



# REMEMBER YOUTH FUND

## YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE PROPOSAL FOR BALTIMORE

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## Overview

The Remember Youth Fund proposes a holistic approach to support and help coordinate local stakeholders ( public, private and Community Based Organizations) to address youth violence activity in the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello, Sandtown and Cherry Hill neighborhoods of the City of Baltimore.

### Theory of Change

RYP was created to fight social exclusion among young people and to prevent youth from engaging in violence and crime by using arts and sports as a tool to effect social change. Its work focuses on four hypotheses as its theory of change.

- First, that higher levels of participation of children and youth in the practice of arts and sports improves concentration, self-esteem and willpower.
- Second, that an increase in concentration, self-esteem and willpower reduces levels of truancy and abandonment of professional training programs.
- Third, reductions in the levels of school truancy and abandonment of professional training programs increases the possibility of successful participation in civil and professional life.
- Fourth, that successful participation in civil and professional life lowers the risk of engaging in violence and delinquency.

Together, these hypotheses envision a virtuous cycle that begins with getting children and youth involved in the arts and sports, and ends with increased youth engagement and lower levels of violence. This result, in turn, strengthens cities and urban areas' long terms sustainability.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- The RYF Difference: Using the Arts and Sports to strengthen life skills.....2
- Our proposal.....3
- Youth violence context in baltimore .....4
- Target population and previous/current attempts to address youth violence .....6
- Working methodology .....7
- Program evaluation .....9
- Timeline and program expenses.....10
- Phase 1 *mapping and analysis of active programs related to youth violence in Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello, Sandtown and Cherry Hill (6 months)*.....10
  - Overview .....10
  - Costs.....11
- Phase 2 *Benchmarking opportunities and applied interventions connecting local cbo’s with national organizations related to arts and sports, as well as holistic skills through teacher and professional training, community mediation and data collection (1 year)* .....11
  - Timeline and program expenses.....12
  - Proposed national and local partners .....12
  - Costs.....19
- Phase 3 *evaluation of phase 2 and continuation of benchmarking and applied interventions for local stakeholders and in the context of priority areas which began in Phase 2 (1 year)* .....20
  - Costs.....20
- About us .....22
- Executive and board .....22
- Bibliography.....24

## The RYF Difference: Using the Arts and Sports to strengthen life skills

Strengthening children and youth's life skills is critical to building their resilience and mitigate risks that lead to youth social exclusion and violence. Without them, family and social structures break down, making advancement and success – be it in school, the workplace or in society in general – increasingly unlikely. Access to those skills (schooling, group sports and activities, job training) are disproportionately available to those with adequate resources to access them. This leaves youth without resources disproportionately fall prey to gangs, experience higher than average school failure and dropout rates, and diminished professional opportunities when they leave school and enter the workplace.

Remember Youth Fund's model for youth violence prevention seeks to take these challenges head on, through the focus on the promotion of the participation in arts and sports programs as vectors of change. Violence prevention strategies based on the implementation of arts/sports related programs originated in the 20th century in the United States through the "basketball at midnight" programs in Western states. Today, these kinds of interventions have evolved, and they are now centered in the improvement and development of life skills through the means of arts/sports. Both arts and sports are recognized as useful means for the creation and spreading of values, and thus can serve as useful tools in the context of a larger-scale interventions, by not only training in the specific type of art or sport, but also holistic skills such as improved team-work capabilities and the creation of a positive sense of community and belonging.

Therefore, through the implementation of arts and sports related programs in those neighborhoods where juvenile gang involvement or youth violence and criminality is common, we seek to improve the life skills of the youth and provide them with the sufficient skills that would enable them to acquire a successful future. Our underlying values and past experiences have shown that both data and life skills are key tools for a successful future. By combining these two tools, we expect to reduce gang affiliation and youth violence through:

Life skills aimed at reducing school desertion and abandonment, opening up the possibilities of improved job performance.

- RYF will link teachers that have identified children in their classrooms with weak life skills and at the risk of disconnecting from class and from the school with local CBO's focused on building life skills.

Provide support to those teachers working with at risk youth, and their schools in their education and job counseling activities and programs.

- RYF will link teachers with local CBO's working with youth to set mid and long-term life goals, develop focus, teamwork and other life skills, with the goal of giving them a solid base for their successful preparation to successfully continue their studies and/or employment.

Connect the community with mediation venues and techniques to tackle and understand the problem of violence, talk to perpetrators as well as the affected groups' such as shopkeepers, public transport workers, etc.

- RYF will link youth to CBOs working to find constructive and non-violent forms of engagement, as well as working to reduce inter-group violence through community mediation and violence prevention schemes.

Connect and provide support to the municipality in its work on data collection and analysis

- RYF will connect existing capacities of data collection and data analysis to measure the evolution of violence and crime in Baltimore with the goal of empowering citywide initiatives focused on youth violence and social insertion. Information is power and lack of information is inefficiency.

## **OUR PROPOSAL**

### **Youth Violence Context in Baltimore**

Baltimore, MD has a population of 619,493. As of 2019, approximately 21% of its population was under the age of 18 (US Census Bureau, 2019). Along with the rest of the population, Baltimore's youth face historic socioeconomic and challenges, experiencing high poverty levels as well as high levels of violence compared to much of the rest of the country.

With more than 300 murders a year for the previous five years, Baltimore's homicide rate similar to that of New York, even though its population is 14 times smaller. In 2019 the city recorded a total of 348 homicides, its 2nd deadliest year on record, and occupied the 7th position of the country's cities with the highest violent crime rate average per 1,000 people. And while youth arrests have been gone down since 2012, the number involving violent crime has increased.

