2025
Annual Report



serving

Charles County & St. Mary's County

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Mission

The mission of Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated (IPSMCC) is to support the Maryland communities of Charles County and St. Mary's County through educational, charitable, financial, cultural, and health-related resources in order to enhance the socio-economic condition of our environment.

HISTORY

In March of 2013 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter gathered to create an organization that would focus solely on philanthropy. The group named this new organization Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated (IPSMCC).

Under the leadership of Natalie Hart (President), Denise Barnes (Vice President), and Miriam Matthews Clark (Executive Director), IPSMCC received its Letter of Determination in September 2015 and officially became a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization in August 2015. As a 501(c)(3) organization, IPSMCC is dedicated to serving Charles County and St. Mary's County. it provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors and has awarded over $150,000 in academic scholarships since 2015.

The mission of Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated (IPSMCC) is to support the Maryland communities of Charles County and St. Mary's County..We aim to enhance the socio-economic condition of our environment by providing educational, charitable, financial, cultural, and health-related resources and events.

2025
Board of Directors and Officers



Krista N. Watkins
President



Karleisha Dorsey
Vice President



Carmella Davis Watkins
Executive Director



Chimere Taylor
Recording Secretary



Kerry-Ann Williams
Corresponding Secretary



Tina Kearney
Chaplain



Tami Davis
Treasurer



Terri Seymore-Green
Financial Secretary



Shaina Brewer
Asst. Financial Secretary



Candi Alfred
Paliamentarian



Denise Barnes
Historian



Tyra Plater
Board Member



Faith Cooper
Board Member



Holiday Jones
Director-At-Large 1



Carol Cawthorne
Director-At-Large 2



Natalie Hart
Past President 2



Andrea Henderson
Past President 1

IPSMCC
Committee Chairmen

Annual Report
Gwen Douglas

Archives
Denise Barnes

Audit
April Plater

Budget & Finance
Tami Davis

Building Fund
Tamiko Scian

Bylaws
Candi Alfred

Program Chairman
Karleshia Dorsey

Debutante Program
Cindy Sanders-Moore
Mashonda Walston
Denise Barnes

Grants
Da'Net Sturdifen

Investments
Antoinita Smith
Sharone Simmons

Nominating
Sandra Barnes

Resource Development
Yolanda Penn

Risk Management
LaKisha Brewer
Angelica Williams

Scholarship
Wualanda Thenstead

Technology
Jessica Jones

Represents Deceased Member



President's Message

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the dedication, resilience, and servant leadership demonstrated by the members and supporters of **Ivy & Pearls of Southern MD Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC)**. This year was especially meaningful as we proudly **celebrated our 10-year anniversary**, marking a decade of purposeful service, community partnership, and lasting impact across Southern Maryland.

Throughout the past ten years—and notably in 2025—**IPSMCC** has remained steadfast in its mission to uplift individuals and families through impactful programs, thoughtful collaborations, and initiatives designed to address critical community needs. This milestone provided an opportunity not only to celebrate our achievements, but also to reflect on the vision, commitment, and collective effort that have sustained our organization since its founding.

The accomplishments of this year are a direct reflection of collaboration and shared purpose. From program execution and financial stewardship to governance and volunteer engagement, our progress underscores the strength of leadership and community support that continues to propel **IPSMCC** forward. I extend sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, committee leadership, volunteers, donors, and partners whose unwavering support made both our anniversary celebration and ongoing work possible.

As we look ahead, **IPSMCC** is well-positioned to build upon a strong foundation—expanding our reach, strengthening sustainability, and continuing to serve as a trusted community resource. With ten years behind us and a bold future before us, we remain committed to advancing our mission with integrity, intention, and impact.

Thank you for your continued belief in and support of **Ivy & Pearls of Southern MD Community Charities, Inc.** It is truly an honor to serve as President during this milestone year.

Sincerely,

Kristia

Kristia N. Watkins, President



Executive Director's Message

The past year has been one of meaningful progress, renewed purpose, and measurable impact for **Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc.** As I reflect on 2025, I am deeply proud of the strides we have made—strides that not only strengthened our programs, but also expanded our reach and deepened our commitment to the communities we serve.

This year, we advanced our mission with intention. We broadened access to educational resources, increased our support for families facing economic challenges, and forged new partnerships that amplified our ability to serve. Our signature initiatives grew in both participation and outcomes, demonstrating what is possible when compassion is paired with strategic action.

We also invested in our organizational capacity, enhancing our volunteer engagement, strengthening our operational infrastructure, and positioning ourselves for sustainable growth. These achievements were not accidental; they were the result of dedicated leadership, tireless volunteers, and supporters who believe in the power of service to transform lives.

As you read this report, you will see the story of a community charity that is not standing still. We are evolving, expanding, and elevating our work—one program, one partnership, and one person at a time. The strides we made in 2025 have laid a strong foundation for the years ahead, and I am energized by the possibilities before us.

Thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and belief in our mission. Together, we are building a stronger, more equitable Southern Maryland.

With Gratitude and Purpose,

Carmella

Carmella Davis Watkins, Executive Director

Annual Meeting 2025
Agenda

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated
Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 1, 2025 @9 :00 a.m.
St. Charles High School | Cafeteria

Kristia N. Watkins, Presiding

Roll Call	*will be taken from attendance list*
Call to Order/Approval of Agenda	Kristia N. Watkins, President
Meditation	Tina Kearney, Chaplain
Reading and Approval of Minutes	Chimere Taylor, Secretary
Officer and Committee Chairmen Reports	
Annual Report	Gwen Douglas
Financial Secretary	Terri Seymore-Green
Treasurer	Tami Davis
Scholarships	Wualanda Thenstead
Bylaws	Candi Alfred
Resource Development	Yolanda Penn *2024 Fundraisers* *Ivy & Ice White Party* *5K*
Grants Coordinator	Da'Net Sturdifen
Unfinished Business	
New Business	
Installation of 2025 Board of Directors – Jacqueline Gray	
Adjournment	

Annual Meeting 2025
Minutes

Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc.
P.O. Box 975
Waldorf, Maryland 20604

Annual Meeting
February 1, 2025
North Point High School Cafeteria

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

MINUTES:

- **Roll Call:** The President, Madam Kristia Watkins (for Recording Secretary Chimere Taylor), announced that the names of the members in attendance will be determined using the QR Code at each table. There is a separate QR Code for the annual meeting and a separate QR Code for the Chapter meeting.
- **Call to Order:** President Kristia Watkins called the meeting to order at 9:08AM.
- **Approval of Agenda:** There was one correction to the agenda. Change the location from "St. Charles High School" to "North Point High School".
- **Meditation:** Meditation was given by Executive Director Carmella Davis Watkins (for Charities Chaplain Tina Kearney)
- **Approval of Minutes:** Madam President Kristia Watkins announced that the meeting agenda and minutes were emailed on Thursday, January 30, 2025. No changes to the 2024 annual meeting minutes were received during the meeting.
- The February 1, 2025 annual meeting minutes were taken and will be documented by Corresponding Secretary Donnis Armstrong.
- **Annual Report:**
  - Madam President Kristia Watkins (for Member Gwen Douglas, Chairman) announced that the 2024 annual report will consist of a recap of our 2024 activities and will be emailed to the membership.
- **Financial Secretary** Terri Seymour-Green presented the 2024 end of year totals.
  - Program: $90,308.58
  - Operations: $24,713.79
  - Building Fund: $ 100.00

  $115,122.37

DRAFT

Annual Meeting 2025
Minutes (con't)

- **Treasurer** Tami Davis presented the 2024 Financial Overview.

  How we generate funds

o Member & General Donations:	$11,539
o Building Fund Donations:	$ 100
o Program Fundraising:	$31,158
o General Fundraising:	$12,581
o State & Local Grants:	$43,746
	---
o Total Income:	$99,124

  How we spend each dollar

o Education:	$16,250
o Community Involvement:	$10,538
o Health & Welfare:	$34,452
o Public Awareness:	$ 2,255
o Fundraising:	$28,580
o Administrative & General:	$ 9,552
	---
o Total Expenses:	$101,627

  IPSMCC has 100% financial support from its membership.

- **Scholarships:** Member Wualanda Thenstead reported on the 2024 & 2025 scholarship program.

  2024 Scholarship Program
  - o A total of 20 scholarships were awarded at $1,000 each.
  - o In St. Mary's County, there were 10 BECA recipients.
  - o In Charles County, there were recipients from McDonough, Lackey, and Westlake High Schools.
  - o We received a total of 99 applications. Of the 99 applications, 58 essays were uploaded.

  2025 Scholarship Program
  - o The application is open January 30, 2025-March 14, 2025. www.scholarship.ipsmcc.org
  - o Four new scholarships were added to include African American students. An HBCU requirement was added.
  - o Member Andrea Henderson stated that she is pleased that we are reaching more of our students who look like us.

- **Bylaws:** Member Candi Alfred gave an update of the bylaws.
  - o The bylaws were last amended in 2023.
  - o Our documents states that there is a 30-day advanced notice of amendments to bylaws.
  - o Member Candi will send an email to the membership today of all changes with track changes.
  - o A special meeting will be called after 30 days to vote on changes.
  - o Two proposed amendments are:
    - Add Deputy Executive Director position
    - Selection of Nominating Committee Chairman

- **Resource Development:** Member Yolanda Penn gave an update on the two 2024 fundraisers.

  Ivy & Ice White Party
  - o 156 tickets were sold
  - o Income: $20,310.00
  - o Expenses: $16,162.71

  5K Walk
  - o Income: $5,080.00
  - o Expenses: $ 374.15

  There are no 2025 fundraisers due to our signature programs this year.

DRAFT

- **Grants Coordinator:** Executive Director Carmella Davis Watkins (for Member Da'Net Sturdifen) provided an update on grants and our new building.

  In 2024, the Grants Team secured $161,330 in grants. Under the new white house administration, we might not receive any grants within the next 4 years.

