



BALANCE COMMUNITY FRIENDS  
COMMUNITY SCANNING UP  
RISE UP CONNECT HEALTHY GO  
ELEV8! SUPPORT. LEARN. ACHIEVE. BALTIMORE  
HEALTHY SOAR ACTIVE

2023 IMPACT REPORT





## MISSION

Elev8 Baltimore works to ensure that students succeed in school and in life, providing opportunities and supports to young people, families and communities.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO LIBERATION AND EQUITY

Elev8 Baltimore is dedicated to creating liberating opportunities for youth and communities oppressed by white supremacist structures and systems. We build partnerships with other organizations to provide training and tools for youth to advocate for themselves and bring equity to their communities.



## WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE ELEV8 BALTIMORE'S 2023 IMPACT REPORT AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW WE'RE STRATEGIZING AND GROWING TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES!

A key step forward was the completion of Elev8 Baltimore's new Strategic Plan 2024–2027. As we continue to grow, this document will provide a roadmap and vision for expansion and strengthening our work. The strategic plan is built on our core values: We are **servant leaders** who authentically build **trust** with and for stakeholders through **honesty** and centering our work in **love**. These values will sustain our work as together we build a stronger Baltimore.

This impact report details some of our recent work and accomplishments, including new programs to bring social workers and interns into our schools and to provide Elev8 for Justice fellowships to help young people interested in advocacy and organizing. We are also focused on fostering good health in our city through the creation of a new Wholeness Division.

Finally, we deeply appreciate the many people who help make Elev8 Baltimore a success. That includes our board members, our committed staff, our school and community partners, and our funders. Most importantly, we are grateful to the young people and families of Baltimore who inspire us every day to keep moving forward with purpose and enthusiasm. And I hope this report inspires you to consider how you might do more to support our young people.

**ALEXANDRIA WARRICK ADAMS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# A FOCUS ON WHOLENESS

In 2023, we expanded our efforts to provide proven, promising, and innovative interventions to meet the full range of the needs of youth, launching a Wholeness Division.

We understand that children exist, thrive, rise, and love in relation to family, school, the larger community, institutions, and organizations serving them. We are committed to an integrated, intergenerational, culturally responsive approach to our work on behalf of the individuals and communities we serve.

Our Wholeness Division focused on preparing third and fifth graders for the transition to middle school and sixth and eighth graders for the transition to high school. With support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we are also focusing on five alternative high schools, providing intensive social and emotional learning support to students—including guidance to complete their educational plan and help return to their designated high schools. We are also looking forward to working with youth as they make the transition from incarceration to home, providing social and emotional life skills to support their learning and success in family, community, work, and life.



# SOUTH BALTIMORE ADULT HIGH SCHOOL

A fresh start towards a brighter future

South Baltimore Adult High School (SBAHS) caters exclusively to adults over the age of 21, providing the opportunity to receive a high school diploma, post-secondary education credits or industry certifications. As adults, our students often face work or family responsibilities that make it difficult to complete their education. What sets SBAHS apart is the support we offer to ensure success, including flexible class scheduling, in-person or online classes, help with child care, transportation, housing and mental health. Elev8 staff work closely with students, encouraging them and helping them reach their goals.

**ELEV8 BALTIMORE OVERSEES SBAHS, PARTNERING WITH BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE CHERRY HILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. IN 2023, WE AWARDED SIX STUDENTS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS, AND TWO RECEIVED POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL CREDITS. WE EXPECT THESE NUMBERS TO GROW SUBSTANTIALLY IN 2024.**



## “A PERFECT FIT”

Megan Muojeke knew she needed a high school diploma to follow her dream of going to college, but she kept hitting barriers. She was studying for the GED when she had her daughter but found the time commitments impossible to balance with her life as a new mother. “Before SBAHS, I was at the point where I really felt like giving up,” Megan said. For Megan, SBAHS’s low cost and flexibility were key to allowing her to go back to school.

“The program was a perfect fit for me. I was able to transfer my transcripts from high school so I could pick up where I left off. Taking online classes was perfect because I could stay home with my kids and didn’t have to take the time to commute.”

After graduating with her diploma from SBAHS, Megan is now studying at Montgomery College, working towards her associate’s degree in general studies, with the hope of continuing her education to become a social worker.





# ELEV8 BALTIMORE FREEDOM SCHOOLS

Elev8 Baltimore Freedom Schools is a unique high-energy, literacy-focused, six-week summer experience for students in grades K-12, that highlights local Baltimoreans and the Black, Brown and indigenous experience while reinforcing college and career readiness standards. Elev8 Baltimore developed the program curriculum, and texts were chosen to help kids learn about their worlds and about themselves, giving them the tools to challenge the status quo and advance positive change.

Through our volunteer reader program, students are exposed to a variety of community role models – from city council members to business leaders to Maryland’s first lady – and get the chance to interact with engaged members of the community.



# PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Often, youth become disconnected due to life factors beyond their control. Pathways to Success is a workforce development program designed to assist youth ages 16–21 with achieving their personal and professional goals through out-of-school time programming. Youth workers can earn up to \$1,875 while in the program. Our partners include Baltimore City Public Schools, Family League of Baltimore, Baltimore Children & Youth Fund, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development and the Maryland State Department of Education.

Too many disconnected youth in Baltimore are likely to experience negative outcomes.