Overall, of the larger American cities whose violent crime levels are high, Baltimore's trendlines are some of the worst in the United States (as a measure of the average of a city's violent crime rate relative to its increase in violent crime over the last year of available data). This is particularly acute for Maryland's African-American community, contributing to the highest incarceration rate of young black men in America, 25% higher than the second state, Mississippi.

This reality is particularly challenging for Baltimore's youth, where juvenile trauma has been shown to approximate levels shown by veterans of combat in Afghanistan, and higher levels of PTSD than those who had survived Iraq

War. And trauma is consequently an important negative contributing factor to youth violence and gang involvement, as those adolescents exposed to firearm violence are twice as likely to commit acts of violence themselves.

## Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello, Sandtown and Cherry Hill

As with any city, particular neighborhoods have been hit harder by chronic poverty and violence. RYF's proposal focuses on three of those neighborhoods: Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello; Sandtown and Cherry Hill.

Sandtown is located in West Baltimore, and is a historical African-American neighborhood that never fully rebounded from de-industrialization in the 1970s, as well as historically institutionalized segregation and redlining policies<sup>5</sup>. It came to national attention in 2015 when 25-year-old Sandtown native Freddie Gray died in police custody, provoking widespread protests and looting across the city. Most recent data show median family income in Sandtown-Winchester is \$24,374.6 A 2015 report by the Justice Policy Institute reported that prisoners from the Sandtown census tract made up the largest of number of prisoners in the Maryland penitentiary system.



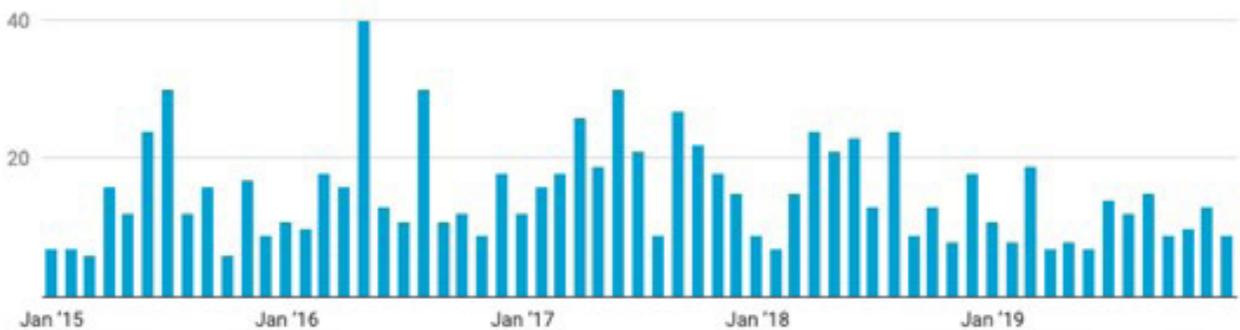
Cherry Hill is a neighborhood in South Baltimore. While violence – as measured by the number of homicides – has decreased since 2013 when a two-decade rivalry between gangs subsided, overall levels continue to be elevated. The area still contains a number of gangs vying for territory, and recent murders in the last year point to a potential uptick in murders that had dissipated for the year prior.



Impromptu candlelight vigil at 615 Roundview Road for the third murder victim in three days in Cherry Hill on April 22, 2014. (Karl Merton Ferron/Baltimore Sun Staff)

## Monthly violent crime totals for Cherry Hill

Amid swings in the number of violent crimes logged by police in Cherry Hill, aggravated assaults were the most common offense in all but a handful of months, when they were eclipsed by robberies. Non-fatal shootings, homicides and rapes constitute the rest of the totals.



Source: Baltimore Police Department, Open Baltimore · [Get the data](#) · Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello is located in East Baltimore. The city's Master Plan of 2006 for the neighborhood reported that the previous decades had been marked by "substantial loss of population, a growing trend of abandonment, and a growth of deterioration and blight among the most vulnerable within the community." This dynamic continues into the present, and is most chronic for the neighborhood's youth. A recent investigative report done by the Baltimore Sun showed that the neighborhood is also one of the most lethal for violent crime, as measured by the death rate per shooting, and juvenile arrest rates are some 65% higher in Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello than the city average.



All three neighborhoods register high levels of poverty, with the latest data from 2018 showing percentage of family households living below the poverty line, standing at 39.5% in Cherry Hill, 36% in Sandtown, and 23.9% in Midway/Coldstream. These rates are higher than the overall Baltimore City poverty levels of 22.4% registered in the 2013–2017 American Community Survey five-year average. The city also demonstrates persistent poverty levels, as the previous two censuses show (22.9%, Census 2000 and 21.9%, 1990 Census).

All three neighborhoods show lower than average educational preparation, with less than 50% of students in all three neighborhoods' showing indications of 'readiness to learn in composite', and all below the Baltimore average. In addition, more than 80% of children live in single-parent households, with Sandtown having the highest rate of 89.5%, 25% above the Baltimore city average (American Community Survey, 2011-2015).

Pre-COVID19 levels of unemployment ranged from 15.9% in Cherry Hill to 26.1% in Midway/Coldstream (American Community Survey 2011-2015). The economic picture post-COVID19 is likely to be significantly worse. Finally, the Hardship Index - which integrates six socioeconomic indicators to a single index - housing, poverty, unemployment, education, income, and dependency - shows highly elevated hardship levels compared to the city as a whole (51), from 72 in Midway/Coldstream to 80 in Sandtown (American Community Survey, 2011-2015, 5-year estimates).

In terms of security, all three neighborhoods suffer from high levels of violence, criminality and homicide rates. Not surprisingly, youth violence is an important part of this statistic. While the youth homicide mortality rate (rate of death due to homicide that occurred per 100,000 youth under 25 years old) in Baltimore City is 31.3 per 100,000 residents, that same rate is 56 in Midway/Coldstream, 68.4 in Sandtown, and 40.8 in Cherry Hill (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Vital Statistics Administration, 2010-2014).

