

An update on the work the City Neighbors Foundation, our City Neighbors schools, and our work to impact public education everywhere.



June 2018

## Educate the Whole Child: City Neighbors Highlighted by National Organization

City Neighbors schools have been selected to be highlighted by Educate the Whole Child, an organization created to spotlight and create a network of schools striving to ensure education meets the needs of the whole child - academic, social, and emotional.

From their website ([www.educatethewholechild.org](http://www.educatethewholechild.org)):

*Many alternatives exist to the test-oriented and unimaginative systems that are being imposed on our children by public schools. The best of them we call Whole Child Education. They have in common nurturing children's natural inclination to learn so that each child's highest and best abilities can flourish.*

The organization visited in mid-April for a two-day study of our schools and will follow-up with a report on the approaches and strategies we use to, indeed, "educate the whole child."

City Neighbors will join schools like the Mission Hill School in Boston, the Graciela Garcia Elementary School in Texas, and the Lab School for Creative Learning in Colorado. CNHS will be the first high school nationwide to be highlighted by this organization.

# City Neighbors Charter School Leading the Way on Universal Design: Partnering with Kennedy Krieger Institute

Through a generous grant from Transamerica, The Center for Innovation and Leadership (CILSE) at Kennedy Krieger Institute will be partnering with City Neighbors Charter School to provide special education consultation and instructional coaching for a second year. The grant allows CILSE faculty to spend time in City Neighbors classrooms offering assistance and feedback as needed in order to address the diverse needs of all learners at no charge to the school. This past year included an intensive look at Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as a means for enhancing arts integration and project-based learning activities and improving accessibility for all students. CILSE is excited to continue their partnership with City Neighbors and to showcase progressive educational practices that focus on helping all children unlock their potential.

## Over 1500 Baltimore Students to Apply to City Neighbors Schools

In February, City Neighbors schools completed their Enrollment Lotteries for 2018-2019. Across our three schools, we received over 1,500 applicants (with more coming in every day post-lottery) for approximately 150 open positions.

## City Neighbors High School Highlighted Nationwide for High Attendance

City Neighbors High School has been highlighted by Attendance Works, a national organization dedicated to improving student attendance as a critical lever for improving student performance. Our school was highlighted in their video course on improving student attendance, available to all educators and community members from across the country soon.

## 100% College Acceptance and Almost \$2M in Scholarships for City Neighbors High School Grads

Congratulations to our nearly 100 City Neighbors High School graduates! 100% of our graduates were accepted to two- or four-year colleges, with almost two million dollars in scholarships awarded. Accepting colleges include Bucknell University, Ithaca College, Morgan State University, University of Maryland, Towson University, and McDaniel College among many others.

## 70% of City Neighbors 8th Graders Eligible for Criteria High Schools

We are excited to announce that 70% of graduating 8th graders from City Neighbors Charter School and City Neighbors Hamilton are eligible for criteria high school options - Baltimore City criteria high schools, Baltimore School for the Arts, or independent schools. We are also excited to have over 20% of our graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be freshmen at City Neighbors High School in the fall.

## City Neighbors High School Highlighted in the Baltimore Sun

City Neighbors High School was recently highlighted in the Baltimore Sun for its participation in an annual Civil Rights trip, a collaboration between City Neighbors High School and The Park School of Baltimore.

*"When people think of the civil rights movement, they concentrate on the deep South," said City Neighbors math teacher Rodney Wallace, one of the project organizers. "But there was activism everywhere, including here in our back yard. This is about giving kids the chance to make connections to history and to home."*

[Read the full article here.](#)

## City Neighbors Presents at the Century Foundation

City Neighbors was invited to serve on a panel entitled, "How Do You Reap the Benefits of Diversity" at the Century Foundation's Conference, Diversity Matters: Getting Public School Choice Right. Kate Seidl, Principal of City Neighbors Charter School, joined three other educators from across the nation in discussing the challenges and opportunities of intentionally diverse schools like ours. There was a lively discussion about the ways in which classroom teaching and learning, school staffing, and school policies can address and improve educational opportunity and ensure all students from all backgrounds achieve. The topics examined included equitable disciplinary practices, family engagement, hiring teachers from diverse backgrounds, and addressing bias in tracking. City Neighbors' innovative, robust learning environments are the result of our teacher-crafted, student-centered policies that acknowledge and address the impact of economic, racial, linguistic, and social forces on Baltimore's students. At the Century Foundation, Kate used concrete examples from the ongoing work at our schools--including restorative justice practices, social justice curriculum, teacher autonomy, parent governance, advisory models, and out-of-school time learning opportunities--to show the ways multiple overlapping efforts equitably serve City Neighbors students.

