COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT at THE AAMC HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022
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INTRODUCTION

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. This includes the neighborhood and communities surrounding our headquarters at 655 K Street NW, in the heart of the Mt. Vernon Triangle neighborhood of Washington, D.C. In line with our fourth mission area, Community Collaborations, the AAMC’s Office of Community Engagement actively engages with community partners, government, and residents to enhance our social impact in the District of Columbia through philanthropic efforts, employee volunteerism, and innovative programming.

The Office of Community Engagement’s efforts reflect our organizational mission to improve the nation’s health through constituent-informed programs and mutually beneficial partnerships. At the local level, these efforts center around providing value to the city and its nonprofit community, to our employees and members, and to the organization as a whole. We spearhead relationships with community members, focusing on youth education, homelessness and housing insecurity, and support for our culture of service.

This report highlights some of the work that took place from July 2021 through June 2022.
Supporting Neighborhood Students and Teachers Transitioning to In-Person Learning

The AAMC Office of Community Engagement coordinated a successful virtual back-to-school drive that offered children and families of Walker-Jones Education Campus the support they needed to transition to in-person learning. Walker-Jones Education Campus, located several blocks from the AAMC’s 655 K Street NW headquarters, serves Washington, D.C., students in pre-K through eighth grade. Since 2018, the AAMC has formed a strong partnership with the neighborhood school, providing volunteers and other resources to enhance student and teacher experiences. To kick off the 2021-2022 school year, at the school’s request, AAMC staff donated more than 2,000 masks for students and staff, as well as hundreds of school supply essentials. In addition to that mask and supply drive, the AAMC provided a catered lunch from a local restaurant, Busboys and Poets, for teachers and administrators at Walker-Jones for the professional development day that serves as a welcome back for staff and an opportunity to lay out goals for the school year ahead.
To complement the school support, the AAMC made a donation to Mission First Housing Group for their Fall D.C. Youth Programming for residents of Golden Rule Apartments, several blocks from AAMC headquarters. Golden Rule Apartments is one of several Mission First properties that provide multifamily, affordable rental housing for under-resourced individuals and families. Many Walker-Jones students live in Mission First Housing.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, AAMC staff provided in-person weekly tutoring and homework support to young scholars at Golden Rule Apartments through the Homework Helpers program and supported Mission First’s Camp Upward, a six-week, health-focused summer camp program. Homework Helpers and Camp Upward have been suspended due to the ongoing pandemic, and there remains a constant need to engage our youngest neighbors and support enrichment activities.

Creating Deeper Connections for Coolidge Academy of Health Sciences Students

Calvin Coolidge High School’s NAF (National Academy Foundation) Academy of Health Sciences is one of several supported by AAMC staff throughout the academic year. The NAF Academy of Health Sciences prepares students for college, career, and life by providing them with the skills and experiences they need to pursue exciting health-related degrees and professions.

At the request of school administrators, the AAMC hosted a virtual session titled The Road to Pre-Med and Medical School for students at the academy. More than 20 students participated in the hybrid video presentation on the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT® exam) process, Medical School Admission Requirements™ (MSAR®) features, and available tools and resources for financial assistance. Brandon Hunter, director of student affairs for the AAMC Academic Home for Learners, Educators, and Professional Staff portfolio, dispelled myths about academic preparation for medical school and highlighted the skills that should be developed before embarking on the medical school journey. Antonio Mancuso, communications and outreach senior specialist for workforce diversity at the AAMC, covered the importance of participating in enrichment programs and provided information about the AAMC’s own program, Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP).
Later in the school year, Toni Gallo, educational resources and scholarship lead and senior editor at *Academic Medicine*, conducted a two-part *workshop series on scientific research and writing*. In the first session, she focused on guiding students on proper scientific writing procedures and research skills development. Toni began the instructive session with an overview that covered how to appropriately use active and passive voices, the importance of using terms consistently, and sentence structure. After the overview, students were given poorly written sentences to fix as a way to demonstrate the techniques they learned. The session concluded with a 15-minute Q&A where students asked for clarity on how to structure a paper and guidance on assessing the credibility of sources.

