



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A New Season at Julie

The center is entering the fall with a growing vision: programs rooted in real needs, stronger partnerships, and more ways for neighbors to belong.



Executive Director Tye Gibson speaks at a Baltimore community event. Service, relationship-building, and connection sit at the center of Julie's next chapter.

BY TYE GIBSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fall brings a new season to Julie Community Center - and a growing vision for what this center can become for the community we serve.

Our goal is bigger than simply filling a building with programs. We want Julie to be a place where neighbors find opportunities, families find resources, young people find support, organizations find partners, and our community finds another place to belong.

That means listening before building. It means developing programs that respond to real needs. It means strengthening partnerships rather than trying to do everything ourselves. And it means continuing to find new ways to open Julie's doors to the community.

This fall, you will begin seeing more pieces of that vision take shape. We are developing new academic opportunities for young people, working with partners to expand food access, preparing community events, strengthening partnerships, and inviting new leaders to help guide Julie's future.

Some of these initiatives are ready. Others are still being built. We want to be transparent about both.

This inaugural edition of *The Julie Tribune* is another piece of that work. Each quarter, we will share what is happening at Julie, introduce people doing meaningful work throughout Baltimore, connect residents with resources, and provide a closer look at what we are building together.

As we begin this new chapter, I also want to recognize Perri, our outgoing Board President, for her years of service and dedication to Julie and the community we serve. Perri joined the board in 2017 and became president in 2018. We are grateful for everything she has poured into the organization.

As Perri and her husband prepare to welcome their first child, we wish their growing family nothing but the best. Around here, we know this is not goodbye - it is simply *see you later*.

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 1. There is a lot ahead.

A NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Some Big News (and a Whole Lot of Gratitude!)

Hi JCC Community! I have some news to share, and my heart is full writing this.

I am stepping down as board president of the Julie Community Center because my husband and I are expecting our first baby! After joining the board back in 2017 and stepping into the president role in 2018, I am ready to trade board meetings for late-night feedings.

Being part of the Julie Community Center has been a wonderful chapter in my life. Thank you, truly, for showing up, pitching in, and making this place feel like home for so many in the community.

Every event, every program, every small act of kindness to a neighbor in need added up to something really special, and I am so grateful I got to be part of it.

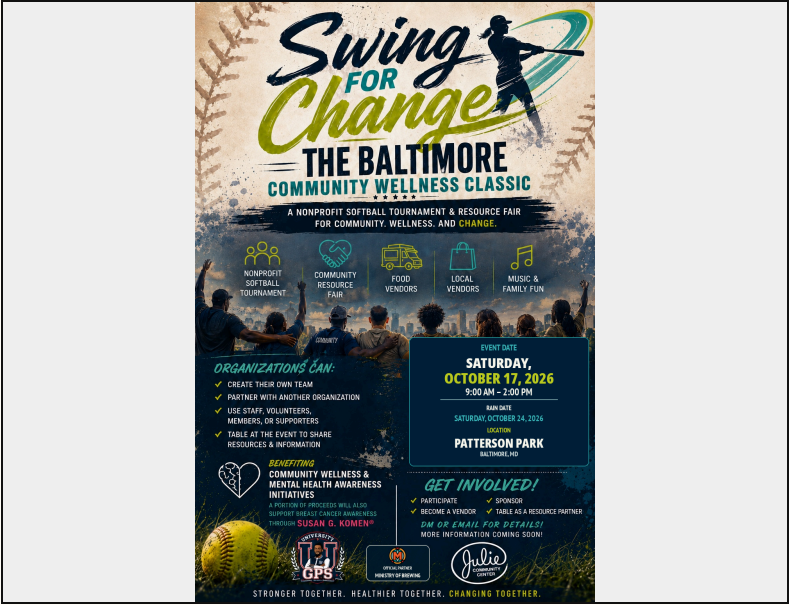
I cannot wait to watch the Center keep thriving, and I will be cheering it on from the sidelines (probably one-handed, holding a baby).

Thank you for everything. I will see you all around the neighborhood!

All the best,
Perri



Perri - Outgoing Board President



COMMUNITY WELLNESS CLASSIC

Swing for Change Comes to Patterson Park

Julie Community Center and GPS University are bringing nonprofits, businesses, families, community organizations, and neighbors together for *Swing for Change*.

The day combines a nonprofit softball tournament with a community resource fair, local vendors, food, music, family activities, and opportunities to discover organizations serving Baltimore.

A portion of proceeds will support breast cancer awareness through Susan G. Komen.