# City Neighbors Students Advocate!

In recent months, City Neighbors students have been all over Baltimore and Annapolis, advocating for resources and great schools here in Baltimore and for all children.



*City Neighbors Students Lobbying Senator Mosby, Delegate Washington, and Delegate MacIntosh at BEC Solutions Summit in Annapolis.*



*City Neighbors High School students, Principal Zahrt, teachers, and a busload of City Neighbors people head to DC for the March for Their Lives.*



*City Neighbors Charter School and City Neighbors Hamilton students participate in the National School Walkout in March.*

*CNCS students participate in the Black Lives Matter Week of Action in February.*

*Below: City Neighbors Charter School students testifying in Annapolis in support of a bond for the Malone Memorial Playground.*

*Below: CNHS student, Victoria Able (left), presents on Youth Voice at the National Network of Schools in Partnership Conference.*



# City Neighbors Partners with Calvin Rodwell Elementary School

For the last three years, City Neighbors has been a partner and supporter of Calvin Rodwell Elementary School, a K-5 neighborhood school in West Baltimore. This year, we served as consultants to both support the development of a project-based learning after-school program and to help transform the classroom physical environment.

In May, we supported Calvin Rodwell in attaining a grant from The Goldseker Foundation to continue our work in developing their project-based learning after-school program. The grant will also fund Calvin Rodwell Elementary School as they merge with another school temporarily, before returning to their new 21st Century Building in 2020-2021.

## The City Neighbors Children's Summer Program

Beginning in July, City Neighbors Children's Summer Program enters its fourth summer. The camp serves rising first, second, third, and fourth graders who attend City Neighbors schools. The City Neighbors Children's Summer Camp is a four-week literacy-rich, experiential program designed to provide younger students the opportunity to grow as readers, writers, artists, researchers, naturalists, and so much more. Day camp activities focus on targeted literacy instruction with plenty of singing, reading, writing, crafts, outdoor play, bicycling, and more. Weekly artists-in-residence provide deep experience with music, dance, and visual arts, while weekly field trips bring students to the pool, the library, local nature centers, and even blueberry picking. This year, we welcome 55 students, including our Counselors in Training. Stay tuned for reports on our summer adventures!

## The City Neighbors Fellows and Post-Fellowship Program

The City Neighbors Teaching Fellows Program is designed for those aspiring to teach in a student-centered and progressive teaching environment. In this two-year fellowship, aspiring educators work in our City Neighbors classrooms, receive targeted mentoring and professional development, and have structured opportunities to develop and refine teaching practice in alignment with a progressive, City Neighbors approach to teaching and learning. This month, our first two-year cohort will complete their Fellowship! Congratulations to Tanisha Carpenter, LaShawn Gardner, Adilah Haris, Sharon Jackson, Ashley Novak, Idris Olabode, and Shardonnay Wright. We are also excited to announce that Teaching Fellow graduate, LaShawn Gardner, will serve as first grade teacher at City Neighbors Hamilton next year. And, ever trailblazing, Ashley Novak, Sharon Jackson, and Idris Olabode have been named City Neighbors Post-Fellows, deepening their work of this year, increasing their instructional role, leading a self-designed special school-wide project, and taking on mentorship of new Teaching Fellows.

# The City Neighbors Fabrication Lab Sparks the Imaginations of K-12 Students

The City Neighbors Fab Lab, located on the Hamilton Campus of City Neighbors, promotes ingenuity, invention, and inspiration by introducing K-12 students to modern prototyping and fabrication equipment. Our goal is to create an environment that encourages creativity and inspiration, and impacts student achievement in science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts. We want students to experience the joy of being architects, artists, computer programmers, engineers, mathematicians, scientists, inventors, and designers.