The second session covered *effective title writing and the core aspects of a good research paper*. Toni emphasized the importance of telling a story that puts the results or main arguments of the research paper into context. She pointed out how an effective title can draw the reader’s attention to the story the writer hopes to tell. After the overview, students had an opportunity to apply the strategies they learned and create their research titles. The titles were presented to the class, and students provided feedback.

Coolidge also requested a *public speaking workshop* for students, which the executive director of the AAMC Research and Action Institute, Atul Grover, MD, conducted. He shared his knowledge and tips about public speaking, which helped students prepare for the D.C. Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) Conference and for their class presentations.

**Introducing D.C. High School Students to Careers in Health**

In February 2022, the AAMC Office of Community Engagement hosted a virtual event to introduce D.C. high school students to *careers in nursing and medicine*. The panelist, Mbali Mzobe, a registered nurse (RN) case manager, and Abdoul Kone, a medical student at Howard University College of Medicine, highlighted their unique career pathways while addressing the challenges they have faced.

Student participants represented a range of Washington, D.C.-based college preparatory programs and public and charter high schools: College Bound, College Success Foundation, Capital Partners for Education, McKinley Technology High School, and Coolidge High School.
Introducing D.C. High School Students to Research

Funmi Makinde, health equity research analyst for scientific affairs, and Taniecea Mallery, senior director of organizational inclusion and development for equity, diversity, and inclusion, both at the AAMC, presented an overview of best practices in qualitative and quantitative research to students in the Rodham Institute’s Health, Education & Leadership Program (HELP) Academy. The academy is an after-school program that supports middle school students in Wards 7 and 8 by providing experiential learning activities.

“One of my highlights this year was volunteering as a judge for the McKinley Technology High School STEM Fair. Hearing from the youth, seeing their passion and creative process was truly inspiring.”

Laura Zelaya, digital content producer, AAMC

Empowering Students With Career-Readiness Workshops

In collaboration with the AAMC Office of Community Engagement, the Human Resources cluster presented workshops on career readiness to NAF Academy of Health Sciences students at Coolidge High School and Eastern Senior High School. Yvonne Massenburg, chief human resources officer, Henry Addo, director of talent acquisition, Kimberly Browne, senior talent acquisition partner, and Liz Coakley, senior director of talent management, all spoke about the best practices for job applications, interviewing, and résumé writing. The sessions were done to help prepare students to apply for the summer internship positions that are a requirement for all NAF students.
Uniting With Partners to Support Project Community Connect

The AAMC was recognized as a Community Champion supporter of the United Way National Capital Area (NCA) annual Project Community Connect held in October 2021. The event is part of United Way NCA’s focus on achieving equity for all community members, regardless of race, gender, income, and ability. The event provided essential services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, as well as to the region’s Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) population. Project Community Connect brings much-needed resources to individuals and families across the region through in-person and virtual workshops featuring career-readiness guidance, financial assistance, health care, and food access. Since 2018, the AAMC has been a consistent supporter of this event, which aligns with the AAMC community engagement focus area of addressing homelessness and housing insecurity.
Walking Toward a Common Goal, AAMC Staff Join With Community

Friendship Place is a housing service provider for people experiencing homelessness in the Washington, D.C., region. For many years, AAMC employees have volunteered their time and donated items to benefit the organization and its participants. Friendship Place programs empower participants to rebuild their lives, find homes, get jobs, and reconnect with friends, family, and the community, permanently.

Christy Repress, executive director of Pathways to Housing DC, believes housing is the number one thing doctors wish they could prescribe for patients experiencing homelessness. Repress asserts, “People moving into housing from homelessness have better health outcomes. Even if a person does not have a chronic health condition, if they remain in homelessness, over time, they will end up with a chronic health condition that could be treatable and avoidable.” She believes housing is a basic human right, and people and organizations who want to support our unhoused neighbors should get informed about the effect of homelessness on these individuals. This way, they can join in housing advocacy and work to understand the challenges relating to housing as a social determinant of health.

