which combines economic development with poverty reduction by making strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth, education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore.

BCF helps individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater Baltimore region, today and for generations to come. To donors, BCF offers a complete toolkit for charitable giving, expert assistance in learning more about the causes they care about, and the opportunity to join others with similar interests to learn and give together. To the community at large, BCF offers a permanent, growing source of grant monies, as well as a common meeting ground and leadership on important issues in our region.

In addition, BCF provides grantmaking oversight for two independent foundations, the William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund and the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation.

More information about **Invest in Baltimore** as well as support for individual donors' philanthropy and more can be found at www.bcf.org.

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