*Above (Left): CNH middle-school students coming off stage after presenting their finished game, after working for 12 hours to create one from scratch. Above (Right): Featured in the Arts Every Day show earlier this year, our 10th graders combined several different techniques to laser engrave their own portraits on wood. They took the pictures with a digital camera, cut the wood with a table saw, painted with watercolors, engineered their photo with Adobe Illustrator, and finally used our laser cutter to engrave their image.*

*Below (Left): In anticipation of the new Star Wars movie, we celebrated by creating everyone's favorite Wookiee during one of our Family Maker Nights. Above (Center): Gearing up for Pi Day (3/14), the high school math team designed and created their own City Neighbors-themed pi shirts. Above (Right): As part of a year-long unit, Mr. Dietzen's and Mrs. McGarvey's 4th and 5th grade classes created this model of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed with some help from the Fab Lab. Can you find Baltimore?*



*Above (Left): Students used this robot to explore concepts of robotics. Once they finished building it, they learned how to program it. Above (Right): A group of CNCS students created working models of various kinds of medieval catapults.*

## Our Partners

**Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds** Thank you to the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds for their recent award of a three-year, \$150,000 grant to support the work of City Neighbors Foundation. We are grateful for their support, confidence, and investment in our work of operating three strong schools and working to support public education throughout our city and beyond.

**Robert W. Deutsch Foundation** Thank you to the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation for their grant of \$80,000 to support City Neighbors Foundation, with targeted investment in our City Neighbors Fabrication Lab, our annual Progressive Education Summit, our City Neighbors Teaching Fellows Program, and our other initiatives to create professional learning communities of teachers.

**Wright Family Foundation** Thank you to the Wright Family Foundation for their grant of \$20,000 to support Early Literacy Teaching work at City Neighbors. Their support of our balanced literacy approach, designed to support the development of both capable and passionate readers, is invaluable and a strong ongoing vote of confidence for our stand on literacy and early childhood education.

**Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation** Thank you to the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation who provided a \$20,000 grant to the City Neighbors Children's Summer Program to provide the necessary scholarships for the over 70% of students attending who require them. Their generosity will allow these students to have a high quality, four-week summer learning experience.

**Goldsmith Family Foundation** Thank you to the Goldsmith Family Foundation for their grant of \$10,000 to support the work of our City Neighbors schools. Their ongoing support of our commitment to the profession of teaching and to our innovative approach to teaching and learning is invaluable.

**Haloti Ngata Foundation** Thank you to The Haloti Ngata Family Foundation who selected City Neighbors High School as the ninth school nationwide to receive funding for an ACT preparation program for aspiring college students. The Ofa Ngata College Preparatory Fund was created in 2015 to perpetuate an ACT prep initiative in Salt Lake City pioneered by Ngata's late mother, Ofa Ngata. City Neighbors High School is the first school in Baltimore to receive funding for an ACT prep program following programs in Utah and Idaho. The City Neighbors Foundation will receive \$4,000 to operate two classes that will serve approximately 60 students.

# The Malone Memorial Playground: Coming Summer 2018



One year after the devastating fire that led to the loss of six of the Malone family's nine children--two of whom were students at City Neighbors Charter School--we are closer to our goal of creating a memorial play space in honor of the Malone children: Bridgette, Amelia, Zoe, Amanda, Billy, and Daniel.

JP Morgan Chase generously donated the land next to the current play space at City Neighbors Charter School on Raspe Avenue, which will allow us to create a beautiful space that symbolizes hope, love, and community.

Thank you to the many individuals, foundations, and businesses who have contributed! Recently, construction firm P. Flanigan & Sons agreed to donate \$63,000 worth of in-kind services to make sure we can build the playground this summer.

During the last semester, we brought together students, teachers, and families to design a playground that honors the lives of the Malone children. After a year of planning, collaboration, community input, and community investment, we officially broke ground on June 6.

Among those present at the groundbreaking were City Neighbors students, families, and staff, firefighters of Engine House 54, Delegate Talmadge Branch, Delegate Cheryl Glenn, Senator Nathaniel McFadden, Representative Elijah Cummings, Councilman Brandon Scott, Chief Robert Wall of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Peter Muriungi of JP Morgan Chase, and Katie and Bill Malone.

Like the playground itself, the day was designed to focus on hope and healing. Katie Malone left us with this message:

"Who knew Bridgette? What was her favorite musical, guys?"

Crowd: "HAMILTON!"

"One of the things that you learn from Hamilton, something that Alexander Hamilton said was 'What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden that you never get to see.' This is Bridgette, Amelia, Amanda, Zoe, Billy, and Daniel's legacy. Love it. Treasure it. Bring your children here when you are older. And make sure that everything lives on."

[Read the Baltimore Sun article here.](#)