Saturday
October 17

9 AM - 2 PM
Patterson Park
Rain date: Oct. 24



LEARN MORE
Teams, vendors, sponsors, volunteers and resource partners.

PAGE 2
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

PAGE 3
JULIE HONORS

PAGE 4
VISION & LEADERSHIP

PAGE 5
COMMUNITY BOARD & EVENT GUIDE

IN DEVELOPMENT

Julie Academic Scholars

A small-group tutoring concept for grades 4-8 designed to bring personalized academic support directly into the neighborhood.

FOOD ACCESS

Three Efforts Planned

Prepared meals through Feeding Our Neighbors and No Plate Wasted, plus work toward a weekly fresh-produce drop.

SAVE THE DATE

Health Fair - Nov. 7

Health, wellness, information, screenings, and community resources return to Julie from 11 AM to 2 PM.

HALLOWEEN AT THE CENTER

Three Nights of Frights



Julie Community Center will transform for three nights of affordable Halloween fun. The main floor and upstairs become the **House of Horrors**, while younger guests can enjoy family-friendly activities downstairs in the **Little Monsters Zone**.

Admission is \$2, children ages five and younger are free, and no one will be turned away because of an inability to pay. Concessions will be available, with proceeds supporting youth and community programming.

Fri., Oct. 23	7-9 PM
Sat., Oct. 24	6-8 PM
Fri., Oct. 30	7-9 PM

WHAT WE ARE BUILDING

Julie Academic Scholars

Personalized academic support, right in the neighborhood.

One program currently being developed for the fall is **Julie Academic Scholars**, an effort to bring personalized academic support and tutoring directly into our neighborhood.

We are exploring a model primarily serving students in grades 4-8 with intentionally small student-to-instructor ratios, allowing young people to receive more individual attention while strengthening academic skills and confidence.

The program remains in development. Enrollment, scheduling, cost, and final program details will be announced once plans are finalized.

We are excited about what Julie Academic Scholars could become - but we are committed to building it thoughtfully before making promises to families.

FOOD ACCESS

Three New Efforts in Development

Feeding Our Neighbors

A prepared-meal distribution designed to provide neighbors with another place to access food and connect with community resources.

No Plate Wasted

An additional prepared-food initiative focused on helping available food reach people and families who can use it.

Weekly Fresh Produce

Julie is working with partners toward establishing a weekly produce drop, providing residents with more consistent access to fruits and vegetables.

Schedules and additional details will be announced as each initiative is finalized.

NOVEMBER 7

Health Fair Returns to Julie

Julie Community Center will host another community Health Fair on **Saturday, November 7, from 11 AM to 2 PM**.

The fair will bring health, wellness, information, and community resources together under one roof. Participating organizations, screenings, activities, and additional resources will be announced as the event approaches.

SAVE THE DATE

Julie Community Health Fair

Saturday, November 7
11 AM - 2 PM

100 South Washington Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

THE JULIE TRIBUNE

Why a Community Newspaper?

This publication is designed to grow beyond center announcements. Future issues can include neighborhood resources, partner stories, youth voices, resident contributions, community opportunities, and the people shaping Baltimore.

The goal is not simply to report what Julie is doing. It is to help Julie function as a hub for information, relationships, and opportunity.

OCT. 17 Swing for Change	OCT. 23, 24 & 30 House of Horrors	NOV. 7 Community Health Fair	LATER THIS FALL Food Access Updates
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PARTNER



Ministry of Brewing

Ministry of Brewing is an official Julie Community Center partner for the remainder of 2026 and all of 2027, supporting visibility, events, and new opportunities for community collaboration.

LOOKING AHEAD

Winter and Spring 2027

The calendar already includes a Valentine's Jazz Brunch on February 13, Together for Julie in May, and the inaugural Julie Honors Gala planned for September.

PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

Julie Does Not Have to Do It Alone

The center's strategy is to lead where it has strength and bring trusted partners into the building where collaboration can deliver better programs, stronger referrals, and wider access.

HOW JULIE IS BUILDING

Listen First. Partner Well. Test Carefully. Measure What Matters.

01 Listen Start with residents, families, young people, and the partners who already understand the neighborhood. Attendance alone is not proof that a program fits.	02 Partner Bring credible organizations into the building instead of duplicating good work. Strong partnerships make limited resources travel farther.	03 Pilot and Refine Develop initiatives carefully, communicate honestly about what is still in progress, and improve programs before promising more than Julie can deliver.	04 Measure Track participation, retention, completed referrals, skills gained, partner contributions, resident voice, and whether people are better connected afterward.
---	---	--	---

INAUGURAL HONOREE

Building the Village He Once Needed

For Dayson Brooks, community is not a slogan. It is a responsibility to show up, share what you have, and refuse to let young people face life alone.

