

# our community **STRONGER TOGETHER**



DRUID HEIGHTS  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



environmental stewardship  
youth leadership  
food sovereignty  
housing education

DHCDC

2140 McCulloh Street Baltimore, MD 21217

Our mission is to **cause, encourage and promote community** self-empowerment through the development of economic, educational, employment and affordable housing opportunities.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Inside This Year's Report



- Letter from the Founder
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- Monthly Meetings & Upcoming Events

HEAR FROM OUR YOUTH



ON PAGE 10



Youth Afterschool Program



Druid Heights Working Together



Holiday Community Celebration

*A NOTE  
FROM OUR* **Founder**

*Dear Friends, Neighbors and Partners,*

Fifty plus years is a long time. As I reflect on the past years, I am filled with gratitude for the resilience, creativity, and commitment that define our community, our organization, our board of directors, our staff and our philanthropic, corporate, city, state, and federal partners. When we founded this organization, our vision was simple yet ambitious: to create opportunities that strengthen our community and empower individuals. This year, that vision came alive in ways that inspire hope for the future.

Together, we launched new initiatives that expanded access to quality affordable housing, supported local entrepreneurs, and provided vital resources to families and returning citizens navigating uncertain times. We deepened partnerships with faith groups, and civic leaders, ensuring that our work remains rooted in collaboration and inclusivity. Most importantly, we witnessed lives transformed — neighbors finding stability, young people discovering their potential, and communities building strength from within.

Looking ahead, we are committed to scaling our impact. We will continue programs that foster equity, amplify community voices, and drive sustainable environmental and housing development. None of this would be possible without your support.

Thank you for walking alongside us. Together, we are building not just stronger communities, but a brighter future.

With gratitude,

*“Your belief in our mission fuels our progress and reminds us that lasting change is always a collective effort.”*

**Jacquelyn D. Cornish**

**DRUID HEIGHTS  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
FOUNDER**



**2025  
BOARD MEMBERS**

**MR. RICHARD L. EDWARDS**  
*PRESIDENT*

**MRS. LORETTA GARDNER**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*

**MRS. KAREN LAWSON**  
*SECRETARY*

**MRS. JACQUELYN D. CORNISH**  
*DHCDC FOUNDER*

**DR. BISHOP KEVIN DANIELS PH.D.**

**DR. SIDNEY NELSON, M.D.**

**MR. RUSSELL A. NEVERDON SR., J.D.**

**SENATOR LARRY YOUNG**

**MR. EDWARD BRADY**

**MR. LAURENCE HAMLETT**

**MS. VALEISIA NEWMAN**  
*(HONORARIUM)*



# Letter from the Board

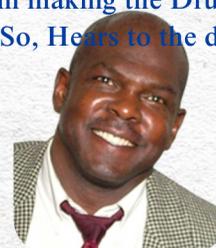
The Druid Heights CDC has celebrated over 50 years of service in the Historic Druid Heights Community and as always, I am honored to share with you another highly successful year. We continue to have ongoing client satisfaction, community and organizational advancement. The Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) continues to receive the support and accolades from the Druid Heights Community, which is a testament to our high standards and excellent work over the many years. Most importantly, our residents and families enjoy year round, ongoing supportive services.

The Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC), a non-profit organization, was established in 1974 (over 50 years ago). DHCDC is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors that include political, corporate, and community representation. This year we are renovating and updating our facilities to help better serve our community. We push on with our mission to promote and encourage areas of community development and empowerment through numerous initiatives. The overall goal is to accelerate the revitalization of the neighborhood with self-empowerment, employment and economic opportunities all while creating a stable and safe community environment.

