

In the Loop

FEATURED AND UPCOMING TOPICS FROM
SPRINGBOARD COMMUNITY SERVICES.



One Springboard

United in purpose. Rooted in community.
Moving forward together.



A Year of Grit, Growth & Gratitude

Dear Springboard Community Services Family,

As we close another fiscal year, I find myself pausing — not to review plans or projections, but to simply be grateful. Grateful for this organization. Grateful for this team. And profoundly grateful for the individuals and families who trusted us to walk alongside them during some of the most difficult chapters of their lives.

This year tested us. It asked more of us than we anticipated, and in many moments, it asked more than felt possible. And yet — here we are. Because of you. Because of the case managers who showed up before dawn and stayed long after dark. Because of the administrators who kept things running when the cracks were showing. Because of every therapist, coordinator, advocate, and leader who refused to let the weight of the work diminish the quality of their care.

"The measure of this year is not found in a report — it is found in the faces of the people we served, and in the quiet, powerful commitment of the team that served them."

We've grown — not just in the reach of our programs, but in the depth of our impact. We have expanded our behavioral health, case management, and housing services. We have built stronger community collaborations. We have pushed further into the work of family violence prevention and shelter expansion. And through it all, we have held fast to the belief that the most vulnerable among us deserve not just services, but dignity — not just access, but belonging.

This June, our newsletter carries themes that speak directly to who we are as an organization: Pride, Juneteenth, and unity. These are not just calendar moments — they are mirrors held up to our values. To celebrate Pride Month is to affirm that every person we serve, regardless of who they are or who they love, belongs here. To honor Juneteenth is to acknowledge that our commitment to equity is not a program or a policy — it is the foundation on which everything we build must stand. And to speak of unity is to name what I see every time I visit one of our locations: a team bound not by title or tenure, but by shared purpose.

As we step into a new fiscal year, I carry forward the lessons of this one — the humility, the resilience, and the reminder that our greatest asset has never been a program model or a grant award. It has always been our people.

Thank you for the honor of leading this organization alongside you. The work continues — and I am proud, more proud than I can adequately express, to be in it with you.

With deep respect and gratitude,



F.T. Burden
CEO, Springboard Community Services

Why pride matters and why we stand with it!



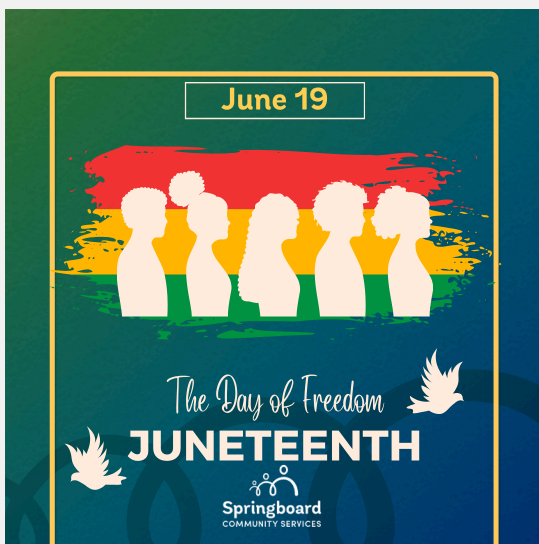
June is Pride Month — a time to celebrate identity, affirm dignity, and recommit to the belief that every person deserves to live openly and without fear. What began as a movement rooted in resistance has grown into a powerful annual reminder that visibility saves lives, and that community is one of the most transformative forces there is.

At Springboard Community Services, equity is at the heart of our mission — strong communities form when everyone has access to support, belonging, and opportunity, regardless of who they are or who they love. Pride Month reflects that commitment directly.

This month, we encourage everyone at Springboard to reflect on what inclusion looks like in their daily work, listen to LGBTQ+ colleagues and clients, and show up proudly as allies. Representation and an affirming presence matter — together, we can make sure those we serve feel seen, valued, and welcomed.

Happy Pride Month from all of us at Springboard Community Services. 🌈

Honoring Juneteenth: freedom is the foundation of everything we do



Did You Know?

On June 19, 1865, enslaved people in Galveston, Texas received word that they were free — more than two months after the end of the Civil War. That day, now celebrated as Juneteenth, marks not just a historical milestone but a moral one: a reckoning with what it means to truly live up to the promises of freedom, dignity, and equality. The delay itself tells a story — one of information withheld, justice deferred, and resilience that could not be suppressed. For generations, Black Americans kept this day alive through community celebrations, oral history, and collective memory, long before it was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021. Today, Juneteenth is both a celebration and a call to action. It invites us to honor the strength of those who came before us, acknowledge the work that remains, and recommit to building a world where freedom is not delayed for anyone.

