



giving
LEGACY

COMMUNITY BRIDGES'
5TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 5, 2021



community®
bridges Empowering Girls,
Building Leaders for the Community

Dear Community Bridges Family and Friends,



Welcome to the Community Bridges 5th Annual Celebration, Girl Legacy! We were hoping to be back in person this year with each of you but we are thrilled that we are still able to celebrate together virtually. Through COVID-19 and the last 18 months, we have truly made an amazing impact here in Montgomery County. We have helped over 375 girls and 1,800 family members build bridges and make connections to resources. Thanks to amazing supporters like you – we have been able to empower the CB girls and connect them to their futures while meeting their and their families basic needs such as food and resources. We have built a legacy for supporting a girl holistically and we know with your continued support, we can continue to grow and serve more girls and their families here in Montgomery County. I have the great honor of serving as the current Executive Director for Community Bridges but the girl legacy we have built has come from all of the great leaders before me and will continue in the years to come because of each and every one of you through your support of our mission and our CB girls! Each of you as supporters are part of our legacy!

Tonight you are celebrating creating opportunities, cultivating potential and achieving dreams for over 5,000 diverse girls in Montgomery County through the Community Bridges Girls Program. Tonight is Girl Legacy because we are celebrating the past, the present and looking forward to the future of our CB Girls Program. We say once a CB girl always a CB girl! Our girl legacy is living through all of our past and current CB Girls. Each and everyday we have girls passing the legacy down to the next generation of CB girls as you will see through tonight's performances, awards and virtual table ambassadors.

We celebrate our CB Girls! You will hear from the CB girls who have made connections and built amazing bridges through Community Bridges. They will serve as tonight's virtual "table" ambassadors. The stories and the legacy will continue as we continue to serve girls, families and alumnae in the year ahead.

If you have the ability to give tonight, I ask you to please make a contribution. Every dollar raised tonight will allow us to continue expanding and serving girls, families and alumnae in the year ahead. Be part of the amazing group of supporters that helps bring Community Bridges Programming to girls in Montgomery County! Thank you for your support and for helping to change the lives of girls. CB thanks each and every one of you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Babe-Thomas', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shannon Babe-Thomas

Executive Director, Community Bridges

VIP RECEPTION

Cranberry Moscow Mule

INGREDIENTS

1.5 OZ VODKA

1.5 OZ CRANBERRY JUICE

.5OZ LIME JUICE

3 OZ GINGER BEER

GARNISHED WITH DRIED CRANBERRIES

Mix vodka, lime juice, and cranberry juice in drinking cup
(stir if desired not necessary)

