Melodie Cunningham
Director of Philanthropy, Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO)
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Melodie Cunningham is the Director of Philanthropy for Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO). GEDCO provides affordable housing and supportive services for low income seniors, people who were homeless, individuals with mental or physical disabilities, and those needing food and other emergency assistance services. She is responsible for all fundraising activities, marketing, volunteer programs, and relationships with GEDCO’s 55-member organizations. Prior to working for GEDCO, Ms. Cunningham was the Founder and President of Global Diversity Group, a full-service marketing company with a focus on public outreach and event management. While at Global Diversity Group, Ms. Cunningham has worked with various organizations such as Volvo Cars of North America, USDA in Delaware, and American Cities Foundation in Philadelphia on community-based projects. She has assisted numerous non-profits with the marketing and fundraising for their programs and services. Her career has expanded over 25 years working for companies such as American Express in New York and Visa International in Foster City California, in the areas of marketing and development.

Ms. Cunningham received her BA Degree in Economics from Princeton University and her MBA in Marketing and International Business from the Stern Business School at New York University.
John Dwyer
Community Outreach for Milton Montford Community Association and Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition
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John received his Bachelor of Science in public health with a minor in psychology at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. While studying public health, John became infatuated with his community health course and the impact grassroots organizing had on the public health world. Although most of his work was set in rural Appalachia, John was determined to make a career in community health in an urban setting. He moved to Baltimore in August and has been as the assistant to the Director of Community Outreach at Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition since September. John works directly with the Milton-Montford community and its surrounding neighborhoods. John’s duties include providing health resources for each of the community members as well as housing and development resources. John also coordinates events and greening projects throughout the neighborhood. John also is completing an internship with Baltimore Green Space, Baltimore’s environmental land trust.

John Dwyer is fairly new to Baltimore. Born and raised in Philadelphia he and his family moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina at the age of 13. He then moved to Boone, North Carolina in the Appalachian Mountains for school. While in Boone, he worked alongside the Public Health Department tackling issues from food insecurities to the opioid crisis. While attending Appalachian State University John lead a class on meaningful engagement in a volunteer setting and cultural sensitivity. Upon leading that course, he led 12 students on a service program to Granada, Nicaragua where he coordinated a week long service with La Esperanza, Nicaragua, a local organization focused on improving the schools throughout Granada, Nicaragua. John has also participated in similar programs in Atlanta, Georgia and Harlan, Kentucky.

John started as an exercise science major and spent three summers working as a nurse’s and occupational therapists assistant at the non-profit Victory Junction. Victory Junction is a summer camp and medical facility that hosts children of all ages with a wide spectrum of conditions. He has worked as a counselor to burn victims, cancer patients, sickle cell patients, children with physical disabilities and many more conditions. John looks forward to taking his past experiences and to applying them to East Baltimore’s communities.
Quandra Gaines  
Community Organizer/Project Director, Resource Development and Special Projects, Men and Families Center, Inc. and Case Manager, Tumaini (Hope) for Health, Inc.  
menandfamiliescenter@gmail.com

For more than 20 years, Quandra Gaines has worked with small to mid-size nonprofits, community organizations, schools, and churches writing grants, developing and facilitating fundraising activities, facilitating trainings, providing administrative, documenting or capacity building services to organizations which may consist of researching new funding streams for existing or new projects to creating special projects, programs, and services to promote a particular organization within the communities that they served.

She has worked in many capacities in many different forums within the nonprofit and corporate environment. She has retained strong ties with the communities, organizations and funders that she has worked with or for as an employee or organizer. She has worked for organizations such as The Baltimore Branch NAACP, The Awele Foundation, Franklin Group Homes, Inc. The After School Institute, The Nehemiah House, Inc., and Johns Hopkins Department of Pharmacy.
Lindsay Jacks
Volunteer Coordinator at The Family Tree
ljacks@familytreemd.org

Lindsay Jacks is the Volunteer Coordinator at The Family Tree, an organization that leads Maryland in preventing child abuse. The Family Tree’s vision is that all children are raised in safe and supportive families and communities. This vision is accomplished by providing research-based programs and services that empower families. Lindsay has 15 years of experience in volunteer coordination focusing on opportunities for volunteers with disabilities. Creating an inclusive volunteer program is her efforts at Baltimore Center Stage, where she still works as a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. Lindsay has a B.F.A in Theater Management from Jacksonville State University and a B.S. in Animal Behavior from Towson University.

