

# **“The Connection” Community Consultants Program**

## **SOURCE**

*The Community Engagement and Service-Learning Center*

*Serving the Johns Hopkins University*

*Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine*



**JOHNS HOPKINS**

BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
*of PUBLIC HEALTH*

# Overview of “The Connection”

- In 2005, the Connection Community Consultants Program, also known as “The Connection,” was launched in response to student requests for more *short-term* service opportunities in Baltimore.



# Overview of “The Connection”

- The program **connects**:
  - Students to the community
  - Learning with experience
  - JHU with Baltimore



# Why Join “The Connection”?

- Gain experience/a chance to put your skills to work in the real world.
- Get involved with the community through short-term projects.
- Form *mutually beneficial partnerships* with community-based organizations (CBOs).
- Support CBOs that need help/advice when applying for funding or conducting short-term research.



# Time Commitment

- Working in teams of 3-5 students, the consultants partner with a Baltimore CBO to carry out *finite projects* that usually last *6-8 weeks*.
- Consultants typically volunteer *3-4 hours/week*.



# An Award-Winning Program

- Program of the Year: ACPA College Student Educator International, Commission for Student Involvement, April 2008
- “Best In Class” award for humanitarianism and community service: Jenzabar Foundation, 2009



# Types of Projects and Topics

- The consulting projects consist of:
  - Strategic consulting
  - Fundraising strategy and grants
  - Performance measurement
  - Communications consulting
- Topics vary year to year based on CBO needs and requests. Previous projects focused on environmental health, intimate partner violence, nutrition, neighborhood development, ***and more.***



# Previous Connection Projects

## Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI)

*Goal: Explore whether GHHI could become a reimbursed Medicaid provider in Maryland*

The consultants researched Medicaid provider reimbursement and eligibility policies in Maryland to see if current GHHI services could be reimbursed by Medicaid. The team delivered a feasibility analysis on becoming a Medicaid provider to GHHI leadership.



**Green & Healthy  
Homes Initiative®**





# Previous Connection Projects

## Health Care for the Homeless (HCH)

*Goal: Research the impact of child life programs or on-site child care in outpatient settings*

The consultants completed a literature review on the effectiveness of child life/child care programs in decreasing stress during medical visits. In addition, the consultants researched whether other HCH clinics across the country provide child life/child care programs at their centers.



# Previous Connection Projects

## KidzTable

*Goal: Update the Next Course Program Policies and Procedures Manual.*

The consultants completed an update of the Next Course Program Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect current operations and structure of the program at KidzTable.



# Previous Connection Projects

## MERIT Health Leadership Academy

*Goal: Gather research on evidence-based best and promising practices for MERIT's health career pipeline program.*

The consultants delivered a concise, comprehensive report summarizing research findings, including successes, challenges, and recommendations, for MERIT to use in their strategic planning process.



# Previous Connection Projects

## Bmore4Kidz

*Goal: Explore expanding their afterschool program to include a shared-space community-serving makerspace at Henderson Hopkins Elementary School.*

The consultants delivered a strategic planning report on best practices and sustainability of a community-serving makerspace at Henderson Hopkins. The team also developed several surveys to assess the demand for services of various community stakeholders.



# Previous Connection Projects

## House of Ruth Maryland

*Goal: Edit a newly-created curriculum for grammar, consistency, and clarity to create a finalized professional curriculum using literacy and adult learning best practices.*

The consultants delivered a completed professional curriculum for the Gateway Project intervention program that is ready to distribute nationally.



**House of Ruth  
Maryland**

**Want to see more?  
Check out our year-end  
reports at  
[SOURCE.jhu.edu/Connection](https://SOURCE.jhu.edu/Connection)**



# How To Get Involved

- Fill out a [Consultant Profile](#) form to indicate interest (*does not commit you to a project*).
- Include your resume/CV with your form.
- Once your profile and resume/CV are on file, you will receive project announcements for the three rounds: Fall, Winter, and Spring.
- If you are interested in a project, follow the instructions in the email.
- Teams will be matched and the work begins!



# Contact SOURCE

615 N. Wolfe Street, Suite W1600

*Located in the Bloomberg School of Public Health*

[SOURCE@jhu.edu](mailto:SOURCE@jhu.edu) or (410) 955-3880

[SOURCE.jhu.edu](http://SOURCE.jhu.edu)