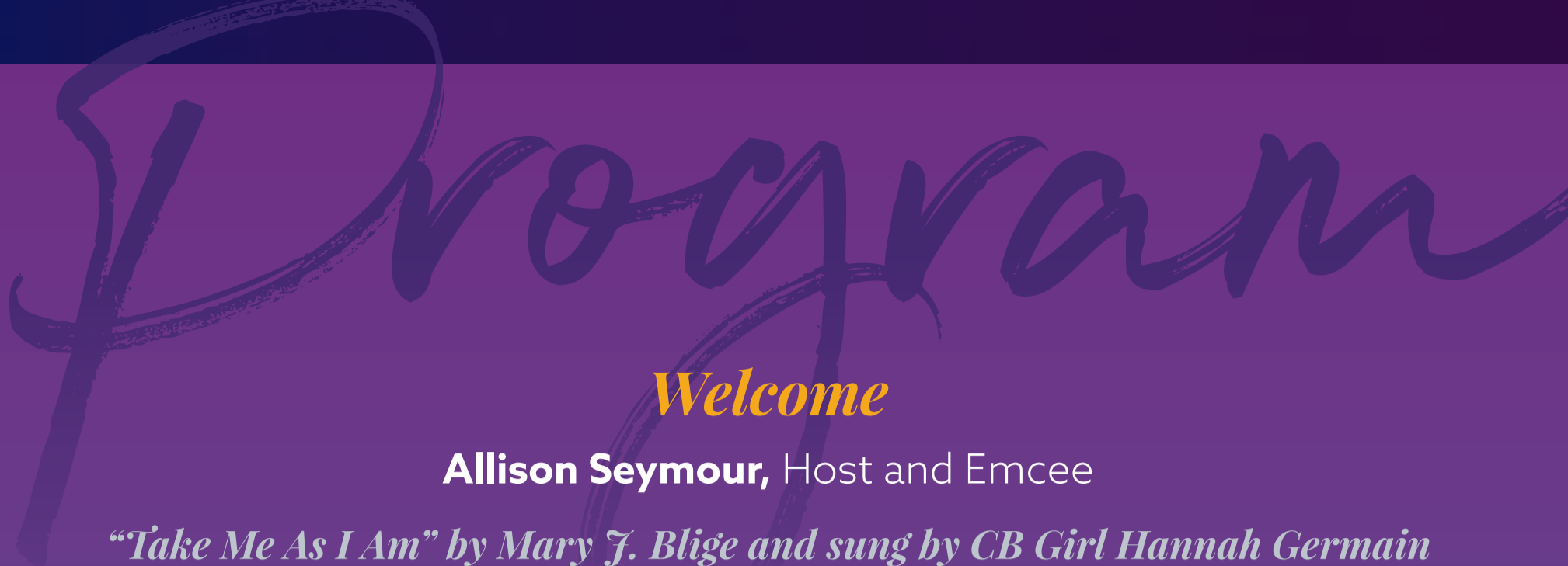
Top with ginger beer
(the carbonation in ginger beer will help mix
all ingredients and add texture)

Add a scoop of ice

Garnish with cranberries

Enjoy!

*For mocktail version leave out vodka add extra lime juice
for more citrus or cranberry for more sweetness.*



Welcome

Allison Seymour, Host and Emcee

“Take Me As I Am” by Mary J. Blige and sung by CB Girl Hannah Germain

Shannon Babe-Thomas, Executive Director, Community Bridges

Community Bridges 2021 CB Alumna Award

Poem, “Different,” written and performed by Just Love Alabi

Carla Reid, CEO and President, WSSC Water

2021 Building Bridges Award

Jillian Copeland, Founder, Main Street

African Dance by CB Girls at Montgomery Blair High School

Girl Legacy Video

Appeal for Support

Allison Seymour

WORKPLACE MATCHING GIFTS

Does your workplace offer matching gifts for charitable donations by employees? If so, please take advantage of this easy way to multiply the impact of your gift. Please check with your employer for details.

“YOLO” written and edited by Hadassah Alabi

Congressman Jamie Raskin, Maryland’s 8th Congressional District in the US House of Representatives

2021 Girl Legacy Award

Ana Sol Gutierrez, Maryland State Delegate (Retired), District 18, Montgomery County, MD

“Unspoken Truths” trailer by Betsi Shifferezo

Theresa Testoni, CB Volunteer and 2021 Montgomery County Volunteer of the Year

2021 CB Partner of the Year Award

Rainbow Community Development Center, Patricia Drumming, Executive Director

Closing Remarks

Virtual Table discussions with CB girls and alumnae

Intro to Building Bridges Award

Carla A. Reid, *General Manager and CEO of WSSC Water*



Carla A. Reid serves as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer (GM/CEO) at WSSC Water. She is the first woman to serve in this capacity. Reid is a civil engineer and senior executive with more than 30 years of business and leadership experience in the public sector.

Reid earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Howard University and a master's degree in Human Resources Management from University of Maryland University College. While at Howard University, she pledged Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. In recognition of her professional achievements, community leadership and mentoring, Reid was named one of The Daily Record's 2019 Maryland's Top 100 Women.