According to the Baltimore Police Department Victim-Based Crime Data (2012 - 12/30/2017), both Sandtown and Coldstream appear in the list of neighborhoods with the most shootings and homicides, with Sandtown ranked as 1st. Coldstream and Sandtown both appear in the list of neighborhoods with the most aggravated assaults (Sandtown is again ranked 1st), and Sandtown and Cherry Hill with the most rapes.

The overall picture for youth growing up in these neighborhoods is that of a challenging environment, and some turn to gangs and violence for a variety of reasons related to these contextual conditions.

## **Target population and previous/current attempts to address Youth Violence**

The list of programs, projects and initiatives organized both at the individual and neighborhood level to reduce youth violence over the past two decades in Baltimore is extensive. Operation Safe Kids is one of the longest running programs, having started in 2002 and run by the Baltimore City Health Department in coordination with city and state agencies. It provides case management and monitoring of high-risk juvenile offenders, working with them to prevent them becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.

Subsequent to that program, the most comprehensive focus on reducing youth violence - specifically targeted at gangs - was the Baltimore City Gang Violence Reduction Plan, created by the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in 2006. Its focus was comprehensive and multidisciplinary, prioritizing Community Mobilization, Opportunities Provisions, Social Intervention, Family Support and improving relationships between police and youth.

Safe Streets Baltimore was established in 2007 as a public health program based on Chicago's Cease Fire program, focused on community de-escalation and mediation. It is now present in six neighborhoods across the city, including Cherry Hill and Sandtown, two of the target neighborhoods for this project.

At the federal level, Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) was created by the Department of Justice in 2002 to reduce gun violence. Focused mostly on suppression activities, it has worked extensively in Baltimore coordinating operations with DEA, FBI, ATF, state and Baltimore city officials.

The most relevant work done from an academic perspective has been done by the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence, one of the six that are currently supported by the Center for Disease Control. It is focused on data as well as interventions, documenting fatal and non-fatal youth violence in Baltimore as well as conducting research on reducing youth violence and associated morbidity and mortality. The University of Maryland Medical Center also has an active youth violence prevention program, working with both perpetrators within the system, as well as victims of violence.

As statistics show, many juveniles join gangs and engage in violence because these groups provide them with a community or family sense that they lack. Moreover, most of the juveniles join these gangs because they perceive criminal activity as a more accessible alternative to limited job opportunities. Hence, by providing juveniles with access to practical training, mediation and job opportunities, the chances of them joining a gang, or staying in one, are diminished. The project will focus on those that have already been in contact with a gang – either directly (that is, they themselves have been members) or indirectly (they are in contact with someone belonging to a gang), or have committed or been in contact with criminal violence. In addition, we will provide support and mediation to families and teachers working in areas with gang-related activities.

## **Working Methodology**

Our projects have been driven by following the underlying logic that the sum of causal factors plus identifying types of criminality leads us to focus prevention mechanisms. To that extent, we first analyze and study the most common causes leading to juvenile delinquency. Research has shown that the 10 factors that most influence juveniles' involvement in criminal activities are: values,

school environment and neighborhood, mental health, drug trafficking and drug abuse, poverty and social exclusion, internal armed conflict, the state and its functioning, impunity and the overall society. Of these factors, we will focus on the school environment and neighborhoods alongside drug trafficking and abuse, poverty and social exclusion, the factors most closely linked factors to juvenile gang involvement.

## **Technical Approach / Intervention Strategy**

Since its establishment in 2017, RYF programs have been designed and implemented following the ecological model firstly developed by Bronfenbrenner (1979). Following this approach, the main features to take into account for analyzing and predicting the development of an individual are: first, the microsystem (the family, directly attached to the subject and, hence, the greatest influential factor in the development of a youth); second, the mesosystem (the different environments in which an individual takes different roles: school, community); third, the exosystem (combination of the systems, from which the individual may or may not take part, such as a parent's job) and, lastly, the macrosystem (e.g. political system). Since its establishment, this model has been widely accepted both by the academia, international organizations – such as the World Organization for Migration – and those international cooperation agencies working on the implementation of intervention programs for preventing youth delinquency.

A common approach of intervention programs is to analyze risk and protection factors. On the one hand, risk usually encompasses an inadequate support structure offered by parents, schools and communities, often leading to victimization (that is, the child has suffered from violence himself). The presence of multiple risk factors increases the chances of criminal activity. On the other hand, protection factors refer to those personal or social skills of the juvenile, his/her values, relationship with adults, etc.

With the aim of analyzing these factors, RYF establishes “risk zones” within its areas of intervention. We understand by “risk zone” as an area where there are high levels - or potential for developing - of risk factors (e.g. often but not always in low-income neighborhoods in metropolitan areas). These “risk zones” are key as to selecting neighborhoods for program implementation. Intervention strategies must seek to diminish risk factors – or increase protection factors – in order to have a positive impact on the possibility of development of criminal/delinquent behavior by the youth. RYF seeks to achieve this important task by the strengthening local arts and/or sports related programs, reducing causes of school and professional training abandonment, improving education and job counselling, and community mediation.

