Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed how we are helping to change Baltimore? Thanks to the support of our donors, we’ve been able to improve the quality of life in our part of the City. Below are some highlights of the programs and projects that are changing the face of north central Baltimore.

Have you noticed the renovations at Margaret Brent and Barclay Elementary/Middle Schools? More than 750 public school students returned to classes this year in buildings that are safer, more functional, more attractive, and better suited for learning. Over the summer, GHCC helped coordinate an $800,000 investment by the Johns Hopkins University, matched by the Baltimore City Public School System, to complete $1.6 million in renovations at these two schools, which included beautiful new cafeterias, restrooms, and entryways with glass doors and new windows to let in natural light. And keep an eye out for upcoming improvements to the outdoor play spaces at Margaret Brent on St. Paul and 26th Streets, where we are working with community residents to plant shade trees and improve the playground. Just a few blocks from Margaret Brent →

Have you noticed the new 29th Street Community Center? The former Barclay Recreation Center was slated to be closed by the City’s Department of Recreation and Parks in 2011. With the help of community partners, we were able to paint, clean, remove old furniture, install new windows, and officially re-open what is now The 29th Street Community Center. The Center is offering a variety of programs for residents of all ages, serving more than 200 people last month alone. Fall programs are up and running so stop on by for yoga, karate, art, dance, and fitness classes – most of which are either free or cost very little! Head south a little ways→

Have you noticed the transformations in Barclay and Old Goucher? Drive up Barclay or Calvert between North and 25th St. and see the new construction and rehabilitation of historic homes in these two neighborhoods. In his recent article “Let your eyes wander to see city shine,” Dan Rodricks describes the “genuine neighborhood renaissance” happening in Barclay. While the Telesis Corporation manages the physical transformation of these neighborhoods, GHCC is building a strong sense of community on the blocks Telesis is transforming. Amidst all of the redevelopment, we are bringing longtime and new residents together by training neighborhood leaders, organizing block parties and events, and building community gardens. We also provide community services to neighborhood families through our Barclay Youth Safe Haven afterschool program and our Workforce Program. Speaking of workforce →

Have you noticed the construction occurring all over Baltimore? Construction means jobs, and our Workforce Connections Program has been incredibly successful in its efforts to help the unemployed and underemployed prepare for and access employment opportunities all over Baltimore. Since its launch in April of this year, our program has placed 50 clients in employment, with a record 13 in August alone. Not only are we growing Baltimore’s workforce →

Have you noticed the growth in Greenmount West? Greenmount West, which was named “Best Up and Coming Neighborhood” by the Baltimore City Paper in 2012, is also undergoing a huge transformation. Perhaps the most noticeable new development is the Baltimore Design School located in the formerly vacant LeBow Building at 1500...
Barclay. We are working with the New Greenmount West Community Association to reduce the number of vacant homes there and to ensure all houses are up-to-code and not a danger to their residents or the community. The 400 block of East Lafayette is a great example of the progress we have made: working with the City’s Vacants to Value program, two previously vacant houses on this block have already been sold to new owners and two more are currently being rehabilitated! But our work with vacancy and blight is not limited to Greenmount West→

Have you noticed the revitalization in Harwood? This little neighborhood just east of Charles Village was once troubled with vacant properties but is now alive and kicking thanks to our door to door organizing and hard work. A few months ago, GHCC raised $500,000 in grant funds from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s Neighborhood Conservation Initiative to transform 15 vacant houses in Harwood into beautiful homes suitable for market-rate sale. In addition to Harwood, we worked with community leaders all over north central Baltimore last year to identify and abate more than 60 problem and vacant properties, bringing roughly $1.4 million worth of investment to the City. Speaking of investing in City→

Have you noticed what’s happening on 26th and Howard Street? We are working hard to broker philanthropic investment in Remington’s up-and-coming art community. The site of former a Tire Shop is the future home of Single Carrot Theater, Young Audiences of Maryland, and Parts and Labor (a new restaurant by the team behind Woodberry Kitchen and Artifact). As a lead community development nonprofit partner of Seawall Development – the company behind this project – our efforts to promote Remington’s quirky neighborhood culture, great assets and amenities, are redefining Remington as one of Baltimore’s “hot” new neighborhoods. Keep your calendar open at the start of 2014 for a grand opening celebration when the Tire Shop project is complete. And finally→

Have you noticed a cleaner, greener York Road Corridor? The almost complete streetscaping efforts along this busy commercial corridor include street and curb repairs and landscaping, including many new trees, all of which has been spearheaded by the York Road Partnership. GHCC supports these activities by sponsoring a full-time AmeriCorps*VISTA to engage residents and community leaders from across the Corridor’s neighborhoods in beautification projects, advocacy and, organizing efforts. This past year, we sponsored 9 AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers who raised over $11 million in monetary and in-kind resources for projects across Baltimore City.

While our tour has come to an end, our work is far from done. GHCC offers many programs and services that are not covered by philanthropic and government grants. It is because of contributions from generous individuals that this kind of work is possible.

If you have given to GHCC, we thank you for your donation to help us build and strengthen vibrant urban communities. If not, please consider becoming an investor and a partner to both GHCC and all of the people we serve by making a gift today. After all, it is because of contributions from individuals like YOU that this kind of work is possible!

THANK YOU!