Building Bridges Award

Jillian Copeland, *Founder, Main Street*



Jillian was an educator, staff trainer and technology coordinator for Montgomery County Public Schools for ten years prior to founding The Diener School in 2007. Since Diener's inception, they have educated more than 250 students and their families. Jillian served as the head of school from 2007 to 2013, board of trustees chair for the following 6 years and now serves on the board of trustees.

In 2014, Jillian created Teens Like Us, a weekend and summer inclusive social program designed to meet the needs of teens with disabilities in the Greater Washington area.

Jillian's latest and greatest endeavor, Main Street, is a joint initiative with her husband Scott. Main Street is a model and a mindset, the first of its kind inclusive and affordable apartment building and community center serving people of all abilities. Main Street opened the doors to residents in the summer of 2020 and currently provides membership opportunities to over 200 resident and non-resident members.

Jillian feels honored and humbled to work with vulnerable populations. She has volunteered in many different capacities for several organizations — including CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of Montgomery County, Children's National Medical Center, and Bullis' 5K Buddy Run benefiting special needs children and adults in our local community.

Currently Jillian is a former member of the board of directors for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, a current board member at The Diener School and The National ARC. Jillian also serves on the Maryland Inclusive Housing Committee and The University of Maryland's Transition Hub. Formerly Jillian

served on the disability inclusion committee of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, The Developmental Disabilities Administration Supported Living Advisory Committee and Jubilee's Housing Task Force.

Jillian received the 2009 Community Leadership Award from Jewish Women International (JWI), the Abe Polin Humanitarian Award from the Bender JCC in 2016, and The 2018 Bullis School's Community Leadership Award. In 2018 she and her husband Scott received the Melvin Cohen Humanitarian Award from The Jewish Foundation for Group Homes and in March of 2020, they received Adapt's Humanitarian Leadership Award which was to be presented in New York City.. She is also a proud graduate of Leadership Montgomery's Class of 2013.

Jillian's passion, along with service to vulnerable populations, is to help people rise. She is a highly energetic and authentic speaker motivating people of all stages, ages and backgrounds to find their purpose and passion. Jillian and her husband Scott reside in Rockville, 2 miles from the innovative Main Street building, and are the proud parents of Danny(26), Jack(24), Nicol(22) and Ethan(20).

Intro to Girl Legacy Award

Congressman Jamie Raskin, *Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives*



Congressman Jamie Raskin proudly represents Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district includes Montgomery, Carroll, and Frederick Counties. Congressman Raskin was sworn into his third Term at the start of the 117th Congress on January 3, 2021.

This is Rep. Raskin's third term serving on the House Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on House Administration. This is his second term serving on the Rules Committee and the Coronavirus Select Subcommittee. He was also renamed Chair of the Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Chair of the Rules Subcommittee on Expedited Procedures for the 117th Congress.

Prior to his time in Congress, Raskin was a three-term State Senator in Maryland, where he also served as the Senate Majority Whip. He earned a reputation for building coalitions in Annapolis to deliver a series of landmark legislative accomplishments. He was also a professor of constitutional law at American University's Washington College of Law for more than 25 years. He authored several books, including the Washington Post best-seller *Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People* and the highly-acclaimed *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases For and About America's Students*, which has sold more than 50,000 copies.

Congressman Raskin is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Girl Legacy Award

Ana Sol Gutierrez, *Maryland State Delegate (Retired)*
District 18, Montgomery County, Md



Ana Sol Gutiérrez made history as the first Latina to be elected in Maryland, as well as the First Salvadoran American elected to public office in the USA (1990). She was also the first Hispanic state legislator elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in November 2002.

Ana has been re-elected four times and completed her 16th year in Annapolis in December 2018. She served on the House Appropriations Committee and its Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee. She also served on the Health and Human Services Subcommittee where she oversaw the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Maryland. She also co-chaired the Joint Committee of Management of Public Funds and the New American Caucus; she served on Joint Committee for Children, Youth, and Families, and was VP of the MD Women's Legislators Caucus. Previously, she was elected to the Montgomery County (MD) Board of Education, where she served as President, and Member during two terms from 1990-98.