  - Charles County Department of Health: $28,000
  - Charles County Charitable Trust (CHIPP): $ 8,500
  - Tobacco, Diabetes and Chronic Disease Prevention: $ 5,000
  - Cigarette Restitution Fund (Middle & Elementary School Focus): $ 5,000
  - Rural Maryland Council Grant: $ 8,500
  - Seed Grant (Juneteenth): $ 5,000
  - Charles County Arts Alliance (Juneteenth Entertainment): $ 3,000
  - Project Restore 2.0 Grant (Office Space): $33,750
  - Maryland Computer Lab Program Grant: $64,580

  A video was shown of the rental space.

  - Madam Executive Director Carmella Davis Watkins was able to secure furniture for the office space, but we are in need of chairs.
  - Archives and Logistics will have access/keys (not everyone will have a key).
  - We will have a computer lab housed in the office space.
  - Ribbon cutting will be in conjunction with our April Day of Service.

  There were a lot of questions about the new building/office space.

  - Where is it located?: 3835 Leonardtown Road, Suite 4, Waldorf, MD 20601
  - What is the move-in date?: Saturday, March 8, 2025
  - Will chapter meetings be held in the new building?: No
  - Will there be an alarm system?: We will look into it.
  - Will there be guidelines for how the facility is used?: We will look into it.
  - How much is rent?: $3,000/month; we have a 2-year lease; payback for 1 year; utilities are paid for 1 year
  - We will keep the PO Box ($250/year).

- **Unfinished Business:** None

- **New Business:**
  - Installation of 2025 Board of Directors – Member Jacqueline Gray presided.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06AM.

Submitted by: Donnis M Armstrong, Corresponding Secretary

Approved by:

Date Approved:

DRAFT

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Alzheimer's Disease

January 11, 2025

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, kicked off 2025 with an Alzheimer's program focused on early detection and resources for caregivers.



AKA
Day of Service
January 20, 2025

On January 20, 2025, IPSMCC members participated in the **"We Are One" AKA Day of Service** at the following locations: **Maryland Diaper Bank**, **Building Bridges Corp**, the **Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL)** and the **Patuxent Habitat for Humanity**.

Maryland Diaper Bank



IPSMCC members prepared postpartum packages for families in need.

Items donated:
2 - Luvs Diapers - Size 2, 264 count
2 - Luvs Diapers - Size 4, 198 count
2 - Amazon Elements baby wipes, unscented, 810 count
2 - Mama Bear Gentle Touch diapers, Newborn, 120 count
2 - Luvs Platinum Protect Diapers - Size 3, 234 count



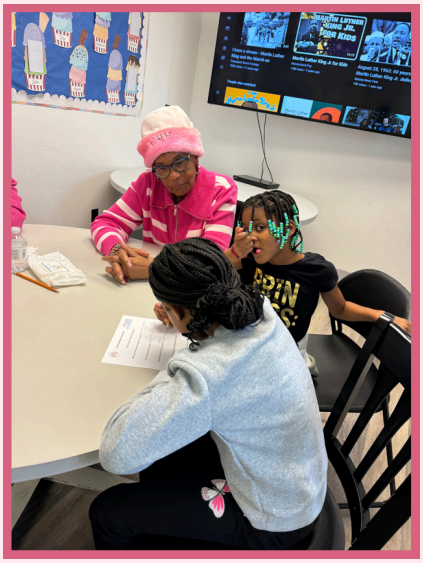




AKA
Day of Service *(con't)*
January 20, 2025

Building Bridges





Building Bridges *hosted a weekend workshop where students created crafts. IPSMCC members, pictured above, assisted students in completing their crafts.*

Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living



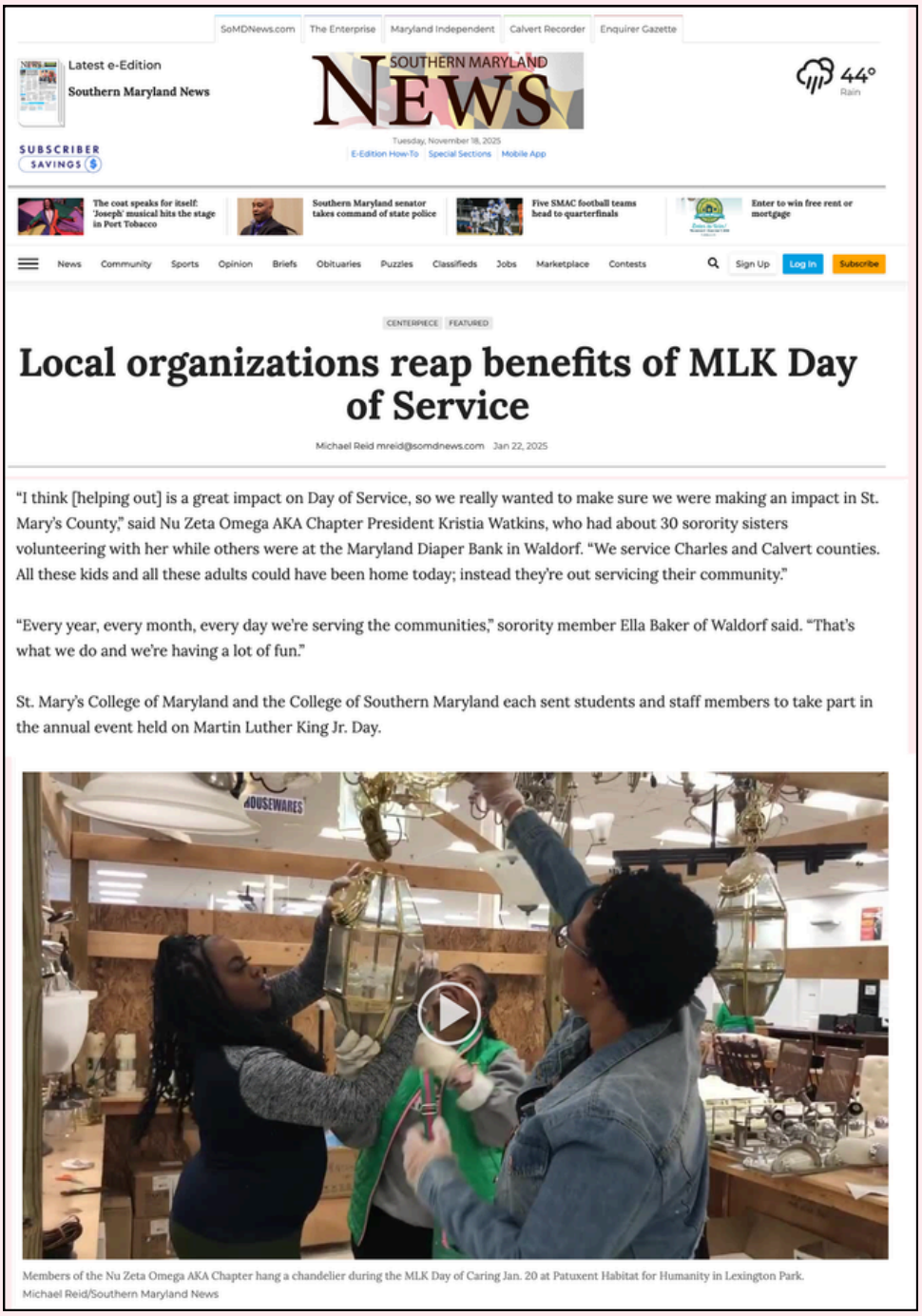


Members volunteered at the ***Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL)*** *facility.*

AKA
Day of Service *(con't)*
January 20, 2025

Patuxent Habitat for Humanity

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, participated in AKA Day of Service. Two IPSMCC members (left and center) and a community volunteer, are pictured hanging a chandelier.



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CENTERPIECE | FEATURED

Local organizations reap benefits of MLK Day of Service

Michael Reid mreid@somdnews.com Jan 22, 2025

"I think [helping out] is a great impact on Day of Service, so we really wanted to make sure we were making an impact in St. Mary's County," said Nu Zeta Omega AKA Chapter President Kristia Watkins, who had about 30 sorority sisters volunteering with her while others were at the Maryland Diaper Bank in Waldorf. "We service Charles and Calvert counties. All these kids and all these adults could have been home today; instead they're out servicing their community."

"Every year, every month, every day we're serving the communities," sorority member Ella Baker of Waldorf said. "That's what we do and we're having a lot of fun."

St. Mary's College of Maryland and the College of Southern Maryland each sent students and staff members to take part in the annual event held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Members of the Nu Zeta Omega AKA Chapter hang a chandelier during the MLK Day of Caring Jan. 20 at Patuxent Habitat for Humanity in Lexington Park.
Michael Reid/Southern Maryland News







AKA
Day of Service *(con't)*
January 20, 2025

Patuxent Habitat for Humanity















Community Yoga Flow

February 8, 2025



Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. ®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, hosted two Community Yoga Flow sessions at Shabach Yoga Studio. From deep breaths to deep stretches, we brought the community together to nourish our bodies and souls—one pose at a time.



Calm

Peace







Community Skate

March 8, 2025



IPSMCC and NZΩ rolled into wellness at the Community Skate event! We ***collected 75+ hygiene products*** for the Children's Aid Society. The Charles County Recreation & Parks provided day passes so our community could enjoy basketball, pools, and other activities beyond the rink. Thanks to grant funding, attendees were provided tobacco cessation information and afforded the ability to skate for free.