We are proud that DHCDC has been at the forefront of care since the very beginning, collaborating with government agencies and partners at the community and federal levels. Our progress has been made possible, in large part, by the community based partnerships we have forged over the years. We have joined forces with our stakeholders and other nonprofits to magnify our collective impact initiatives within Druid Heights and the greater Baltimore area. We continue to work with trusted advisors to help their clients find the best home for their philanthropy. And we rely on our many grantees to deliver services to our neediest fellow citizens and advocate for positive change. Note! Although we have had such a long time with all of our partners, every year we face the uncertainty of where our actual funding support will come from. So, to all of our valued partners we express our profound gratitude for all you do and continue to do.

Over the years, I continue to have the privilege of working closely with DHCDC's exceptional staff and team members. With our Executive Director, senior leadership and staff members, our team is second to none. They are enormously talented, hard-working, and caring. They always find ways to step up to the ongoing challenges that we have. On behalf of an appreciative board of directors, I want to thank everyone on the DHCDC's staff for their efforts in making the Druid Heights community a better place for us all. So, ~~Hears to the days, weeks, months~~ and the next 50 years.

**Richard Edwards**  
**BOARD PRESIDENT**



MESSAGE FROM OUR  
**Executive Director**

Greetings to our community residents, stakeholders, and friends of Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC). On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we welcome you to our Annual Report 2025. It is such an honor to be able to contribute to such a worthy vision and mission that works to serve residents in the Druid Heights community and beyond. As we continue to move forward, I'm excited to continue serving alongside the Druid Heights team throughout the Druid Heights community.

This season, we are proud to highlight the youth in our community. Our young people are our greatest treasure, and we remain deeply committed to empowering them and supporting their individual growth, leadership, and success. DHCDC remains closely connected to our residents through key departments, including Community Outreach, Reentry Services, Housing Counseling, and Real Estate Development. Through these programs and services, DHCDC continues to serve as a trusted anchor institution in West Baltimore—advancing opportunity, stability, and equitable community development.

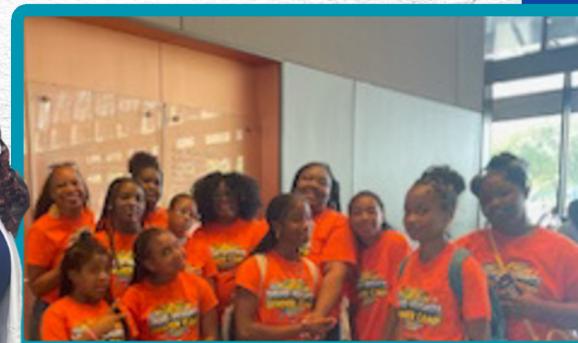
In 2026, the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) will proudly continue its mission to empower our residents while celebrating a significant milestone—50 years of service to the Druid Heights community.

Through our continued work, DHCDC remains committed to building long-lasting community partnerships, advancing equitable community development practices, and creating sustainable outreach efforts that support residents of Druid Heights and the greater Baltimore community. These values guide the programs, projects, and services we offer, and we are excited to share how this work will continue in the year ahead. We hope you enjoy learning more about the initiatives that reflect our ongoing dedication to community-driven impact and collaboration. Your partnership and support have been instrumental to our success, and we look forward to strengthening these relationships as we move forward together.

As always, we look forward to seeing you in the Druid Heights neighborhood and celebrating this milestone year with our community.

*Yours in Service,*

**Dr. JohnDre Jennings**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Dr. Dre with Youth Summer Camp*



# Meet the Staff

## Office Team



**DR. JOHNDRE JENNINGS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**ORA WHITE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SUPPORT