A chemist and computer systems engineer by profession, she was appointed in 1994 by President Clinton as the Deputy Administrator for Research and Special Programs (RSPA) at the U.S. Department of Transportation. She has worked for over 30 years in information technology in the public and private sector with major IT firms on government contracts at NASA, FAA, USDOT, Education, and State Departments. She is a recognized leader and role model for women in the fields of science & technology (STEM).

She has twice been recognized among the "100 Most Influential Hispanics in the USA" by Hispanic Magazine, and named among Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2006 and 2010. She is a member of Board of Directors of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the Will/WAND Board of Directors, was Vice President for Public Policy for the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), and serves as a Trustee of Capitol University, an engineering college in Laurel, MD.

Latino Activism: In 1998, she was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve as a Hispanic member on the U.S. Census Race and Ethnicity Advisory Committee (REAC). As a Latino community advocate, she served pro bono as President of the Board of CASA de Maryland, the largest non-profit organization working with low-income and new immigrant Latino communities in Maryland. She is a founding member of the Hispanic Democratic Club of Montgomery County and the Maryland Latino Legislative Caucus to advocate for Latinos in local and state politics. She worked to improve the health and welfare of poor Latino families as a Board member of La Clínica del Pueblo, a free health clinic serving Latinos in the Washington metro area.

Key Policy Issues: Her passion for Education Equity and Social Justice and her extensive experience with public policy at local, state, and national levels, have made her an effective, progressive leader in Annapolis and nationwide. She continues to work to close the educational achievement gaps for Latino and African American students, to ensure fair, livable wages and paid sick leave for all working women and men, and to protect immigrant, civil, human, and women's rights. She worked incessantly to pass the MD Dream Act and Marriage Equality, to protect access to Maryland Driver's Licenses by residents regardless of immigration status, and fought to eliminate the death penalty. She passed legislation to strengthen gun safety laws, advocates for universal access to health care by all, and promotes expanding language access for English Language Learners and dual Language programs for all students in early grades.

Intro for Partner of the Year Award

Theresa Testoni

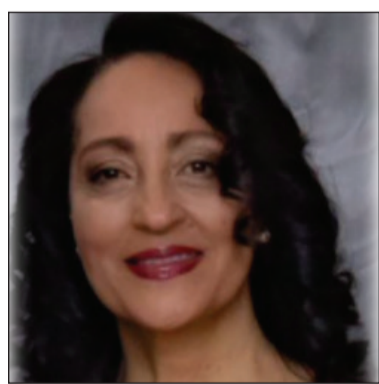


Service is the heart and soul of who Theresa Testoni is. Her lifelong passion for serving others is evident by the time, endless effort, talent, commitment, dedication, initiative, and leadership this Silver Spring resident has devoted to many organizations over the years. There is no project too small or too big for Theresa. She's been described as "an endless ball of energy."

At the start of COVID-19 closures in March 2020, Theresa began volunteering at Rainbow Community Development and typically was the first to reach out to find out what she could do to help. Theresa delivered groceries to over 48 Community Bridges households and helped prepare bags of groceries for over 6,000 households. She served as a Spanish translator for families.

Partner of the Year Award

Rainbow Community Development Center, Patricia Drumming



The Rainbow Community Development Center (RCDC), Inc.'s mission is to build better lives for those in need through Safety Net Services: Emergency Food Pantry, Eviction Prevention, Prevention of Utility Cutoff, and Temporary Emergency Shelter. The food pantry is our largest program. Our goals for the Food Pantry are to reduce hunger; provide food from all the USDA recommended food groups, especially fresh produce; increase student learning; decrease obesity rates and other health related diseases among the families we serve.



