

# BELOVED COMMUNITY NEWS

Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative (GBCI) at Asbury Methodist Village (AMV)

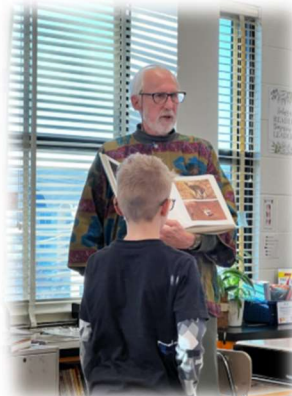
**The Impact of Afterschool Intergenerational Mentoring**—This Spring, GBCI has seen great impact in the afterschool intergenerational mentoring programs, and how important it is to create meaningful experiences and connections during out of school time. As it becomes more and more expensive to live in Montgomery County, many parents are working long hours or multiple jobs to provide for their families. This reality makes afterschool programming very important for students in Elementary, Middle, and High School. GBCI’s intergenerational mentoring program and after school programs in general, offer students coordinated, structured time to build relationships, create through art and cultural activities, increase skills for learning, and HAVE FUN! In this newsletter we share stories of GBCI’s intergenerational mentoring programs, plus quick updates from some of the other activities volunteers have been involved in this Spring!

## Beloved Community Mentoring Friends Traveling Around the World at GES

By Sarahi Segura

This semester GBCI’s Beloved Community Mentoring Friends at Gaithersburg Elementary have been traveling all around the world. Each week a mentor or GBCI volunteer prepares a presentation about a city, state, or country where they have visited or lived. The students and mentors learn about the location and geography of the city/state/country, the culture, the food, and special holidays. In the beginning of the semester each student received a “passport” where they secure a city/state/country seal or stamp after each of their travel sessions.

On our travels to **Nepal** with Sarahi, we got to try on a sari and have a mango lassi. We embarked on a spectacular safari in **Tanzania** with GBCI Board Member Jay Hatch, and on our travels to **Italy** with Mentor Carol Tyson, we learned a traditional Italian dance.



Jay Hatch leading the group on a “safari trip” in Tanzania and sharing stories of his time living there.

It’s been a remarkable journey! In addition to great geography and social studies, the students have been very interested in experiencing the different

Left: Mentor Carol Tyson leading the group in “travel” to ITALY!

Right: Mentors Judy Schaffer and Carol Saussy with GES students reviewing country locations on a world map.



For more information:

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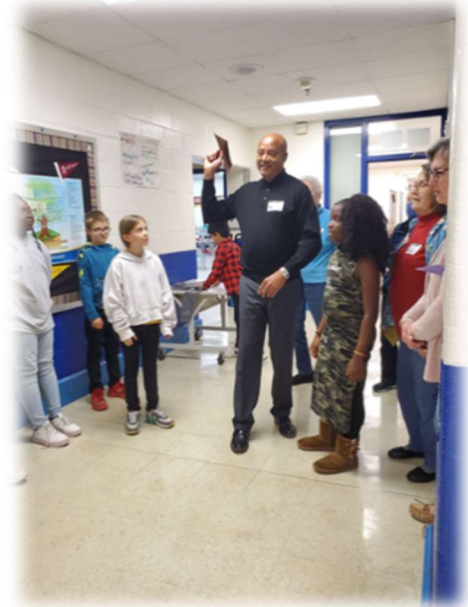
cultures. We have learned that...*even though we are all different there are many things that make us the same.*

The Travel Around the World Project came out of a conversation with teachers at Gaithersburg Elementary School sharing that students have less time for Geography and Social Studies in their classes during school. Knowing that many of the GBCI mentors and volunteers have lived and traveled all around the world, the teachers asked us if we might be able to focus some time learning geography and social studies. This birthed the idea of the Travel Around the World Project.

***We welcome one-time volunteers who may be interested in presenting a city, state, or country in a Tuesday afternoon mentoring session at Gaithersburg Elementary School. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Sarahi Segura, 301-216-4849 sarahi@gaitersburgbelovedcommunity.org.***



*Mentor Fanny Pantelis and GES Student after making vision boards in January 2023.*



*Mentor Malcolm Frazier ready for the toss in a mentoring game.*

## **GBCI Hosts Asbury Fun Day in Parker Hall for Students and Mentors**



*Carol Tyson and Yvonne Crouch teaching the students how to play cornhole*

*By Rebecca Cole*

The GBCI Mentoring Friends program meets after-school at the elementary schools one day per week. Sessions take place in the school classrooms. In addition to sessions at the school, each semester GBCI works with parents and teachers to coordinate a couple special days for the students and mentors—an afternoon at



Asbury and a field trip. March 3, 2023 was an early release day for the students in Montgomery County Public Schools and a great opportunity for the GBCI Mentoring Friends students to come to Asbury for an afternoon of games, conversation, movement, pizza and a lot of FUN!

