

girl 2025 legacy



COMMUNITY BRIDGES'
ANNUAL CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 12, 2025



community®
bridges Empowering Girls,
Building Leaders for the Community

Dear Community Bridges Family and Friends,



Welcome to the 9th Annual Community Bridges Girl Legacy Celebration! It is amazing to see all of you here tonight as we come together to celebrate 28 years of transformation, empowerment, and hope for girls in Montgomery County. Over nearly three decades, Community Bridges has touched the lives of more than 6,500 girls, helping them discover their voices, their confidence, and their capacity to lead. These are not just programs or opportunities, they are lifelines, moments that shape the trajectory of a young woman's life, giving her the courage to dream bigger than she ever imagined and the tools to make those dreams real.

This work is possible because of people like you, people who believe in the potential of every girl. Because of your generosity and commitment, CB girls have a safe space to explore, to grow, to stumble, and to soar. From grade 4 through college and beyond, we are not just building programs, we are building bridges to futures filled with promise, hope, and possibility.

If you have the capacity to give tonight, I invite you to do so with an open heart. Every gift, no matter the size, carries the power to change a life. Your support means more than funding; it means a chance for a girl to see herself as a leader, to step into her full potential, and to know she is seen, valued, and believed in.

As Executive Director, I am humbled every day by the courage and determination of the girls we serve, and by the unwavering dedication of this community that lifts them up. Together, we are not just sustaining a legacy, we are expanding it! We are reaching more schools, touching more lives, and creating generations of girls who know they can make a difference in the world.

Tonight, we celebrate our shared impact. We celebrate every mentor, supporter, and volunteer who has poured love, time, and energy into this work. But most of all, we celebrate our girls! Thank you for being here, for believing in them, and for being an essential part of this extraordinary journey. Together, let's continue to empower, connect, and uplift CB girls, not just for tonight, but for tomorrow.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Babe-Thomas'.

Shannon Babe-Thomas

Executive Director, Community Bridges

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Welcome

Eun Yang, NBC4, Emcee

“Welcome to Ethiopia,” Dance

Community Bridges Girls Saron Mekonnen, Yeabsira Mekonnen, Saron Wasse, Fikir Yilma, Migbare Belete, Kalani Bond, Elilta Tesfazghi, Mestereselase Yirko, Liyana Merhatsion from Montgomery Blair High School

Shannon Babe-Thomas, Executive Director, Community Bridges

“I Don’t Wanna Talk About It,” by Rod Stewart

Sung by Community Bridges Girls Renee Indrupati and Chenuli Thiranagama, Albert Einstein High School

2025 Community Bridges Alumna Award

Khayla Robinson

Dinner

2025 Building Bridges Award

Jennifer Meltzer

Debut by Us

By Community Bridges Girls Naomi Geta and Jamila Nguyen, Albert Einstein High School

Community Bridges 2025 Empowerment Champion Award

Katey Boerner

“Rise Up”

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

Girl Legacy Video

Appeal for Support

Shannon Babe-Thomas and Margo Reid

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.

“Someone Like You” by Adele

Sung by Aiko Shelton, Community Bridges Girl, Albert Einstein High School

2025 Girl Legacy Award

Kevin Beverly

“Rhythms of Africa” Dance

Community Bridges Girls, Yeabsira Mekonnen, Saron Wasse, Fikir Yilma, Mestereselase Yirko, Liyana Merhatsion, Anna Maiga, Sionna Tantoh, Salimata Ndiaye, Marieme Dieng, Talia Campbell, Keona Johnson and Salimata Ndiayefrom Montgomery Blair, Northwood and Kennedy High School

Closing Remarks

Thank You

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BRONZE SPONSORS



Priscilla Bullock



Jane De Angeli
and Mark Kindig



Robin and
Sarah Salomon



PURPLE SPONSORS



Wendy Doernberg
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Friends of Seneca
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Greg Simon

Carla Reid

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ALCOHOL SPONSORS

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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 Bundtinis on the tables this evening.

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

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.