**LINDA MONROE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SUPPORT



**DEVAN  
SOUTHERLAND**  
PROGRAM SUPPORT  
SPECIALIST



**DANIEL GLADNEY**  
MAINTENANCE TEAM

## Outreach Team



**TAVON BENSON**  
DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES



**ANDRE FISHER**  
REENTRY PROGRAM  
CASE MANAGER



**SHANIQUA AUSTIN**  
YOUTH & OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR



## Real Estate Team



**ERIC JOHNSON**  
REAL ESTATE  
MANAGER



**JEANEE SMITH**  
REAL ESTATE  
SPECIALIST

## Housing Counseling Team



**CHLOE WILLIAMS**  
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING  
COUNSELING



**CANDACE RICE**  
HOUSING COUNSELOR



**DEBBIE HORSEY**  
HOUSING COUNSELOR





## 2025 Thanksgiving & Holiday Party Toy Drive

The Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) was happy to host its annual Christmas Toy Drive and Community Party 2025, alongside our wonderful sponsor; The Bloc Burnaz, Kiewit Construction, Larry Young, and Amtrak. This annual celebration continues to reflect DHCDC's deep commitment to building a caring, connected, and vibrant community in West Baltimore. Each year, neighbors come together to celebrate the season, support families, strengthen community bonds, and share in the joy and generosity that make this event so special.



*Druid Heights  
honors the memory  
of:*

**Ms. Mary Danzler**  
*Community Resident*

**Ms. Charlotte Tires**  
*Community Resident*

**Dr. Elizebeth Johnson**  
*Business Owner*



## HOUSING COUNSELING

### Staff Spotlight

CONGRATS!

**Chloe Williams** - *Director of Housing  
Counseling Community Development Network  
of Maryland 2025 Housing Counseling Star*



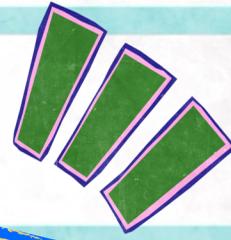
Stay informed  
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community  
newsletters



SCAN HERE



DHCDC YOUTH  
PRESENT...



# 2025 A YEAR in OUR SHOES



## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



**“A YEAR IN OUR SHOES”**  
*A special spotlight celebrating the youth of our  
after school and summer camp programs.*

2025 a  
**YEAR**  
in our  
**SHOES**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR YOUTH AT DHCDC



DRUID HEIGHTS  
Community Development Corporation

## Druid Heights Community Development Corporation's Etting Street Green Space

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) is excited to activate the Etting Street Greenspace. The Etting Street Greenspace project focuses on reducing inland flood and nonpoint pollution in an area that has been seeing an increase in economic investment. The city-owned lots on both sides of this block (totaling approximately 27,773 square feet) have been impacted by repeated dumping by residential and commercial contractors. This has increased the amount of inflood flooding, along with an increase in suspended solids, nitrogen, phosphorus, and heavy metals in the Jones Falls watershed due to dumping. This project recreates this space as a pedestrian-only space in order to provide a long-term green space to help encourage economic investment in this area of West Baltimore.

DHCDC partnered with Graham Projects and our Youth Green Team to design the community mural. Special Thanks to funders West North Ave. Development Authority (WNADA), Chesapeake Bay Trust, Department of Natural Resources and Mayor's Office of Recovery (ARPA).



WE ARE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR YOUTH ARE FILMMAKERS IN TRAINING

SUMMER CAMP FUN





**Ja'myryn R.**  
**YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

Grade: 2025 Graduate, Digital Harbor  
Role: Youth Ambassador helping with summer after school and playground games  
My Neighborhood: 21217  
Advice: Motivation to stay in school, be positive in the streets.

"Always be yourself."

"This is a good program. A great program actually. Taking care of homeless. Responsibility in the community."



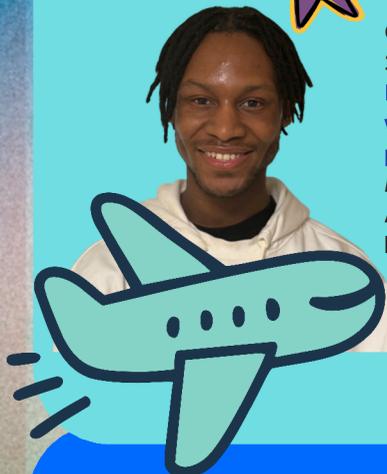
**Shaniqua A.**  
**OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

We Provide:

- Daily life skills, there's so much going on in the community but we're teaching them to be cordial and put differences aside
- Independent leaders, thinking on their own
- Safe haven for help and resources without judgement

My Neighborhood: 21217

DHDC History: Former Youth Ambassador



**Darius P.**  
**YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

My Neighborhood: 21217  
My Skills: Understanding, playing, helping through hardships  
School: Dunbar, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Favorite Activity to Lead: Homework and Recess  
Advice: "Use the most of your resources, do what you gotta do. Keep going hard. Education matters the most."  
My Future: Basketball in College



**Sa'Mya G.**  
**YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

My Neighborhood: Park Heights  
Employment: 3 years  
My Skills: Leadership, Communications, how to talk to people, how to deal with people in the outside world.  
Talents I Bring: Arts & Crafts especially Homemade Crafts  
What I've learned in 3 years at DHDC: "I learned how to support a variety of different kids."



**Nevaeh K.**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

My Neighborhood: 21217  
This is my 1<sup>st</sup> year at DHDC  
My Favorite Activities: Games, Playing outside and making bracelets  
Advice to new kids in after school: "My cousins coming have helped a lot with feeling comfortable and the things we do here is fun, definitely the snack!"  
My Future: Baker  
Favorite Staff: 1<sup>st</sup> favorite person is Ja'myryn & I look up to Sa'Mya.



**De'zyre T.**  
**3RD GRADE**

My Neighborhood: 21217  
Favorite Skills: "To draw" I like to draw flowers and creative things. I want to learn to make more friends.  
Advice: "Be kind and be a friend."  
"I love the things I do here."  
My Future: I want to work here!



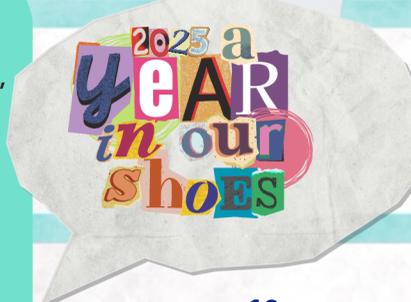
**BROTHERS**

**Damitri**  
**PRE K**

Favorite Activity: Playing Uno  
What do you want to learn to do this year: "I want to learn to draw"  
At our program, I get help with my homework.  
My Future Goals: Writing. I want to be a writer.

**Khalil**  
**KINDERGARTEN**

I love playing Uno, playing football, cleaning up trash with tool  
Mr Tavon helps me with things that are important.  
My Future Goals: "To be a regular person and got a job"



## School & Community Partners



THANK  
YOU  
😊

*Carver Vocational Technical High School  
Coppin Academy*

*Dorothy I. Height Elementary School  
Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School  
Baltimore City Public Schools- Homeless Services  
Baltimore Community Foundation*

*Chesapeake Bay Trust  
National Wildlife Federation  
St. Katherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church  
Jubilee Arts*

*Baltimore City Department of Housing (food program)  
Druid Hill Family Center YMCA  
National Action Network (Maryland) - Senator Larry Young  
Divine Sense of Hope*

## SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### AN INTERVIEW WITH TAVON BENSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

We are very proud of our youth and their accomplishments this year. In addition to youth programming, in 2025 our neighborhood engagement has increased serving 45% more families through our community partnerships. We are dedicated to serving the *whole family* with resources; such as our weekly food distribution, neighborhood walk-throughs, community events, environmental initiatives and youth programming.

*“DHCDC continues to provide and connect the community with the resources they truly need.”*



# ReEntry Program



Men's Rap meets  
every 1st and 3rd  
Monday  
of the month  
from 6:30 pm - 8 pm  
**CALL 410-523-1350**

**On average, our program serves 50 returning citizens annually.** As re-entry is a lifelong process, our program maintains ongoing connections with participants at various stages of their transition. One of the key highlights of our program is Men's Rap, a support group that offers participants the opportunity to talk with each other. Open to men and women, the group invites everyone from recovering addicts to ex-offenders who have changed their lives and working toward being productive members of society to offer support, encouragement, and motivation to live healthy lifestyles.

