

NAACP BALTIMORE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



Greetings,

“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair” (Shirley Chisholm, n.d.). As we enter the year of 2024, the Baltimore County NAACP Branch will continue to bring a folding chair to the table to be a voice for the community in order to continue to reduce inequality in education, health care, policing and injustice. As the Baltimore County Branch NAACP President, it is my goal to continue to fulfill our mission, vision and goals at the local, state and national level.

This year’s theme for the Maryland State NAACP is “Moving Maryland Forward.” The NAACP was founded to stand up for injustice, inequality, and racial discrimination. This is our opportunity for everyone to join together to reduce injustice, hatred, unequal opportunity and racial discrimination. We continue today to stand and fight for justice, education, health equality, political and economic rights, racial profiling, equitable police promotions, unfair housing and policing concerns for all racial spectrums.

In my leadership, the Baltimore County NAACP Branch stood strong to support equitable police promotions, fairness to our educational leaders and better education at the Baltimore County Board of Education. We supported voter’s registration and rights, worked with the Health Department with COVID test and health education, supported churches in events, Back to School events, worked with 4MORE, and attended the National NAACP Conference in Boston with supporting our youth at ACT-SO. We assisted Parkville High School in starting a NAACP Youth Chapter. We spoke up on fair housing, equal healthcare, and the Police Taskforce with traffic stops. We worked with our local officials in developing better bills, such the Anti-Lynching Bill, listened to community issues, worked with the Baltimore City NAACP branch, and provided a Health venue for the community.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a W.I.N. panel to support our strong women leaders and worked with the local police to increase partnerships and holding the police on accountability. With the increasing crime and murders in Baltimore County and Baltimore Schools, our goal is to work to be a voice to reduce crime, reduce murders and work with political officials to help reduce juvenile crimes. In 2023, we completed a successful Gun Buy Back event with the police department and our County Executive support. There were over greater than 300 guns and over 600 gun supplies collected. In 2024, the Baltimore County NAACP Branch will host another Gun Buy Back targeted for April 2024.

The goals of the branch will continue to be reviewed and revised as the goals and timelines are accomplished. Transparency allows the community to see the progress of the Baltimore County Branch. Some of the goals are: Goal 1: To recruit new membership and retain active members; Goal 2: To have our members active in a committee of interest; Goal 3: To increase visibility in the community; and Goal 4: Increase communication (orientation and education to the community); Goal 5: To continue to support our youth, increase High School Youth Chapters and to increase the number of youth going to the National NAACP Convention for ACT-SO; Goal 6: To hold government officials and people they put in positions accountable for their actions; and Goal 7: partnering to reduce crime; Goal 8: To hold police department accountable for wrongful actions and equitable police promotions. The goal is to ask for timelines, goals, inclusion, diversity and a continued seat at the table. We look forward to you joining and working to help us resolve some of the issues.

As our Baltimore County NAACP Branch continues to grow even larger, we like to recognize local individuals for their hard work in the community and our hard working Baltimore County NAACP Executive Board and members. I recognize the dedication and thank each of you. Congratulations to the ACT-SO youth in receiving awards at the National NAACP Convention. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as the NAACP Baltimore County Branch President.

Dr. Danita Tolson
Baltimore County NAACP President

TEEN SUMMIT

Baltimore County Public Schools and Miracles-N-More Outreach hosted a Tweens and Teens Summit on Saturday November 11th at New Town High School in Owings Mills MD. The theme was “We are a Community Reclaiming Our Village.” The Guest Speaker was Lexi P, a young motivational speaker and CEO of Curlanistas, a hair products enterprise. There were students represented from different high schools at this summit. The Parkville High School NAACP Chapter attended the summit and held a voter registration drive. As a result many youth ages 16 years of age and older were able to register as voters on-site.



The NAACP Baltimore County Branch was present and supported the event. We want to thank BCPS and Miracles-N-More Outreach for organizing this event. Miracles-N-More Outreach is a non-profit organization whose mission is to alleviate poverty and homelessness in the Baltimore Community and to uplift the youth.



PARKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

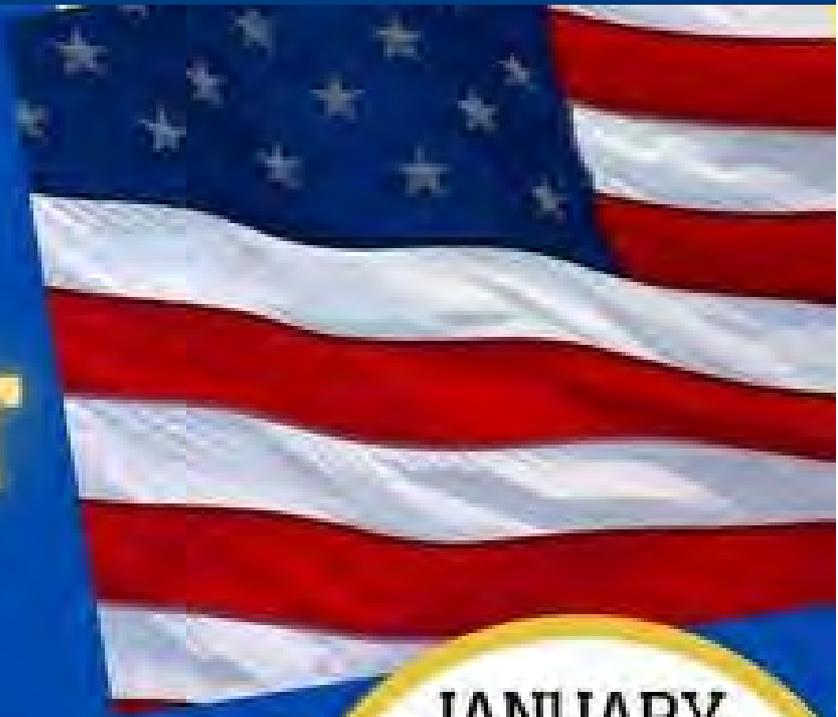
The NAACP Chapter at Parkville High School are having two events in January. The IG-Knight the Vote on Friday, January 5th 2024 will be an informative event to educate the youth on voting and includes voter registration. There will be a leadership panel that includes: Dr. Crystal Francis, Councilman Mike Ertel, Kim Ross, Franklin Point, Delegate Carl Jackson, and Shafiq Henson. Please see the event flyer on the next page for more information.

The second event is hosted by the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA). Parkville High will be attending the 2024 MLK Celebration /Racial Social Justice Summit on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 8:30am-3:30pm at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport. The Parkville High School NAACP Chapter will be hosting a workshop at the event. It is entitled: Empowering Echoes: Galvanizing Youth Voices for Change.

The "Empowering Echoes: Galvanizing Youth Voices for Change" is an innovative session designed for those seeking effective ways to inspire and support youth leadership in today's world. This workshop offers valuable insights into the crucial role of empowering young individuals to raise their voices and become proactive leaders in their communities and beyond. In this session, participants will explore proven strategies for mentoring and guiding young people, emphasizing the importance of active listening, encouragement, and providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles.

The workshop features successful youth-led initiatives and discussions led by youth leaders and activists. By sharing the knowledge and skills to nurture young leaders, the "Empowering Echoes " workshop aims to bridge generational gaps and foster a future where youth leadership is celebrated and encouraged. Tickets are \$10 for MSEA members, children/youth and \$20 for non-members. For more information and to register, please go to: <https://marylandeducators.org/2024-mlk-celebration-racial-social-justice-summit/>

Parkville High School
NAACP
presents



IG-KNIGHT THE VOTE

JANUARY
5
2024
9:30-10:45

**PARKVILLE HIGH
STUDENTS- 16+**

- ✓ EDUCATE STUDENTS ON VOTING
- ✓ LEARN ABOUT CANDIDATES
- ✓ UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING-THE YOUTH VOTE



**SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER TO VOTE**

To register to vote, you must be

- a U.S. citizen,
- a Maryland, resident, and
- at least 16 years old.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

The Women in NAACP Committee's fall signature event, Community Resources, Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday October 21 at the Randallstown Community Center was a success! We had over forty different organizations that came together to implement the event. there were 23 government and private industry organizations that participated in the fair. These companies provided information and services on career readiness, job search, resume reviews, housing, energy assistance and health services.



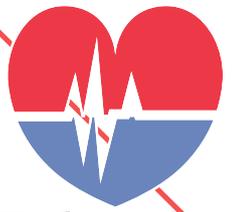
We had over 100 people that attended the Community Resources Fair. We would like to thank Randallstown Community Center for allowing us to use their facility to host the event. Thank you to the WIN Committee for their hard work and dedication in organizing this fair. Special thanks to the United Way for providing the grant that helped the committee to have this event. Kindly view the sponsors featured in our newsletter that also supported our event.





Thank you to Ms. Sharonda Moses, SkillUp Health Training for sponsoring the Community Resources Health and Wellness Fair and for providing free blood pressure checks.

SkillUp Health Training provides certification in multiple disciplines in healthcare such as medication technician, CPR, Phlebotomy, etc. For more information about her services, please contact her via email at: skilluphealthtraining@gmail.com



Thank you to to Ms. Rhonda Brown, Nurse Practitioner on Call LLC for sponsoring the Community Resources Health and Wellness Fair. Here is some information about her business.