Patricia Dunning is the Executive Director at Rainbow Community Development Center. Patricia served as Deputy Director for the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD, an organization of owners and operators in the automotive industry. Prior to that, she was the National Office Manager for BDPA IT Thought Leaders, an organization for IT professionals across industries. She is also a veteran of the US Air Force with over 14 years of service. Patricia is most passionate about eradicating poverty and hunger; and also about leveling the playing field for families in underserved communities.

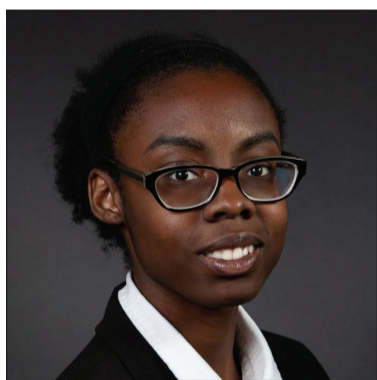
2021 CB Alumna Award Recipient

Mirian Fuentes



Mirian is a senior at Maryland Institute College of Art, MICA. Mirian realized that one person can make a positive notable difference not only in the community, but in other individuals. Long story short, Mirian was walking across the MICA campus, and saw a girl crying around the corner of her eye. She recognized her from one of her classes, she was alone so she went up to comfort her. It was their first conversation ever, but she opened up as if we've known each other for so long. She opened up because Mirian made her feel comfortable in being herself. By the end she felt good and they hugged. Since then, they became friends and talk every now and then. Mirian feels like this is what exemplifies a CB girl, CB caring for girls, and those same girls caring for others is awesome!

Jordine Williams



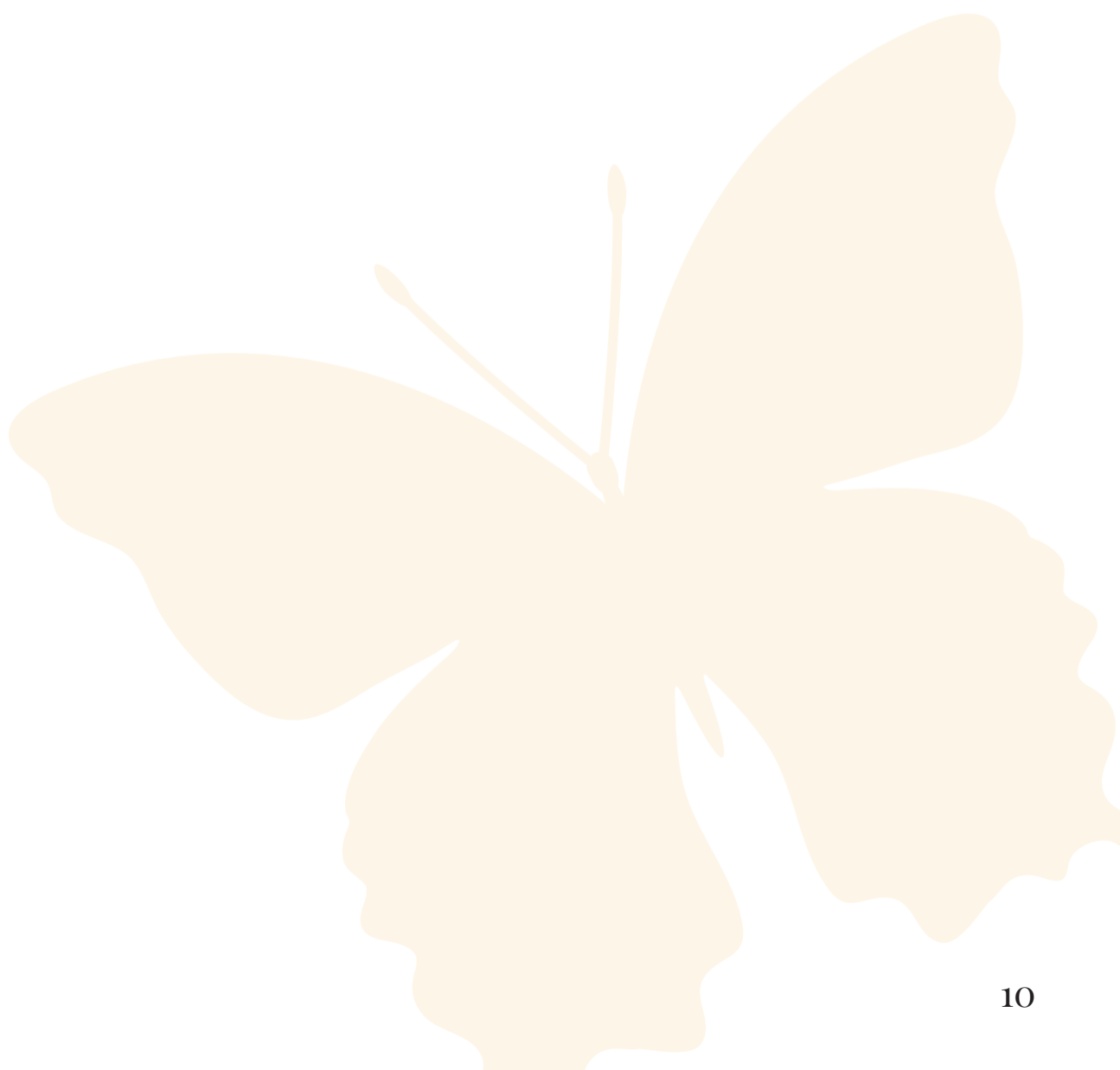
Jordine is a senior at Cornell University studying Applied Economics and Management. Jordine exemplifies the ideal of being an exceptional student by continuing to pursue her Bachelor's degree in Applied Economics and Management. Each semester she has achieved the Dean's List designation for academic excellence. Whenever she can, she takes classes that not only fulfill her degree requirements but that also are engaging and that leave her with lessons that she can use in the real world. Jordine is a positive leader who currently serves as a Co-President of Cornell Translator Interpreter Program, an organization that provides free translation and interpretation services to the local community through student volunteers. As Co-President, it is part of her role to ensure that other board members feel valued and can work together efficiently to ensure that we achieve our goal of bridging language barriers. Lastly, Jordine is a healthy young woman, because amongst all her endeavors she still makes sure to find time to relax, hang out with friends, and cultivate non-academic or work-related aspects of life. In these ways, Jordine embodies all the ideals of a CB girl.

