



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

INVEST *in* Baltimore

## **BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$245,000 FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

*(Baltimore, MD, 07/15/09)* The Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF) recently awarded \$245,000 in grants to support quality public education and after-school options for Baltimore area youth.

The grants, awarded to 21 organizations through BCF's Education and Youth Paths, target Baltimore's most important resource—our young people—whose development and future success depends upon a quality public education system and the availability of constructive outlets for students' after-school time. Grants will help fund, among other things, student debate, mentorship and tutoring programs, youth philanthropy, high quality school leadership, and advocacy on behalf of charter schools.

“Providing our youth with excellent educational choices and after-school enrichment options is essential to building the next generation of productive workers, homeowners, citizens, and taxpayers,” noted BCF President and CEO Tom Wilcox. “The work of these grantees on behalf of our city's young people is central to BCF's vision of a Baltimore with a growing economy in which all have the opportunity to thrive.”

Recent Education and Youth Path grants include:

**Advocates for Children and Youth - \$5,000**

To support ACY's "Raise the Education Bar" advocacy campaign in its efforts to promote financial incentives to attract strong principals to challenged schools, expand alternatives to student suspensions, and increase state spending for academic interventions for low-performing middle school students.

**Baltimore Algebra Project - \$15,000**

To support this student-led after-school and in-school peer tutoring and youth advocacy program serving Baltimore City young people.

**Baltimore School for the Arts - \$10,000**

To help lower-performing BSA students succeed academically by providing them with tutoring, mentoring, and other academic supports.

**Baltimore Urban Debate League - \$10,000**

To support the participation of 500 Baltimore City public middle school students in BUDL's after-school debate program.

**Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation - \$10,000**

To encourage young people in ten Southeast and East Baltimore neighborhoods to learn new skills, have fun, and become good community citizens through Banner's year-round youth programs, which include athletics, academic support, and arts activities.

**Carnegie Institution of Washington - \$10,000**

For Project BioEYES, an interactive, week-long unit in hands-on science for Baltimore City 5th, 7th, and 10th grade students.

**Dyslexia Tutoring Program, Inc. - \$10,000**

To provide free screenings and tutoring to low-income Baltimore City children and adults with dyslexia, train teachers to screen for dyslexia, offer support and resources to parents, and provide children in the program with an educational summer camp experience.

**The Ingenuity Project - \$10,000**

To mentor and tutor Ingenuity participants through the Learning Club and Resource Center, an academic enrichment program offered to minority middle and high school students.

**KIPP Baltimore, Inc. - \$10,000**

To help fund the extended day and summer program at Baltimore's KIPP Ujima Village Academy, a charter school for students in grades 5-8, and KIPP Harmony Academy, a new charter school for students in grades K-5.

**Learning, Inc. - \$10,000**

To support this citywide dropout and credit recovery program for at-risk Baltimore City middle school youth, ages 14-17.

**Maryland Charter School Network - \$10,000**

To help the organization offer expertise and technical assistance to charter school applicants and develop and promote quality standards for all charter schools.

**Maryland Mentoring Partnership - \$10,000**

To help fund the Maryland State Mentoring Resource Center, which recruits and provides ongoing training and resources to high quality mentors for Baltimore area youth.

**My Sister's Circle - \$15,000**

To maintain and enhance this mentorship program serving girls from disadvantaged neighborhoods through middle school, high school, and into college.

**National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship - \$10,000**

To teach low-income students in 13 Baltimore City middle and high schools how to start and run their own businesses through the NFTE youth entrepreneurship program.

**New Leaders for New Schools - \$20,000**

To recruit, train, and support City Schools principals and resident principals in the program.

**Parks & People Foundation, Inc. - \$15,000**

To expand and enhance BRANCHES (Building Resources and Nurturing Community Health and Environmental Stewardship), a workforce training and educational enrichment program for youth ages 14-20 in park forestry management and maintenance.

**The Stadium School Youth Dreamers - \$10,000**

To support the Youth Dreamers' Project Class and after-school program, which offers a homework club, health club, modeling club, art classes, and a book buddy program to 80 youth in grades 1-8.

**Teach for America, Inc. - \$20,000**

To double the size of Baltimore's TFA teaching corps over the next two years and strengthen the program's alumni network.

**Wide Angle Youth Media - \$10,000**

To help fund Baltimore Speaks Out!, an after-school program that teaches youth ages 11-15 skills in introductory video making, critical thinking, teambuilding, and public speaking as they create videos about community issues.

**Youth as Resources - \$15,000**

To support the annual grantmaking pool and operating expenses of this youth-led grantmaking, community problem-solving, and leadership development project housed at BCF.

In addition, BCF allocated **\$10,000** for its special initiative, the **Middle Grades Partnership (MGP)**, a summer and after-school learning program for academically promising Baltimore City middle school students. MGP is funded by local and national foundations, as well as individual donors.

#### **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).

###