Kevin Beverly



Kevin Beverly is the former President and CEO of Social & Scientific Systems, Inc. in Silver Spring, MD (2015- 2019) and Executive Officer of DLH Corporation NASDAQ:DLHC (2019-2020). He joined SSS in 2003 and served as Vice President of Business Development and Executive Vice President and President of the company. His strength and experience in leadership, strategy, operations, project management, and sales and marketing greatly contributed to the company's growth and success. He has extensive leadership experience in ESOP companies.

Before joining Social & Scientific Systems, Kevin served in increasingly responsible leadership, strategy and management and sales positions at Abt Associates, BAE Systems Corporation, Computer Sciences Corporation, PSI International, the National Library of Medicine and the World Health Organization.

Kevin served on the CareFirst of Maryland, Inc. (CFMI) Board from January 2016-December 2024. He was also elected to the CareFirst, Inc. (CFI) Board in December 2019. He served as the chair of the Mission & Oversight Committee. He also served as a member of the Executive, Compensation Service & Quality, Strategy, and Governance and Nominating Committees. Kevin also serves as a Chair on the Children's Opportunity Alliance Board, the Acting Executive Director and current Board Chair of Moving Dorchester Forward, the Local Management Board in Dorchester County MD. He is also the Board Chair of CollegeTracks, a college access and success nonprofit. He is the

immediate past Chair of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation and the current Chair of the Board of Advisors of the Universities at Shady Grove within the University System of Maryland.

He is the former chair for the Community Foundation of Montgomery County, Maryland. He has served as the chair of the Children's Opportunity Fund in Montgomery County, Maryland at the pleasure of the County Executive. He was a founding Chair of Montgomery Moving Forward, a collective impact entity in Montgomery County. He has served on the Board of the Professional Services Council (PSC) and chaired their annual conference.

Kevin is very active in consulting and mentoring small businesses and nonprofit leaders. He and his wife founded the Mildred Beverly Memorial Family Fund which provides college scholarships for underprivileged youth in Dorchester County, MD.

Kevin is a 2017 inductee into the Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame and a 2019 recipient of the World Trade Center Institute's International Business Leadership Award. He was recognized as the Philanthropist of the Year in Montgomery County by the Greater Washington Community Foundation in 2021. He was recognized as the philanthropist of the year by the YMCA in 2013 and he has been recognized for his community work by the Boys and Girls clubs of America, and Hearts and Homes for Children and Families.

Kevin holds an undergraduate degree in criminal justice and a master's degree from the College of Information, both from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Kevin is an avid cyclist. He and his wife of 42 years, Diane have two boys, Colin and Eric.

Jennifer Meltzer



Jennifer Meltzer serves as a Managing Partner of Montgomery County based barbeque food truck, Money Muscle BBQ, full service All Set Restaurant & Bar and quick service Fryer's Roadside . A Maryland native, Meltzer fondly recalls the warm hospitality of the numerous "Crab & Coors-Lite" parties hosted by family during the summers of her childhood. Her love of family-centered celebrations has its roots in those backyard feasts and annual summertime trips to New England, which introduced her to delicious lobsters and a lifelong love of soft-serve ice cream.

Her formal start in hospitality came while she was a student at the University of Virginia. Meltzer worked part-time at a local sandwich shop and quickly discovered the joy in making people happy with a simple sandwich and a smile. After graduation, she went on to obtain her Masters in Middle Eastern Studies at Georgetown University and continued to work in restaurants while applying to think tank and non-profit jobs.

To the dismay of her father, a former bar owner well-versed in the ups and downs of the industry, Meltzer abandoned her job search after a few months and gave into the pull of what she describes as “hospitality endorphins.” She thrived off of the high energy of dinner service at the downtown D.C. steakhouse, BLT Steak, and continued her love of learning by picking up lessons and lingo from the steakhouse kitchen team.

