

[View this email in your browser](#)

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER INC



Spring 2025 Update

Dear Friend,

This spring holds the promise of another great year of growth and development for Communities Together Inc--and the more than 9,000 residents we serve.

Our [award-winning](#) CORES-certified group now provides community and resident engagement services and activities in concert with management teams in 27 family and senior communities located from Baltimore to the DC area and as far west as the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.



Participants in our Neighbor Up Program at Ashburn Chase in Northern Virginia.

The Support That Lifts Lives

Our community-building Neighbor Up program remains especially popular with the residents we serve. Resident and community management teams identify community goals and work together to achieve them. Social isolation is replaced by social cohesion. In a "multiplier effect," community members take on personal finance, youth development, career advancement, and better health.

These grants and gifts helped us help your neighbors and you in 2024:

\$10,000 from the DC Housing Finance Agency to help fund Neighbor Up at Metro Village Three Tree Flats and Mills Place in D.C.

\$5,000 from HSBC supported Neighbor Up at two family communities in Southeast D.C., Royal Courts and Savannah Heights.

\$5,000 came from the Prince George's Local Development Council when we won a new grant in July from the LDC to support Neighbor Up, which helps neighbors at Ft. Washington Manor record their life stories as oral histories - like StoryCorps. This is a great new tactic in our efforts to combat social isolation.

\$25,000 from Wells Fargo funded our Entrepreneurship program along with our Financial and Housing Stability program.

\$148,600 from Capital One funded a two-year project that provided free Wi-Fi for all households at Silver Creek Senior Living in Kensington, MD.

The grant also funded free Chromebooks for each household as well as training on the laptops with tips on surfing the web safely. That project helped seniors combat social isolation and led to similar projects at other communities.

An earlier \$10,000 from the Prince George's County's Local Development Council completed a similar project providing Chromebooks and training at Ft. Washington Manor, a senior community in Ft. Washington, MD.

\$50,000 from Oceanside and AHD allowed us to provide rental assistance to residents in Prince George's County and Montgomery County in Maryland.

\$30,000 -- a first-time grant from the Phillip L. Graham Fund in December 2024 for our general operating budget - the best kind of support for our development--along with their introduction to potential partners.

\$5,000 from Montgomery County for 2025 to support our organizational development as we build our technical capacity. We will use it to support our evaluation and reporting improvement project.

To offer our best services to residents of affordable housing, Communities Together depends upon robust donations.

To support our services, please consider using our secure and convenient [donation link](#).



Thanks to our clients and funders, a happy Valentine's Day celebration was held at the University Manor community in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Funders Provide Our Lifeblood

Our donors and grantors are part of what separates Communities Together Inc from everybody else. Much of our on-site programming simply would not happen without the generous contributions from our partners, stakeholders, and sponsors.

The donors we'd like to thank for their 2024 contributions:

Jonathan Rosenberg--for contributing \$10,000 for youth development, which we steered to supporting CAFÉ's work with kids at Queens Manor in Prince George's County. CAFÉ teaches STEM skills using the steel pan as an incentive. Along the way they have developed an award-winning youth steel pan ensemble.

The Board of Directors and Staff of Communities Together--for more than \$70,000 in donations to provide general operating support.

Rick Edson -- \$12,000 in general operating support.

To support our services, please consider using our secure and convenient [donation link](#).



Family Craft Night at the Penn Mar community in Forestville, MD, couldn't happen without support from our donors, clients, and volunteers.



Special Thanks to United Bank

United Bank contributed \$7,500 to our services in Prince George's County. Their funds helped sustain CAFÉ's youth STEM, tutoring, and steel pan programs at Queens Manor as well as health and fitness activities at Laurel Lakes, a senior community in Laurel, MD. United Bank has been a strong supporter for two years, upholding our services in Prince George's County.

Volunteers Make It Happen:

Our volunteers are the critical X factor who help turn resources into results. Working on the front lines of the pay-it-forward mindset, the people who offer their time are another one of our secret weapons. To all those whose effort helps us deliver the goods every day, we salute you.

The voluntary aid that makes us special:

Volunteers from Truist Bank on our Financial and Housing Stability Program in D.C., MD., and VA. We are working with Truist Bank to expand and deepen their professionals' voluntary contributions across the region we serve aiming for every community. We greatly appreciate their spirit of collaboration.

Camp Fire has provided voluntary staffing year-round at Friendly Garden Apartments in Silver Spring, MD, a family community devastated by an explosion and fire in 2022.

We hosted an excellent college intern in late 2024 and early 2025 -- Deja Williams -- who has been a student at the University of Maryland.

With every good wish,
Don Tucker (Founder & President) and Tom Vellenga (Executive Director)

PS. To make your own donation to our services, you can [use our secure and convenient donation](#) link here: <https://commtogether.org/donate/>.

Please forward this update to anyone who might be interested in our work!

[Communities Together Inc.](#)
[CORES-certified](#)
[Sarbanes Excellence in Community Service Award](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).
Copyright © 2025: Communities Together - All rights reserved.