

girl legacy 2024

COMMUNITY BRIDGES'
ANNUAL CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 4, 2024



community®
bridges Empowering Girls,
Building Leaders for the Community

Dear Community Bridges Family and Friends,



Welcome to the 8th Annual Community Bridges Girl Legacy Celebration! Today, we honor a legacy of 27 years of transformation and empowerment in Montgomery County. Over the years, we have impacted the lives of more than 6,500 girls, providing them with the tools to thrive as students, engaged community members, and confident leaders.

This incredible journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of individuals like you. Together, we have created a space where CB girls can dream big and achieve their full potential. From grade 4 through college and beyond, we are building bridges to bright futures.

If you have the capacity to give tonight, I humbly ask you to consider making a contribution. Every dollar raised will be a beacon of hope, enabling us to expand our footprint, reach more schools in Montgomery County, and empower a broader spectrum of girls in grades 4-12. You have the opportunity to be part of an extraordinary community of supporters who are instrumental in bringing the transformative Community Bridges programming to new schools. Your support is not just financial; it's an investment in the future of our CB girls. Community Bridges extends its deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to changing the lives of these remarkable girls.

As the Executive Director of Community Bridges, I am humbled and inspired to continue the work of those who came before me. Their dedication and vision laid the foundation for this enduring legacy. Thanks to your commitment, we are not only sustaining this legacy but expanding it to reach even more girls in our community.

Tonight, we celebrate our collective impact and look forward to a future filled with promise. Your support is the cornerstone of this legacy, and I am deeply grateful for each of you. Together, let's continue to empower, connect, and uplift CB girls for generations to come.

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

Shannon Babe-Thomas

Executive Director, Community Bridges

Community Bridges Board of Directors

BOARD CHAIR

Priscilla Bullock
Tax Partner, PwC

VICE CHAIR

Deirdre Robinson
*Vice President, Human Resources,
The Donohoe Companies, Inc.*

SECRETARY

Jennifer Creighton
Staff Vice President, Molina Healthcare

TREASURER

Kenneth Nelson
*Director, Business and Community
Outreach, Montgomery College*

DIRECTORS

Brooke Butle
Director, PwC

Christina Taylor Serrano
*President and CEO,
Taylormade Experience*

Ericka Boone

*Director, Division of Biomedical
Research Workforce (NIH)*

Iris Veronica Jimenez

*Managing Partner/ Culinary Director at
Centrado Food Group*

Kate Kennedy

*Chief Development Officer at National
CASA/GAL Association for Children*

Leslie Heyer

President, Cycle Technologies

Marina Major

*President, Little Leaves
Behavioral Services*

Margo Reid

Partner Consultant, Capacity Partners

Nichole Hoeflich

*Director of Programs, Grantmakers
for Effective Organizations*

Wendy Doernberg

*Senior Equal Employment Opportunity
Specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce*

Community Bridges Staff

Shannon Babe-Thomas

Executive Director

Isabel Argoti

Deputy Director of Programs

Jane De Angeli

Director of College Access and Success

Michelle Haughton

College Access and Success Advisor

Dèjá Taylor

High School Program Manager

Isha Sarr

Middle School Program Manager

Shelley Sams

*Mentor and Middle School
Program Manager*

Erin Lee

Elementary School Program Manager

Katie Manyin

*Education and Elementary
Program Manager*

Cathariya Chanthaboun

Development and Operations Consultant

Morghan Bacon

AmeriCorps Member

Chade' Herring

AmeriCorps Member

Courtney Fookes

AmeriCorps Member

Amelia Lindsay-Kaufman

AmeriCorps VISTA

Welcome

Eun Yang, NBC4, Emcee

Ballet Performance to “9 to 5” by Nate Fifeild

Jaqueline and Sofia Quinteros Morales, A. Mario Loiederman Middle School

Shannon Babe-Thomas, Executive Director, Community Bridges

“I Look to You,” by Whitney Houston

Sung by Community Bridges Girl Madison Perkins, Richard Montgomery High School

2024 Community Bridges Alumna Award

Alexa Amaya, Trinity Washington University

Dinner

2024 Girl Legacy Award

Donohoe Companies accepted by Danielle Rice, Assistant VP Human Resources

“Anti-Fragile” Dance

by Community Bridges Girls, Jamila Nguyen, Naomi Geta,
Chenuli Thiranagama, Albert Einstein High School

2024 Empowerment Champion Award

Robin Salomon

“This Is Your Life” by Lalah Hathaway

Sung by Hannah Germain and Yeabsira Mekonnen,
Community Bridges Girls, Montgomery Blair High School

Girl Legacy Video

Appeal for Support

Shannon Babe-Thomas

WORKPLACE MATCHING GIFTS

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

“I Wanna Dance with Somebody”

Sung by Community Bridges Alumnae Christy Ramos,
Jam Ramos and Abigail Ofous

2024 Building Bridges Award

County Executive Marc Elrich

“Rhythms of Africa” Dance

By Community Bridges Girls, Talia Campbell, Aminata Preira, Marieme Dieng, Sally Ndiaya, Liyanna Merhatsion, Anna Maiga, Keona Johnson, Sionna Tantoh, Talia Campbell and Fikir Yilma, Takoma Park Middle School, Montgomery Blair High School and John F. Kennedy High School

Closing Remarks

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS

BRONZE SPONSORS



Priscilla Bullock

Jane De Angeli and
Mark Kindig



PURPLE SPONSORS



DONOHOE

Wendy Doernberg
and Aaron Goldstein

Kate Kennedy

Streamline
Property
Management

Cyndie Shadow
and GBCC LLC.