Taking this approach to the specific situation of youth gang membership, it has been argued by scholars – such as Calle Dávila - that the benefits of physical activity resemble those features provided by gangs that have been seen as explanatories for the joining of these criminal groups, mainly: excitement,

sense of belonging to a group, protection, sense of identity and a sense of status. Hence, these programs can help the decrease of delinquent activity by:

- Keeping juveniles engaged and occupied, decreasing their time and opportunities for carrying out delinquency activities. This is the main focus of the programs.
- Helping fulfill juveniles' need to feel excitement or "adrenaline rush".
- Empowering the juveniles and provide them with something to look forward to.
- Improving self-esteem.
- Improving cognitive capabilities.
- Providing youth with mentoring on the part of the adults.
- Strengthening youth's decision-making capacities.
- Helping them feel special.
- Fulfilling their needs for taking risks.
- Creating an environment in which the youth can connect with other youngsters and adults.
- Providing youth with opportunities for a peaceful resolution of problems.
- Increasing team-work skills.
- Providing youth with better job opportunities.
- Providing youth with an opportunity for exercising their leadership capabilities.
- Helping youth build a positive identity and sense of living.
- Providing youth with better hopes and expectations for the future.

Remember Youth Fund's Youth Violence Initiative for the Baltimore neighborhoods of Coldstream, Cherry Hill and Sandown seeks to increase youth engagement and reduce levels of violence among the roughly 10,000 youths living in the three neighborhoods, benefitting not only the youths themselves, but their families, schools, teachers and communities. It seeks to engage and contract a minimum of seven Community Based Organizations in the area, which would in turn be supported by RYF as well as other nationally recognized organizations. The proposed program would take place over the course of 2 ½ years, with a cost of \$499,470.

## Program Evaluation

A final summary and compilation of the work done, establishing the current state of affairs in the three neighborhoods identified, as well a review of applied interventions, will be carried out as part of the program evaluation. This document would also summarize the results and recommendations made during the second stage benchmarking exercise. All the publications of the program would be refereed by a stakeholder committee established prior to the inception of the program.

For evaluating our program success, it is important to define and consider its impact on the different environments and levels: at the personal level, school level and community level. In addition, indicators will be identified to measure short-term as well as long-term effects of the program, as many interventions take years to fully realize impact on youth. A control group will allow us to isolate the effects of the intervention from other factors that may influence the outcome.

Examples of indicators used would include: level of satisfaction with the program, employment levels, school drop-out rates, and the rate of participants that rejoin a gang or engage in violent behavior after completing the program.

## Timeline and Program Expenses

The proposal outlined in the previous pages is budgeted at \$499,470, and would be implemented over the course of two and a half years. A breakdown of expenses is detailed below.

### Phase 1 (6 months)

#### Overview

Phase 1 uses available mapping and analysis of active programs run by CBOs, municipalities and other stakeholders related to youth gang problems and youth violence in the three identified neighborhoods of Baltimore.

The baseline diagnostic analysis will document and consider the different approaches taken by relevant stakeholders acting in the three neighborhoods around the identified priority areas, and will be done in conjunction with Baltimore city officials, local academic and CBO stakeholders in order to collect/organize further data on gang activity and trends of violence related to participants in programs focused on the prevention of youth crime and violence. This initial diagnostic will not only document successful practices but also failed ones – such as the possible adverse collateral effects of sports activities.

#### Costs

Remember Youth Fund will assign two researchers (Project Lead and Project Coordinator) to complete mapping and analysis.

Salary	
Project Lead (65 days)	\$42,250
Project Coordinator (40 days)	\$26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,250</b>

## Travel expenses for two researchers travel to/from Baltimore during Phase 1

<b>Travel</b>	
Staff Travel (train, 26 round trips)	\$1,560
Staff Travel (car, 50 round trips)	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,060</b>

Budget to ensure basic office supplies for researchers, as well as office supplies for seminars.

<b>Office/Seminar Supplies</b>	
Office Supplies (basic computer supplies, paper, pens, stapler, notebooks, to ensure researchers have material necessary to do research)	\$300
Seminar Supplies (\$300 is also allocated per theme (of which there are seven) in order to make sure that photocopies, manuals, textbooks are available to run intensive seminars in each theme as part of the diagnostic process.	\$2,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>

Costs related to room rental/catering for seminars.

<b>Seminars Expenses</b>	
Room rental and related expenses for seminars, two will be held per theme during the course of Phase 1 (\$1000 per seminar for rental, sound, catering)	\$14,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>

## Phase 2 (1 year)

### Overview

Taking the diagnostic achieved through the analysis carried out in the first stage, Phase 2 will organize benchmarking opportunities and applied interventions for local stakeholders and in the context of priority areas. Interventions will be coordinated in conjunction with nationally and locally recognized partners, connecting public, private and academic stakeholders in Baltimore with those national and international organizations offering best-practices and experiences in each of the respective themes.

\*\*\*These are proposed collaborations which would be negotiated once funding is confirmed.

Beyond the applied interventions, partner organizations will be responsible for holding benchmarking/best practices seminars, one for each priority area, during Phase 2. Seminars would be carried out either in person or virtually depending on budget capabilities and COVID-19 related restrictions. Moreover, summaries of each of the seminars would be prepared and published.

## Timeline and Program Expenses

### Proposed National and Local Partner

#### 1. Supply and demand of youth arts programs in low-income neighborhoods

##### Proposed National Partner:

- International Child Art Foundation – The ICAF’s key objectives are to cultivate children’s imagination, reduce violence, and remediate suffering. The ICAF fosters children’s creativity and develops their empathy.

##### Proposed Local Partner:

- Baltimore Youth Arts – Entrepreneurship and job training program that provides artistic and professional opportunities to young people (14-22 years old) with a focus on those involved in the justice system. Have the same vision and values as RYF: improvement of life skills as a vector of change (particularly through the arts and sports). website: <https://www.bmoreyoutharts.org/>.



#### 2. Supply and demand of youth sports programs in low-income neighborhoods.

##### Proposed National Partners:

- Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation – the organization developed a program called the Patterson Park Youth Sports Center in Baltimore, partnering with the Living Classrooms Foundation. According to their website, their mission is to implement programs for at-risk youth and Youth Development Parks (that is, multipurpose parks). Their underlying intention is that these programs and parks will create safe opportunities for youth in need to develop valuable life skills, build character, connect positively with local law enforcement and learn how to make productive choices for their future (very similar to improving life skills). They partner with youth-serving organizations and schools across the US.