## IN 2023, FREEDOM SCHOOLS

Served **571** students at nine school sites

Had an average daily attendance of **81%**

Achieved an increase of **1.4%** in reading  
(via Star Assessments)

# ELEV8 FOR JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

We worked with 15 motivated young people in the 2023 cohort of the Elev8 for Justice Fellowship Program, providing training and support for them to become advocates and organizers. The young people who took part in the 10-week program engaged in training and created a project for themselves; each received a \$700 stipend.



Henry Parker, 17, a rising senior at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, participated in the program in 2023.

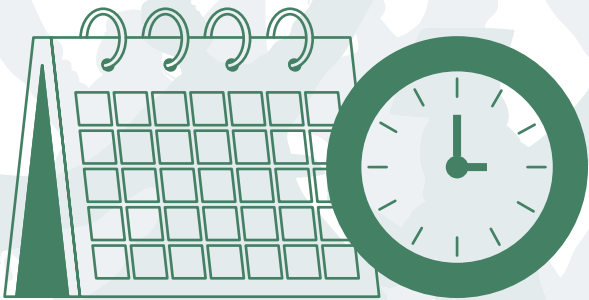
“The program helped me look at a lot of things differently. I learned not to take things for granted and to work hard. I was definitely inspired by meeting with and hearing from Black Baltimore police officers.”

HENRY LOOKS FORWARD TO ATTENDING COLLEGE AND HAS AN INTEREST IN STUDYING MANAGEMENT AND ARCHITECTURE.

## IN 2023 WE SERVED

**25** 

Youth workers at **seven** sites

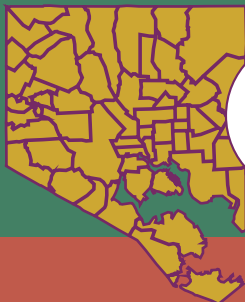


Working an average  
**OF 25 HOURS PER WEEK**

## SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION

**152** youth have been served in

16 zip codes



100% are on track to graduate.

**16**





# STRENGTHENING TIES TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

## Maryland Corps Program

Elev8 Baltimore serves as a partner organization for Governor Wes Moore’s landmark Maryland Corps Program, which offers a year of professional growth and career exploration to Marylanders so they can earn a living wage, gain new skills, and identify where their talents and purpose intersect while serving their community.

Corps Program members serve as Elev8 family advocates, earning \$17/an hour and a \$6,000 stipend at the end of their term. In the 2023–2024 school year, our five family advocates have enhanced access to essential community resources, including food, uniforms and housing. Their efforts have also improved family communication and connections with school staff, serving as liaisons, facilitating feedback and questions from families to school leaders, promoting shared decision-making and resulting in a stronger, more supportive school community.



AT COLLINGTON SQUARE ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE FAMILY ADVOCATE INCREASED ENGAGEMENT THROUGH EVENTS LIKE CELEBRATEHER AND FOOD WITH FATHERS.

AT HARLEM PARK ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOLS, THE FAMILY ADVOCATE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MARYLAND FOOD BANK, DISTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY 80 BAGS OF FOOD FROM THE FOOD PANTRY WEEKLY TO FAMILIES AND STUDENTS, INCREASING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND DECREASING HUNGER-RELATED BEHAVIORAL ISSUES.

AT THE HISTORIC CHERRY HILL ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE FAMILY ADVOCATE’S EFFORTS LED TO A REMARKABLE INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZED PARENT GROUP, GROWING FROM 4 TO 15 PARTICIPANTS. FAMILIES EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH HAVING A CONSISTENTLY ACCESSIBLE STAFF MEMBER FOR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK.

Overall, family advocates in their service year with Elev8 Baltimore successfully increased family connections to the school, enhanced access to vital resources, and boosted parent involvement, promoting shared decision-making and a stronger, more supportive school community, while building and strengthening their own professional skills.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

Through a new partnership with Coppin State University, we’re helping train the next generation of professionals steeped in the philosophy of liberation and equity. In 2023, we served as a field placement for two social work undergraduate interns, who provided valuable support in our schools.

Six licensed clinical social workers provide a variety of support services to our participants and their families. Our goal is to encourage more social workers to work in our communities and help them build the skills and empathy necessary to be successful. This objective meshes with our long-term goal of moving beyond just delivering services to becoming an organization that is actively building behavioral health capacity for the future.

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# ELEV8 BALTIMORE REVENUE OVERVIEW

FOUNDATION GRANTS:	\$490,876
PUBLIC GRANTS:	\$3,250,033
REVENUE:	\$2,532,181
DONATIONS:	\$11,709
OTHER:	\$15,027

\$6,299,826



## ELEV8 THROUGH THE YEARS



## WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

We are grateful to the many generous funders who have supported our work, including:

- ★ AARP Foundation
- ★ AmeriCorps
- ★ Baltimore City
- ★ Baltimore City Public Schools
- ★ Baltimore Children & Youth Fund
- ★ Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative
- ★ Maryland State Department of Education
- ★ South Baltimore 7 United Communities

WE ARE ALSO DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS WE PARTNER WITH TO BETTER SERVE YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. THESE COLLABORATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR WORK, AND WE THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR EVERYTHING THEY DO WITH US.



For more information, visit:

**WWW.ELEV8BALTIMORE.ORG**

Contact:

**443-682-9403**

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Looking for ways to give back?

**Join us! [www.elev8baltimore.org/get-involved/donate/](http://www.elev8baltimore.org/get-involved/donate/)**