Seneca
Community Church

Margo Reid and
Greg Simon

Carla Reid

MEDIA SPONSOR

WASHINGTONIAN

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

BELL FLOWERS for the floral
centerpieces

CAPIZZI DESIGNS for designing
everything for Girl Legacy.

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES SILVER
SPRING for donating the Bundtins o Bell

PRINT EXHIBIT PARTNERS for printing
all of the banners, signs and centerpieces
for Girl Legacy.

THE FILLMORE SILVER SPRING

Emcee

Eun Yang, News4 Anchor



Eun Yang anchors News4 at 4 and News4 at 6, the #1 rated evening newscast in the Washington area, for NBC4. Since joining NBC4, Yang has covered big stories including the inaugurations of presidents, visits by two popes, Opening Day at Nationals Park and the Olympics in South Korea and Tokyo. Yang spent more than 10 years anchoring News4 Today, for which she won several EMMY awards. Before joining News4, Yang worked at the National Geographic Channel in Washington and WUSA-TV. Yang received the Television Broadcast Journalist Award from the Multicultural Media Correspondents Association, a community leadership award from AALEAD, Heroes of Our Time Award from the Council of Korean Americans and a Student Role Model award from the Korean American Scholarship Foundation, among other recognitions. Born in Seoul, Korea, Yang moved to the Washington area before she was 3. She grew up in Prince George's County and Montgomery County, attended Paint Branch High School and graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Maryland. She and her husband are raising their three children in Washington, DC.

Donohoe Companies

Danielle Rice, Assistant VP, Human Resources



Danielle Rice is Assistant Vice President of Human Resources of The Donohoe Companies where she uses her expertise and leadership skills to improve the entire employee life cycle for all business units: talent acquisition, engagement, development, performance, separation, company policy, and legal compliance. She has 25 years of experience positively impacting corporate performance through strategic planning, development, and execution of human resources programs and projects.

Danielle joined Donohoe as Director of Human Resources in 2018 and has been instrumental in formulating Donohoe's pandemic-related policies and creating the company's Women's Leadership Initiative and the Inclusion & Diversity Committee. She is a trusted HR professional who has effectively developed processes and procedures to address critical workforce issues, align HR goals with vital organizational initiatives, and develop policies to address internal and legislative compliance matters. Prior to Donohoe, Danielle served as Director of Human Resources at Interstate Hotels and Manager of Human Resources at Marriott.

County Executive Marc Elrich



Marc Elrich was elected as Montgomery County Executive on Nov. 6, 2018. He had previously served three terms (12 years) on the Montgomery County Council as an at-large member, being first elected in 2006. He served as a Councilmember on the Takoma Park City Council from 1987-2006. For 17 years, he was a teacher at Rolling Terrace Elementary School in Takoma Park.

As a County Councilmember, he was the chief sponsor of several landmark pieces of legislation and programs. He led the successful effort to increase the Montgomery County minimum wage in coordination with surrounding jurisdictions to \$11.50 an hour and subsequent legislation that will eventually increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. He was the first elected official to propose building a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system throughout the County to address Montgomery's transportation and environmental problems. Ground was broken in Fall 2018 for the first BRT line, which will run along Route 29.

Throughout his political career, he has been a champion of improving tenants' rights and for making developers pay for a greater share of the infrastructure cost to build schools and transportation solutions. He was a leader in the fight to preserve Ten Mile Creek in the Clarksburg area by limiting the proposed development that would have threatened the health of Montgomery County's last best stream which flows into the County's backup water reservoir.

County Executive Elrich was born in Washington, D.C., and moved to Montgomery County at a young age. He attended McKenney Hills Elementary School, Montgomery Hills Junior High School and Einstein High School. After attending the University of Maryland, he and his wife raised their family in Takoma Park.



Robin Salomon



Robin Salomon is President of Skyline LLC, a developer of affordable multi-family rental housing, and previously provided consulting services to governmental entities and non-profits in all aspects of the affordable housing development process. During his time at Skyline LLC the organization has had partnership interests in excess of 7,000 units of multi-family housing throughout the nation including Missouri, New York, New Jersey, California, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Kentucky, and Puerto Rico.

A graduate of Kenyon College, Commissioner Salomon also has extensive experience with a wide variety of affordable housing programs including the Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITC); HOPE VI; HOME; CDBG; Section 202; Section 8, and FHA-insured properties, as well as state low-income housing tax credits. He was the developer of the first-ever Section 236 IRP decoupling preservation transactions resulting in a new program at HUD.

His past experience also includes working as executive assistant to a former Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and working as a government relations adviser with a focus on affordable housing issues before Congress and the administration.

His community involvement responsibilities include HOC Commissioner, the founder of Lasso The Moon Foundation, past board chair of Community Bridges, past board member of The Siena School Foundation and Riverworks Arts Center.

Alexa Amaya, Community Bridges Alumna, Trinity Washington University



Alexa Amaya is a Community Bridges alumna class of 2021 who is now studying Nursing at Trinity Washington University in Washington, DC. Alexa is passionate about patient advocacy and is committed to, "treating each and every patient as a human being with a soul, rather than seeing them as just another number." Alexa intends to work in the pediatric realm as a NICU nurse or with a hospital's acute care team. Alexa has also mentored and encouraged younger CB girls considering nursing as a career.

Get Involved

Volunteer

Become a CB Mentor

Donate

Host a Friend-raiser

Sign up for the CB e-Newsletter

Join the Board of Directors

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



community[®]
bridges Empowering Girls,
Building Leaders for the Community

communitybridges-md.org