

history

In the late 1990s Montgomery County community and education leaders recognized that the school system was struggling to meet the needs of the rapid influx of immigrant youth and families arriving in the region. Responding to this challenge, Community Bridges was founded in 1997 as a youth development organization committed to serving low-income and immigrant girls in the Long Branch community of East Silver Spring. In 1998 CB launched Jump Start Girls! Adelante Niñas!, a leadership and empowerment program for middle school girls from predominantly immigrant and Hispanic families. The CB Girls Program soon expanded to include programming for girls in elementary and high school. This ensured that girls were provided with integrated programming on a nine year continuum that would support them as they moved through the public school feeder system.

Since then, Community Bridges has launched:

- CB Family Institute (2010)
- CB Mentoring Program (2014)
- CB College and Career Planning Program (2015)
- CB Alumnae Program (2018)

Combined, our programs support the holistic development of our community's young women by actively engaging girls, families, school, and community.



"CB is a safe place where girls can come together to just be with each other, to feel open and to communicate."

—CBHS Participant

mission

Community Bridges empowers girls from diverse backgrounds to become exceptional students, positive leaders, and healthy young women.

vision

We envision an inclusive community where each person is valued and has abundant opportunities to improve themselves and the world around them.

* impact

Community Bridges has served over 4,500 girls in Montgomery County, MD.



girls program

The Community Bridges school-based Girls Program encourages girls in 4th through 12th grades to explore their identity, increase their self-esteem, and build their character in a safe and nurturing space. Using a tested, grade-integrated curriculum girls in our CB Girls program develop leadership skills and personal responsibility through a variety of experiential and in-classroom learning opportunities. CB girls grow through an age-appropriate series of team building activities, group discussions, and opportunities for creative expression.

Weekly lessons focus on topics such as:

- Healthy Relationships
- Cultural Awareness and Equality
- Goal Setting and more
- Lessons are reinforced with
- Out-of-School Trips
- Community Bridges Career & Innovation Summit
- Community Service and more

CB girls' build leadership capacity and become college and career ready. Community Bridges recruits through guidance counselors, teachers as well as parent and peer referrals.



"I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn from other parents, to share our ideas and to be heard."

—CB Parent Vanesa Pinto

family institute

The Community Bridges Family Institute provides parents and guardians of CB girls with opportunities to build skills and competencies and to navigate societal barriers. CB connects our girls and families to local resources as well as provide them with workshops and community events throughout the program year. The Family Institute is guided by the CB Parent Advisory Committee composed of parents and guardians.



mentor & volunteer programs

Our Community Bridges Mentor Program recruits women from diverse work, economic and educational backgrounds to mentor our middle/high school CB girls toward achieving their academic and long term goals. The one-to-one mentor connections allow CB girls to build healthy and positive adult relationships. CB Mentors serve an average of 4-8 hours a month with their mentee.

The Community Bridges Volunteer Program recruits members of the community to serve in our CB girls after school program and organization events. Volunteers assist in the planning, development and implementation of weekly lesson plans. We also provide a number of one-day volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

* involvement

To get involved as a mentor or a volunteer visit:
www.communitybridges-md.org/get-involved/



"I helped Etsube reveal her confidence, while she helped me reveal my patience and thoughtfulness."

—CB Mentor Margo Reid



"Community Bridges helped prepare me by giving me experience working in groups, a skill that I've discovered is very important when trying to join organizations on campus."

—Jordine Williams, Sophomore at Cornell University

college, career & alumnae programs

The Community Bridges College and Career Planning Program connects high school girls with the tools and resources needed for their next steps after high school graduation, with a strong emphasis on postsecondary education. Our goal is to increase preparation, application, acceptance and enrollment in colleges and universities for our graduates.

The Community Bridges Alumnae Program provides graduates of the CB girl program additional support through professional workshops, one-on-one coaching sessions, and connections to internship and job opportunities.

* impact

100% of high school seniors have graduated and 100% have enrolled to attend college/university