Dayson Brooks
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEVEL UP, INC.



Dayson Brooks with young people served through Level Up. Brooks says the relationships - not the programs or recognition - remain the clearest measure of the work.

Community Means No One Is Alone

For the inaugural edition of *The Julie Tribune*, our first Julie Honors recipient represents something fundamental to Julie's philosophy: community is not simply where you live. It is what you are willing to do for the people around you.

For Dayson Brooks, that belief is personal. Through Level Up, Brooks has helped build an extended community serving hundreds of young people throughout Baltimore through mentorship, academic support, social-emotional learning, mental health and resource connections, sports and recreation, outdoor experiences, leadership development, and community programming.

Brooks describes community as more than people occupying the same neighborhood. It means sharing resources, opportunities, knowledge, relationships, love, and support so everyone has a better chance to succeed.

His vision is one where people stop asking, "Whose responsibility is this?" and begin asking, "How can I help?"

"At its best, community means understanding that we belong to one another."

- DAYSON BROOKS

Becoming What He Once Needed

Brooks' commitment to Baltimore's young people is rooted partly in his own childhood. Growing up in Baltimore showed him the importance of young people having consistent adults who listen, guide them, expose them to opportunities, and simply show up.

He wanted to become the kind of person every young person deserves in their corner - a mentor, advocate, friend, father figure, community member, or trusted adult. He recognized pieces of his younger self in many of the young people he encountered.

That desire eventually became Level Up.

Relationships Over Recognition

Trips, championships, camps, academic support, and community projects matter. But Brooks says what makes him proudest are the relationships.

It is a young person calling because they need advice. It is a parent trusting Level Up during a difficult moment. It is watching someone who grew up within Level Up begin to pour into the next generation.

Love Can Also Look Like Accountability

Brooks believes young people need structure, discipline, consistency, accountability, encouragement, boundaries, and love.

Sometimes love means affirmation. Sometimes it means correction. And sometimes it means refusing to allow a young person to settle for less than what they are capable of becoming.

Letting Go Is Not Giving Up

One of the biggest lessons Brooks says this work has taught him is the difference between letting go and giving up.

Support cannot always be forced. Letting go does not mean abandoning someone. It can mean leaving the door open, continuing to care, and trusting that something planted today may take root later.

"Sometimes I have to let go of the rope."



GIVING UP CLOSES THE DOOR. LETTING GO LEAVES IT OPEN.

What Young People Need from Adults

Brooks believes many young people are missing some of the fundamental conditions that support long-term success: structure, discipline, consistency, accountability, encouragement, and, in many cases, love.

Rules alone are not enough. Young people need adults who set clear expectations, recognize progress, provide appropriate consequences, and remain present after difficult moments. When support is not consistently available at home, it should still be available through schools, mentors, coaches, community organizations, and other trusted adults.

When Support Feels Unfamiliar

Brooks compares the experience to being in a dark room for so long that opening the curtains feels uncomfortable. The light is not harmful, but a person who has adjusted to darkness may instinctively cover their eyes.

Consistency can feel unfamiliar. Trust can feel dangerous. Accountability can feel like an attack. Understanding that reality has taught Brooks to remain compassionate without pretending that he can force someone to accept help before they are ready.

Why He Still Has Hope

Brooks sees intelligence, creativity, resilience, humor, leadership, and potential in Baltimore's young people every day.

When young people are discussed only through statistics and challenges, their gifts can disappear from the conversation. If Baltimore invests in them, listens to them, and gives them meaningful opportunities to lead, Brooks believes the city's future can be incredibly bright.

What Is Julie Honors?

Each quarter, *The Julie Tribune* will recognize a Baltimore-area individual whose leadership and service strengthen our communities. Honorees will be announced in September, December, March, and June, then celebrated together at the inaugural Julie Honors Gala in September 2027. Four leaders. Four stories of service. One annual celebration.

Connect With Level Up

Level Up is seeking partners, schools, volunteers, mentors, sponsors, resources, and opportunities for Baltimore's young people.



FOLLOW LEVEL UP

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Building Something Bigger

Julie's vision extends beyond individual programs. The long-term goal is a neighborhood hub that helps people move from a need to a meaningful next step.

Julie Community Center is working toward something larger than a collection of individual programs.

