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

INVEST *in* Baltimore

## **500-PLUS CHILDREN TO EXPERIENCE JOYS OF SUMMER CAMP THROUGH FRESH AIR FUND AT BCF**

*(Baltimore, MD, 06/23/09)* The Children’s Fresh Air Society Fund, a fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), awarded \$162,086 in grants this year to 27 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 529 disadvantaged and disabled Baltimore area children the benefits of a summer camp experience.

The Children’s Fresh Air Society, since its founding in 1890, has made it possible for well over a quarter of a million children to experience the joys of 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 awarded to enable low-income and disabled Baltimore area children to attend summer camp.

“We are pleased to carry out the mission of the Children’s Fresh Air Society,” noted BCF President Tom Wilcox, “and delighted to help Baltimore area youngsters experience the magic of summer camp, many of them for the first time.”

The 2009 Children’s Fresh Air Society Fund grantees include:

**Apostolic Bible Study Church, Learn and Play Summer Camp - \$5,000 / 25 campers**  
This six-week day camp serves low-income elementary school children from Baltimore’s Garwyn Oaks neighborhood. In addition to weekly field trips to museums, the National Aquarium of Baltimore, and the Maryland Science Center, the camp offers academic programming and cultural enrichment activities.

**Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks, Camp Variety - \$3,000 / 10 campers**

A four-week day camp for Baltimore City children with disabilities, the camp offers two sessions, one for children ages 5-11, and another for ages 12-18. The camp features swimming, arts and crafts, and sports programming adapted for individual ability levels, as well as weekly field trips.

**Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks, Carrie Murray Nature Camp - \$4,860 / 27 campers**

This one-week day camp for children ages 5-13 is located in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, home to wetlands, streams, and meadows. Children will experience nature and learn about animals and the environment, as well as enjoy arts and crafts, cultural activities, swimming, hiking, and games.

**Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation, Science Enrichment Summer Program - \$4,500 / 60 campers**

This seven-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 - \$10,500 / 70 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.

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

This camp is one of only a handful that serve children with special medical needs such as arthritis, cancer, or visual impairments. Campers range in age from 7-17 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. - \$8,460 / 12 campers**

This six-day residential camp serves children ages 7-11 who have been sexually or physically abused 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 - \$4,060 / 11 campers**

A six-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 - \$14,535 / 17 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) - \$3,600 / 12 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.

**Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, Camp Fairlee Manor - \$15,000 / 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 - \$5,328 / 18 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, 2009 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 - \$4,296 / 24 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 Program - \$8,000 / 8 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, crafts, sports, team competitions, and life skills classes.

**Junior Achievement of Central Maryland, Inc., JA BizTown Summer Camp - \$5,265 / 27 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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Baltimore's Johnston Square Elementary School the opportunity to explore horticulture and ecology through cooking, gardening, the creative arts, and fitness/movement.

**National Aquarium in Baltimore, Inc., Henry Hall Program - \$4,584 / 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.

**Notre Dame Preparatory School, Camp Umoja - \$4,941 / 27 campers**

This day camp is for children in Baltimore City Public Housing and offers participants two weeks of arts and crafts, swimming lessons, and one-on-one tutoring through Campfire USA.

**The Salvation Army, Franklin Square Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp - \$3,096 / 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 - \$14,000 / 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.

**West Hills Community Improvement Corporation, Youth Club of West Hills Summer Fun Camp - \$3,200 / 8 campers**

This six-week day camp for Baltimore City children ages 5-11 offers a variety of activities, including chess, video games, pool, board games, arts and crafts, and computer time.

Additionally, the camp provides weekly field trips to Ravens training camp, Ocean City, Hershey Park, and New York City.

**Woodberry Crossing, Inc., Healthy Habitats for All 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 healthy habitats, as well as how to preserve them. Activities include nature education, swimming, hiking, gardening, biking, and arts and crafts.

**ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

The Baltimore Community Foundation distributed \$28 million in 2008 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$143 million, BCF comprises more than 600 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](http://www.bcf.org).

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