- Peace Players – PeacePlayers unites divided communities through the sport of basketball. In the U.S., historical divides driven by race and geography have created an inequitable society. PeacePlayers is working to develop a network of young leaders who come together across community divides and become catalysts in building a more peaceful and equitable society.

In Baltimore, PeacePlayers is focusing its work in the Park Heights neighborhood. PeacePlayers partners with MLK Elementary/Middle School and KIPP Charter School, providing free youth development focused after school basketball programming.



**Proposed Local Partner:**

- Project Play: this is a project carried out between 2016 and 2018 organized by the Aspen Institute and supported by Under Armour. Its main objective is to enhance teamwork to build a sense of community and leadership, while increasing access to sports programs for those youth in “forgotten” communities. In 2019, they launched a digital resource called Teamwork Toolkit to mobilize community leaders in order to increase access to sports for the youth.

## Getting Baltimore's Kids In the Game



### **3. Strengthen youth's life skills by providing teacher support to successfully work with students with social integration difficulties.**

#### **Proposed National Partners:**

- The National Education Association (NEA) - the nation's largest professional employee organization, is committed to advancing the cause of public education. NEA's 3 million members work at every level of education—from pre-school to university graduate programs. NEA has affiliate organizations in every state and in more than 14,000 communities across the United States. They have a program on Preventing School Violence: Resources, reports, and information for educators, families, and communities about school safety and preventing violence.

#### **Proposed Local Partner:**

- Baltimore Teachers Union – BTU provides professional and educational growth opportunities outside of the regular school day hours. Workshops, AU courses and credit-bearing courses are offered throughout the school-year. Works to improve the work of teachers and offers them support.

### **4. To help children and their families in identifying learning difficulties and helping to address and support them.**

#### **Proposed National Partners:**

- Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) - began providing services in Baltimore, Maryland in 2006 to individuals in the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and later, in 2010 to individuals in the Department of Social Services (DSS). YAP also provides behavioral health services and was approved to provide a Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP) in 2013. YAP provides services to over 150 youth and families annually.

The Baltimore YAP program for DJJ works with adjudicated youth to reduce delinquency charges, recidivism and divert youth from entering detention centers. The Baltimore DSS program works with youth involved in the child welfare system to avoid out of home placement and maintain youth in the community. In the PRP program YAP provides curriculum based and clinical services to individuals with a mental health diagnosis.

In all programs YAP employs a Wraparound/Advocacy model that literally “wraps” services and supports around families to create support systems that will foster a stable family environment within the community.

\*\*Member of The National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJJJPC) <https://www.promotesafecommunities.org/what-we-do>

The screenshot shows the Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. website. The navigation menu includes: Who We Are, What We Do, How We Help, Where We Work (highlighted), and Evidence of Our Success. The main heading is 'Where We Work > United States > Maryland'. The sidebar lists regional leadership: Gary Ivory (Senior Executive Officer), Lynette Connor (Vice President), and Craig Jernigan (Regional Director). The main content area describes YAP's services in Baltimore, including behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and psychiatric rehabilitation. A table lists MD locations by county: Baltimore City, Howard County, and Prince George's/Montgomery County. A 'News' section features a photo of two people and the headline 'With Support from Community Partners, Me YAP Spreads Thanksgiving Love'.

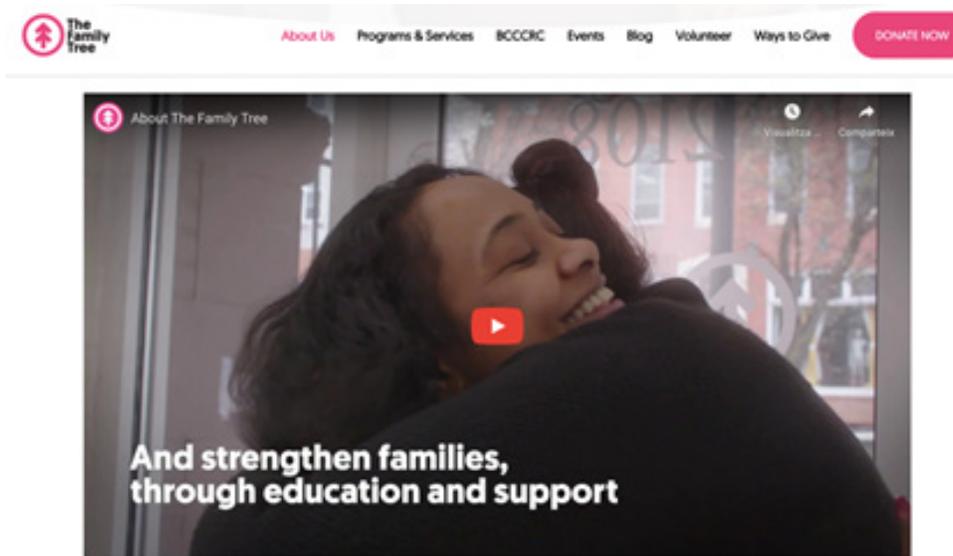
### Proposed Local Partner:

- The Family Tree – The Family Tree’s parent education programs not only give you tools to raise happy, healthy and competent children, but also a community of support. They empower and educate parents and children in their home, school or community using either a structured curriculum or support groups.

Family Tree also offers family counseling by licensed therapists. These trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapies provide a supportive environment for families to talk about experiences such as child maltreatment, reunification, exposure to family or community violence, problems relating to peers, co-parenting and more.

Finally, they also offer home visitation, to develop a trusting relationship with families and support parents in overcoming the many challenges of daily life.