Christy Repress, Executive Director, Pathways to Housing DC

Several AAMC colleagues who were connected to Friendship Place through AAMC involvement — Etzy Salazar-Lopez, salesforce administrator for Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Operations and E-commerce; Lee Crowther, library specialist for the Reference Center; Lee Mimms, contingent worker for internal communications; and Stratton Penberthy, procurement manager for sourcing and vendor management — deepened their connection by participating in the Friendship Walk to End Homelessness in April 2022, joining hundreds of others walking toward the common goal of bringing awareness and resources to the fight to end homelessness.
Providing Clothing Essentials for Neighbors in Need

The Office of Community Engagement facilitated a wintertime online clothing drive to support So Others Might Eat (SOME), an interfaith, community-based service organization that exists to support district residents experiencing homelessness and poverty. SOME is located within walking distance of AAMC headquarters, a previous AAMC community grant recipient, a host site for AAMC employee volunteers, and a frequent collaborator with AAMC community engagement programs. AAMC employees generously donated more than 1,000 masks, hundreds of women's and men's undergarments, socks, and gloves. SOME identified undergarments and socks as particular ongoing-priority needs for the clients they serve.

Alsan J. Bellard Jr, MD, chief medical officer of the Community of Hope, is a pediatrician who spends a lot of his time when not seeing patients writing letters to landlords advocating on behalf of his patients, asking that they address issues in rental units that are impacting the health of the children who live there. He offers, “Housing equity means not only do you have affordable housing, but you have quality affordable housing.”

When asked what isn’t being talked about enough, Bellard says, “As we talk about gentrification we must also talk about housing as health and what’s happening to these displaced communities. Displacement affects people's long-term health. What types of places are we pushing these people to? Are we sending them to substandard housing? Are we forcing people into homelessness?”

Affordable housing must mean quality housing.

Alsan J. Bellard Jr., MD, MBA, FAAP, Chief Medical Officer, Community of Hope
655 Cares Virtual 5K Continued to Show Good Form

In May 2022, AAMC Community Engagement invited employees to participate in the second annual 655 Cares 5K. More than 100 individuals accepted the call and collectively walked, ran, jogged, or biked more than 500 miles in support of one of three local community partners, who received a $25 donation in their honor for each 5K participant. The three 5K beneficiaries were District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH), Mary’s Center, and Mentoring in Medicine.
AAMC Takes Community Service on the Road

The AAMC hosts a series of affinity-group professional development conferences throughout the United States and Canada. AAMC staff work closely with planning committees to develop and execute the most relevant and engaging educational sessions and promote opportunities for networking. In 2022, two program planning committees worked with the Office of Community Engagement to incorporate community service and community engagement information and activities into their overall programs.

The AAMC Group on Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) Professional Development Conference included sessions and posters about community engagement strategies, partnerships, and activities in their call for proposals that resulted in strengthening content for several sessions and posters from faculty and learners. In addition, conference participants were able to pack 250 COVID safety kits donated to Mary’s Center that were distributed at their community vaccine clinics. Members embraced integrating community engagement into the program.

“One thing our collaboration with the AAMC has enabled that would not have been possible otherwise is the distribution of new technology to families in under-resourced communities. They now can access more than before, due to the help and support of AAMC.”

