

Inspired by the Gospel mandates to LOVE, SERVE and TEACH, Catholic Charities provides care and services to IMPROVE the LIVES of Marylanders in need.

SUMMER 2026

BLESSINGS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL



WE'RE OPEN — AND WEST BALTIMORE IS COMING IN

THE DOORS ARE OPEN at the Carolyn E. Fugett Intergenerational Center and West Baltimore is already stepping into a new era of opportunity.

That excitement was on full display at the ribbon cutting on May 21st, where Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott, and Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, among others, joined donors, community members, partners, and families to celebrate its grand opening. The event marked more than a milestone — it showcased a vision already coming to life, as generations gathered under one roof where learning, work, recreation, and support now intersect every day.

From the beginning, collaboration has defined this space. For the celebration, youth from Requity Foundation catered the event, offering a glimpse

“When I saw it all lit up, I thought — this is good...”

of the hands-on workforce training happening inside the building. Dance & Bmore Elder Arts and Wellness was on-site demonstrating a joyful blend of music, movement, and community for adults 60 years+. Just steps away, Head Start classrooms were active with early learners, while outside, the new basketball dome buzzed with energy — now home to PeacePlayers programming and youth development activities.

The ribbon cutting also honored legacy and leadership. Catholic Charities Executive Director Dave Kinkopf recognized Bill McCarthy, former executive director of Catholic Charities, with the dome basketball court named in his honor and

his name etched into the court itself — a lasting tribute to the leadership and vision that helped lay the foundation for this moment.

This is more than a building. It's a long-envisioned investment in community where families are finding support, stability, and hope in one place.

Across the street, Margaret Jones watched the transformation unfold. A retired nurse, she saw the former Alexander Hamilton Elementary School reimagined into something new.

“When I saw it all lit up, I thought — this is good,” she said.

For families like Rahmaat Lataesha Ajenifiya's, the center represents both continuity and change. Her mother once taught art in this very building. Today, Rahmaat's children are enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start here.

“I'm excited and intrigued,” she said. “So far, so good. We're looking forward to everything that's still to come.”

That sense of possibility is the point. It's a model built on connection, where every interaction can open a door — and this is just the beginning.

More families will walk through these doors. More children will learn and grow. More adults will gain skills and confidence. With every program and partnership, the vision continues to come to life.

“What we're seeing already is exactly what we hoped for — people coming in for one service and discovering new opportunities,” said center director Kevin Creamer.

The doors are open — and West Baltimore is energized and ready.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Because of you, we are open.

After years of vision, planning, and partnership, the Carolyn E. Fugett Intergenerational Center is now a vibrant reality in West Baltimore. What was once a dream has become a place filled with energy, opportunity, and hope for children, families, and older adults alike.

Your generosity made this possible.

You believed in a bold, community-driven vision — one that brings early childhood education, workforce development, behavioral health services, and essential supports together under one roof. Today, that vision is alive in every corner of this building.

Children are getting a strong start through Head Start and Early Head Start. Young people are gaining hands-on skills that lead to meaningful careers. Adults are finding pathways to employment and long-term stability. Families and seniors are receiving food, care, and support in a space designed to welcome them with dignity and respect.

We are also deeply grateful to the Greater Promise campaign donors and everyone who helped champion this transformational effort. Your commitment to investing in opportunity, equity, and the long-term success of Baltimore's youth and families helped lay the foundation for what this center represents today.

Because of you, more doors are opening every day.

Your commitment is not just an investment in a building — it is an investment in people. In potential. In possibility. And in a future where opportunity is not limited by zip code. It reflects what can happen when a community comes together with shared purpose and belief in a better future.

As we celebrate this opening, we also look ahead knowing that the real impact will be seen in the lives changed here every single day, for generations.

Thank you for helping us build a better future.

With gratitude,



Dave
Dave Kinkopf,
Executive Director

A Beacon of Hope in West Baltimore



BALTIMORE CITY HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

AFTER HER FIRST DAY AT THE CAROLYN E. FUGETT INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER, 4-year-old Eva couldn't wait to tell her mom about everything — especially the new playground.

"She kept telling me know how much she loved the new school," said Angel Sturgis. "It's a breath of fresh air."

Eva is one of about 100 infants, toddlers and preschoolers who will fill the center's nine Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms — bright, colorful thoughtfully designed spaces that support early learning and development.