Her fifteen-year career history includes management positions with Founding Farmers, Del Frisco’s Grille and The Capital Grille, where she met her then future business partner and now husband, Chef Edward Reavis. In 2015, the couple opened their first concept, All Set, a New England inspired restaurant, in Silver Spring, Maryland. After five years in business, the restaurant has become a beloved part of the Montgomery County dining scene for its seasonally inspired, seafood-centric menu, and Meltzer hopes to achieve similar success with the launch of their food truck, Money Muscle BBQ. Named as a nod to her husband’s love of health and fitness, and the award-winning barbeque pork cut, Money Muscle BBQ offers a menu of distinct American barbeque styles.

When she is not at the restaurant or pitching a hand on the food truck, Meltzer can be found binge watching the newest wilderness survival show, picking up a new book or watching her son on the football field.

Katey Boerner



Katey Boerner is the Chief Executive Officer of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, where she has served as the founding Executive Director and CEO since 2002. Under her leadership, the Partnership has grown into a nationally recognized model for public-private collaboration in the arts. Boerner established a strong organizational and business structure that

enables artists, partner organizations, and park programs to thrive. She guided a capital renovation of historic park buildings and developed a robust fundraising and earned income program to sustain the Park’s facilities and programs. As part of her work at the park she developed new free public programs and festivals, highlighting the historic Dentzel Carousel and the park’s civil rights history; new gallery and exhibition facilities; an open proposal process for park programs to ensure inclusion and accessibility; and a scholarship and transportation fund to ensure access for low-income students to park programs. A master planning effort has been initiated under her leadership that lays out plans for further improvements within the park to better meet the needs of visitors and park programs.

Beyond her work at Glen Echo Park, Boerner is an active leader in the Montgomery County arts and civic community. She has led county-wide arts advocacy efforts and held leadership roles with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club and Committee for Montgomery. She received the Montgomery County Executive’s Arts Award in 2009 and completed a DEAI leadership

certification through the Sorkin Center. Previously, Boerner held arts management positions in Boston and Raleigh and served as CFO for Share Our Strength, a national anti-hunger organization. A Bethesda native, she earned her B.A. from Tufts University and an M.S. in Management from North Carolina State University.

Khayla Robinson, Community Bridges Alumna



Khayla Robinson is a 2025 graduate of the Ithaca College Roy H. Park School of Communications, holding a Bachelor of Science in Television & Digital Media Production. At Ithaca College she served as the Co-President and Creative Director for Pulse Hip-Hop Ithaca, as well as the Hip, Hop, Rap & R&B Music Director for WICB Radio Ithaca. At WICB, Khayla DJ'd since her freshman year, hosting a show focused on women's music called "Lady's First."

While at college, Khayla planned outreach and communications for a Syracuse-based nonprofit called, "Black Girls WILL Get Love," which offers leadership programming for local high school students. After internships with Apple and District Leadership, Khayla has recently begun work with the Jamaican Embassy in Washington DC.

Before college, Khayla participated in the CBHS program at Montgomery Blair High School and participated in our CB College Access program. At her graduation, Khayla was selected for the Michele Renee Wilson Memorial Award, awarded for embodying excellence, kindness, and compassion. Her selection for this cherished award shows the character we know so well.

Khayla is the kind of person who shows up and not just on time. She's at every CB College Success Program event, offering thoughtful planning ideas, arriving early to set up and pin snowflakes, queuing up a playlist that gets everyone snapping their fingers and humming along, and staying late to help clean up. Whatever needs to be done, Khayla is there to make it happen with enthusiasm and heart.

In recent years, Khayla has also stepped confidently into leadership. Over last winter break, she facilitated a session for current college students on navigating the summer internship search. This past August, she skillfully moderated a panel of upperclassmen, guiding a discussion on the transition to college for our 2025 graduates at the College Send-Off. A young professional of many talents, Khayla also brought her signature warmth and creativity to our social media through the "We Belong In College" series, beautifully showcasing our newest college freshmen.

We are grateful for Khayla's conviction and advocacy, all extended with genuine warmth. She is the quintessential CB girl — now all grown up. Congratulations to Khayla, our Alumna honoree!

Get Involved

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



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