Frederick Hawkins, Interim Director of Resident Services, Mission First Housing Group

During the AAMC Group on Business Affairs (GBA) and Group on Institutional Planning (GIP) 2022 Joint Spring Meeting, participants assembled 70 comfort kits to be distributed to parents whose children are receiving treatment at the University of California, San Francisco, Benioff Children’s Hospital. The care kits contained items such as coloring books, toiletries, and snacks. Hospital representatives were incredibly grateful for the items, as they had run low on their current supply. Our impact on the local community was important to GBA and GIP.
AAMC IT Plugs In to Community
The AAMC recently went through the process of decommissioning most employee laptop computers. As a result, the AAMC IT team reached out to the Office of Community Engagement to identify community organizations that could benefit from receiving gently used equipment that could be of value to their programs and participants. Forty-five laptops found new homes at Pathways to Housing, Mission First, Friendship Place, OnRamps to Careers, and Bright Beginnings and will be used for education and career development programs.

Civic Health Spotlight
Four members of the AAMC provide pro bono hours to local organizations in the district. One of them, Corporate Counsel Amber Sterling, volunteered four times with the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. The program, which has been virtual since the pandemic's onset, provides information and resources to both tenants and landlords. Most evictions have been suspended, but there is still a need to understand various housing-related issues. In addition, for the past six years, Amber has served as an election officer in Alexandria, Virginia, and was promoted to chief officer in her precinct two years ago. Twice a year, this involves four hours of preparation, four hours of training, and an 18-hour commitment on election day. The volunteering has had an impact on Amber: “I vote in every election. Everything starts small. Who’s on the school board matters, no matter if you have a child.” AAMC Chief Legal Officer Frank Trinity observes: “Amber’s pro bono and civic engagement is an example for all of us of how we can individually contribute to a better local community and, hopefully, serve as an example to others in helping to make a difference nationwide.”
AAMC Showed a Big Heart to Walker-Jones Teachers and Staff

Teaching and supporting students in grades pre-K-8 and their families during the ongoing pandemic has been challenging for Walker-Jones Education Campus staff. As a good neighbor that cares deeply about youth education and the adults who make learning safe, accessible, and fun for students daily, the AAMC used Valentine’s Day 2022 as a time to show some love. AAMC staff sent cards and letters of gratitude to staff, and a member of the AAMC leadership team supplied specialty gift bags for all staff. Teachers and staff were also treated to a catered lunch.

“One thing our collaboration with the AAMC has enabled that would not have been possible otherwise is the opportunity to support teachers with several appreciation luncheons each year and individualized thank you letters to our educators.

Your employees wrote individual thank you letters to all of our staff last year, and that gesture has been transformational for our staff.”

Julie Hursey, Assistant Principal, Walker-Jones Education Campus

AAMC Celebrates Our People and Connects to a Culture of Service

Celebrating Our People is a special occasion during which the AAMC honors our colleagues’ years of service. This year’s Length of Service Awardees were offered the option to make a charitable donation to a local nonprofit organization of their choice in lieu of selecting a gift. As a result of their generosity, more than $4,000 was donated to organizations providing health services and programs for our neighbors, an increase in donations compared with the previous year.
Publishing Academic Medicine Community Roundtable Report and Beginning Action Steps

In December 2021, the AAMC published *Health Equity in Academic Medicine: Recommendations From an AAMC Community Roundtable in Washington, D.C.* The report summarized the findings from a series of roundtables convened in July 2020 with seven academic medical institutions and five community organizations in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The Roundtable leveraged the knowledge and experiences of our community partners, engaged regional collaborators in the development of a health equity framework, and explored avenues for a more collaborative approach to advancing health equity in Washington, D.C.

Subsequently, the Academic Medicine Collaborative, consisting of medical schools, teaching hospitals, and learners from the District of Columbia, was created. The purpose of the collaborative is to share promising practices and promote cross-institutional collaborations that will advance health equity in the district while also working to eliminate racism in academic medicine. The collaborative identified two levers that could be used to address systemic racism in academic medicine: medical education and social accountability. The working groups of the collaborative have set initial goals for the next 12 months.