From these classrooms, Catholic Charities will deliver comprehensive early childhood

LOVING OUR NEW HOME FOR LEARNING

education and family support services, helping ensure children are prepared for elementary school. The Fugett Intergenerational Center will be the largest Head Start site in Baltimore City, and the agency's first city-based Early Head Start location.

A BIG MOVE FOR A LITTLE ONE

Eva started at Catholic Charities' Head Start program across the street at St. Edward's Church when she was 3, where she quickly made friends and learned her letters, numbers, and colors. On her daily drive to school, she watched the new building — and its playground — take shape.

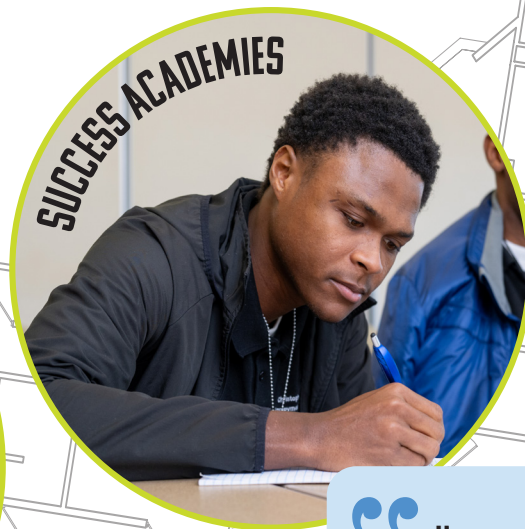
When the center was finally complete, teachers began

preparing children for the transition.

"We talked about it for two weeks. We were going to a new school with new toys, but the same teachers and the same friends," said Bernetta Epps, who teaches 3- to 5-year-olds. "Some were nervous, some cried and some were excited."

Angel said she and her daughter had been "waiting patiently" for the move and didn't worry about the transition to the new space.

"There are so many people who care about your child and want your family to succeed," she said of the Head Start team. "I love everything about it. It's a blessing for all of us."



"This used to be my elementary school! It helps the neighborhood and keeps people here."
— Daron Maye, community member

"I'm so glad it's open now. ... This is a blessing for the community."
— Drusilla Bunch, community member

PEACEPLAYERS

HAVING A BALL

PeacePlayers uses sports to foster young leaders and bridge community divides around the globe, including Northern Ireland, South Africa, and the Middle East. However, the Fugett Intergenerational Center in Baltimore will be the organization's first permanent, centralized address.

"Just to have a home base — that already sets us apart," said PeacePlayers Program Manager Rayshawn Martin.

As the center's recreational and youth leadership partner, PeacePlayers will unite hundreds of Baltimore youth across neighborhoods through after-school sessions for younger children and leadership development for teens. With an impressive outdoor basketball dome and multiple courts on-site, the center will serve as a key recreation hub in West Baltimore.

Martin, who grew up in the area, said she understood the center's potential impact when she saw its lights shining brightly one evening.

"We never had a community center here," she said. "Having that light? It's a beacon in West Baltimore."

SAFE STREETS

STRONGER, SAFER STREETS

Corey Winfield has big plans — movie nights, basketball tournaments, community cookouts, back-to-school giveaways, and youth mentorship. He knows that's what it takes to become part of the fabric of a community.

Winfield is director of community violence and strategic initiatives for Catholic Charities' Safe Streets program, which provides violence-intervention support at four sites across Baltimore City.

The Fugett Intergenerational Center will serve as the new operational headquarters for Safe Streets, helping the team strengthen outreach, coordination and support through the city, while deepening relationships in West Baltimore.

The center's collective approach also fits Safe Streets' violence reduction model, which focuses on building trust by connecting communities to the resources they need most.

"If someone needs help we can't provide, we can turn to someone else in the building," he said. "That goes hand-in-hand with stopping the violence."

SUCCESS ACADEMIES

YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS STARTS HERE

Finding a good job requires far more than learning a new skill. That's why Success Academies, a special feature of the center, are structured to provide the support a person may need to transition into a sustainable career.

Learning from trauma-informed employment trainings offered at other Catholic Charities programs, Success Academies provides workforce development wrapped in case management and behavioral health support.

"Being based at this center allows us to meet people where they are, surrounded by services, support and opportunity all in one place," said Erin Finnegan-Smith, director of workforce development.

Participants work toward sector-based credentials in fields like healthcare, IT and construction. The program also addressed the barriers that can stand in the way, including challenges with reading or math skills, substance use, mental health, competing obligations.

