Spring/Summer 2026

the DOORWAY

REBUILD COMMUNITIES. **EMPOWER** FAMILIES. **TRANSFORM** LIVES.
A Publication of the Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation aka The Door



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY & MEDICINE

Johns Hopkins and The Door: A Partnership Worth Celebrating

The Door and Johns Hopkins share a long and meaningful partnership that has grown over the years in response to the changing needs of our East Baltimore Community. Earlier this year, Micheal Preston, Director of Community Affairs and Engagement, reflected on all that we have built together and the promise of what is still to come.

"As the Director of Community Affairs and Engagement for Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, I am deeply proud of the relationships we have built and sustained with our East Baltimore neighbors, and of the partnerships we have formed with community organizations, neighborhood associations, schools, businesses, and faith-based institutions. Together, we have identified needs and delivered resources to youth, adults, seniors, and families across the community.

The Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation, also known as The Door, is one of our most valued partners. Over the years, we have joined forces to address food insecurity, neighborhood safety, health equity, employment, and enriching afterschool and summer opportunities for youth. Since 2020, we have worked together to provide more than 6 million meals and thousands of boxes of produce to community residents.

In the coming year, Johns Hopkins will provide a $25,000 grant to The Door through the Johns Hopkins Community Health Needs Assessment Small Grant Program to support and reduce food insecurity and promote healthy eating behaviors in East Baltimore. In total, Johns Hopkins will provide $325,000 to 13 organizations working to expend access to health care, behavioral health, education, food, housing, and workforce opportunities throughout Baltimore.

In 2026, I invite you to join us at events on campus and throughout the community, including expungement clinics, summer concerts in Eager Park, monthly community health outreach at the Northeast Market, and vaccination clinics hosted with churches, schools, and community organizations. We will also continue supporting celebrations that bring our community together, including, Juneteenth, National Night Out, Grandparents Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Thank you to everyone at The Door and throughout the community for your partnership, care and commitment over the years. Together, we will continue building a healthier, stronger, and more vibrant East Baltimore. As we look ahead, let us continue to embrace the spirit of cooperation and the shared mission to uplift and empower every resident of our community."

Sincerely-

Michael Preston | Director of Community Affairs and Engagement | Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

YOU CAN HELP

Help from caring people like you is always critical to the ongoing support of our programs. When the economy is slow and tight, it is very challenging to obtain funding and donations. Your support, in any capacity, is greatly appreciated so that we can continue to serve the community of The Door. There are several ways for you to donate!

DONATIONS

- Via our website: www.thedoorinc.org
- By sending a check to:
  The Door
  P.O. Box 13447
  Baltimore, MD 21203

THANK YOU!

Your donations make our programs possible. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.
Additional information about any of our programs can be found on our website. www.thedoorinc.org.

Continued… Johns Hopkins' Celebration of Partnership with the Community



Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

On a weekly basis during the school year, students from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing volunteer during our food distributions. During this time, they assist the residents in our community with their food selections, and they also "shop" for food items to take to Apostolic Towers and deliver to seniors who are not able to make it out.



Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

The Door appreciates partnering with Johns Hopkins for community outreach. One tabling opportunity welcomed the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Research Center to our food and resource distribution. During this event, information and resources regarding aging, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease were distributed to our resident which they found to be helpful.



Johns Hopkins Youth Works

During the summers, The Door receives extra help from Baltimore City's youth who are employed by Youth Works and serve the Johns Hopkins community. It is always a pleasure working with them. Their positive spirit and energy greatly assist us with our operations.



Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Initiative

A lot of partner support that The Door receives comes from the Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Inititative, which is a coalition of community partners organizaed by Johns Hopkins Community Affairs and Engagement. They help us expand our food distribution reach and City engagement. They played a significant role in our distribution of over 4,000 BGE Energy Saving Kits which consisted of a power cord, faucet agitators, shower head and window airflow reducing strips.

Roots of Wellness

The Door partnered with Johns Hopkins School of Nursing through Baltimore CONNECT and CEAL-DMV to host its first community health screening. This health screening focused on chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity which affects many of Baltimore City's underserved communities. During the course of this 5-day screening program, approximately 160 individuals received screenings.

Each day also included a mini resource fair which connected participants with valuable resources from trusted community partners.



PROGRAM UPDATES

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Door's Food and Resource Distribution program continues to grow and increase its services to the community. We currently operate every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Restoration Community Church and Ministries (RCCM) continues to assist us with serving our community both physically and spiritually.

In 2025, The Door had approximately 6,800 visits to our food and resource distribution. We distributed over 511,500 pounds of food which equates to approximately 426,250 meals. We were able to reach this accomplishment with the help of:

- Baltimore City which provided us with 100 produce boxes from Common Market every Tuesday.
- The Maryland Food Bank (MFB) which supplied us with bulk produce on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- The MFB Retail Recovery program which allowed us to add meat, bread, desserts, produce, dairy, prepared meals, and non-food items to our distribution. The Door receives donations from the following retail stores: 1) Giant, 2) Safeway, 3) Aldi, 4) Harris Teeter, and 5) Target.
- The MFB and the State of Maryland which provided us with a grant to purchase food for the residents of Baltimore City during the 2025 Federal Government Shutdown.
- The MFB which assisted us in purchasing 288 Thanksgiving meals at a reduced price to distribute to community members.
- Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Inititative which helps us to firther extend our distribution reach in the community







COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS



Community Food Drive – Over the 2025 Thanksgiving holiday, The Door received non-perishable food donations from The South Ellwood Community, Johns Hopkins Department of Surgery and Canton Neighborhood Bars.



