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Fusion Partnerships

**A CATALYST FOR JUSTICE
AND PEACE**

Youth, Education and Arts

1st Annual EAGLE Healthy Bodies, Minds and Souls Youth Investment Festival: *A Passport to Evoking Your Child's Path to Success*

Ever wonder what your child could achieve if only he had equal access to resources and key people who could help him pursue a proven plan for success? Look no more. EVOKU Actualized Global Leadership Experience (EAGLE) offers an innovative approach to removing barriers to progress in children that it will share with the Baltimore community on October 6, 2012. EAGLE transforms our youth into stellar professionals who are being well prepared to become global leaders, social entrepreneurs offering solutions for our struggling communities. On October 6th EVOKU's EAGLE Scholars will deliver their first EAGLE Healthy Bodies, Minds and Souls Youth Investment Festival 2012 to the City of Baltimore!

EVOKU's young scholars ages 12-24 diligently work year round as social entrepreneurs and community service practitioners seeking to identify problems facing the City's youth and provide creative solutions. In their inaugural year (2010), EAGLE Scholars surveyed Baltimore communities for their concerns about issues plaguing young people. The overwhelming responses were: 1) Baltimore City youth need less idle time and more productivity time, 2) a

safe, healthy and creative space to be productive as they develop, and 3) parents need to be led on how to creatively and affordably meet these needs for their children.

The scholars first responded with EVOKU's now annual Career and Job Expo, which occurs each December as of 2011. Their biggest response, however, will be this First Annual EAGLE Youth Investment Festival on Saturday, October 6, 2012 (noon to 5PM) at Patterson Park, which is designed to build capacity among EAGLE's network of opportunity to present our dynamic approach to raising a healthy, productive, conscientious, self-actualized child. The EAGLE Youth Investment Festival offers 8 pavilions of EVOKU's network vendors and workshop facilitators addressing the holistic needs of a child as a full individual with variants needs that must be fulfilled along one's life path to assure a life of wellness and economic sustainability. Those pavilions are: Physical Health, Mental Health, Spiritual Health, Social Health, Educational Health, Career Health,



Financial Health and Entrepreneurship.

Each visitor will be given an EAGLE Passport to journey through these 8 pavilions learning how to build their child or themselves as individuals with ongoing physical, mental, spiritual, social and educational needs in preparation for our career pavilion where visitors will learn how to prepare our young people for viable career paths. Finally, visitors will travel to the world of sound financial planning leading to the entrepreneur. Visitors who complete the course and submit a passport will be entered into a raffle to win a grand prize.

For more information about this event, contact La Tasha Sharif Vanzie at lvanzie@evoku.com.

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Communities and Neighborhoods

New Courses at the Baltimore Free School



The Baltimore Free School is kicking off the end of summer and the beginning of the school year with some really exciting new classes!

Learn Turkish, Tuesdays at 7 pm, starting August 7

Learn Turkish! Starting with the very basics so no prior experience is needed.

Screen Printing Without a Darkroom, August 22, 7-9 pm

This class will cover two basic methods of screenprinting that you can do cheaply and easily at home,

without a computer or a darkroom!

Empathetic Action in Performance and Personal Practice, weekly Sunday discussion 7-9 pm, weekly Friday movement class 7-9 pm, starting September 16

Students in varying disciplines (art or otherwise) will experiment with how Authentic Movement and Contact Improvisation encourages an empathetic dialogue in their work and life.

Privacy and Safety on the Internet, TBA, please check our online calendar

In this class you will learn how information is pilfered from you while you surf the web and how to protect yourself from it.

Introduction to Car Maintenance, September 5, 7-9 pm

Learn the basics of maintaining your vehicle to keep it in good operating condition.

PLEASE NOTE: This course will take place outside in a To Be Announced driveway location. We will be practicing on an actual car. If you intend to take the course please contact the instructor prior to the class to find out where to go.

Also, Don't miss the *Baltimore Free School Open House* September 23! We are holding an Open House for all Free School newcomers. Feel free to come tour the space to see if it's write for your workshop or event. Talk to Free School organizers and ask questions. Mark your calendars now! *Sunday, September 23, 3-5 pm at the Baltimore Free School.*

FUSION EVENTS AND NEWS: August 2012



Fusion Partnerships, Inc.

NEWS

The Cork Gallery is no longer available for community use. However, the 2640 Space is still available for community use. <http://www.redemmas.org/2640/>

Fusion Potluck: September 20th at 6PM at the 2640 location

If your program would like to be a part of the monthly newsletters please email Erika.rodriquez@fusiongroup for more information.

The second episode of the "What has Fusion done for you?" Interview Series is now up on our website, featuring The Den. Check it out! If you would like to sign up to be a part of the next video email erika.rodriquez@fusiongroup.org

Check out **New Lens** new video "Jovon Needs a Job" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a-lgMzp1fY&feature=youtu.be>

The **Youth Empowered Society (YES)** is still looking for supplies. Please contact Lara Law, at lara@vesdropincenter.org or 443-631-3017 if you have anything to donate.

