

MEET OUR PARTNERS

Carroll County Partners

- **Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS):** CCPS has generously donated to Higher Learning use of their public school facilities for our summer programming. Westminster West Middle School was our home base from 2010-2012, and Westminster East Middle school has housed us since 2013.

In addition, the CCPS Equity and Community Outreach office directed by Patricia Levroney has assisted by reaching out to families and including Higher Learning in professional development opportunities. <http://www.carrollk12.org/>

- **The Westminster Community of Shalom:** The WCS supports families, children, and seniors in the community through the Westminster Community Center and special programs. The Center is home base for the Higher Learning Saturday Program. <http://westminstercommunityofshalom.com/>
- **McDaniel College:** Higher Learning has a formal and informal relationship with McDaniel. We work with their Center for Experience and Opportunity to provide opportunities for their students as a work study and service-learning site. We were also chosen as the community partner to whom their 2012-2013 AmeriCorps VISTA position went. As a collaborative grant awarded through Maryland-D.C Campus Compact, this full time position connects colleges to local non-profit organizations in order to grow their capacity and support the community.

Further, Higher Learning, through the college, offers a service-learning independent study and internship course. In the spring, students study the travel abroad destination for Higher Learning's summer program. In the summer, a select number of McDaniel students are paired with Higher Learning youth to mentor, travel, and learn together. Informally, many members of the McDaniel community serve as issue area experts (guest teachers), volunteers and offer assistance to our program. www.mcdaniel.edu

- **Common Ground on the Hill:** Common Ground offers a series of concerts and events by a diverse group of artists throughout the year. Over the summer, Common Ground on the Hill holds *Traditions Week*, a two week festival of creative and artistic courses and performances. It is "a multicultural community. . . sharing skills with students of all ages and with one another. In this way, we believe that we can improve ourselves, our communities and our world as we meet, share and celebrate our arts and cultures on 'common ground'." Common Ground generously offers scholarships to all Higher Learning students. www.commongroundonthehill.org
- **Silver Oak Academy:** Located in Keymar, MD, Silver Oak is a residential high school that educates and prepares at-risk young men for success. Their culinary arts students cater our End of Term Reception each year, at no cost to us, and their students have volunteered in our Semester of Service program. Silver Oak students are also invited to accompany Higher Learning students on our college tours at no cost to them, and I have served as a speaker for Silver Oak and attended their programs and events. <http://silveroakacademy.com>

Baltimore Partners

- **Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Day and Evening Reporting Center (DERC):** The DERC supports at risk youth in Baltimore who are part of the Maryland Juvenile Justice system and have been referred by the courts to this alternative to detention. Their goal is to reduce recidivism and re-offense by providing close supervision, educational support, and alternatives to criminal behavior. Higher Learning offered its Baltimore Juvenile Services program here from 2010-2013, providing evening programming on site for their students.
- **The SEED School of Maryland:** The SEED School of Maryland is a statewide public boarding school located in Baltimore City, serving predominantly low income students. Higher Learning was a recommended option to their students for summer enrollment our international travel program. <http://www.seedschoolmd.org/>
- **RFC Chess Academy:** Directed by David McDuffie, a professional chess player and teacher, RFC was a chess club with multiple sites in Baltimore. From 2009-2010, Mr. McDuffie advised HL on ways to introduce chess to our students, and in 2011, he taught chess to the students in our Baltimore Juvenile Services program.