- Family League of Baltimore – FLB invests funding into community-based organizations to help children and families in Baltimore reach their full potential. Aims to improve institutions so that individuals can grow, learn and build a better community.



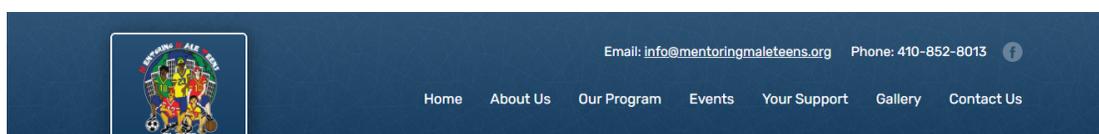
**5) Help youth access to practical training and job opportunities.  
Proposed National Partners:**

- The National Youth Employment Coalition - improves the lives of the more than 4 million young people who are out of school and out of work by improving the effectiveness of the organizations, and the systems, that serve these “opportunity youth.” They collect, study, and support the implementation of best practices, all with a strong equity focus. Baltimore’s Promise is the local partner in Baltimore, and would be a good candidate to work with, in coordination with NYEC staff.

\*\*Member of The National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJJJPC) <https://www.promotesafecommunities.org/what-we-do>

**Proposed Local Partners:**

- Mentoring Male Teens - Group mentoring program for kids aged from 9 to 18 living in Baltimore Metropolitan area. They offer tutoring, career development advice, cultural enrichment field trips.



**About Us**

The Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood program was established in 1996 with 5 boys, and to date more than 3000 boys have come through the program. The goal here is to save young lives from falling prey to all of the evil forces that exist in many of our neighborhoods. Young Kings severely need direction that in many cases is missing due to little if no guidance from a father or a father figure. Too many women are single handedly trying to be mothers and fathers to young boys who at some point think that they know it all and even with no money and no job, want to call the shots. This program is trying to prepare our Kings for life. We want for these Kings to know that being in this program is a part of the training ground.

We are building strong men not wimps. We at times have serious frank discussions (using street language) in an attempt to get our Kings to focus, look at self and see how they can improve themselves and do better. If you ever have questions, please ask. You may not get the answer you want but, you will get an answer.

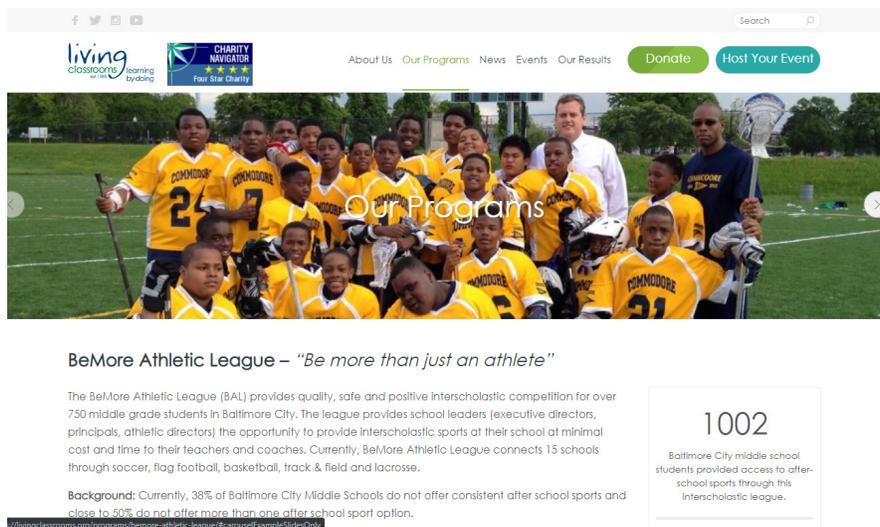
**Note from Our Founder**

My name is Cameron E. Miles and I am the Director and Founder of Mentoring Male Teens in the 'Hood', a first class program that was started in 1996.

Too many of our Kings are dying! We are trying to show them a different way with a disciplined approach. Too many of our Kings are going to Maryland's penal system and Maryland cemeteries. If your King joins our program and I see him talking when another is talking, being disrespectful, or starting a problem with another King or adult, they will do push-ups. Repeated negative behavior will not be tolerated. We



- Living Classrooms – leads a major community service and job-training opportunity called Project SERVE (Service-Empowerment-Revitalization-Volunteerism-Employment Training). Program is oriented for disadvantaged and unemployed young adults, providing them with training while they revitalize Baltimore neighborhoods. It has been established as a “re-entry” initiative (for those that have had contact with the justice system) and works with these young adults while they are still in prison. Works mostly in East Baltimore neighborhoods characterized with crime and violence because there are high crime rates and high drug presence.



- EveryoneOn - They work with cable and wireless ISPs to deploy affordable internet solutions to low-income households, usually priced between \$10 to \$20 per month. They created the “travelocity” for affordable internet, computers, and digital literacy training.
- Byte Back – Based in Washington, DC, their mission is to improve economic opportunity for low-income residents by providing computer training and employment readiness skills. They are currently looking for partners to help their first classes in Baltimore succeed.
- Program “On our Shoulders” (by the Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence) - youth empowerment and violence prevention program providing education, technical skills and on-the-job training to Baltimore’s youth and young adults. Program components include specialized group sessions in health and hygiene, drug counseling and referral; young mothers/fathers support groups and support groups for young victims of violence. The program also includes on the job training; skill enhancement and criminal assessment sessions that educate young people about court procedures and showing them brighter alternatives to incarceration.