Newsworthy Highlights

2026 Inked With Hope: A Night We Won't Forget

This year's Inked with Hope was nothing short of extraordinary. What began as a vision rooted in community, creativity, and compassion became one of the most vibrant and memorable evenings in Springboard Community Services history.

The room was alive — filled with laughter, art, generosity, and the unmistakable feeling that something truly special was happening.

Talented artists, dedicated supporters, and passionate community members came together under one roof, united by a shared belief in the power of hope. The art on display was stunning. The conversations were meaningful. The giving was generous. And the spirit in the room — electric.

Inked with Hope is important to our community because it reminded us of something we always know but don't always get to feel: that when this community shows up, it shows up fully.

Every dollar raised, every piece purchased, and every hand extended that evening moves Springboard closer to the people who need us most. Events like this are proof that our mission resonates far beyond our walls — and that the community we serve is also the community that lifts us up.

To every artist who shared their gift, every attendee who opened their heart, every volunteer who gave their time, and every donor who gave so generously — thank you. Inked with Hope 2026 was a success because of you.

[2026 Inked With Hope Photos](#)

Celebrating 53 Years of the Foster Grandparents Program

This year, the Foster Grandparents Program proudly celebrates 53 years of service, impact, and intergenerational connection. For more than five decades, our volunteers have dedicated their time, wisdom, and compassion to supporting children and strengthening communities throughout the region.

As we reflect on this milestone, we are incredibly grateful for the outstanding team of staff and volunteers who make this program thrive. Their dedication, commitment, and servant leadership continue to embody the mission and values of the Foster Grandparents Program every day.

Our volunteers are truly the heart of this program. Some have faithfully served for more than 20 years, sharing their experience, encouragement, and care with countless children and families. We are also honored to have volunteers in their 90s who continue to show up with enthusiasm,



purpose, and a desire to make a difference. Their resilience and commitment are a testament to the enduring power of service.

As we celebrate 53 years, we recognize and thank every volunteer, past and present, whose contributions have helped shape the legacy of the Foster Grandparents Program. We also extend our appreciation to our dedicated staff, whose hard work and support ensure the program's continued success.

Here's to 53 years of changing lives, building relationships, and creating brighter futures—and to many more years ahead.

[Learn More About Our Foster Grandparents Program](#)

Welcome To Our New Hires

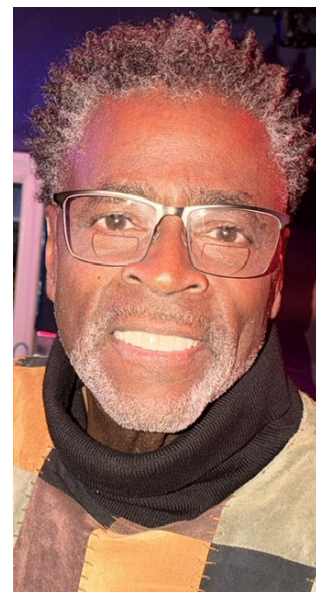
We're excited to welcome all of the new staff members who have recently joined Springboard Community Services!

Your talent, passion, and dedication strengthen our mission to support and empower individuals and families across Maryland. We're so glad you're here—welcome to the team!

Join us in welcoming:

Victor "Vic" Frierson

Vic is a Workforce Development Professional with over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit and government sectors. He joins SCS as the Workforce Development Specialist in the Youth Resource Center to continue his lifelong commitment to connecting Baltimore's underserved residents — particularly opportunity youth and individuals facing housing or employment barriers — to meaningful opportunities.



Destinee Canterbury

Destinee joins SCS as an Office Administrator in our Wilde Lake office, bringing strong organizational skills and a dedication to positive client experiences. She is excited to contribute to the team and support the daily operations that keep our mission moving forward.



Tonisha Patterson, LGPC

Tonisha is a Licensed Therapist with 9 years of experience supporting youth and adults through anxiety, depression, trauma, and life transitions. She joined SCS's Baltimore City team, to help clients heal from past experiences, build self-awareness, and create more fulfilling lives. Tonisha currently has openings for new virtual clients.



Staff Spotlight: Jasmyne Ford

Since joining SCS in April 2023, Jasmyne Ford has consistently demonstrated what dedication, resilience, and excellence look like in action. Beginning her journey as our RG Residential Service Coordinator and later transitioning into the role of FVP Youth Case Manager, Jasmyne has continued to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the clients and families she serves.

Jasmyne is the epitome of Black Girl Magic—a remarkable example of strength, determination, and grace. She approaches her work with compassion and authenticity, often going above and beyond to ensure clients receive the support, encouragement, and resources they need to succeed.