Our long-term vision is a neighborhood hub connecting residents with youth enrichment, education, food access, wellness, workforce development, mentorship, family support, resources, and opportunity.

That means asking bigger questions. What does our community need that is not currently available? Where are organizations doing great work but operating separately? How can Julie help residents reach those organizations? What should Julie lead - and when should we bring the right partner into the building instead?

One long-range concept being explored is an East Baltimore Opportunity Pipeline, connecting children and families with coordinated supports spanning early childhood, academic support, youth leadership, mental wellness, food access, parent engagement, workforce development, and college and career readiness.

Julie will not build that alone. The future we are imagining requires schools, universities, healthcare institutions, nonprofits, businesses, government, funders, residents, and community organizations working together.

Building that kind of institution requires more than programming. It requires leadership, measurable goals, durable partnerships, documented systems, and a willingness to share responsibility.

EARLY CHILDHOOD	ACADEMIC SUPPORT	YOUTH LEADERSHIP	MENTAL WELLNESS
FOOD ACCESS	PARENT ENGAGEMENT	WORKFORCE	COLLEGE & CAREER

"Community centers should be more than buildings. They should be bridges."

HELP GUIDE THE NEXT CHAPTER

Seeking Prospective Board Members



WE'RE SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

HELP GUIDE THE NEXT CHAPTER OF Julie Community Center

OPEN CALL FOR PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
Serve • Strengthen • Shape the Future

HELP SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT

We're growing our board with mission-aligned leaders ready to strengthen programs, partnerships, fundraising, and neighborhood impact.

Learn more, nominate someone, or express interest:
juliecenterdirector@gmail.com
410-675-6300

100 South Washington Street • Baltimore, MD 21231

COMMUNITY • SERVICE • LEADERSHIP

Email juliecenterdirector@gmail.com



SERVICE IN PRACTICE

Programs Open the Door. Relationships Give People a Reason to Return.

The larger assignment is not simply to fill a calendar. It is to build trust, connect people with the right next step, and create systems that can continue beyond any one leader.

That means reliable follow-through, honest communication, shared responsibility, and partnerships strong enough to carry the work together.

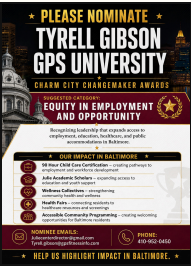
Gibson volunteers at a Baltimore community event.

Julie Leadership in the Community



Baltimore Homecoming Heroes

After Julie was identified by a community member as a Baltimore nonprofit making an impact, Baltimore Homecoming invited the organization to participate in its Homecoming Heroes program. Three finalists will ultimately receive \$20,000 awards sponsored by the T. Rowe Price Foundation.



Charm City Changemaker Awards

Community members are invited to nominate Tyrell Gibson in the suggested category of Equity in Employment and Opportunity, recognizing work expanding access to education, employment, health resources, and community programming.



The Bridge Builder

Tye Gibson was featured by VoyageBaltimore in a story exploring the experiences and philosophy shaping his approach to community leadership - and a vision of community centers as bridges connecting people, resources, relationships, and opportunity.



Pass the Mic: Before Crisis Hits

A proposed conversation led by Gibson and Dayson Brooks is being developed with producers of *Pass the Mic* around one question: What do Baltimore's young men need before crisis hits? Producers have discussed incorporating young people's voices and potentially recording in the community.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Participation, retention, skills gained, academic growth, leadership opportunities, and meaningful relationships.

FOOD ACCESS

Meals and produce distributed, repeat access, completed referrals, partner contributions, and resident feedback.

WHOLE-PERSON WELLNESS

Screenings, health-resource connections, movement, mental wellness, belonging, and sustained engagement.

WORKFORCE & PARTNERSHIPS

Credentials, placements, employer links, shared resources, aligned referrals, and joint outcomes.

GET INVOLVED

Your Time Can Change a Community

You do not have to work at Julie to become part of what happens here. Volunteers can support youth programs, food-access efforts, community events, Swing for Change, special projects, and ongoing initiatives.

Some people volunteer regularly. Others have one Saturday or two hours. **Both matter.**

VOLUNTEER WITH JULIE
Scan to view current opportunities on POINT.

SUPPORT THE WORK

Give Today. Help Build What Is Next.

Donations help Julie develop accessible programming, support community events, strengthen youth and family initiatives, and respond to needs that enter the building without an appointment.

Every gift matters, whether it supports one event or helps build long-term capacity.

DONATE TO JULIE
Give securely through Zeffy.