In addition to her volunteer coordination work, Lindsay has a passion for conservation. She is the Director of Lights Out Baltimore (LOB), a non-profit that strives to make Baltimore safe for migratory birds. LOB is an all-volunteer-run organization that walks daily to rescue injured birds during migration season that have fallen victim to light pollution and building collisions. Deceased birds are collected and donated to Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and JHU School of Medicine for research. LOB works with the city and local organizations to reduce light pollution and advocate for sustainable building design. Lindsay has been a bird keeper in Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) institutions for 10 years and serves on the committee of AZA’s North American Songbird Working Group. As the role of LOB Director, Lindsay is responsible for fundraising, grant writing, outreach, and testifying for state and federal legislation that supports sustainable building design. Lindsay’s spare time is also being a volunteer for Baltimore’s birds. She volunteers at Phoenix Wildlife Center in Maryland caring for the injured birds she finds on her LOB walks and releasing them back to the wild.
Angie Kelley  
*Volunteer Manager, Moveable Feast*  
*AKelley@mfeast.org*

I run the Volunteer Program at Moveable Feast, a nonprofit in East Baltimore that serves medically tailored meals to those living with chronic illnesses. Volunteers touch every part of our organization and are the reason we have grown from 10 clients in 1989 to over 6,000 in 2018! My role is more than getting volunteers through the door to prepare and package meals – it’s helping people make an emotional connection to their community so they can see how great of an impact “just one person” can have.

I myself started as a volunteer with Moveable Feast in 2013, where I fully learned about the devastating history of the AIDS crisis of the 80s. As new generations emerge and we move farther away from this time, it is imperative that I use my role at Moveable Feast to share the history of AIDS in the United States, and that although huge medical strides have been made for those living with this illness, the stigma still lives on.

Though I have been in Baltimore for 14 years, my roots didn’t really start growing until I became involved with some of Baltimore’s amazing nonprofits. I have been a performer, director and supporter of Fluid Movement for almost 10 years. I was the Silent Auction co-chair of Planned Parenthood of Maryland’s Spring Gala for 2017 and 2018, taking a break in 2019 to care for my newborn and take a Master Gardener class.
Sarah Lance is the Community Relations Coordinator for House of Ruth Maryland. House of Ruth Maryland leads the fight to end violence against women and their families by confronting the attitudes, behaviors, and systems that perpetuate it, and by providing victims with the services necessary to rebuild their lives safely and free of fear. As the Community Relations Coordinator Sarah oversees the volunteer programs at HRM and works with community organizations who want to engage in the mission of HRM.

Sarah is a graduate of La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA where she majored in Marketing. After university she spent a year as a full time volunteer with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC). Through JVC, she worked as a Housing Paralegal at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, MD. Sarah worked with Baltimore City Tenants who were facing eviction and other forms of harassment from their landlords. As a Jesuit Volunteer (JV) Sarah lived in community with three other JVs volunteering in Baltimore. JVs live by the four values of: social justice, simple living, spirituality, and community. Sarah is originally from Portland, OR, but has called the east coast home for the past 6 years.
Veronica Land-Davis, LCSW-C  
Executive Director, Roberta’s House  
vlanddavis@robertashouse.org

As the Executive Director, Veronica Land-Davis, is responsible for the overall health, safety and operations of the program and services. She is responsible for establishing and fostering positive working relationships with community service providers and constituents in order to educate the community on grief and loss and offering programs at the Roberta’s House that promote a safe place for recovery and healing from the loss of a loved one.

Veronica, a licensed certified social worker-clinical, comes to the Roberta House with thirty years of experience working with children, adults and families in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Educated in the Baltimore City Public School system and a graduate of Western High School, she received her Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Sociology/Social Work from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Veronica attained her Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and Community Planning in. In 2001, she completed The Head Start-Johnson & Johnson Management Fellows Program at the John E. Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA.

Veronica has served families in roles of both a clinician and a manager in many settings such as residential treatment centers, child prevention agencies, Treatment Foster Care, Head Start and Home Health Care. Advocating for children and families is essential for her and this is evident as she has served on several State wide committees such as Maryland State Interagency Advisory Council and Maryland Universal Pre-K Task Force.
Todd Marcus  
*Executive Director, Intersection of Change  
newborntm@hotmail.com*

A native of New Jersey, Todd Marcus has lived in Baltimore’s Sandtown-Winchester community since 1997 where he has focused on his community work and music.

Marcus is currently the Executive Director of Intersection of Change (IOC), a nonprofit he helped build with C.W. and Amelia Harris. The organization’s community development work is dedicated to providing programs that enrich the economic, social and spiritual lives of those dealing with poverty related issues in the Sandtown-Winchester and surrounding communities of west Baltimore.

Work to date has resulted in significant neighborhood revitalization of the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Pennsylvania Avenue through the full renovation of six previously vacant and dilapidated buildings, transformation of 18 vacant lots into community green spaces and meditative gardens, and the creation of a dozen neighborhood murals.

Programs at IOC include:

- **Martha’s Place**, a recovery program for women overcoming drug addiction and homelessness that offers both six-month transitional and long-term independent housing phases. The program helps women achieve sobriety while maintaining a job and housing and serves approximately 50 women per year.

- **Jubilee Arts**: A comprehensive art program that offers alternatives to the dangers of drugs and violence in the community through art classes and projects that serve over 2,000 people annually.