For many juveniles in Maryland, parole is out of reach: Maryland is moving away from the Supreme Court on issue of juvenile parole. You can read the full Op-Ed on this issue published in the Baltimore Sun July 22, 2012 by visiting our web page mandalaenterprise.org

EVENTS

- See a list of **Baltimore Free School** classes here: <http://freeschool.redemmas.org/calendar/2012-06>

Environment and Sustainability

A Pop-Up Oasis in the Food Desert

Exeter Gardens is a community-led initiative to transform a vacant lot on the site of the former Flag House Courts housing projects into a thriving urban farm. Their goal is to empower the neighborhood and help eliminate the food desert for its low-income residents, who have little to no access to affordable, healthy food. They have begun "pop-up farming" with raised beds and whiskey-barrel planters while they raise funds for their full site-build in the fall. They welcome both cash donations and contributions of soil, plants, and planters - however eccentric (a chest of drawers, say, or even a bathtub). Donations can be made online at www.exetergardens.net, or by check made payable to Fusion Partnerships, with "Exeter Gardens" added to the memo line, and sent to:

1601 Guilford Ave, 2 South
Baltimore, MD 21202

Baltimore Free Farm Summer Indiegogo Fundraiser!

BFF is hosting an online fundraiser to gather resources for urban agriculture projects. Funding is to benefit rainwater collection, solar energy, food mushroom cultivation, and much more! By completing these projects, the BFF will expand its capacity to teach the Baltimore community about sustainability. Check out our video and make your contribution today at www.Indiegogo.com/baltimorefreefarm! Awesome prizes for contributors are available as well!



Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP) Reflections

Communities and Neighborhoods

The Community Impact Internship Program (CIIP) is a summer internship program for JHU undergraduate students run through the Center for Social Concern at Johns Hopkins University. The program places interns in Baltimore City nonprofit and government agencies for eight-week paid internships with the goal of making a positive impact in the Baltimore community. In this second year of the program, 50 students were selected from a competitive application process. The interns attended a comprehensive orientation featuring guest speakers Delegate Mary Washington and Wes Moore, among others, for three days prior to starting their internships. In addition, the interns attended weekly reflection sessions focusing on pertinent issues in Baltimore City as well as time to process their experiences with their fellow interns. The cohorts of the 2012 Community Impact Internships Program worked throughout Baltimore City in variety of organizations focusing on ten interest areas: education, arts, criminal justice, healthcare and health policy, environment, and sustainability, neighborhood and community improvement, homelessness and poverty, fundraising and development, food access and community gardens and women, children and family issues. This program has been made possible by anonymous donors.

Here at Fusion we had a couple of our programs (and us as well) participate in the Community Impact Internships Program. The following programs received interns from CIIP: Baltimore Free Farm (Ian Osborne '13 and Justine Turner '14), The Baltimore Free School (Benjamin Hirsh '13), Fusion Partnerships (Erika Rodriguez '14) and Word on the Street (Ariel Rosen '14). Here are some comments from each of the students about their experiences:

“Never have I had such a busy and fun summer. My time at Baltimore Free Farm has flown by and I have learned as much or more than past semesters in school. This program has allowed me a focused and intensive position at the farm, broadening my knowledge of vegetable and fruit production, mushroom production, small scale animal production, aquaculture and irrigation systems, rain water and solar energy harvesting and the list goes on. Working with salvaged materials, I gained a new understanding of creatively working with my head and hands. I have also had the valuable experience of politicking with the surrounding community members and furthering my communication skills. All in all, I couldn't be happier with the program.” -Ian Osborne

“At Hopkins, I am pursuing a double major in Global Environmental Change and Sustainability and International Relations. Aside from being a complicated jumble of multisyllabic words; these long titles seemed so overwhelming that I never hoped to leave a lasting impact in either of these areas of study throughout these four years of my academic career. CIIP has changed that. During my internship at Baltimore Free farm, I have seen that amazing results coming from this wildly impressive grassroots organization. BFF has helped me to realize that you don't need to be a rocket scientist to make an impact. Projects like Ash Street Garden demonstrate that anyone with initiative and ingenuity can make a change. During my time at BFF, it has been amazing to see such great change made possible by very motivated individuals that have come together to work towards a common cause.” -Justine Turner

“My dual internship with the Baltimore Free School and the Baltimore Hostel has been incredible. I have met so many people coming to visit Baltimore through the Hostel, and the people who run the Free School are some of the most driven individuals I have ever met. This summer has completely changed how I feel about my place in Baltimore, and I have never been prouder to have taken part in a program.” -Ben Hirsh

“My internship with Fusion Partnerships has definitely been a once in a lifetime opportunity. As a student engrossed in schoolwork, clubs, sports and supplemental jobs, it is sometimes difficult to find the time to completely devote myself to a community project, but CIIP has given me a venue to do so. At Fusion I have learned a lot about various community programs in Baltimore that are really making huge strides in improving our community. Every single day at work I was completely blown away by all of the projects everyday people are devoting all of their time and energy to. Fusion has opened my eyes to the effort that goes on behind the scenes at non-profits. I have made lasting friendships with my co-workers and with many of the people in Fusion's programs. This summer has been full of adventure, education and new friendships; because of CIIP and Fusion I am proud to call myself a Baltimorean.” -Erika Rodriguez

“My involvement with Word on the Street, Baltimore faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, and various other projects at Healthcare for the Homeless has opened my eyes to an entirely new side of life that I had never been exposed o. I have always had a specific interest in urban public health, and this internship only further solidified my interest in poverty, homelessness and working to help underprivileged populations. Most important to me are the bonds that I formed with the writers of WOTS, speakers of the Speakers' Bureau and clients at HCH. They welcomed me with open arms right from the start of my internship and have taught me more about both poverty and myself than I could possibly put into words.” -Ariel Rosen