CONNECT

Partner, Serve or Join the Board

Julie is looking for mission-aligned people and organizations ready to strengthen programming, partnerships, fundraising, governance, and neighborhood impact.

Professional expertise, community relationships, lived experience, and a serious commitment to service all have a place in this work.

EMAIL JULIE
juliecenterdirector@gmail.com
410-675-6300

PARTNERS MAKE THE WORK POSSIBLE

LEVEL UP BALTIMORE

MINISTRY OF BREWING

VICTORIOUS LIVING FAITH MINISTRIES

H2H HEART TO HELP

WOLF STREET ACADEMY

Save the Dates

OCT 17	Swing for Change 9 AM-2 PM • Patterson Park	OCT 23	House of Horrors 7-9 PM • Julie Community Center
OCT 24	House of Horrors 6-8 PM • Julie Community Center	OCT 30	House of Horrors 7-9 PM • Julie Community Center
NOV 7	Community Health Fair 11 AM-2 PM • Julie Community Center	FEB 13	Valentine’s Jazz Brunch 11 AM-2 PM • 2027
MAY	Together for Julie Exact date and details coming soon.	SEPT	Julie Honors Gala Celebrating the 2026-27 honorees.

Stay Connected

Julie Community Center
100 South Washington Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

Email
juliecenterdirector@gmail.com

Phone
410-675-6300

WEBSITE

INSTAGRAM

Seeking Community Partners

Schools, universities, health providers, nonprofits, businesses, churches, and resident leaders are invited to help build a stronger network of opportunities around Julie.

Have a Story for the Tribune?

Future issues can feature resident perspectives, youth voices, local resources, partner stories, and opportunities that strengthen Baltimore.

Next Issue: December 2026

The next edition will include another Julie Honors recipient, winter programming, partner updates, and a look ahead to spring.

Swing
FOR
Change

THE BALTIMORE
COMMUNITY WELLNESS CLASSIC

A NONPROFIT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT & RESOURCE FAIR
FOR COMMUNITY, WELLNESS, AND CHANGE.

NONPROFIT
SOFTBALL
TOURNAMENT

COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
FAIR

FOOD
VENDORS

LOCAL
VENDORS

MUSIC &
FAMILY FUN

ORGANIZATIONS CAN:

✓ CREATE THEIR OWN TEAM

✓ PARTNER WITH ANOTHER ORGANIZATION

✓ USE STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS, OR SUPPORTERS

✓ TABLE AT THE EVENT TO SHARE RESOURCES & INFORMATION

BENEFITING
COMMUNITY WELLNESS & MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVES

A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL ALSO SUPPORT BREAST CANCER AWARENESS THROUGH SUSAN G. KOMEN®

EVENT DATE

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

RAIN DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

LOCATION

PATTERSON PARK
BALTIMORE, MD

GET INVOLVED!

✓ PARTICIPATE

✓ BECOME A VENDOR

✓ SPONSOR

✓ TABLE AS A RESOURCE PARTNER

DM OR EMAIL FOR DETAILS!
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

STRONGER TOGETHER. HEALTHIER TOGETHER. CHANGING TOGETHER.

Julie
COMMUNITY
CENTER

THE
JULIE
HOUSE
OF
HORRORS

HAUNTED HOUSE & HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

THREE NIGHTS OF FRIGHTS!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

100 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21231

ADMISSION & INFO

\$2 ADMISSION
AGES 5 & UNDER FREE
ALL AGES WELCOME
WALK-INS WELCOME
NO ONE TURNED AWAY
FOR INABILITY TO PAY

HOUSE OF HORRORS

MAIN FLOOR + UPSTAIRS
MEDIUM SCARE LEVEL
FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
COMFORTABLE WITH SPOOKY FUN

LITTLE MONSTERS ZONE

BASEMENT
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
YOUTH ACTIVITIES

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

FUN. FRIGHTS. COMMUNITY.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUTH PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AT JULIE COMMUNITY CENTER.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PARTNER
MINISTRY OF BREWING

COMMUNITY BOARD & FALL EVENT GUIDE

THE JULIE TRIBUNE

5

Want to stay connected with Julie? Join our community email list to receive future issues of The Julie Tribune and stay up to date on what's happening at the Center.

Stay Connected with Julie

Scan to join our community email list





Get updates on programs, events, resources, volunteer opportunities, and future issues of *The Julie Tribune*.

Julie

COMMUNITY CENTER

JOIN THE COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST

Scan the QR code or click the graphic or button above.

thejuliecommunitycenter.org | juliecenterdirector@gmail.com | 410-675-6300