As a musician, Marcus is a bass clarinetist, composer, and bandleader. He is one of the few jazz artists worldwide to focus exclusively on use of the bass clarinet as a solo instrument. He actively leads several ensembles including his Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra, Quartet, Trio, and Duo and performs both nationally and internationally.
Samuel T. Redd
Executive Director, Operation P.U.L.S.E.
operationpulse@verizon.net

Samuel T. Redd was born, raised, and educated in Baltimore City. He graduated from the Historic Baltimore City College High School, a fact he states with pride as a distinguished alumna. Mr. Redd has served his beloved hometown in several capacities, most notably as the Fire Commissioner of Baltimore City Fire Department. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Operation P.U.L.S.E., a position he has held since 1992. Under Sam Redd’s leadership, P.U.L.S.E. has received numerous citations and awards from governors, mayors, United States House of Representatives, United States Senate and community groups as well as other organizations and institutions. During a formal ceremony in April 2016, Mr. Redd accepted on behalf of Operation P.U.L.S.E., as the state of Maryland’s recipient of the FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award for 2015. Mr. Redd has been called upon often to speak in public forums, seminars and training classes on crime prevention and faith based initiatives. Mr. Redd additionally has been instrumental in bridging the gap between businesses, schools, churches, law enforcement agencies and the community. Mr. Redd has served on the board of Metro Crime Stoppers and as a member of the board of fire commissioners for Baltimore City Fire Department. The Eastern Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia conferred an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon him. He is a graduate of the Spring 2008 Class of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Citizens Academy. He has served as 1st Vice President, and President of the FBI Alumni Association. He formerly was host and producer of Baltimore City Cable Network (TV 25) television show, The PULSE, which featured and highlighted law enforcement officials and those actively engaged in public safety in and around the City. Every year, Mr. Redd host one of Baltimore’s biggest and well attended National Night Out Against Crime block parties, supports multiple communities with back to school supplies as well as spearheads a Pre-Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Awards Worship Service all through community partnerships. Mr. Redd’s goals have been and are still, to continue to make East Baltimore and Baltimore City as a whole a safe place to work, worship, matriculate and live.
Glenn Ross
Founder/Chair Southeast Community Stakeholders Coalition; Vice Chair Southeast Community Organization; Community Consultant JHU SOURCE
glennross40@gmail.com

A lifelong resident and community leader/activist of East Baltimore who continues living in his childhood teachings: Family Values, Community Pride, Respect and Loyalty. Glenn has worked under three Mayors of Baltimore City and coordinated several city-wide programs such as: Shape-up Baltimore, Mayor’s Campaign for a Cleaner Baltimore, and Citizens Planning and Housing Association’s Neighborhoods Resource Bank to name a few. Glenn has served on numerous boards, committees and research programs/projects with the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions over the last 22 years. He has served on countless Community Boards and Committees in East and Southeast Baltimore in the last 26 years living in the McElderry Park Community. Glenn has been voted the “Best Community Activist”; (Baltimore City Paper). Glenn has been a single parent with two lovely daughters for over 26 years and has six active grandchildren who are taught the same family values as he did. Glenn’s knowledge in sanitation and environmental issues, and health related practices has become his community organizing tools when working in disadvantage neighborhoods. His vision is to educate residents and community stakeholders in: “How our environment affects our health?”, as well as, “Breaking the disconnect” between Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and the East Baltimore Communities by changing the game. The Environmental Justice Partnership Board has given Glenn the vehicle to use the tools of his organizing skills to drive a new path towards educating East Baltimore residents and stakeholders to help create a healthy environment to live, work and play in as well as the environment in side each and every one of us.
Eric Seymour is the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator of the Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore. The Esperanza Center offers comprehensive resources to immigrant families including ESL classes, Health Services, Immigration Legal Services, and community services for housing, employment, public benefits, and family reunification. Eric joined the Esperanza Center in 2013 as a Project SERVE/AmeriCorps member. He has held his current title since July of 2014. In this role, Eric is responsible for all volunteer recruitment and orientation, service learning programs, and coordination of the Center's outreach efforts.

Before coming to the Esperanza Center, Eric had taught Spanish in Pittsburgh, and served as the Assistant Project Manager/Volunteer Coordinator of La Hesperia Natural Reserve in Ecuador. Eric holds a BA in Spanish and Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies from Dickinson College.
Majid Zaghari
General Manager of Saint Vincent De Paul Enterprise
Majid.Zaghari@vincentbaltimore.org

Majid Zaghari is the General Manager of Saint Vincent De Paul Enterprise. His role ranges from oversight of finance, operations, marketing, and staff management; as well as, building partnerships and coalitions with local organizations to heighten the organization's social impact. The Enterprise provides food access and services to schools, senior living, shelters; as well as, community sites in the greater Baltimore Area.

Majid also oversees the workforce development program known as NextCourse, which trains mostly under-employed, at-risk members of the community and eventually certifies them to work successfully in the hospitality industry. This role also extends to building a network with major NGOs and advocacy groups in the region (Family League, Catholic Charities, Y of Maryland) to provide and improve food access.

Prior to working for Saint Vincent De Paul, Majid worked in the private food industry sector for 19 years - piloting multi-unit food, catering and retail divisions that host a variety of national brands for Aramark and Compass Group. His area of expertise includes, among others:

- Culinary Development and Concepts Analysis
- Accounting & Finance
- Compliance & Certification
- Contract Management
- Operating Procedures & Systems within the Food Industry.
- Recruitment and Training
- Food Procurement and Distribution
- Urban Food Access
- Work Force Development
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