Community Resources Fair

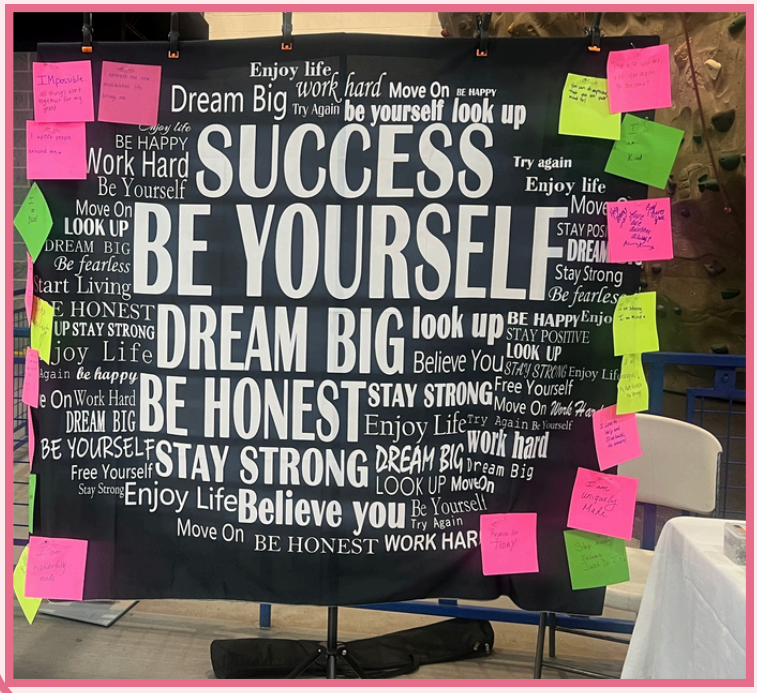
April *12, 2025*



Highlights

- 200 participants
- 40+ local health-related businesses, organizations, and local community advocacy groups
- Free oral cancer screenings
- Prepared 1,000 Period Equity Kits
- Shredded 900 lbs of paper for mental health
- 2 Interactive fitness classes
- Mental health artistic meditation workshop
- Collected and donated 88 canned goods
- Mobile career unit for job resources







Community Resources Fair
Period Equity Kits
April 12, 2025



Nu Zeta Omega incorporated a service project into the Community Resources Fair. Sorors and Debutantes packaged and provided **1,000 period hygiene kits** to the St. Mary's Department of Health (Period Equity Initiative) and local schools (Westlake, Piccowaxen, Thomas Stone, PISOTA, General Smallwood Elementary, McDonough High School). The Period Equity Initiative received 450 kits, and each school received 75 kits.



Preparation of the period hygiene kits.





Period Equity donation bags filled with 75 kits for schools.

Community Resources Fair
Vendors
April 12, 2025

















Community Resources Fair Activities

April 12, 2025



Free massages were offered to participants.

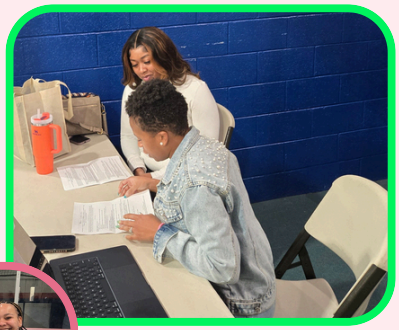


Community shred services to clear the home and mind. 900 lbs of paper shredded.



Zumba and Hula Hoop workouts





We offered “Career Conversations” sessions, serving community members in need of employment across a variety of industries. Participants received personalized guidance on how to enhance their job search strategies, including tips on how to make their resumes to stand out in a competitive market, and how to leverage AI tools in the job search process.





IPSMCC Building
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

April 12, 2025







IPSMCC Building
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony *(con't)*
April 12, 2025













The BayNet News
IPSMCC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Waldorf Ribbon-Cutting Celebrates Ivy & Pearls Of Southern Maryland's New Headquarters

by Jessica Jennings
April 18, 2025



WALDORF, Md. — Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities Inc. (IPSMCC), in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, marked a major

The BayNet News *(con't)*

IPSMCC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

milestone on Wednesday, April 16, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of its new headquarters in Waldorf.

The event, held at 3825 Leonardtown Road, Suite 4, welcomed community members, elected officials, and supporters for the official unveiling of the organization's new space. Dignitaries in attendance included Maryland State Delegate Edith J. Patterson, Charles County Board of Commissioners President Reuben B. Collins II, Vice President Ralph Patterson, and Commissioner Gilbert Bowling III.

Kristia Watkins, president of the Nu Zeta Omega Chapter serving Charles and St. Mary's counties, offered heartfelt recognition to community members, organizational partners, and Lifestyles of Maryland for their ongoing support and collaboration. As the chapter's 12th president, Watkins emphasized the importance of partnerships and grant support in sustaining the organization's mission and growth.

Commissioner Collins addressed the crowd with an emotional tribute, stating, "This is the power of Black women. You have always been at the forefront. I am looking around this room—I see women of distinction. I know your history. I am so proud to be here today."

Hosted in collaboration with the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, the ceremony included acknowledgments of community contributions, reflections on IPSMCC's mission, and moments of celebration as attendees shed tears in honor of the organization's continued growth.



The new headquarters represents a continued commitment to service in Charles and St. Mary's counties. The organizations provide educational, charitable, financial, cultural, and health-related programs throughout the region.

The BayNet News *(con't)*

IPSMCC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

While the ribbon-cutting ceremony focused on the organization's new home, it also coincided with a broader celebration of the chapter's legacy. IPSMCC and Nu Zeta Omega are continuing their 45th anniversary observance this week, highlighting decades of service and stewardship.

The celebration will culminate in the event, "**Sustaining the Future: 45 Years of Community Service, Scholarship and Stewardship**," on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees, 3090 Robert S. Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20601.

The anniversary event will honor Nu Zeta Omega's 45 years and IPSMCC's 10 years of impact, while recognizing local organizations for their contributions to community service in Southern Maryland.

For more information, visit **www.ivyandpearlssomd.org** or follow **Nu Zeta Omega Chapter on Facebook**.

Contact our news desk at **news@thebaynet.com**

Anonymous
April 21, 2025 at 7:13 pm

if you missed it, go by there at your leisure

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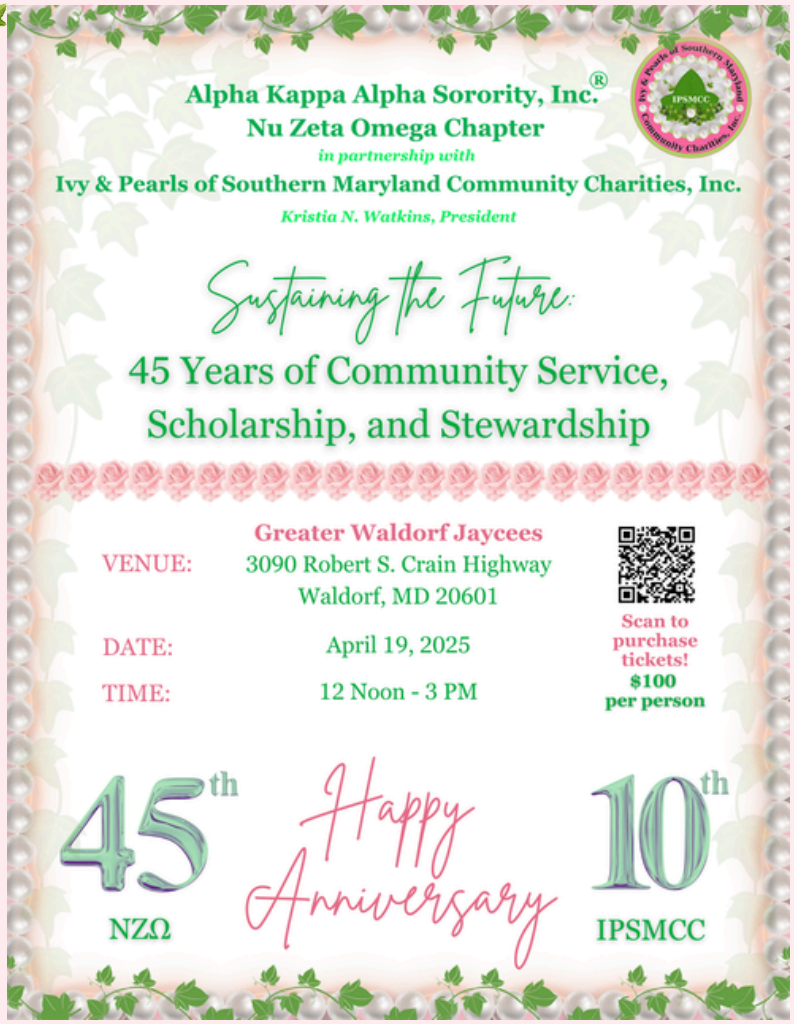
10th Anniversary Luncheon

April 19, 2025









10th Anniversary Luncheon *(con't)*

April 19, 2025















Relay for Life

May 10, 2025

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland
Community Charities, Inc.
In Partnership With
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Nu Zeta Omega Chapter
Presents

Relay For Life of Charles County

Families Fighting For A Cure



American Cancer Society
RELAY FOR LIFE



JOIN THE **MOVEMENT** & **DONATE**

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 • 2 PM - 8 PM

St. Charles High School – Inside
5305 Piney Church Rd, Waldorf, MD

Survivor Luncheon will begin at 12 Noon
Check-In is at 11:30 AM

www.bit.ly/NZORelayForLife

For More Info, Contact: Programs@AKA-NZOmega.org

Videos and/or photos may be used by IPSMCC/Nu Zeta Omega Chapter on their electronic media platforms and websites for general public viewing.

No World Tobacco Day

May 13, 2025



This community event raised awareness about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine products, particularly those targeting children and young adults. **13** students submitted art work or poetry using the "harm of tobacco" theme for a chance to win a monetary prize. Over **$1,000** was awarded to students.









Dimensions of Black Women's Health

May 17, 2025

In recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month, Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC), in partnership with Nu Zeta Omega Chapter (NZΩ), hosted Dimensions of Black Women's Health, a community wellness program focused on addressing the unique stressors impacting Black women across the lifespan. The program featured expert-led discussions, interactive wellness education, and access to community resources designed to support mental, physical, and financial well-being.







A hula hoop demonstrations was provided to the audience for the physical fitness component of the program.



Member Linda Gravely was the Mistress of Ceremony for the program.