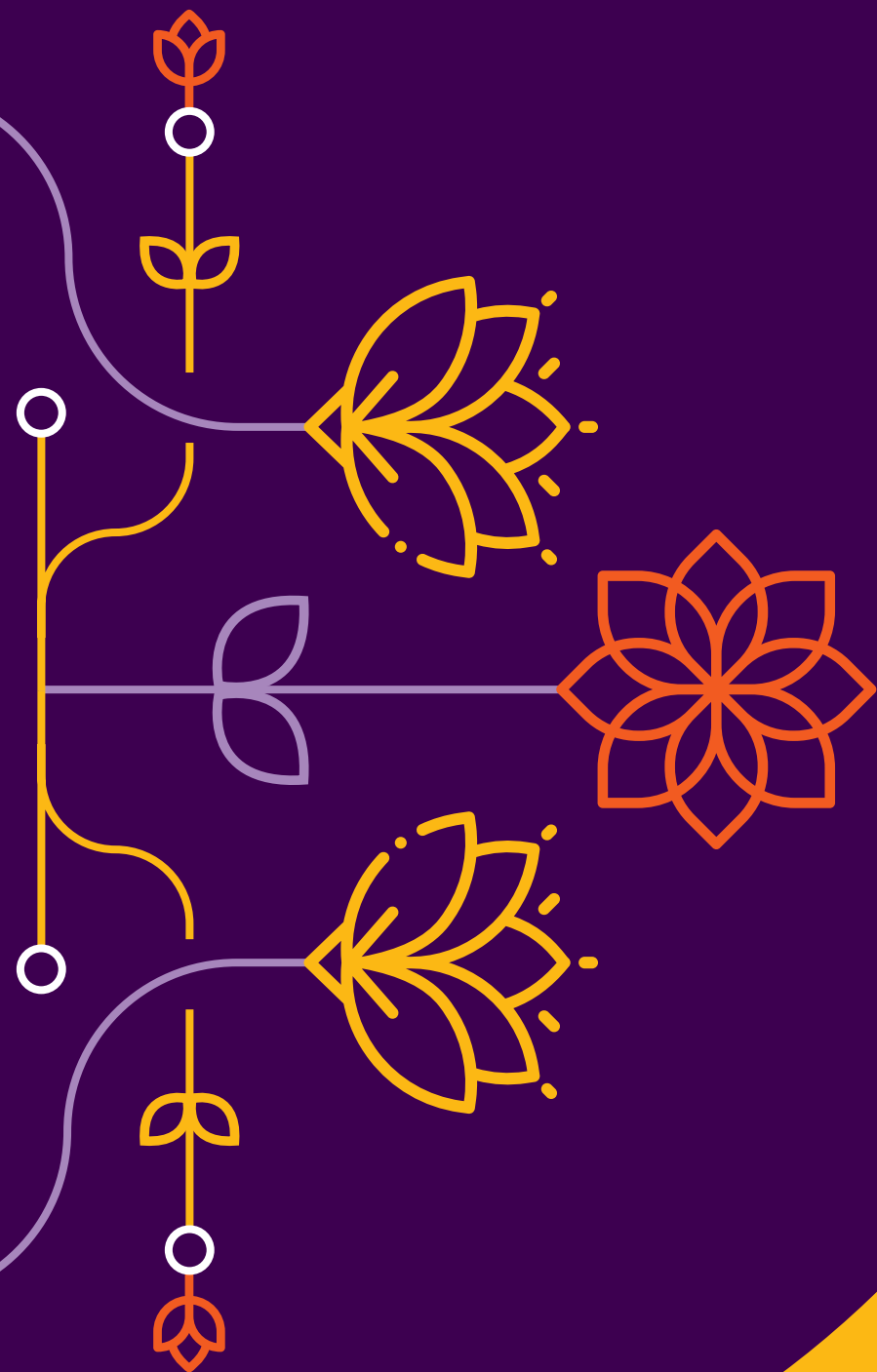


community®
bridges

Empowering Girls,
Building Leaders for the Community

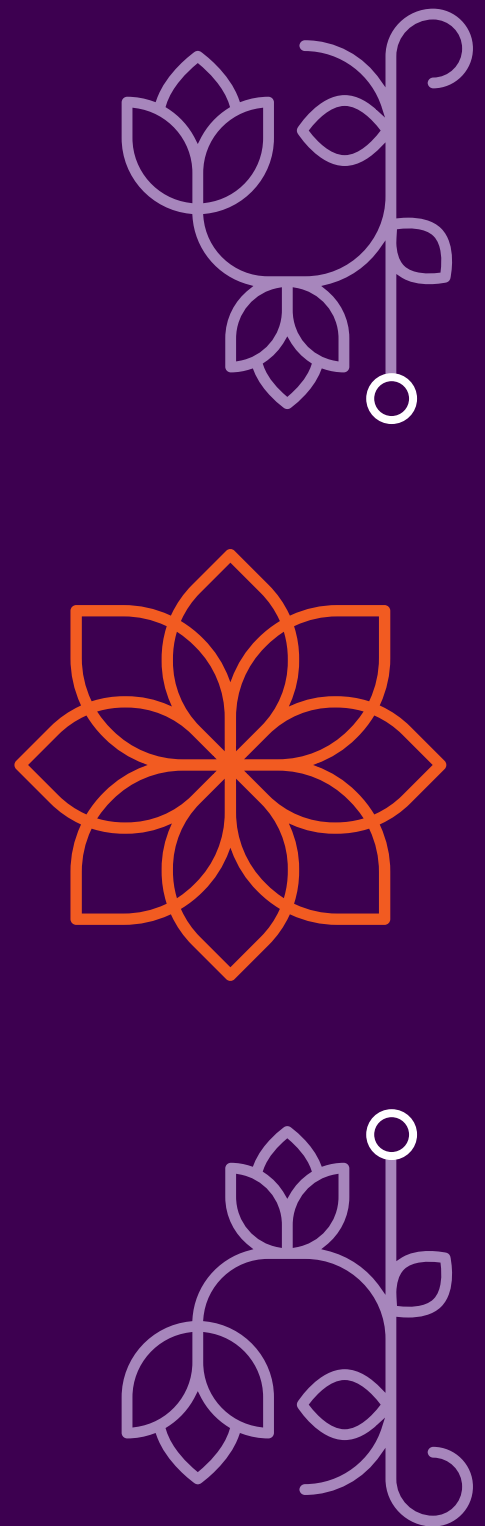


community®
bridges



the bravest.
thing you can
be is

YOURSELF



—Maya Angelou



Empowering Girls,
Building Leaders for the Community
www.communitybridges-md.org



www.communitybridges-md.org

8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite #540
Silver Spring, MD 20910