Nurse Practitioner on Call LLC is available:

- If you need a Nurse Practitioner to assist virtually/telemedicine or in person for exams for psychiatric needs for adults or adolescents. We also assist with substance use needs with a MAT program available.
- If you need a Therapist to service adults and adolescents with psychiatric needs.

Visit her website at <https://www.nponcallmd.com>





Thank you Ms. Pamela Brooks, WIIN Breast Care Foundation Inc. for sponsoring the Community Resources Health and Wellness Fair and for your special raffle giveaway.

The mission of Women's Imaging in the Neighborhood (WIIN) Breast Care Foundation, Inc. is to provide access to optimal, comprehensive breast care services and educational enrichment to increase awareness about breast cancer and breast health. Please visit her website at: <https://www.wiinbreastcarefoundation.org/>



WIIN Breast Care Foundation, Inc.

HEALTH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Health Committee participated in a program in collaboration with the Baltimore County Health Department and the Morgan State University Value Project to distribute COVID Educational materials in South West Baltimore.

The Health Committee worked diligently in the month of December 2023 to provide COVID Outreach and engagement regarding COVID prevention and treatment resources. The committee set up a vending table at the Patapsco Flea market on December 9th and December 23rd, with successful outreach on both occasions. The Patapsco Flea Market was chosen due to the Health Committee specifically targeting the areas of Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Hawkins Point. Currently, they have the lowest vaccination rates in Southwest Baltimore. Special thanks to the Patapsco Flea Market for providing their location as the central point for our outreach events.

Through Health Committee flyers and the help of the Communications Committee, we were able to engage with new members from our General Body, who came out to participate in COVID outreach. On December 9th, the NAACP Health Committee members successfully distributed 67 COVID test kits & handouts. On December 23rd, we successfully distributed 233 COVID test kits, flyers, Baltimore County NAACP brochures and donated hand sanitizers.

The COVID test kits were courtesy of the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD). Other materials utilized for outreach included VALUE Project Baltimore flyers and BCHD flyers, available in English and Spanish. We would like to thank Leila Edwards, the Health Committee chair for her incredible work in organizing these events and making a substantial impact in Southwest Baltimore. The Health Committee plans to have some more outreach events in January.





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Our Nursing team has 20+ years of experiences working in health care.



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August Rose Health Center

Together. We Rise

Established in 2018, August Rose Health Center (ARHC) is a distinguished, privately-owned mental health and wellness organization located in Maryland. We proudly hold full licensing from the State and accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). At ARHC, we strive to foster emotional well-being, promote recovery, and facilitate community inclusion for all individuals seeking our support.

For more information, please go to our website:

<https://www.augustrosehealthcenter.com/>



empowering minds RESOURCE CENTER

Empowering Minds Resource Center provides comprehensive mental health care to families and children utilizing the services of qualified professionals implementing individualized rehabilitation plans that assist all persons in obtaining their desired goals. This will reduce systematic behaviors and provide individuals with healthier and more productive lives.

For more information, please go to:

<https://www.emrcgroup.org/>

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RESTORING MINDS
— BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES —

Restoring Minds Behavioral Health Services is a substance use program in eastern Baltimore County. Our primary objective is to empower individuals struggling with addictions by equipping them with the essential tools and resources to achieve and sustain recovery.



For more information visit us at:
<https://www.restoringmindsbehavioral.com/>

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to the rest of our sponsors for your support.



The Baltimore NAACP ACT-SO **WANTS YOU!**

High School Students

WE INVITE ALL STUDENTS IN BALTIMORE GRADES 9-12
FOR OUR LOCAL ACT-SO TALENT COMPETITION
INFORMATIONAL

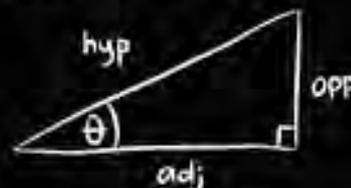


April 27, 2024

For more information



Email: BaltimoreActSoCompetition@gmail.com



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C POETRY
A SHORT STORY
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DANCE





We had an amazing year through the milestones and achievements made in 2023. We will continue to press forward in 2024 in addressing the issues in our community. With that said, please read the latest article from “The Crisis” magazine, [The 10 WINS for the Black Community in 2023](#).

The Crisis is the official publication of the NAACP, founded in 1910 by W.E.B. Du Bois. It is the oldest African-American magazine in the world.

DYNAMIC OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for volunteers to work in any of our 10 committees, visit our website to learn more about them at: <http://www.naacp-bcountymd.org/committees.html>.

Email us: naacpbaltimorecounty@hotmail.com

JOIN US

Our General Body meetings are every first Wednesday at 7:00pm. For the zoom link, refer to our monthly emails or go to the events page on our website below.

www.naacp-bcountymd.org

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File a Complaint

If you need to file a complaint. Please fill out the [Complaint Form](#) and it will be addressed by our Legal Redress Committee.

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