

the DOORWAY

REBUILD COMMUNITIES. EMPOWER FAMILIES. TRANSFORM LIVES.

A Publication of the Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation aka The Door

REMEMBERING JAMES ‘JIM’ DAVENPORT



Helping East Baltimore families with housing, free food, childcare and youth programming are just a few ways that James ‘Jim’ Davenport, co-founder of The Door, impacted his community for decades.

Mr. Davenport, a technology entrepreneur and community leader, made it his goal to make sure that The Door would have a positive impact in the community.

“One of the most important things to him was to serve and to match people with resources,” said Michelle Davenport, his daughter.

“He truly believed in African American people... he believed in inner city African American people, and he wanted to give them every opportunity they could have as individuals and through their families to grow, achieve and become who they wanted to become,” said Tehma Smith Wilson, COO.

Mr. Davenport ran the door and unlocked many others throughout the community. “When the C.A.R.E. community association started in 2004, as you know most associations don’t have a place to meet. Mr. Davenport being a part of the community understood that and he just opened up the doors to The Door and said to the community association, ‘Here’s a key. Consider this home. Meet when you want to meet for whatever you need,’ and never charged a dime, so for almost 20 years this has been a part of C.A.R.E.’s home with the support of Mr. Davenport,” said Cynthia Gross, the Care Community Association’s current president.

Deshawn Batson is now an assistant to Baltimore Councilman Antonio Glover and he still remembers the moments he and his peers shared with Davenport as children. “He was always hands on, always encouraging, always willing to just lend a helping hand and supportive with whatever you needed done,” shared Batson.

Mr. Davenport was definitely the philanthropic pioneer and his blueprint that will improve the lives of families for years to come. Well after his passing, his life’s motto is the key still unlocking opportunities in the community of East Baltimore where he grew up. “In the end, probably only what you do for other people is the thing that lasts,” Davenport said.

By: Kendall Green, WMAR 2 News

YOU CAN HELP

In these tough times, help from caring people like you is critical. Due to the state of the economy, it is harder than ever before to get funding and donations. Your support in any capacity is appreciated. We need your support so that we can continue to be part of the foundation that the community we work in really needs. There are several ways for you to donate!

DONATIONS

- Via our website:
www.thedoorinc.org
- By sending a check to:
The Door
P.O. Box 13447
Baltimore, MD 21203

THANK YOU

Your donations make our programs possible. We thank you in advance for your generous support. Additional information about any of our programs can be found on our website.

PROGRAM UPDATES

FOOD DISTRIBUTION



Our community pantry has been in existence since the opening of The Door. Twice a week we provide food to the families in our community in need. When COVID began, our distribution resources and partners increased drastically in an effort to address the growing food insecurity in our area. Along with produce boxes, we also distribute meat, beverages, snacks, household items (detergent, paper goods, plastic goods, etc.), personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, pampers, etc.) and personal protective equipment (sanitizer, gloves, masks, cleaning supplies, etc.)

Through our partnerships with Baltimore City, Johns Hopkins and the Maryland Food Bank we have assisted in distributing over 6 million meals (fresh produce, meat, dairy, etc.) and 100,000 masks.

Our distribution days are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am – 12:00pm. *(Photo courtesy of Johns Hopkins)*

RESILIENCY HUB

The Door is 1 of 15 sanctioned Resiliency Hubs in Baltimore City. The term “resiliency hub” is relatively new, but the basic concept, of course, is not. Community organizations have long been running trusted spaces that serve residents in various capacities. Baltimore City’s Resiliency Hubs partner with government agencies and other local stakeholders to collect and distribute real-time information needed to make community decisions, serve as a staging place for first responders, serve as an emergency center for residents (providing fans, food, water, and shelter), and strengthen overall community readiness among other things. *(Photos courtesy of The Baltimore Sun)*



COMMUNITY SAFE SPACE

The Door opens ‘its doors’ to the community by providing a safe space for community and family events. The Door serves as a meeting place for the C.A.R.E. Community Association and other local community organizations as well as a venue for local and state politicians. The Door also provides space for community residents to host graduations, baby showers, birthday parties and other family events.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth programming has always been a key emphasis at The Door. In 2021, The Door created a partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore (BGCMB) to provide youth programming in the form of an afterschool program and summer camp.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF METROPOLITAN BALTIMORE

programming centered on: sports & recreation, education, the arts, health & wellness, safety, workforce readiness, and character & leadership. The summer experience provided both direct services to young people and set the stage for a wonderful long-term partnership. Johns Hopkins' Community Affairs sponsored this summer opportunity.