ADVOCATING and COLLABORATING for COMMUNITY HEALTH

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Promoting Opportunities for Community Collaboration at the National Level

During the 2021 LSL Virtual Experience, the Office of Community Engagement produced the session Black Neighborhoods Matter: Problematic Pasts and Promising Futures for Anchor Institutions. This fireside chat between AAMC Chief Diversity Officer David Acosta, MD, and Lawrence T. Brown, PhD, author of the book *The Black Butterfly — The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America*, was attended by more than 400 participants. Dr. Brown’s work asserts that Black lives cannot matter until Black neighborhoods do. In the discussion, Dr. Brown shared his insights about how and why medical schools and health systems are uniquely positioned to help produce better population and civic health outcomes in the communities that surround institutions, including how academic medicine can work to address social determinants of health and racism. Dr. Brown offered a clear, five-step plan for activists, nonprofits, and public officials to achieve racial equity. Not content to simply describe and decry urban problems, he offered a wide range of innovative solutions to help heal and restore redlined Black neighborhoods, including municipal reparations, persuasively arguing that because urban apartheid was intentionally erected, it can be intentionally dismantled.

“I continue to volunteer, engage, and participate because as a native Washingtonian, I so enjoy connecting with my community and providing a service. Further, I love engaging my team in the community activities and witnessing how they are fulfilled and rewarded by the experience.”

Yvonne Massenburg, Chief Human Resources Officer, AAMC

Improving the Health of People Everywhere

In June 2022, the AAMC conducted a special health-awareness program for 18 men at the D.C. Central Detention Facility, or DC Jail. A psychologist, Jonathan Goode, PhD, and a fitness expert and entrepreneur, Dontrell Britton, spoke with the men about topics ranging from mental well-being to staying fit while incarcerated. Dr. Goode talked about practical ways to build and
maintain mental well-being and respond to anxiety and stress. The men were receptive to his presentation and expressed their frustration about the lack of resources and support for mental health. Dontrell “Trell the Trainer” spoke about how his fitness journey began while he was serving a five-year sentence in prison, two of them in the DC Jail. He shared tips for exercise, resilience, and focus on mind and body during and after prison. The program ended with a robust Q&A session.
Each year, the AAMC invites nonprofits serving the Washington, D.C., community whose efforts directly or indirectly align with the AAMC’s mission to “improve the health of people everywhere” to compete for funding through the Community Grants Program.

In 2022, the AAMC awarded $300,000 in general operating support and project-based grants to 16 nonprofit organizations. These nonprofits serve the community by working in a variety of areas, including homelessness and housing, youth education, food and nutrition, and health care services and delivery. Communities around the district benefit from those efforts — nearly every grantee works in Wards 7 and 8, and almost two-thirds of the grantees work in all eight wards.

The employee-driven Community Grants Committee, led in 2022 by co-conveners Adrianne Fielding, AAMC director of grants, and Karey Sutton, PhD, former director of the AAMC Health Equity Research Workforce, solicits applications from D.C.-based nonprofits, reviews them, and recommends awards based on the merit and potential impact of the applicants’ programs. The 2022 committee members were Adrien Barrios, Jennifer Blanck, Diana Bourke, Danielle Carder, Asinia Crawford, Bradley Cunningham, Amy Jayas,
Ally Perleoni, Laura Pincus, Abigail Sakyi, Hannah Turner, and Lauren Vergara. Clarence J. Fluker, director of community engagement, serves as a counsel to the group.

Organization and project summaries for 2022 awardees are below.

**Capital Area Food Bank**

*General Operating Support*

As the largest supplier of free food in the National Capital Region, the Capital Area Food Bank is the anchor of the hunger-relief infrastructure. Over the past year, food insecurity soared to as many as 600,000 individuals. While the need has decreased to an estimated 500,000, the Capital Area Food Bank still anticipates distributing 44 million meals, including 11 million in the District of Columbia. AAMC funding will support operational costs associated with distributing food in the community.