Mentors gathered in Parker Hall to set up the space with Corn Hole, Bowling, Jenga, and table conversation games. GBCI's Program Coordinator, Sarahi Segura worked with mentors and the AMV Wellness Team to offer fun activities for everyone. The students had a wonderful afternoon spending time at Asbury! With utmost curiosity about the AMV campus, upon arrival they all asked, "Are we going to see our mentors' houses???" 😊



Left: Students introducing themselves on the microphone. Right: Mentors Judy Shaffer and Barbara Heissner playing jenga with students.

**Thanks to our partners who helped make the Asbury Fun Day a success:**

- Gaithersburg Elementary School
- South Lake Elementary School
- Street Outreach Network for providing Transportation
- AMV Wellness Team for leading us in movement activities/use of the Cornhole and bowling set, AND
- The GBCI Mentors and Volunteers who make deep connections with the students, and assist GBCI staff with support, planning, and excellent ideas. THANK YOU!



We were happy to have an AMV resident and his dog walk by Parker Hall—the students loved a surprise visit with a cute puppy!

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# GBCI Volunteers attend Countywide Action to Build Better Community with our Neighbors

By Spence Limbocker and Malcolm Frazier

On Sunday, March 12 GBCI brought 30 AMV residents to the People's Community Baptist Church to join over 600 AIM members to present the Action in Montgomery agenda and proposals for improvements to the Montgomery County Executive and Council members. The AIM issues included: access to dental care; full day pre-K; tenants' rights, affordable housing and neighborhood safety.

Rev. Malcolm Frazier shared reflections from participating in the AIM event:

*"While experiencing the excitement of the event, I was pensive, recalling the words of the prophet Amos:*

*"Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."*



Photo by: David Choy <https://david.choy.me>

*These words challenge us to address the systemic issues that surround our community. This work is not for the faint of heart. May this event serve to propel us to be agents of change as we live out our commitment to establish the Beloved Community."*



As the elected officials each positively agreed to the presentations and asks by AIM members the audience reacted with cheering and celebration. This was democracy in action and showed that by working together we can bring about change.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Photo by: David Choy  
<https://david.choy.me>



## Community Meetings with New AMV Residents

By Hal Garman

We continue to discover unanticipated impacts of COVID. One of these for GBCI has been the discovery that fewer people who moved to Asbury during the past three years had awareness of GBCI and its work with people living outside the fence. To help fill the information gap, we invited newcomers in each living area to gather for wine, cheese and sharing with Hal Garman, Founder, Spence Limbocker, Board Chair, Rebecca Cole, Executive Director and Stephanie Hubbard, Director of Development of the Asbury Foundation. We found a number of interested people in each group, some of whom are already involved.

To learn more, call Rebecca Cole, 301-216-4090, Spence Limbocker, 301-216-5780, or Hal Garman 301-987-6436.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities:

- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on April 21<sup>st</sup>!** GBCI's Beloved Community Mentoring Friends FIELD TRIP to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History is on Friday, April 21, 2023 from 9:15am-3:00pm. *We still need adult chaperones to join us!*

Each adult chaperone will be assigned to a small group with a total of 2 adults and 3 students. There will be standing and walking involved during a 2-hour time at the museum. If you are interested please contact Sarahi Segura: 301-216-4849, sarahi@gaitersburgbelovedcommunity.org OR complete this electronic sign up form: <https://forms.gle/yo3owE8WfEjMM6df7>

- **Friday April 28, 2023, 9:30am Hefner Auditorium- GBCI April Monthly Meeting**

GBCI, and many community partners have been deeply connected to SLES through mentoring, advocating for crossing guards, and securing funding for the building of the new school. We will hear updates from Principal, Celeste King and others from the South Lake community and discuss their hope and vision for the future of the school. We hope you can join us!

**GBCI MONTHLY MEETING**  
Friday, April 28, 9:30 am

Location: HEFNER AUDITORIUM  
Asbury Methodist Village Campus  
(301 Osenthal Ave, enter through gatehouse.  
Turn right upon entering and follow signs for  
Hefner building)

**South Lake Elementary School:**  
*Vision for the Future and  
Renovation Updates*

Celeste King, Principal  
South Lake Elementary School

Questions?  
Contact 301.216.4090

**Thank you for your support!**

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