No World Tobacco Day

May 31, 2025



Financial Wellness Expo

October 18, 2025



The Expo provided the community with an opportunity to connect with professionals, experts, and organizations dedicated to helping residents improve their financial health. The event featured a variety of informative breakout sessions, engaging workshops, and valuable networking opportunities. **81** people attended the expo.













Cyber Smarts Workshop for Savvy Seniors

November 8, 2025















Holiday Food Baskets

The Holiday Basket Program demonstrated IPSMCC's commitment to addressing food insecurity in Charles County. In partnership with Nu Zeta Omega Chapter (NZΩ), nine local schools helped identify families in need, resulting in the distribution of holiday baskets designed to feed a family of four. In total, the **program served approximately 360 individuals**, ensuring families could enjoy a warm and nourishing holiday meal.











Adopt-A-Road Clean-up

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC), in partnership with **Nu Zeta Omega Chapter (NZΩ)**, conducted **quarterly** Adopt-A-Road clean-up projects to promote environmental stewardship and community pride. Through consistent service, members removed debris, reduced pollution, and helped beautify local schools and roadways, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations. In 2025, a total of **14 large bags** of trash were collected.









Weekend Backpack Program

Expanding Access to Food When School is Closed

Through several grants, Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities (IPSMCC) in partnership with Nu Zeta Omega Chapter (NZΩ), answered the call to address student food insecurity by expanding its **Weekend Backpack Program** from one school to two in 2025. Between January and December 2025, **1,730** weekend backpacks were packed and distributed weekly to **60 students,** providing consistent access to nutritious food beyond the school week.

















The Garden of Pearls—Cultivating Grace and Elegance

2025 Debutante Program

The Garden of Pearls—Cultivating Grace and Elegance 2025 Debutante Program serves as Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc.'s signature fundraising event and premier youth development initiative, marking its 20th Biennial Debutante Cotillion.

Under the leadership of Cindy Sanders-Moore and Mashonda Walston, Co-Chairs, and in loving memory of Honorary Co-Chair, the late Soror Denise Barnes, the 2025 program achieved remarkable success. Soror Barnes' passing deeply impacted the sisterhood; however, her dedication to uplifting youth continues to shape and strengthen the program's enduring legacy.

This year's theme symbolized both beauty and transformation, reflecting the growth that occurs through intention, perseverance, and time. Like a carefully cultivated garden and pearls formed through pressure, each debutante completed the program with increased confidence, poise, and purpose.





2025 Miss Debutante

Debutante Harmony McClane

2025 Debutante Program

Our 2025 Debutante Coterie

Twenty-one exceptional young women, juniors and seniors representing Charles County, Prince George's County, St. Mary's County, and Washington, DC, were selected based on rigorous criteria evaluating academic excellence, character through letters of recommendation, demonstrated community service, and clear post-secondary educational pursuits.

Program planning began in September 2024, with the Debutante Kick-Off Event held at Kulture Gallery in Waldorf, MD, launching a comprehensive 10-month transformative journey for our debutantes, their families, and 21 escorts.

The 20th Biennial Debutante Cotillion

The culminating cotillion presentation was a magnificent showcase of elegance, sophistication, and grace. With **500 tickets sold**, the event drew strong community support, filling the venue with family, friends, supporters and members who celebrated these remarkable young women. The evening demonstrated the extraordinary transformation our debutantes experienced and left lasting impressions on all attendees.



2025 Debutante Program

20th Biennial Debutante Cotillion

2025 Miss Debutante



L to R: Carmella Davis Watkins (Exec Director), Kristia Watkins (President), 2023 Miss Debutante - Debutante Gabrielle Blake, ***2025 Miss Debutante - Debutante Harmony McClane****, Cindy Sanders-Moore (Co-Chair), Mashonda Walston (Co-Chair)*

1st Runner Up



L to R: Carmella Davis Watkins (Exec Director), Kristia Watkins (President), 2023 Miss Debutante - Debutante Gabrielle Blake, ***Debutante Aaliyah Underwood (1st Runner Up)****, Cindy Sanders-Moore (Co-Chair), Mashonda Walston (Co-Chair)*

2nd Runner Up



L to R: Carmella Davis Watkins (Exec Director), Kristia Watkins (President), 2023 Miss Debutante - Debutante Gabrielle Blake, ***Debutante Lyla Smith (2nd Runner Up)****, Cindy Sanders-Moore (Co-Chair), Mashonda Walston (Co-Chair)*

2025 Debutante Program
Category Award Winners

Miss Scholastic Award: Debutante Aaliyah Underwood

Miss Congeniality Award: Debutante Aaliyah Underwood

Miss Dedicated Pearl Award: Debutante Aaliyah Underwood

Miss Pearl of Wisdom Award:

- 1st Place - Debutante Kori Smith;
- 2nd Place - Debutante Sydney Dockery;
- 3rd Place - Debutante Jessica Forbes

Miss Talented Pearl Award:

- 1st Place - Debutante Aaliyah Underwood;
- 2nd Place - Debutante Alexxis White;
- 3rd Place - Debutante Jessica Forbes

Miss Pearl of Service Award:

- 1st Place - Debutante Aaliyah Underwood;
- 2nd Place - Debutante Alexxis White;
- 3rd Place - Debutante Lyla Smith

Miss Creative Pearl Award:

- 1st Place - Debutante Alexxis White;
- 2nd Place - Debutante Aaliyah Underwood;
- 3rd Place - Debutante Teyona Carroll

Highest Ticket Sales Award: Debutante Kamryn Neal

2025 Debutante Program
Meet the Debutantes



Debutante
Allanah Bince



Debutante
Teyona Carroll



Debutante
Lauryn Dennis



Debutante
Sydney Dockery



Debutante
Jennifer Forbes



Debutante
Jessica Forbes



Debutante
Ta'Niyah Hardman



Debutante
Ariel Harris



Debutante
Amaliah Joe



Debutante
Brooklyn Lee



Debutante
Harmony McClane



Debutante
Natalie McIntyre

2025 Debutante Program
Meet the Debutantes (con't)



Debutante
Destyni Mckay



Debutante
Kamryn Neal



Debutante
Kori Smith



Debutante
Lyla Smith



Debutante
Aaliyah Underwood



Debutante
Sophie Webb



Debutante
Alexxis White



Debutante
Christine Wiley



Debutante
Maya Williams



COMMUNITY & PARTNER INITIATIVES

SNAP Benefits Assistance



Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC), in partnership with Nu Zeta Omega Chapter (NZΩ) and LifeStyles, Inc., provided free Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application assistance to Maryland residents. The initiative supported individuals and families with limited incomes, including seniors and people with disabilities. In addition to SNAP enrollment, IPSMCC assisted residents with applications for other federally funded assistance programs. These services were made available at IPSMCC and NZΩ community events throughout the year.



Member Frances Day attends the Financial Wellness Expo to offer SNAP benefits assistance.

Food Drive

January 30, 2025

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, in partnership with the Upper Marlboro/Waldorf (MD) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. collected 660 items for to be donated to Dr. Samuel Mudd Elementary School, which is a Title 1 & Community School in Charles County, MD. The 660 items consisted of canned goods, tissues, coats, and gloves. These items will be used for their community pantry. This program supports the Global Initiative because we are giving back to the local community and empowering our families who are less fortune.













Donating the collected items to Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School

Social Hour:
Black Maternal Health

April *17, 2025*



*NZΩ partnered with **Phi Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.** to host a social hour dedicated to raising awareness and support for Black Maternal Health Week. We raised a total of **$3280** in monetary donations, **3000 diapers** and **1956 baby wipes**.*







Impact of Federal Terminations Open Forum

May 1, 2025

IPSMCC *and* ***NZΩ*** *partnered with* ***Tau Lambda lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*** *to host a public forum addressing the financial and emotional impact of federal terminations on Charles County, MD. The event featured a displaced federal employee and local resident, along with* ***County Commissioners***, ***State Delegate Edith Patterson***, *and the* ***President of the Charles County NAACP***.

Twenty-two (22) Sorors *were in attendance and* ***83 attendeees*** *overall.*











Alzheimer's vs Dementia

May 1, 2025



IPSMCC and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter partnered with the Charles County Health Department to provide an informative cognitive health workshop to explain the differences between Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. The workshop focused on various stages of the diseases, risk factors, research and treatment. There were 24 participants and the survey responses showed the workshop was well received by community members.







3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration w/Alpha Phi Alpha

June 19, 2025

*NZΩ partnered with **Sigma Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha** to plan and host the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration. Participants enjoyed an event filled with historical context, local performers, live music, and **over 60 local vendors** (non-profit organizations, merchandise, and food truck vendors). The event was well attended, with **over 800 registered participants**, far exceeding the total number of participants from previous years.*









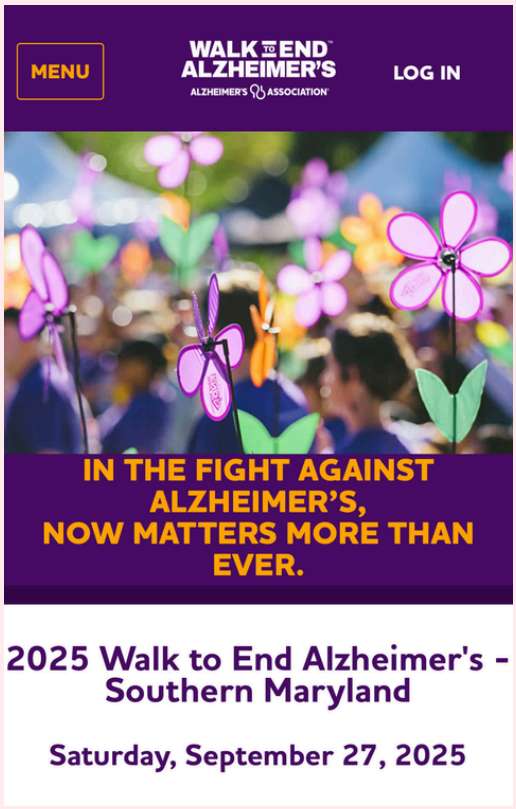




Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease



IPSMCC partnered with the Alzheimer's Association to provide free fruit, water, and snacks to participants for the Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease. Members of Nu Zeta Omega also participated in the event.







