

# COMMUNITIES TOGETHER INC



## Summer 2025 Update

Last month, Don Tucker and Tom Vellenga participated in a panel discussion at the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County (AHCMC). The panel was chaired by Evelyn Howard and explored “Innovative Housing for Changing Needs: Seniors and Disabled Populations.” It attracted a large audience and received “very positive” reviews from the attendees and organizers.

Other members of the panel included Tim Wiens, Executive Director of Maryland Inclusive Housing Corporation, and the Honorable Will Jawando, Vice President of the Montgomery County Council.

They said, “Ours is a severe form of service inequality. Many service workers are forced to live far away and spend painful time daily commuting by car – at high cost to their families and to our air quality. Our local economy, culture, and democracy are hampered to the same degree.”

The lack of land zoned for multifamily housing, an overly strict regulatory environment and unrealized opportunities in “down county” neighborhoods are major contributors to the problem.

Don cited his involvement with Silver Creek Senior Living, an affordable community for independent seniors located in Kensington, as an instructive example of what it takes to get it done in Montgomery County.

The full text of the article can be seen [here](#).



Our Neighbor Up program is popular with our residents at communities including Fort Washington Manor, a senior community in Prince George's County, Maryland.

## **Program Highlight: Neighbor Up Going Strong**

Volunteers, donors, and grants set our communities apart by offering socially dynamic programs including “Neighbor Up.” Residents and community management teams identify community goals and work together to achieve them. Social isolation is replaced by social cohesion. In a “multiplier effect,” neighbors build community, access new resources, and provide community stewardship.

Spin-offs may include new directions in financial and housing stability, career advancement, healthy living, and youth development. Supported by the DC Housing Finance Agency, Crescent Cities Charities, the Prince George's County Local Development Council, the Philip L. Graham Fund, and several ownership groups, we have been able to bring Neighbor Up to additional communities in DC, Maryland, and Virginia this year.

To support our services, please consider using our secure and convenient donation link.

## Be Part of the Solution

If you are interested in grant-supported community and resident engagement programs, partnering, volunteering, or donating to our empowering programs, please reach out to us or use our secure and convenient donation link.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration, and support.

You can reach us at:

[don@commtogether.org](mailto:don@commtogether.org)

[tom@commtogether.org](mailto:tom@commtogether.org).

PS. Please forward this note to others who might be interested in our community service – and use this link to make a donation!

“Bonus Announcement: We just won a \$30,000 grant from Truist Bank to support the expansion of our Entrepreneurship Program! Many thanks to Truist, which has also offered volunteers to participate in Financial Health programs.

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