## OUR SERVICES FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

- Employment
- ✓ Mental Health Services
- ✓ Legal Issues
- ✓ GED Program
- ✓ Computer Literacy Program

## Thriving Communities Environmental Stewardship Program

*Reclaiming Our Space,  
One Cleanup at a Time*

Drawing from our dedication to protecting and restoring clean and vibrant environments through community-led cleanup events, education, and sustainable waste management practices, we believe that lasting change begins at the grassroots level; empowering people to take action in their own communities.





## Bakers View Homeownership Development

### RIBBON CUTTING

Bakers View Homeownership Development project -Phase II includes the new construction of eight (8) units in the 2300 block of Division Street (2309-2323 Division Street). In Summer 2025, DHCDC continued with the successful completion of the full block. The current phase includes Edgemont Builders, Arch Plan, KCW Engineering, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund (NIIF) and JP Morgan Chase.



## ARCHWAY

### Archway Homeownership Development Project

The 2200 block of Druid Hill Avenue serves as the entrance to the Historic Druid Heights Community. For decades, the block (east & west side) has blighted the community. Demolition of crumbling, unsalvageable buildings on the west side gives DHCDC and residents a rare opportunity to work with Baltimore City Green Network Coordinator to establish the Cab Calloway Park. Rehabilitation of deteriorated houses on the east side in this block will attract other reputable investors to the community, as well as more LMI families seeking affordable, quality homeownership and rental opportunities. Revitalization will also stimulate future development activities and compliment the Maryland Department of Transportation upgrades on west North Avenue, Bakers View Development Project, the proposed Cab Calloway Park (west side) and the Gold Street mini Park. The project will include fifteen (15) properties 2203, 2205, 2207, 2209, 2211, 2213, 2215, 2219, 2221, 2223, 2229, 2231, 2233, 2235, 2237 Druid Hill. Estimated cost \$8 million. The units average 2500 square feet and will be developed as owner-occupied with a rental unit.

**HISTORIC  
DRUID  
HEIGHTS**



# Housing Counseling

*HUD - approved Housing Counseling has been helping consumers across Baltimore make informed housing decisions for almost 50 years. Wherever you are in the housing process, we are here for you -- providing insight and answers you need to make the choices that are right for you.*



*Housing Counseling Recognition: Congratulations to Chloe Williams, Director of Housing Counseling at the Community Development Network of Maryland, on being named a 2025 Housing Counseling Star a well-deserved recognition of her leadership and impact in advancing housing stability across our communities.*



## HOME BUYER COUNSELING

Clients receive counseling on identifying housing need, assessing affordability to purchase, credit counseling, household budgeting, reviewing mortgage products, reverse equity conversion programs, identifying for-sale and rental public and private properties, how to purchase HUD, VA and FHA homes, selecting real estate agents, predatory lending—"if it sounds too good to be true, It Is", obtaining mortgage insurance, home inspections, property appraisals, how to inspect homes, understanding real estate terminology, negotiating sales contracts, fair housing laws, applying for mortgage financing, understanding settlement process, making timely mortgage payments, obtaining rehabilitation loans, refinancing, managing utility cost, property warranties, home maintenance, preserving assets before and after closing, consumer protection laws, periodic review of monthly household budgets, payment of real estate taxes, resale of properties, delinquency and default and loss mitigation strategies.