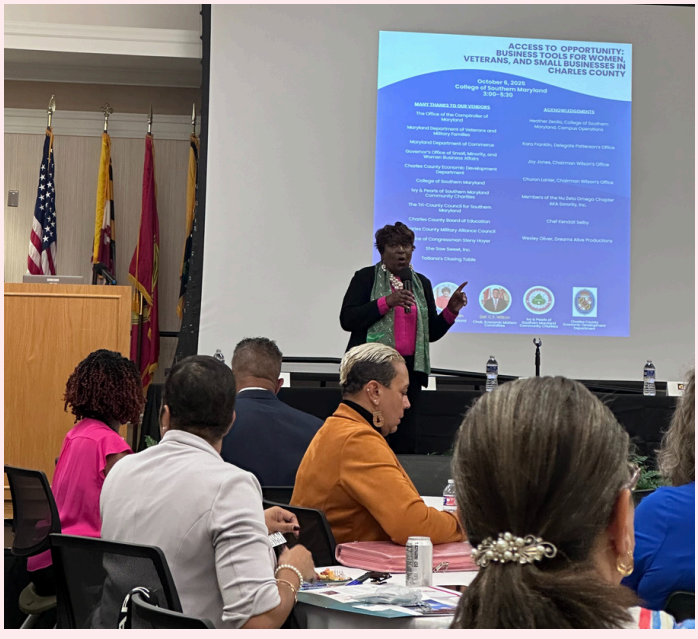
Access to Opportunity: Business Tools for Women, Veterans, and Small Businesses

October 6, 2025



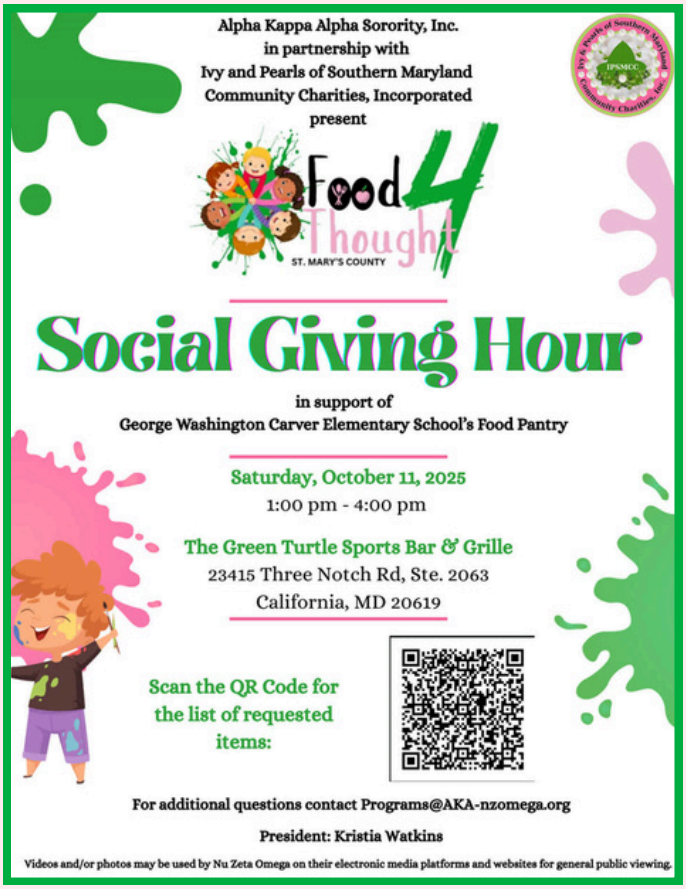








Food 4 Thought
Social Giving Hour
October 11, 2025



IPSMCC and **NZΩ** hosted its 2nd annual "Food 4 Thought" Social Giving Hour for George Washington Carver Elementary School's (GWCES) food pantry. In total, ***3,534*** *food pantry items*, ***14*** *school supplies, and* ***18*** *personal hygiene items* were collected and donated to GWCES. The donated items will provide **food for Title 1 families** in St. Mary's County facing food insecurity.









Intimate Partner Violence Forum Empowering Communities

October 25, 2025

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and relevant 2025 legislation, Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC), in partnership with Nu Zeta Omega Chapter (NZΩ), **The Poiema Movement,** and the **Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**, hosted the 2nd Annual Intimate Partner Violence Forum. The event featured community resource tables and a panel discussion with **advocates**, **community leaders**, representatives from the **local Sheriff's Office** and **State's Attorney's Office**, and **elected officials** committed to supporting Black communities impacted by intimate partner violence. On-site resources were also available to support survivors addressing the mental and physical effects of abuse.









J.P. Ryon and Dr. Mudd Elementary Schools Community Resources Day



The J.P. Ryon and Dr. Mudd Elementary Community Resource Day afforded Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. and Nu Zeta Omega the ability to serve **600 participants**. Guests received a total of **376 healthy snacks**, including fruit strips, trail mix, and fruit and veggie pouches, as well as **132 dental hygiene kits**. Participants also stopped by the table to receive SNAP benefit information. This event provided a meaningful opportunity to engage with and support local families, reaffirming our commitment to community uplift and wellness.





Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway



Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. and G.S. Proctor & Associates partnered with Delegate Edith Patterson, Commissioner Thomasina Coates, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Alpha Phi Zeta Chapter to provide turkeys, canned goods, and vegetables for Thanksgiving to community members. Over **300 turkeys** were provided to residents of Charles County.









Kris Kringle Christmas Market



Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC), in partnership with Commissioner Gilbert "B.J." Bowling, III and The Phi Alpha Zeta Service Foundation, Inc., distributed holiday food items and gifts to children facing food insecurity in Charles County during the annual Kris Kringle Christmas Market. The event **served more than 200 families**.







Christmas Market



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

2025
Scholarship Recipients

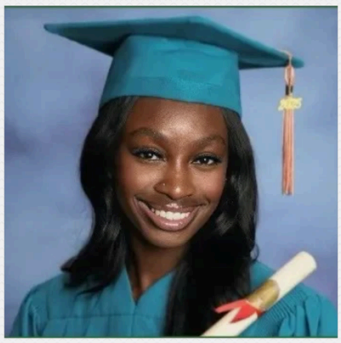
Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. (IPSMCC) awarded a grand total of **$11,000** in scholarships to **seven** graduating high school seniors in 2025. Recipients demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, with grade point averages ranging from 3.87 to 4.59. IPSMCC proudly congratulates the scholarship recipients and celebrates their dedication to excellence and future success.



Carlos Lee, Jr.
Academic Scholarship Recipient



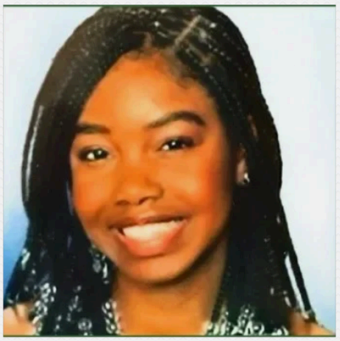
Trinity Watford
Academic Scholarship Recipient



Edeose Richard
Academic Scholarship Recipient



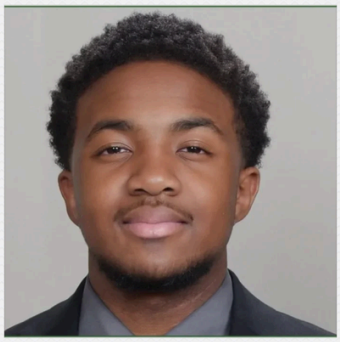
Jadyn Cannon
STEAM Scholarship Recipient