This year, Jasmyne achieved an incredible milestone by earning her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from Coppin State University. Her pursuit of excellence continues as she prepares to begin her Master of Social Work (MSW) studies.

What makes this accomplishment even more inspiring is everything Jasmyne balanced along the way. As a devoted single mother to three amazing children, she successfully managed the demands of work, internship responsibilities, academic coursework, and motherhood—all while continuing to show up each day with a smile, a positive attitude, and a cheerful heart.

Whether in the office, in the community, or in the classroom, Jasmyne is a true rockstar. Her perseverance, work ethic, and unwavering commitment to growth inspire those around her and serve as a powerful reminder of what is possible through determination and faith.

Jasmyne, thank you for the compassion, energy, and excellence you bring to SCS every day. We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments, grateful for your service, and blessed to have you as part of our team. We cannot wait to see all that you accomplish next!



Staff Spotlight: Zina L. Harris

Zina L. Harris (and yes, don't forget the "L"!) recently celebrated her 2nd Work Anniversary with SCS as our dedicated Foster Grandparents Program Manager.

For the past two years, Zina has brought far more than her expertise to the role—she has brought heart, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the individuals and communities we serve. Her leadership, compassion, and dedication have helped strengthen the Foster Grandparents Program while making a lasting impact on staff, volunteers, and participants alike.

Zina has a unique gift for inspiring, encouraging, and uplifting those around her. Whether offering guidance, sharing her wisdom, or simply bringing her authentic self to every interaction, she consistently creates a positive and supportive environment for everyone she encounters.

Her vibrant energy, grace, and genuine care do not go unnoticed. From the highly visible successes to the countless behind-the-scenes efforts that keep things running smoothly, Zina's contributions are deeply valued and greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Zina, for all that you do and for being exactly who you are. Your hard work, positivity, and dedication make a difference every single day. We are fortunate to have you as part of the SCS family and look forward to celebrating many more milestones with you in the years ahead!

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Mary Dukes

Since joining SCS in January 2026 as our Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator, Ms. Mary Dukes has made such an impact that it feels as though she's been part of the team for years.

From day one, Mary came in hitting the ground running. She quickly embraced her role with confidence, initiative, and a clear sense of purpose. Organized, goal-driven, and committed to excellence, she consistently approaches her work with focus and determination while ensuring that no detail is overlooked.

Mary's love for Christ and His people is reflected in the way she serves others each day. She leads with kindness, grace, and compassion, creating meaningful connections with everyone she



encounters. Though she has a quiet and humble demeanor, her vivacious spirit and low-key sense of humor shine through, bringing warmth and joy to those around her.

Known for being straightforward, passionate, and hardworking, Mary is someone who can be counted on to get the job done. She balances professionalism with a genuine servant's heart, always seeking ways to support both the mission of the program and the people it serves.

One of the clearest reflections of Mary's impact can be seen in her relationships with our Foster Grandparent volunteers. They absolutely love her. Through her authenticity, responsiveness, and unwavering support, she has earned their trust and admiration in a remarkably short period of time.

Thank you, Ms. Mary, for your hard work, commitment, and the positive energy you bring each day. We are blessed to have you on our team and look forward to all that lies ahead.

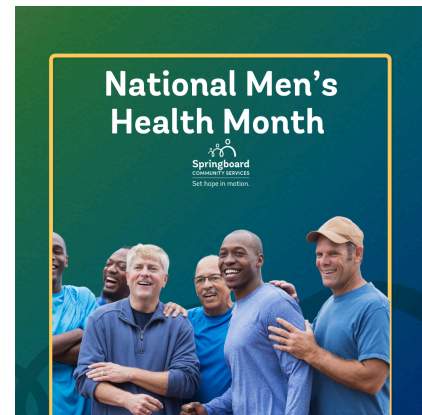
Happy Father's Day

As Father's Day approaches we want to honor all the dads, father figures, and mentors who provide strength, guidance and love. We celebrate the important role all kinds of fathers play in nurturing families and building strong communities.



National Men's Health Month

June is National Men's Health Month—a time to raise awareness about the importance of regular check-ups, mental health, and healthy lifestyle choices for men and boys. Let's encourage the men in our lives to prioritize their health and well-being. Springboard is here to help. Whether it's finding the right resources, connecting with support, or taking that first step toward better health, we're with you every step of the way.



Highlighting PTSD Awareness Month

June is PTSD Awareness Month. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder affects millions, often in silence. This month, we stand with survivors and work to break the stigma, promote understanding, and ensure access to compassionate care and support.

PTSD Awareness Month



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