

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER INC



Applying for food assistance, understanding health insurance, or navigating a tax credit can be complicated—even when you qualify. Communities Together makes these systems easier to navigate by bringing trusted partners and practical educational opportunities directly into the communities we serve.

This summer, Govans Manor residents in East Baltimore participated in three workshops focused on resources that can make a meaningful difference in household stability and well-being. Govans is a PIRHL community managed by ResidentialONE.



At a SNAP food benefits workshop, residents learned about eligibility, required documentation, EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) benefits, healthy food budgeting, and how to avoid benefit-related scams.

Participants could also receive referrals to additional food assistance and benefits-navigation resources. For at least one resident, having that guidance available meant taking action immediately: ***“It’s great that I had all my documents, and was able to apply today.”***

A Medicaid and Medicare workshop helped residents better understand healthcare coverage. Residents learned about Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans, asked questions about their options, and received one-on-one guidance.

At a Renter's Tax Credit Workshop focused on Maryland's Renter's TaxCredit Program, participants learned about eligibility, deadlines, required documentation, and the application process, with individual assistance available to help them prepare to apply for a credit that could reduce their housing costs.

Across all three workshops, 40 residents gained information and direct access to people who could help them navigate programs related to food, healthcare, and housing costs. By coordinating educational sessions, **Communities Together helps bring useful information out of complicated systems and into familiar community spaces.** Residents can thereby understand the resources available to them and make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

Brookland Manor Residents Learn Skills That Could Save a Life

When an opioid overdose happens, knowing what to do in those first critical moments can save a life. For residents at Brookland Manor, that possibility is not abstract. Participants in a recent Narcan training shared that they have witnessed overdoses in their community or worry about neighbors who use drugs.

Seventeen residents came together for the training, hosted by Lamonica from Revise, to learn how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, administer Narcan (naloxone), and respond while emergency help is on the way. The interactive session gave residents an opportunity to ask questions and practice knowledge they could use during an emergency.



The training is one example of what community care can look like in practice: residents gaining the knowledge and tools to look out for one another and respond when a neighbor needs help.

Team Highlight: Jordon DaSilva-Martins

For Jordon DaSilva-Martins, strong communities begin with connection.

Since 2015, she has worked and volunteered with children and young people, using mentorship, healthy living, and social-emotional learning to help them build confidence and reach their goals.

That commitment brought Jordon to Washington, DC, where she served as an AmeriCorps member with City Year during the 2021–2022 school year. Working alongside students in a high school English classroom, she provided academic and personal support while helping strengthen communication and connection between students and their school community.



Today, Jordon brings that same approach to Communities Together as a Community Engagement Coordinator serving families in the District of Columbia. **She is passionate about creating spaces where residents feel welcomed, supported, and connected**—and where people can draw on the strength of their community as they pursue their own goals.

"Jordon brings tremendous dedication, creativity, and care to her work and is truly a pleasure to work with. She has a remarkable ability to strengthen existing programs while identifying new opportunities to better serve residents. I have been especially impressed by her initiative and solutions-oriented approach—when challenges arise, she is always focused on finding a thoughtful and effective path forward. Her passion for resident services shines through the strong partnerships she has cultivated, and the engaging programs and events she develops for Hubbard Place residents. Jordon is incredibly deserving of this recognition, and we are grateful for the innovation, strong program management, and genuine commitment she brings to the Hubbard Place community." - Rachel Helferd, Director of Community Engagement, Somerset Development Company

Jordon earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, specializing in Health and Society with a minor in Business Administration. **We're grateful to have her helping build the relationships that make stronger, more connected communities possible!**



By the Numbers

81% of our employees identify as Black/African-American, Latina, or Asian-American, bringing a range of perspectives and lived experiences to our work with residents across DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Partnership Spotlight: L.E.E.P. to College

Preparing for college takes more than filling out an application. Students and families must navigate financial aid, academics, career decisions, and sometimes challenges that require individualized support. That's why Communities Together partners with organizations like L.E.E.P. to College to connect young people with guidance throughout the process.

Since our partnership began last year at Hubbard Place, L.E.E.P. to College has provided bi-monthly college preparation and academic enrichment workshops, participated in youth events, supported college visits and trips, and led a financial aid and FAFSA workshop for youth, parents, and adult learners.

Their support extends beyond workshops. L.E.E.P. to College has worked one-on-one with college-bound students to resolve financial aid issues, connect them with jobs and internships, and even assist students moving into out-of-state college dorms.

Now, we're expanding the partnership by adding bi-weekly tutoring alongside ongoing college-preparedness workshops and bringing these resources to residents at The Faircliff and Portner Flats. All three sites are Somerset

Together, we're helping ensure students have not only the information they need to plan for college, but consistent support as they take each step toward what comes next.

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Communities Together is looking for volunteers to support ongoing research projects that help our team identify potential partners, programs, and resources that could benefit residents. From educational opportunities to health and wellness resources, your research can help our team make connections that meet residents' needs.

Whether you can contribute a few hours or volunteer on an ongoing basis, your time can help us uncover new opportunities and bring valuable resources into the communities we serve.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Preet:  manpreet@commtogether.org
 703-843-1641

In service,

The Communities Together Team

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