Emcee

Allison Seymour, WUSA9



Allison Seymour is an Emmy award winning anchor who has been waking up viewers on morning news in her hometown of Washington, DC since 1999. Allison started her career in television at the Washington, DC Bureau of AMC News, behind the scenes, before earning her Master of Mass Communication at the University of South Carolina. She is a proud graduate of Hampton University, where she is enshrined in the Mass Media Hall of Fame. Allison's on air career began during the blizzard of 1993 in Upstate New York. She would go on to work in Utica, Binghamton and Albany, New York. During the summer of 1998 Allison took an anchor position in St. Louis, Missouri where, on her first day on the job, she met her future husband, radio host Marc Clarke. Allison is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America. She and her husband Marc share three daughters and two shelter pups. Allison feels extremely grateful to the community for all of the support over the years and is excited to be part of the WUSA9 family.



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Thank you to those who donated their time and services to Community Bridges and making Girl Legacy a Success!

ARTS ON THE BLOCK for making the official Girl Legacy Awards.

CARA CAPIZZI for designing everything for Girl Legacy.

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES SILVER SPRING for donating the Bundlets to all guests.

WAREDACA BREWING for hosting a Charity Night as our official kick off to Girl Legacy.

MCCLINTOCK DISTILLERY for donating the vodka for tonight's VIP reception.

PRINT EXHIBIT PARTNERS for printing all of the banners.

Get Involved

Volunteer

Become a CB Mentor

Donate

Host a Friend-raiser

Sign up for the CB e-Newsletter

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Contact [Shannon Babe-Thomas](#) for details

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