**Food & Friends**

*Specialized Nutrition Services for Seriously Ill D.C. Residents*

Believing that food heals, Food & Friends was founded in 1988 in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic on this simple premise: Anyone can get sick, and everyone can help. With project funding support from the AAMC, Food & Friends will, through its Specialized Nutrition Services program, prepare and home-deliver 651,701 medically tailored meals to 2,080 individuals in the district living with serious or chronic illnesses, in addition to their caregivers and children, and provide medical nutrition therapy, in the form of individualized nutrition assessments and counseling, and health education through workshops and cooking demonstrations.

**Martha’s Table**

*General Operating Support*

Martha’s Table’s goal is to support strong children, strong families, and strong communities east of the Anacostia River in Washington, an area of the city that has a median household income less than half the city average. Martha’s Table’s priority is to ensure that families are able to become financially stable and thrive. Funding from the AAMC will provide essential support to Martha’s Table’s mission to make sure everyone they serve has the ability to succeed, regardless of the zip code they call home.
Miriam’s Kitchen

*General Operating Support*

Miriam’s Kitchen supports individuals experiencing homelessness, from providing meals to housing, through a number of programs that help move individuals home. AAMC funding will support Miriam's Kitchen's mission to end chronic and veteran homelessness by expanding their teams to meet current needs.

La Clínica del Pueblo

*General Operating Support*

La Clínica del Pueblo (La Clínica) is a nonprofit, community-based health center committed to delivering high-quality health services to low-income Latino immigrants in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. La Clínica provides comprehensive primary care, mental health and substance use services, medical interpretation, and community health education. Funding from the AAMC will help La Clínica meet the health care needs of low-income Latino families in the district by providing comprehensive primary care and mental health services, wrap-around services, community outreach, and health education.

Bright Beginnings

*Bright Beginnings’ Fatherhood Initiative*

Bright Beginnings, Inc., is a nonprofit that uses a two-generation approach to provide Washington, D.C., children and families experiencing homelessness with early childhood education and complete wrap-around services. Bright Beginnings’ approach supports families as they move from crisis to self-sufficiency with health and wellness, therapeutic, family- and home-visiting, and workforce and adult education services to end chronic homelessness and intergenerational poverty. The Fatherhood Initiative personalizes services to address the unique needs of fathers. AAMC funding will support the program in its entirety, which includes weekly therapy sessions and activities.
Calvary Women's Services

*General Operating Support*

Calvary Women's Services (Calvary) empowers homeless women in Washington, D.C., to transform their lives through housing, health, education, and employment programs. The programs at Calvary address the needs of women who are struggling with mental illness, substance addiction, and histories of violence and trauma. General operating funds will support Calvary’s work during a time of significant expansion as the organization increases its program capacity by at least 50% in the coming year. This includes launching a new permanent housing program and expanding existing transitional housing and rapid-rehousing programs.

“Every day at Calvary, we see the ways that not having access to safe and stable housing affects women’s health. Many women come to our programs with chronic and untreated health problems like diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease. What we see here at Calvary is widely researched and documented — that access to safe housing plays a crucial role in a person’s health. The 2017 DC Women’s Needs Assessment found that experiences of violence are inextricably linked to experiences of homelessness for women.”

*Kris Thompson,* CEO, Calvary Women’s Services

Community of Hope (COH)

*General Operating Support*

For more than 40 years, COH has served under-resourced communities in D.C. COH is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental, and emotional wellness services at three health centers in Wards 1, 5, and 8. COH’s satellite site in Ward 8 offers homelessness prevention, emotional wellness, and other supports, and COH provides mental health services at three high-needs elementary schools. For families experiencing
homelessness, COH offers housing services across the continuum of care. AAMC funding of general operating support will help COH expand supports and provide high-quality services during uncertain times.

**District Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc. (DASH)**

*General Operating Support*

DASH provides housing and trauma-informed support services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families in Washington, D.C. The AAMC general operating grant will support professional development and staff processing sessions with Josie Serrata, PhD, a clinical and community psychologist. Ongoing professional development ensures that DASH employees’ knowledge and skills stay relevant and up to date to meet the needs of growing and diverse populations with complex needs.