In the summer of 2021, The Door and BGCMB introduced a mobile component entitled Club on the Go. Club on the Go used trained staff to venture out into the community with



The afterschool program focuses on:

- **Power Hour**- helps young people achieve academic success by providing homework help, tutoring, and high-yield learning activities and encouraging young people to become self-directed learners.
- **SMART Girls**- provides health, fitness, prevention/education, and self-esteem enhancement for girls.
- **Passport to Manhood**- teaches responsibility to boys with sessions that focus on specific aspects of character and manhood through highly interactive activities.
- **Triple Play Healthy Habits**- emphasizes good nutrition, regular physical activity, and improved overall well-being.
- **SMART Moves**- focuses on building key social-emotional skills (e.g. self-regulation, impulse control and stress management) young people need to make healthy choices about substance use, sexual activity, violence and other risky behaviors.

Our enrollment is currently geared towards youth ages 6 - 11 years old. As our current youth move up to middle school, we plan to increase our programming to include ages 12 – 14 years old, and then 15-18 years old as they move up to high school. Our goal is to help offset the violence, trauma, academic under performance and unhealthy lifestyles experienced by many of the residents in our community.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION



MARYLAND FOOD BANK

The Maryland Food Bank has been a long standing partner of The Door. During the pandemic, they have provided us with fresh produce on a monthly basis and cost free canned goods, meat, snacks, household items and personal protective equipment.

The Door received a capacity building grant to support our distribution efforts and to increase our ability to store items in our pantry. This grant provided us with additional shelving, dollies, carts and cleaning equipment.



UNITED WAY

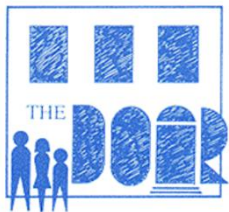
The Door, Bea Gaddy and the United Way partnered for a neighborhood safety and beautification project. The Door completed its cafe exterior lighting project in the 200 and 400 block of N. Chester. This lighting serves as a multi-purpose initiative. It (1) increases the level of safety (2) beautifies the community and (3) increases neighborhood pride. It also allows residents and the youth from our programs to feel more comfortable traveling through the community at night.



PRESESRVATION MARYLAND

The Door was constructed in 1900 and is located in the East Monument Historic District which is a contributing district on the National Register Historic District. The Door was initially built and functioned as a church in East Baltimore. However, in 1984, it began to operate mainly as a community center serving East Baltimore.

Over the years, The Door has been able to maintain its initial structure and design. One of the features that adds to the historic and cultural significance of The Door is its stained glass windows. All of the stained glass windows on the exterior of the building have been maintained and protected with plexiglass. However, there are 3 stained glass windows on the interior of the building that has been damaged due to various activities that have taken place in the building. The grant which we received from the Preservation Maryland Fund will enable us to remove, restore and reinstall these windows and protect them with plexiglass so that the original integrity and design of the building is maintained.



The Door would like to thank the following for their generous support through financial contributions, volunteers, and in-kind donations: Mr. Jim Davenport and Family | The City of Baltimore | Councilman Glover and Staff | Johns Hopkins | The Maryland Food Bank | United Way | Boys & Girls Clubs Metropolitan Baltimore | Preservation Maryland | Merritt Properties | Chesapeake Employer Insurance | C.A.R.E Community | Donors | Staff | Volunteers | Local Media | Baltimore Humanitarian | Community Partners | Residents of N. Chester St.