## Join our Homebuyer Workshops

FIRST WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

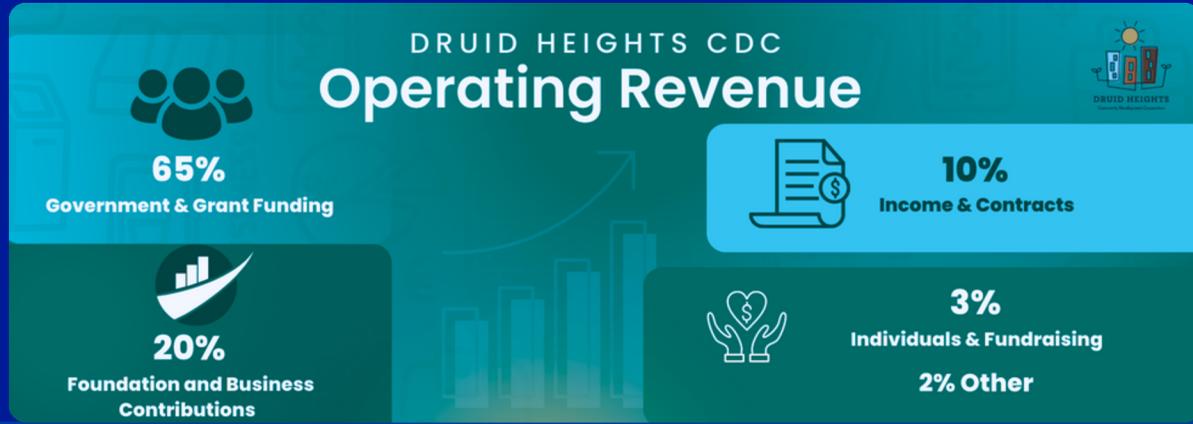
February 4th and 5th

March 4 and 5

April 1 and 2



# Financial OVERVIEW



## Our Partners & Community Stakeholders

Mayor Brandon Scott  
 City Council President Zeke Cohen  
 Senator Antonio Hayes  
 Congressman Kwesi Mfume  
 Balt City Department of Housing and Community Development  
 Balt City Department of Planning  
 Commissioner Alice Kennedy  
 Councilman James Torrence

Comptroller Bill Henry  
 Jason Johnson Blk Wall St.  
 Fulton Bank  
 The Furniture Bank  
 Officer Charles Lee  
 Little Bears Den  
 Druid house  
 Charles Uncles  
 Patterson Ashbury  
 St. Peter Claver Pius  
 St. Martins Church of Christ  
 Morgan State University  
 Volunteers Un-tap  
 District Court of Baltimore Office  
 Community Service  
 Whole Food Market  
 Walmart Store  
 QVC

Behavioral Health Inc.  
 National Wildlife Federation  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 Wells Fargo  
 George Mason Mortgage  
 Neighborworks  
 Baltimore Community Foundation  
 Baltimore Civic Fund  
 PNC Bank  
 Verizon Foundation  
 New Baltimore Contractors LLC

P&J Contracting Co. Inc.  
 C.L Myles Contraction  
 Chesapeake Bay Trust  
 Enterprise Foundation  
 Maryland Historic Trust  
 Maryland Commission for African History and Culture  
 Moms on Demand  
 Tree-House Project  
 Black Arts District  
 Green & Healthy Homes Initiative



# DRUID HEIGHTS 2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW



## Homebuyer

### Workshops

FIRST WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

February 4th and 5th

March 4 and 5

April 1 and 2



## Upcoming Events

Health Equity Program (Spring)

Clean & Green Team (Spring)

Druid Heights Intergenerational project (Spring)

Peace Park Spruce Up (Spring)

After-School Homework Assistance and Tutorial Program (Annually)

Druid Heights Educational and Cultural Enrichment

Summer Fun Camp (Summer)

National Night Out (Fall)

7/11 Clean Up (Fall)



## Monthly Meetings

Jan 24, 2026

*Get to Know Elected Officials*

Feb 28, 2026

*Cultural Awareness Month*

March 28, 2026

*Women's History Month*

April 25, 2026

*Beautification or Green Initiative*



## STAY IN TOUCH

2140 McCulloh Street

Baltimore, MD 21217

[410-523-1350](tel:410-523-1350) | [410-523-1374](tel:410-523-1374) (fax)

[www.druidheights.com](http://www.druidheights.com)

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**DRUID HEIGHTS**  
Community Development Corporation