**6) Address threats to peaceful coexistence and reduce their causes through mediation and conciliation mechanisms within the school, neighborhood, and family and beyond.**

**Proposed National Partner:**

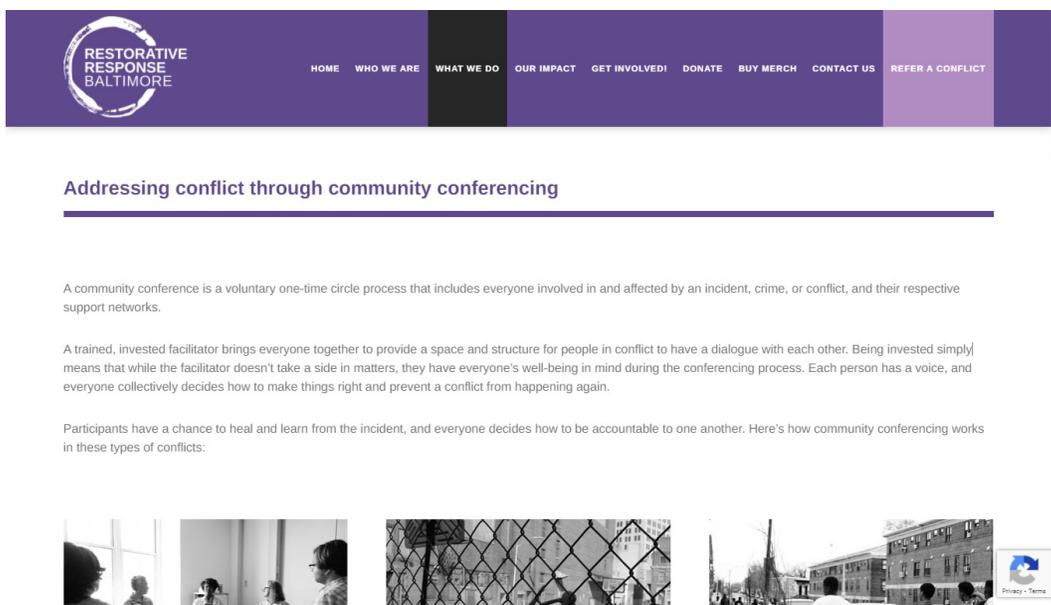
- Futures without Violence - For more than 30 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies, and campaigns that empower

individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world.

\*\*Member of The National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJJJPC) <https://www.promotesafecommunities.org/what-we-do>

## Proposed Local Partners:

- Restorative Response Baltimore – conflict resolution and community building organization. Aim of assisting communities in working together to resolve conflicts by the means of communication and creation of connections. It also provides training, technical assistance, program development and program evaluation services. They have a program on Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council.
- Parenting Education and Mediation Services (body dependent on the Circuit Court for Baltimore)



## 7) Collect, systemize, analyze and make data available on youth violence and crime, organized both thematically and geographically.

The Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence. The goals of the Center are to 1) Create and sustain an administrative infrastructure to support implementation and evaluation activities, 2) Create, implement, and evaluate a multifaceted, evidence-based approach to youth violence prevention in a high-risk Baltimore community, and 3) Integrate training activities for early career researchers, educators, practitioners, community residents, and youth in youth violence prevention to complement the implementation and evaluation activities of the JHCPYV.

University of Maryland Medical Center Violence Prevention Program – The program is determined to reduce the frequency and the severity of recidivism for violent injury and criminal activity among persons living in and around Baltimore City. Committed to Dr. King’s vision of “The Beloved Community,” our services focus on the enhancement of personal strengths, conflict resolution

and the development of community relationships. The VPP includes several component services:

- Violence Intervention Project (VIP): The nationally recognized and evidence, hospital-based violence intervention program.
- VPP Educational Programs: The VPP offers two different educational programs tailored to the needs of our Baltimore City youth with strong focus surrounding decision making and future goal setting.
- The Bridge Program: a Domestic Violence Program to break the cycle of intimate partner violence.
- Other donor-specific research projects.

## Costs

Salary for RYF team to coordinate work being done by partner organizations, writing evaluations, follow up and oversight.

Salary	
Project Lead (20 days)	\$13,000
Project Coordinator (18 days)	\$11,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,700</b>

Travel expenses for two researchers travel to/from/around Baltimore during Phase 2.

Travel	
Staff Travel (train, 15 round trips)	\$900
Staff Travel (car, 10 round trips)	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>

While partners will handling technical assistance, RYF will organize one seminar in each neighborhood at the end of Phase 2 to for final evaluations. Costs will go to room rentals, microphones, catering.

Seminars Expenses	
Seminar Materials (\$400x3)	\$1,200
Seminar Room Rentals (\$950x3)	\$2,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,050</b>

Partner organizations will be assigned for each of the priority areas as part of the phase 2 implementation of the project.

Interventions in Priority Areas	
Data collection for a crosscutting analysis of key feature of related to youth violence and crime.	\$25,000
Support to community dialogue and mediation	\$25,000
Schools/CBO Capacity Building towards Employment Identification	\$25,000
Lifting capacities of CBO and schools to provide studying support and guidance	\$25,000
Primary/Secondary School Teacher Support	\$25,000
Promotion of organized sports activities to enhance life skills	\$25,000
Promotion of organized arts activities to enhance life skills	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

### Phase 3 (1 year)

Phase 3 will continue the work of identifying benchmarking opportunities and applied interventions for local stakeholders and in the context of priority areas which began in Phase 2. Interventions will be coordinated in conjunction with nationally recognized organizations, connecting public, private and academic stakeholders in the beneficiary city with those national and international organizations offering best-practices and experiences in each of the respective themes.

Salary for RYF team to coordinate work being done by partner organizations, writing evaluations and appropriate follow up and oversight.

#### Program Evaluation

A final summary and compilation of the work done, as well a review of applied interventions, will be carried out as part of the program evaluation. This document would also summarize the results and recommendations made during the second/third stage benchmarking exercise. All the publications of the program would be refereed by a stakeholder committee established prior to the inception of the program.

