



Star of the Month

January 2022

Adeoluwa Ayoola
Bloomberg School of Public Health



Congratulations to our Star of the Month for January 2022, Adeoluwa Ayoola from the Bloomberg School of Public Health! As part of this year's Baltimore Action Projects cohort, Adeoluwa is currently working with our partners at B'More For Healthy Babies to support family health in our community! We spoke with her about her experience in the program and how else she is serving Baltimore. Read more below!

Tell us a little bit about yourself. What degree program are you enrolled in? What brought you to Hopkins and Public Health?

I am a full-time MPH student at Bloomberg School of Public Health. I am also a medical student, currently between my third and fourth year. I came to Hopkins because I felt there were a lot of things about social determinants of health, population level health interventions and health policy reforms I didn't yet understand. I felt that I needed to know these things as I strive to become a doctor who makes a lasting impact in the lives of her patients.

What made you want to get involved with B'More for Healthy Babies? Can you tell us a little bit about the work you are doing?

I have always loved babies and find that infant health is often a marker of the health of the entire community. I wanted a chance to learn more about my Baltimore neighbors and to serve them in a meaningful way during this year. When I learned about B'more for Healthy Babies through SOURCE's Baltimore Action Project, I was impressed by the initiative's commitment to Baltimore city families, and I wanted to get involved. In my project with BHB, we are trying to increase the utilization of WIC, a supplemental nutrition program, among eligible families. I am working with the Baltimore city WIC office and Hopkin's Center for Communications Program to develop a targeted communications campaign to create awareness and dispel misconceptions about WIC. I am interviewing healthcare providers and WIC participants to learn about the barriers they face to referring, enrolling, and participating in WIC.

What has your experience been like connecting with community members during the pandemic?

Community members have been very responsive since I began the project in September. My BHB supervisor, Amy Secrist, has done a great job of connecting me with the community partners she works with. With their help, I have learned more

(continued on next page)



SOURCE

Star of the Month

January 2022

Adeoluwa Ayoola
Bloomberg School of Public Health



about public health and Baltimore. The next stage of the project involves talking to Baltimore residents and doctors, something I am very much looking forward to.

What other service activities do you have planned in the future to get involved in the community? Are there any activities where others can get involved?

I have started attending redemption city church (RCC), a non-denominational church located at the border of Highlandtown and Canton neighborhoods. RCC greatly values service, in the community and of one another. I am excited to join their service team in the new year.

How does your community work complement what you're learning in the classroom at the School of Public Health?

My coursework at the School of Public Health has focused on community-based partnerships,

building relationships with community organizations, and pushing for long-term change at the local and national levels. I have really appreciated being able to experience the kind of work BHB does in the community. The initiative builds on principles such as respect and trust, while committing to transforming the community by listening to its needs and advocating fiercely.

What advice would you give to other students looking to engage in service-learning?

SOURCE is a great place to start! They have partnerships with many kinds of organizations working in Baltimore city. If you're hoping to engage with the city, SOURCE is a great place to start your search.

Thank you for your service to our community!