**Homeless Children’s Playtime Project**

*General Operating Support*

Playtime was founded in 2003 by a coalition of community members led by social worker and child advocate Jamila Larson. This award will support play programs, case management, and advocacy activities to cultivate resilience in children experiencing family homelessness. AAMC funding will directly support program manager and program site manager salaries and benefits; site supplies such as toys, art materials, masks, cleaning products, and gloves; sporting equipment; and emergency supplies for families, including diapers and wipes, grocery gift cards, transportation gift cards, and moving supplies.

**Pathways to Housing DC**

*General Operating Support*

Founded in 2004, the mission of Pathways to Housing DC is to end chronic homelessness using the proven Housing First model that combines permanent housing with intense supportive services. Today, Pathways to Housing DC is the district’s largest Housing First provider. Funding from the AAMC will support Pathways’ rapid growth and expansion and the delivery of life-saving services to extremely low-income individuals in Washington, D.C., who are either experiencing or recovering from homelessness. In addition to housing, key supports include integrated health services delivered in the community and at Pathways’ primary service site.
Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders (SMYAL)

**Housing Program for Homeless LGBTQ Youth**

With a 37-year track record, SMYAL is the most experienced organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in the D.C. metro area. AAMC funding is being used to support the Youth Housing Program, which provides housing to homeless LGBTQ youth ages 18-24 through a two-year transitional and six-year extended program, offers support services to LGBTQ youth participating in the district’s Rapid Re-Housing Program, and shares valuable data with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through a new health and housing pilot program being conducted with the D.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

“My favorite thing about being involved with AAMC community engagement is learning more about the impactful work that D.C.-area organizations are doing to support the local community.”

⭐ Taniceca Mallery, Senior Director, Organizational Inclusion and Development, AAMC

Friends of the Health and Human Services Academy

**Providing Hands-On Clinical Skills Training for Health Career Students at Eastern High School**

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program of Eastern’s Academy of Health Sciences continues to attract students with strong interest in frontline health care. Due to D.C. law, no one under the age of 18 can ride along in an ambulance, which blocks the opportunity for the hands-on training and clinical experience students need to pass the EMT national certification exams. The solution is to have the students train on Eastern’s premises on realistic computerized manikins that can simulate a variety of life-threatening conditions. AAMC funding will support setting up a simulation training lab.
House of Ruth

Kidspace Child and Family Development Center
For 45 years, House of Ruth has provided housing and supportive services to more than 14,000 women and children recovering from homelessness and abuse in the district. House of Ruth serves 1,000 individuals annually. AAMC funding supports Kidspace, which provides free childcare, an enriching learning environment, and onsite speech and occupational therapy for children overcoming trauma and homelessness.

Latin American Youth Center

Counseling, Testing, Referral, and Linkages (CTRL) Program
Latin American Youth Center is a nationally recognized, community-based, multicultural, and multilingual youth development center in Washington, D.C., with the mission of empowering a diverse population of youth to achieve a successful transition to adulthood. CTRL is a preventative-care outreach program that provides free, confidential health services by offering HIV, sexually transmitted infection (STI), and pregnancy testing; risk-reduction education; and resource and referral linkages. AAMC funding will enhance ongoing outreach, education, and testing efforts to reach 500 youth, including hiring and training two peer educators.

Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care

Mary’s Center Teen Program
Founded in 1988, Mary’s Center is an award-winning community health center that annually provides services to more than 60,000 participants, representing nearly 50 countries, from all parts of the D.C. metro region. Since 1991, Mary’s Center’s Teen After School Program has provided a safe haven for first-generation immigrant youth and helped them navigate the transition from high school to college. AAMC funding will provide continued support to implement and build upon the success of this program by providing 100-120 teen participants with the tools and resources they need to be on the path toward a brighter future.