Esther Adekola
STEAM Scholarship Recipient



Jada Massey
STEAM Scholarship Recipient



Leonard Simmons, Jr.
STEAM Scholarship Recipient



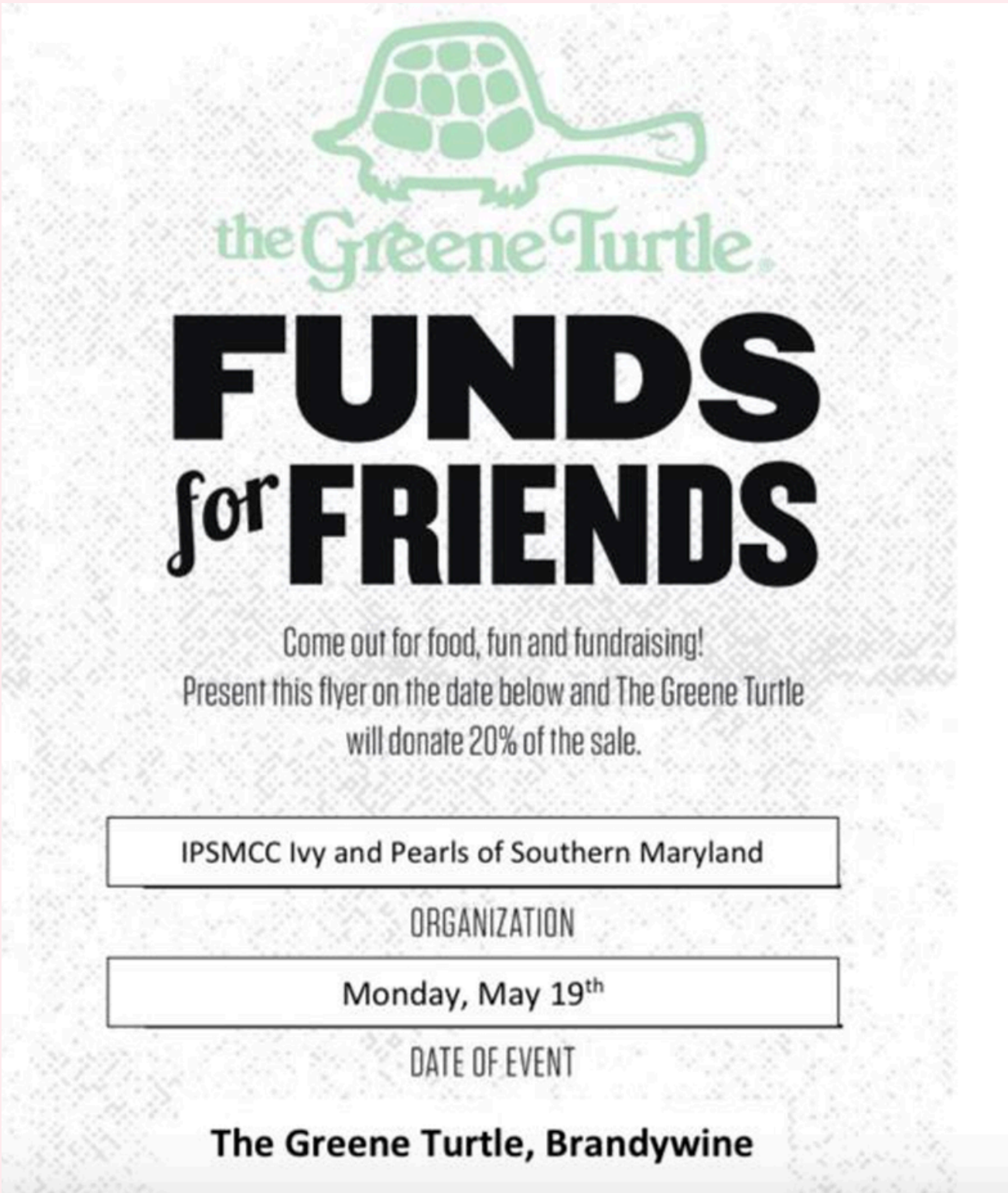




FUNDRAISERS

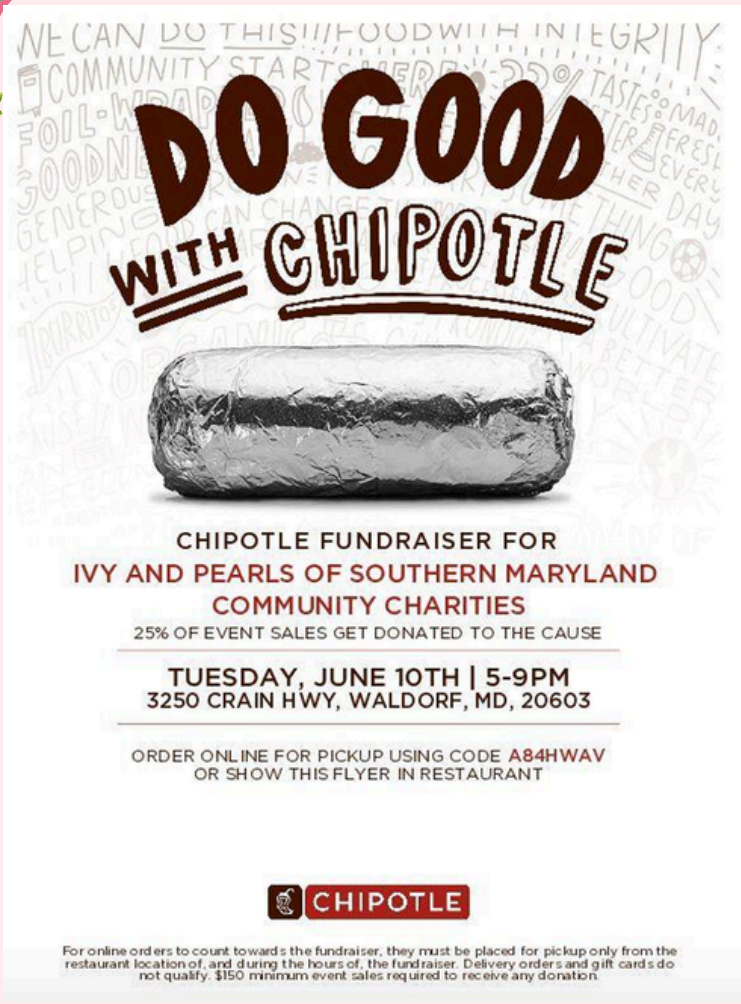
The Greene Turtle Fundraiser

May 19, 2025

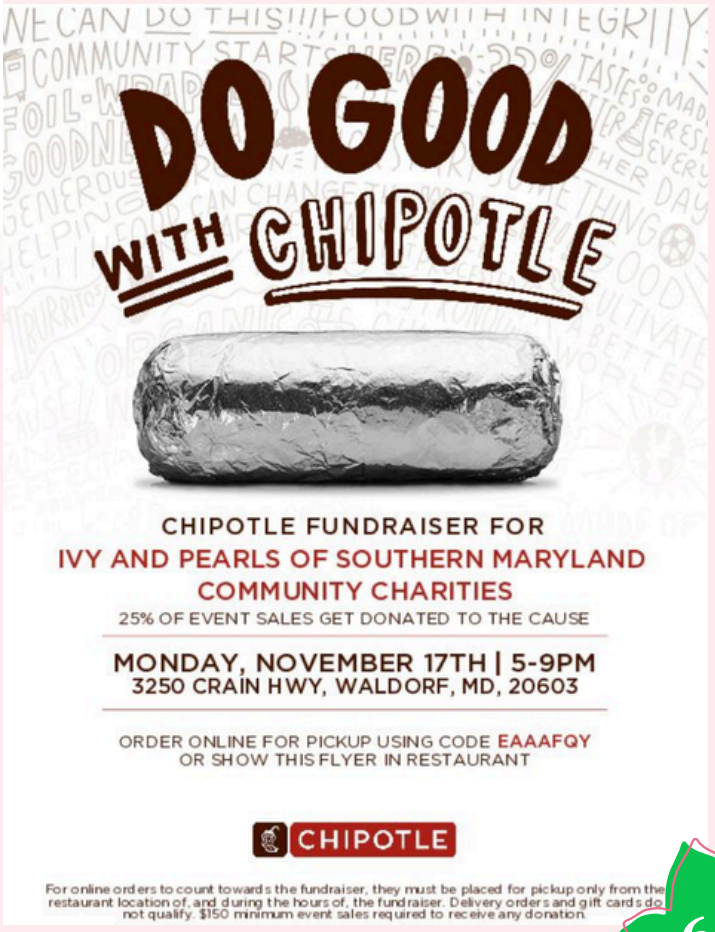


Chipotle Findraisers

June *10, 2025 & November 17, 2025*









Annual Charity 5K Walk/Run

July 26, 2025







Raised a record

$5,300+

for scholarships & programs





Annual Charity 5K Walk/Run

July 26, 2025









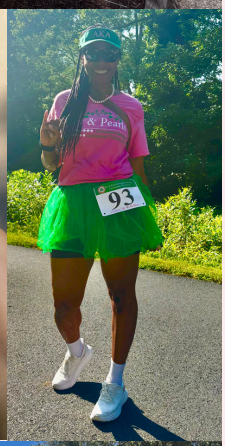


















Chipotle Fundraiser

October 4, *2025*



Holiday Celebation

December 13, 2025



Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charitis, Inc. and the **NZΩ Sisterly Relations Committee** closed out 2025 in grand style with our highly anticipated **Holiday Cocktail Party**. This festive day party was a resounding success, welcoming Sorors along with their families and friends for an afternoon of celebration and connection. Dressed in holiday chic attire, **approximately 121 guests** arrived ready to dance, mingle, and embrace the spirit of the season. The event was filled with lively music, joyful fellowship, and an abundance of delicious food and drinks.









Holiday Celebration *(con't)*

December 13, 2025

















Fundraising efforts collected a total of

$6,705

for scholarships & programs

GRANTS AWARDED

Total Grants Awarded

IPSMCC received $84,500 in grant funding to pour into our communities.

The total grants awarded in 2025 includes the LifeStyles Grant for SNAP Outreach. IPSMCC was awarded $35,000 a year through FY27. Below is a summary of each grant:

1. **Charles County Charitable Trust - $20,000.00**
   Funding to support the Weekend Backpack Program, holiday meal baskets, and food assistance donations.

2. **Rural Maryland Council Grant - $8,500.00**
   Funding for the Community Resources Fair to address nutrition, chronic disease, and mental health disparities in Southern Maryland.

3. **Charles County Health Department Grants (3 Grants) - $8,500.00**
   a. **Heart Health Initiative - $1,000.00**
      Funding for heart health initiative. Provide blood pressure handouts at events.
   b. **Cannabis Prevention Fund Program - $4,000.00**
      Funding to support the cessation of cannabis use in Charles County.
   c. **Tobacco/Diabetes Chronic Conditions Fund Program - $3,500.00**
      Funding to support the tobacco and chronic disease programming in Charles County.

4. **Charles County Arts Alliance - $5,000.00**
   Funding to support local arts initiatives. Specifically, for Jazz in the Park and the Juneteenth Festival.

5. **Maryland 250 Commission Internship Grant - $7,500.00**
   Funding to support undergraduate or graduate interns to assist IPSMCC in programming.

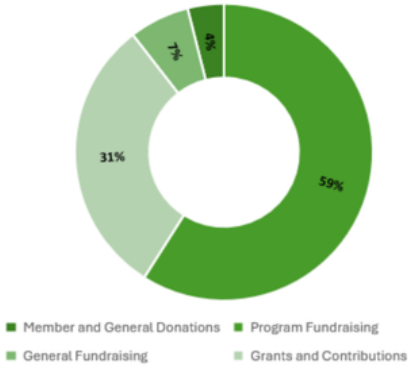
6. **Lifestyles Grant – SNAP Outreach Program - Multi-year grant ($35,000, 2025-2028)**
   This grant focuses on nutritional assistance through SNAP program assistance to serve the needs of low-income communities.