Clothes Drive – The Door now accepts new and gently used clothes and shoes which are distributed to our residents.



Christmas Toy Drive – Through our partnerships with the James and Valerie Leonard Foundation and Restoration Community Church and Ministries, we were able to give away bikes and toys to community members for Christmas.



Diaper Distribution – The Door has been blessed to receive diaper donations from the Franciscan Center. Families with babies are most grateful for this addition to our food and resource distribution programming.

Tabling – The Door provides opportunities for other non-profit, for profit and government agencies to table during our food and resource distributions. This allows us to provide our residents with additional wrap-around services they may need. (Photos: DPW and B'More Fresh)





YOUTH PROGRAMMING

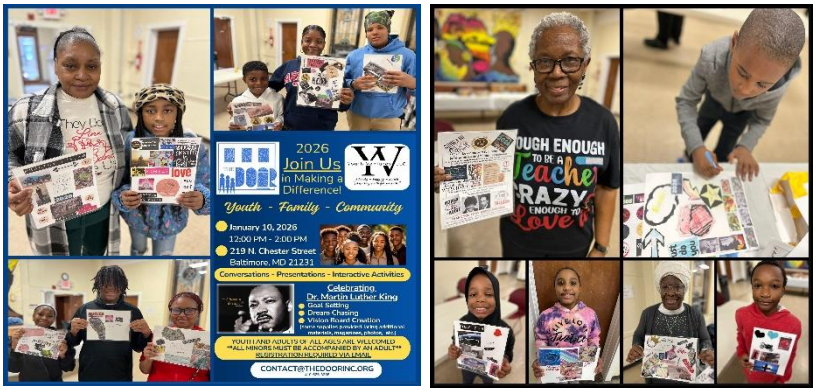
Boys & Girls Club Metropolitan Baltimore After-School Program

In 2025, The Boys & Girls Club Metropolitan Baltimore (The Club) completed another school year and summer camp at The Door. These programs operarted 5 days a week and welcomed 50 students from Commodore John Rogers Elementary/Middle School. The Club provided the youth in our community with homework help, STEM activities, sporting competions, finanicial management, various in-house club activities and field trips. In October 2025, the Baltimore Ravens Boys & Girls Club at Hilton Recreation Center opened in west Baltimore and will no longer operate out of our facility.

Youth, Family and Community Conversation (YFCC) Workshops

In 2026, The Door, in partnership with Youth Ventures, LLC and Restoration Community Church and Ministries started hosting its "Youth, Family and Community Conversation" (YFCC) workshops. Our workshops occur the second Saturday of each month and target youth from ages 8 – 24 years old, their families and community members. These workshops consist of conversations, presentation and interactive activities that focus on health & wellness, character building, financial literacy, self-advocacy, entrepreneurship, responsible citizenship, goal setting and more.

Our goal is to provide youth and families with essential information and practical skills that encourage personal growth and support their development towards a higher standard of thinking and living. By involving family members in our youth outreach programming, we seek to foster a collaborative learning environment where participants can apply newly acquired skills within their homes, and the adults can assist with ongoing reinforcement and continued development.



Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration – Goals, Dreams, Vision Boards


Senator Cory McCray speaks on Apprenticeships
(Ki Selden - Photographer/CEO of Defiant Shots)
www.defiantshots.comhttps://www.instagram.com/_shotsbyki_/



RESILIENCY HUB

As a Baltimore City Resiliency Hub, The Door is tasked with assisting the City during emergencies and preparing our residents to help each other in times of need. As such, in conjunction with the Compress & Shock Foundation and Rescue One Training for Life, The Door hosted a CPR/AED Education Day in which our community learned how to save a life through CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) medical device.





CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Door is grateful for the grant received from the Department of Housing and Community Development SEED Community Development Anchor Institution Fund Program which enabled us to renovate our conference room, offices and storage area.





ELECTRIC PILOT STOVE

The Door thanks Exelon, Healthy Neighborhoods and Johns Hopkins' Community Health Needs Assessment Grant Program for their contribution towards our new electric pilot stove. This stove makes us better equipped to serve as a Resiliency Hub and to expand our Health and Wellness programming capabilities.



The Door would like to thank the following for their generous support through financial contributions, volunteers, and in-kind donations: The Jim Davenport Family | The State of Maryland | The City of Baltimore | Councilman Glover and Staff | Senator Cory McCray | Johns Hopkins | The Maryland Food Bank | Baltimore City Police Department | T. Rowe Price Foundation | France-Merrick Foundation | The Rockefeller Foundation | The Abell Foundation | Baltimore Community Foundation | Merritt Properties | Department of Housing and Community Development SEED Community Development Anchor Institution Fund Program | Baltimore Community Fondation | Southface Institute | Dots Energy | Exelon |Restoration Community Church and Ministries | Huber Memorial Church | Urban Bible Fellowship Church | C.A.R.E Community Association | First Baptist Church of Pimlico | Commodore John Rodgers |Mitzvah Fund for Good Deeds | Franciscan Center | Children's Fresh Air Society | Gutierrez Memorial Fund |Healthy Neighborhoods | Target | Common Market | Giant | Safeway | Aldi | Harris Teeter | Food Lion | Donors | Staff | Volunteers