For evaluating our program success, it is important to define and consider its impact on the different environments and levels: at the personal level, school level and community level. In addition, indicators will be identified to measure short-term as well as long-terms effects of the program, as many interventions take years to fully realize impact on youth. A control group will allow us to isolate the effects of the intervention from other factors that may influence the outcome.

Examples of indicators used would include: level of satisfaction with the pro-

gram, employment levels, school drop-out rates, and the rate of participants that rejoin a gang or engage in violent behavior after completing the program.

<b>Salary</b>	
Project Lead (20 days)	\$13,000
Project Coordinator (18 days)	\$11,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,700</b>

Travel expenses for two researchers travel to/from/around Baltimore during Phase 3.

<b>Travel</b>	
Staff Travel (2 staff, 26 round trips)	\$1,560
Staff Travel (car, 50 round trips)	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,060</b>

Partner organizations will be assigned for each of the priority areas as part of the phase 2 implementation of the project.

<b>Interventions in Priority Areas</b>	
Data collection for a crosscutting analysis of key feature of related to youth violence and crime.	\$25,000
Support to community dialogue and mediation	\$25,000
Schools/CBO Capacity Building towards Employment Identification	\$25,000
Lifting capacities of CBO and schools to provide studying support and guidance	\$25,000
Primary/Secondary School Teacher Support	\$25,000
Promotion of organized sports activities to enhance life skills	\$25,000
Promotion of organized arts activities to enhance life skills	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

While partners will be handling technical assistance, RYF will organize one seminar in each neighborhood at the end of Phase 3 to for final evaluations. Costs will go to room rentals, microphones, catering.

<b>Seminars Expenses</b>	
Seminar Materials (\$400x3)	\$1,200
Seminar Room Rentals (\$950x3)	\$2,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,050</b>

## ABOUT US

America's Juvenile Violence Prevention and Access to Justice Fund, "Fondo Recuerda" (hereafter Remember Youth Fund) is 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2017 and based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to enhance public, private, civil society and academic partnerships of entities from across the world to reduce youth violence and crime and to strengthen youth access to justice in the Americas, from Alaska to Patagonia.

RYP's mission is to enhance public, private, civil society and academic partnerships from across the world to reduce youth violence and crime and to strengthen youth access to justice in the Americas, from Alaska to Patagonia.

We are a results-driven organization using a collaborative platform from which the best practices and lessons can be learned and applied from civil society, academia, government and private corporations. Lessons learned are currently being operationalized via two programs, one focused on the prevention of youth violence and crime and another on youth access to justice. Lessons learned are shared with any and all entities, public or private, with an interest seeking solutions to youth violence and youth access to justice.

RYP bids on public and private tenders and grants opened to improve youth access to justice and crime prevention in the United States and across the Americas. We also proactively create and implement programs not dependent on tenders/grants, including the two active programs currently in progress.

While RYP is a relatively young organization, its staff and board have collectively carried out more than 70 projects in the different phases of the Project cycle that go from identification to final evaluations through constant monitoring. The projects have values ranging from few thousand dollars to a few million, and have generally been for international and multilateral cooperation organizations and as well as country supported initiatives on youth, gender and other human rights initiatives.

The first program that RYP is currently running is a program on preventing of youth social exclusion and violence in the Americas using as vector of change the practice of arts and sports.

The program is active in San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, Corregidora, Bogotá and Medellín, and is focused on strengthening children and youth's life skills using the practice of arts and sports as a vector of change and in building resilience to mitigate risks that lead to youth social exclusion and violence.

## OUR EXECUTIVE AND BOARD

America's Juvenile Violence Prevention and Access to Justice Fund, "Fondo Recuerda" (Remember Youth Fund) was found in 2017, but has a team with long-standing sector expertise and uses state-of-the art methods and instruments when managing technical assistance projects. Our team shapes Re-

member Youth Fund's best practices and contributes to ongoing exchange platform in our professional environment.

Andrew Davis, PhD, CEO of RYF. He will act as project director, coordinating all aspects of organization and implementation of the project. He is based in Washington, DC and will plan on commuting regularly to Baltimore to oversee the project. As RYF's CEO, he is responsible for overseeing and executing RYF's operations and strategic plan, including administration, fundraising, marketing and other duties, subject to the oversight, direction and control of the Board.

Jaume Guardans, Chairman of the Board and Deputy Director of the project. He is the founder and CEO of ideaborn Consultants, ideaborn Foundation and Born in Commerce. He has been working on the promotion of human rights for more than two decades, and has spent a great deal of his life providing technical assistance in Rule of Law and Good Governance related fields around the world.

Abigail Golden-Vázquez, Board Member and non-profit advisor for the project. She is vice president at the Aspen Institute and executive director of its Latinos and Society Program, whose goal is to improve understanding of the growing Latino community and increase awareness of its critical importance to the future of the United States.

Anita Antenucci is Board Member and Finance Advisor for the project. She is Senior Managing Director at Houlihan Lokey, a leading global investment bank with expertise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, financial restructuring, and valuation.

Adelaida Gaviria is Board Member and Education Advisor for the project. She is a math specialist and teacher at Coffin Elementary School, a K-2 public school in the town of Brunswick, Maine. She has a degree in Engineering Physics from the Colorado School of Mines and studied Science and Philosophy of Education at Columbia University's Teachers College.

Patricia Piña, is director of Administration and Finance, will be the designated person to support in the preparation and registration of spending supports and payments. Patricia has 30 years of accumulated experience in financial, accounting and administration. She holds a Master in Marketing from the University Pompeu Fabra and a Degree in Business Administration from the La Salle University of Mexico.

Donate here. Please indicate Baltimore Youth Violence Initiative in the subject area to support this specific initiative.

<https://rememberyouth.fund/en/donate/>

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