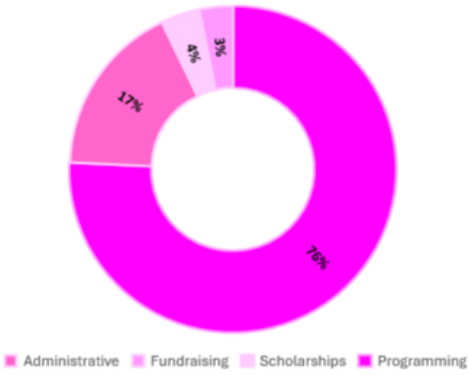
FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 Financial Overview

How we generate funds	
Member and General Donations	$12,792
Program Fundraising	$191,431
General Fundraising	$21,271
Grants and Contributions	$99,076
Total Income	**$324,569**



How we spend each dollar	
Administrative	$50,369
Fundraising	$9,598
Scholarships	$11,100
Programming	$223,553
Total Expenses	**$294,785**



Financial Highlights:

$99 thousand+ awarded in grant funds targeting Health Disparities, Tobacco Prevention and Education, Food Insecurities, Community Engagement and Arts Development, and Capacity Building

IPSMCC's Debutante Program raised **$158 thousand+** to support the continued development of our youth

$11 thousand in scholarships awarded to students attending Colleges and Universities across the United States



MAKING AN IMPACT

Making an Impact

Indian Head Elementary School Set to Open New School-Based Health Center This Fall

March 17, 2025



Indian Head Elementary School held a groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 27 to commemorate the start of the construction process of the new school-based health center on the school's campus for students and residents in Indian Head. With the nearest urgent care center in La Plata, the center, in partnership with the Charles County Department of Health (CCDH), will "allow families to access health care right on our campus," Indian Head Principal Shane Blandford said.

The center is set to open in August when parents and students can opt in, sign consent forms and make appointments allowing students to be screened and/or treated during school hours. Escorts to and from the center will assist during a student's appointment. The center is supported by a grant, the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities Inc., and the Office of Senator Arthur C. Ellis.

Southern Maryland News Net
smnewsnet.com

NZΩ's charitable arm, Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc., played an instrumental role in Indian Head Elementary School's receipt of a grant to build a School-Based Health Center. Below is an email addressed to Carmella Davis-Watkins, IPSMCC Executive Director, attesting to IPSMCC's role and extending an invitation to attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

From: "Colvin, Desiree (CCPS)" <dcolvin@ccboe.com>
Date: January 29, 2025 at 1:48:21 PM EST
To: cdwatkinsprp@gmail.com
Cc: "Eubanks, Renee L. (CCPS)" <reubanks@ccboe.com>
Subject: Fw: Invitation to Groundbreaking Ceremony for Indian Head School-Based Health Center

Good afternoon Ms. Watkins,

Attached is the evite to the groundbreaking for the School Based Health Center at Indian Head Elementary School. You and the Ivy and Pearls were so kind to write a letter of support for the health center and that letter helped us get the grant for the health center. We would be honored by your presence at the groundbreaking.

Thank you!

Desiree Colvin MS, RN, CCRN
Nurse Program Manager
Charles County Public Schools
Charles County Health Department
dcolvin@ccboe.com
Office: 301-934-7341
Mobile: 301-266-2359

Making an Impact
(con't)

MY TOWN

POIEMA Opens El Roi House, Expanding Support For Women And Children In Crisis

by Jessica Jennings November 25, 2025

Community Support

The project was funded through grants, donations, volunteer labor and in-kind contributions. MAK Remodeling, a longtime partner, served as general contractor after previously contributing renovations to Poiēma's two existing homes. Significant financial support came from the Charles County Delegation and the Charles County Charitable Trust.

In addition to construction support, community organizations played a key role in furnishing and preparing the home for families. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Nu Zeta Omega Chapter created the "Playroom of Possibilities," a fully functional, child-focused space at El Roi House. The room is filled with hundreds of books, toys and developmental items, transforming it into a warm, welcoming area designed to bring comfort, joy and a sense of love to the young children who will enter the program.





Making an Impact *(con't)*

Nu Zeta Omega Chapter - Al...

State's Attorney's Office for Charles County
Oct 28, 2025 ·

Thank you to Nu Zeta Omega Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc for facilitating an impactful discussion on intimate partner violence this past Saturday, October 25. The event highlighted what intimate partner violence looks like, how individuals can seek help, and ways the community can support those who are affected. State's Attorney Tony Covington was proud to join the panel and contribute to the needed conversation.

If you or someone you know needs help, there are resources available. If you are in immediate danger, please call 911 to reach police. The Center for Abused Persons' 24-hour hotline is 301-645-3336.

Together, we can make a difference and end the cycle of abuse.

For more information:
http://ccsao.us/victim-family-resources/victim-witness-unit/
https://www.centerforabusedpersonscharlescounty.org/
http://www.ncadv.org/
https://www.thehotline.org/
https://211md.org/resources/domestic-family-violence/
https://www.smcfa.net

Poiema Movement
Oct 23, 2025 ·

💚💗 Playroom of Possibilities! 💗💚

We're so thankful for Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated – Nu Zeta Omega Chapter for partnering with us to help fill the El Roi House playroom, a space where children can dream, play, and grow. 🧸🎨🟢

We're in the final countdown to opening and need help completing the playroom as soon as possible! You can make a difference by shopping our Amazon Wish List today: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/9237RDKPS9IF/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Together we're creating a space where every child feels safe, seen, and loved. 💚💗

Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. Nu Zeta Omega Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc

Serving Charles and St Mary's Counties

Gilbert "BJ" Bowling is in **Waldorf, MD.**
Apr 17, 2025 ·



It was an absolute pleasure to celebrate the opening of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Nu Zeta Omega Chapter of Southern MD Community Center In Waldorf . These wonderul ladies contribute tremendously to our community and I have been proud to support their efforts.

Please take the time to learn more about their organization and how you can donate!

https://linktr.ee/NuZetaOmega Community Resource



Ralph Patterson II is feeling happy with **Nu Zeta Omega Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc** and **14 others.**
Oct 28, 2025 ·

A powerful show of teamwork and compassion! 💪

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Delegate Edith Patterson, Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ed Rothstein, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Steve Rice, Dr. Lucretia Freeman-Buster from Charles County Economic Development, and Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs, for coming together to support our residents during this difficult time.

This event was more than just a meeting—it was a lifeline. State and county leaders rolled up their sleeves and engaged directly with residents to offer real, practical options for those being negatively impacted by the ongoing federal government shutdown.

What stood out most was the sense of unity—leaders at every level showing that Charles County stands with its people. When Washington fails to lead, Maryland steps up. 🇺🇸

And this won't be the last time. This is just one of many events future to help alleviate the pain willfully inflicted on hardworking Marylanders. Together, we're increasing self-sufficiency, strengthening community ties, and proving once again that Charles County leaders will always go the extra mile to assist our friends and neighbors in need.

#CharlesCountyStrong #MarylandLeads #CommunityInAction #CommunityInAction #reelectralph2026 #bellinophotography #CharlesCountyStrong Governor Wes Moore Maryland Association of Counties Charles County

State's Attorney's Office for Charles County
Feb 19, 2025 ·



Yesterday, State's Attorney Tony Covington had the pleasure of speaking with the young ladies of the Youth Leadership Institute at General Smallwood Middle School.

He spoke about the work of the State's Attorney's Office, qualities that make a good leader, and making good choices.

Thank you to Nu Zeta Omega Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc for hosting this and inviting us to come!

20 1

Making an Impact
(con't)

From the Maryland House of Delegates

EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.
Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittees
Local Revenues
Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 429
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3247 · 301-858-3247
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3247
Edith.Patterson@house.state.md.us

January 29, 2025

Krisitia Watkins
President
Ivy & Pearls Southern MD Community
Charities, Inc.
P.O. Box 975
Waldorf, MD 20604

Dear President Watkins,

This is a heartfelt thank you for the generous donation presented to Metropolitan United Methodist Church's Women United in Faith to support the donation drive for Catholic Charities Angel's Watch Homeless Shelter. Because of your outreach and response, we were able to collect linens to support 42 beds for families along with towels, toiletries, pillows, shoes and clothing. These desperately needed items are sincerely appreciated by the agency and parents.

Please know your outreach and support has not gone unnoticed. Most of all, I sincerely appreciate Da'Net Sturdifen's leadership in acquiring and delivering the items to the church.

Again, many thanks,

Edith Patterson

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
Chair, Southern Maryland Delegation

Making an Impact *(con't)*

IPSMCC and NZΩ co-hosted its 2nd annual Food 4 Thought Social Giving Hour for George Washington Carver Elementary (GWCE) School's **food pantry**. The donations collected this year doubled the collected items from the first Social Giving Hour. In total we collected and donated **3,534 food pantry items**, **14 school supplies**, and **18 personal hygiene items**. The items were donated to GWCES and will provide food for Title 1 families in St. Mary's County facing food insecurity.

Below is an email from Ed Girasole, WEIS Store Manager:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Edward Girasole** <Edward.Girasole@weismarkets.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 9, 2025, 3:26 PM
Subject: Social giving hour 10/11/25
To: programs@Aka-nzomega.org <programs@aka-nzomega.org>
Cc: Julie McDevitt <Julie.Mcdevitt@weismarkets.com>

Good afternoon,

Thank you so much for including WEIS to your affair.
Unfortunately, I am out of town that day, but will be sending my Grocery manager Julie McDevitt in my place.

We are happy to say, we will be presenting you a $250 donation in WEIS gift cards for your cause.

Please keep us in mind for further events, and best of luck to you in this endeavor.

Thank you

Edward Girasole
Store Manager 283
WEIS - Lexington Park
301-863-5445
cell - 240-808-9406

Edward Girasole | Weis Markets #0283
Store Manager



Member Jasmyn Hurry (far left) and Member Da'Net Sturdifen (far right) are pictured with Ed Girasole, WEIS store manager, as he presents a $250 gift card to a GWCE representative in support of IPSMCC and NZΩ's Social Giving Hour.