When a participant completes training, Success Academies leverages employer partnerships to create placement pipelines and alumni networks for post-placement support.

REQUITY FOUNDATION

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

Until a few weeks ago, students in the Requity Foundation's Print & Press Shop made branded apparel in a rowhouse basement, packed tightly around equipment hot enough to bake a cake.

More space for student-run businesses is one reason Requity has moved into the Fugett Intergenerational Center. The new site has already expanded operations and deepened neighborhood-based, hands-on workforce training for West Baltimore students and young adults.

Requity specializes in construction, culinary arts, digital media, and apparel. The move allows for larger cohorts, more industry-recognized certifications, and stronger employer partnerships. It also expands opportunities for its students in real time. Requity students produced the branded apparel worn at this spring's ribbon cutting event and catered the event. Students can now provide catering and take out meals from a commercial-grade kitchen.

"We've been preparing for this," said Tyrin Gray, Requity's marketing and student support coordinator. "We have a growth mindset, and we're shooting for the stars."

VILLA MARIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

WELLNESS AWAITS

Villa Maria Behavioral Health's Fallstaff Clinic is relocating from Park Heights to the Fugett Intergenerational Center, where it will establish a new headquarters for its school-based therapy program.

The move brings the team closer to clinicians embedded in 18 Baltimore City public schools and creates new ways to reach people of all ages.

With a grant from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Catholic Charities hired two part-time staff — a clinician and a therapeutic support specialist — to offer more flexible options, including drop-in counseling, information sessions, and groups focused on life skills and social skills.

Clinic Director Melissa Jenkins envisions "warm hand-offs" that let a teen in PeacePlayers, a Head Start student, or an older adult in an art class stop by without an appointment.

"There will be a lot more cross-collaboration," she said. "There are no wrong doors — just come right upstairs."

READ MORE ABOUT THE FUGETT INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER

Scan the code with your phone's camera or visit <https://cc-md.org/programs/carolyn-e-fugett-intergenerational-center/>





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR KEVIN CREAMER

It Takes a Village

PARENTING HAS BEEN A DEEPLY HUMBLING JOURNEY. At just three years old, my son has already found countless creative ways to twist, challenge, and overturn my words.

But getting outsmarted by a toddler hasn't been the most humbling part of parenthood. What has been most humbling — and most-awe inspiring — is witnessing the way that my community (family, neighbors, friends, and teachers) has come together to surround my son with love and support. Parenthood has given me a deeper appreciation of reality that I am just one small part of the community of love helping to guide my son in the world.

The launch of the Carolyn E. Fugett Intergenerational Center — now proudly open and serving Greater Rosemont and surrounding West Baltimore neighborhoods — has felt a lot like welcoming a child into the world; it has taken an entire community to nurture and guide this nascent vision.

I started working on the Fugett Intergenerational Center more than four years ago, when it was just an idea, a concept that naturally tied together important work happening across our Agency. But that concept only took shape through the leadership, voice, and support of countless neighbors, community members, and elders. This journey of imaging, designing, and building the center (a “pregnancy” longer than I wish on anyone!) truly began with them and with community listening and design sessions that ensured we built this center together.

At the center, serving and uplifting the entire community in shared spaces remains our guiding star. From early childhood education and youth workforce development to afterschool athletics, community recreation, and senior programming, our work is rooted in building a community of love and connection.

The saying, “It takes a village to raise a child,” rings true at the center. We are here to love and serve our neighbors, strengthening the village needed to nurture every generation. As in parenthood, I look forward to continuing to be humbled in this work. That sense of awe is the greatest reminder that the love binds us together in community is larger than any one of us alone — and that we are our truest selves in community together.

We're ready for you to become part of this extraordinary village at the Fugett Intergenerational Center.



At the Fugett Intergenerational Center, serving and uplifting the entire community in shared spaces remains our guiding star.

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: JOURNEY TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

October 21, 2026

Church of the Nativity
20 E Ridgely Rd., Timonium, MD 21093

Speaker:

Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ
Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is Maryland's largest private provider of human services. Serving all, we provide innovative programming to accompany people on life's journey including assistance to those living in poverty, individuals with developmental disabilities, immigrants, older adults, families and children in crisis.

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**THANKS TO YOU,
WE ARE ABLE TO
CONTINUE OUR WORK
IN THE COMMUNITY.**

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