Making an Impact
(con't)

St. Mary's County Public Schools
Division of Instruction
Department of Student Services
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 104
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Jeffrey D. DiRenzo
Director

Phone: 301-475-5511 ext. 32150; Fax: 301-475-2469

November 4, 2025

Alpha Kappa Alpha/Ivy Pearls
Of SOMD Community Charities

Dear: Community Member

On behalf of George Washington Carver Elementary School (GWCES), thank you for your generous donations to our community school valuing $1000.00, received on October 11, 2025.

All contributions, no matter the size, make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and their families. All donations are tax-deductible.

Please know how much we appreciate your generosity and commitment to making a difference.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Cox

Teresa J. Cox
Supervisor of Student Services and
Special Programs

cc: Mr. DiRenzo, Director of Student Services

St. Mary's County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, marital status or sexual orientation, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or providing access to programs.

Making an Impact
(con't)

Thank You from Indian Head Elementary School



CERTIFICATE
OF APPRECIATION

This Is Presented To:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Nu Zeta Omega Chapter
Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland

In recognition of your generous support of the Indian Head Elementary School Food Pantry.

Thanks to your contributions, we provided complete meals to *45 families* this Thanksgiving.

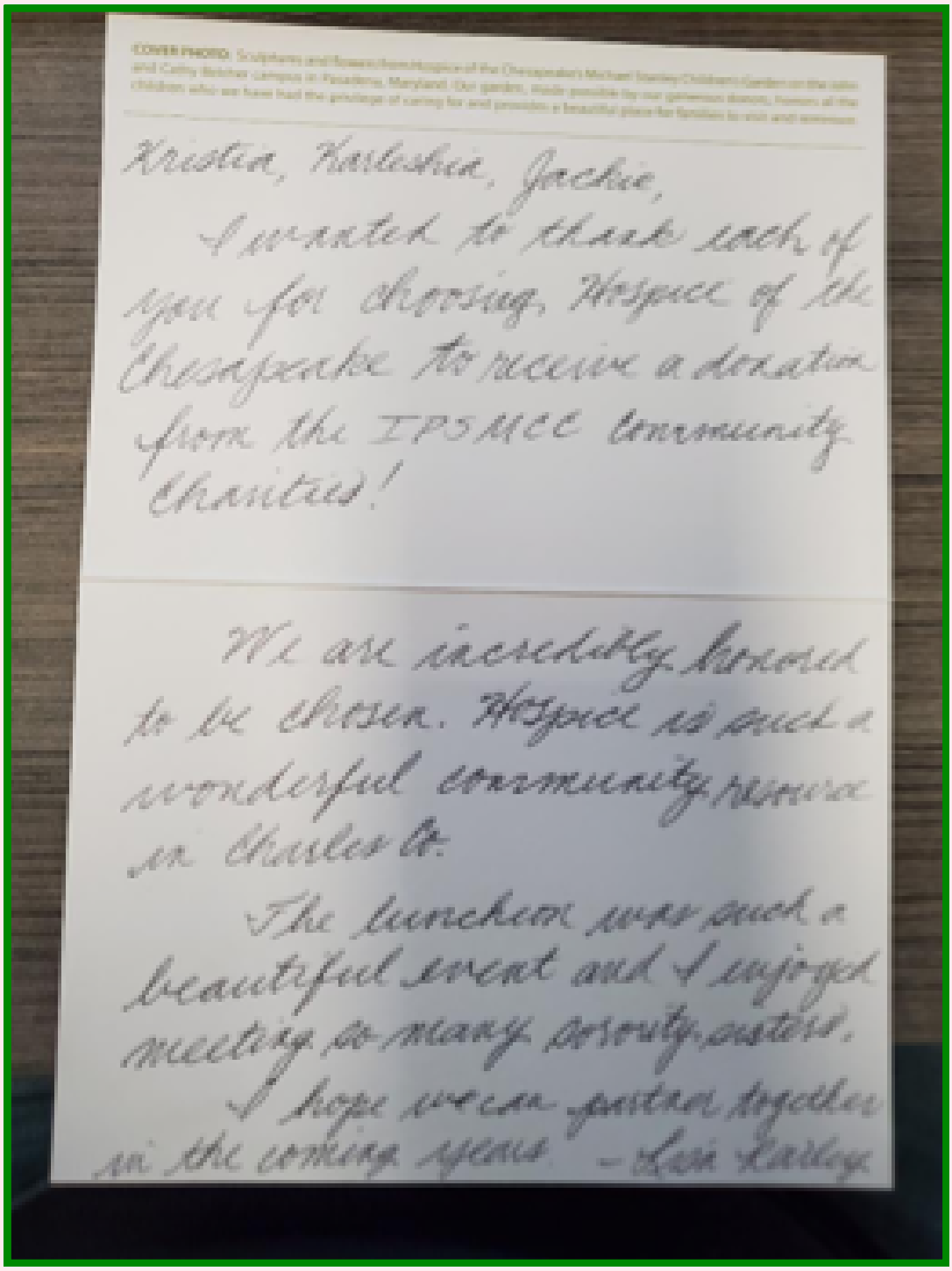
Your kindness, partnership, and commitment continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and community.

SHANE BLANDFORD, PRINCIPAL

MARISSA ACKERMAN, COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Making an Impact
(con't)

Thank You from Hospice of the Chesapeake



Kristen, Kaitlesha, Jackie,

I wanted to thank each of you for choosing Hospice of the Chesapeake to receive a donation from the IPSMCC community charities!

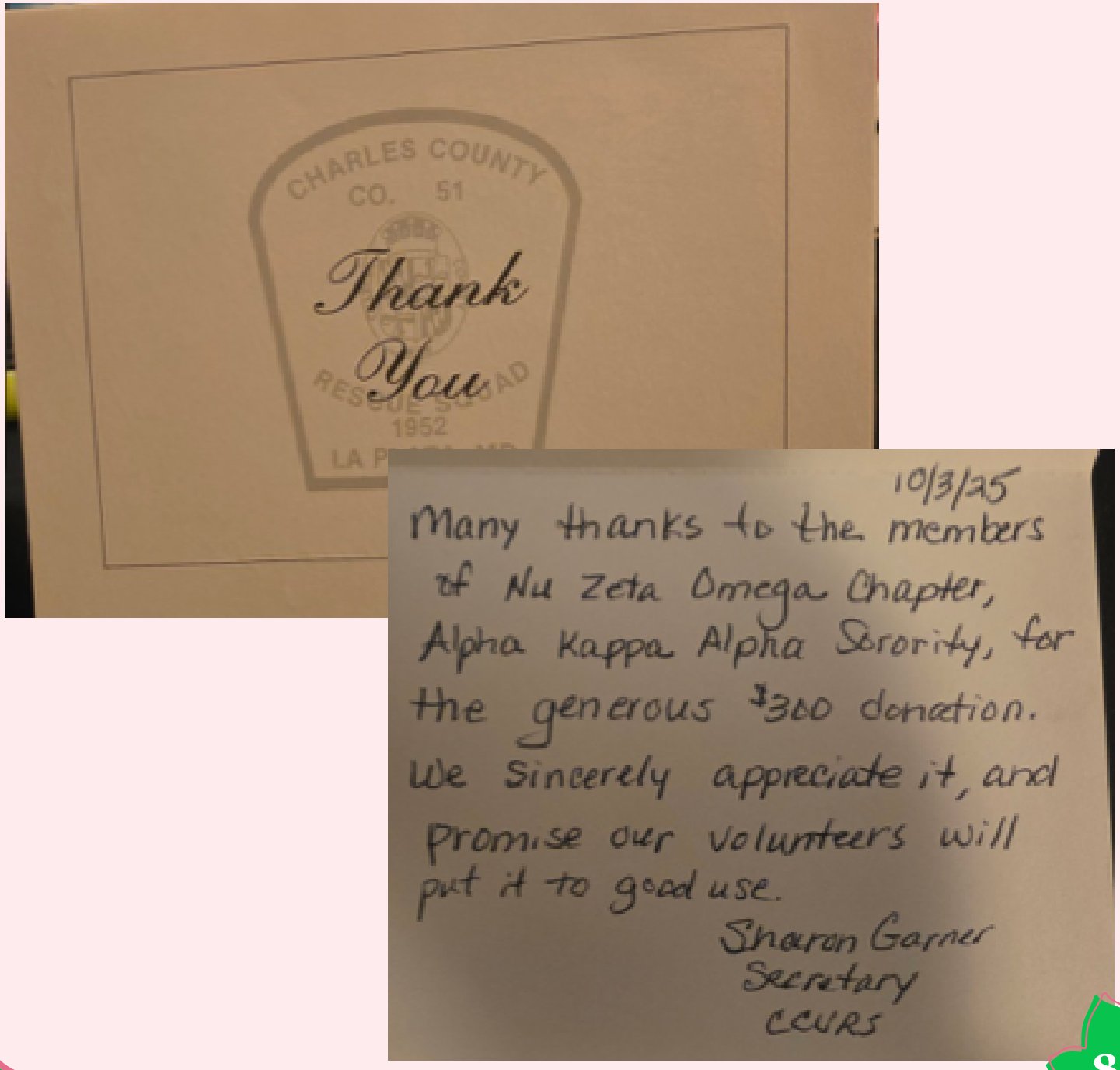
We are incredibly honored to be chosen. Hospice is such a wonderful community resource to have.

The luncheon was such a beautiful event and I enjoyed meeting so many sorority sisters.

I hope we can partner together in the coming years. - Lori Bailey

Making an Impact
(con't)

Thank You from the Charles County Rescue Squad



Playroom of Possibilities at the El Roi House

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Tiffany Barber** <tiffany@poiemamovement.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 7:41AM
Subject: Thank you!!!
To: Kristia Watkins <kristia.watkins1908@gmail.com>, <watkinscarmelladavis@gmail.com>

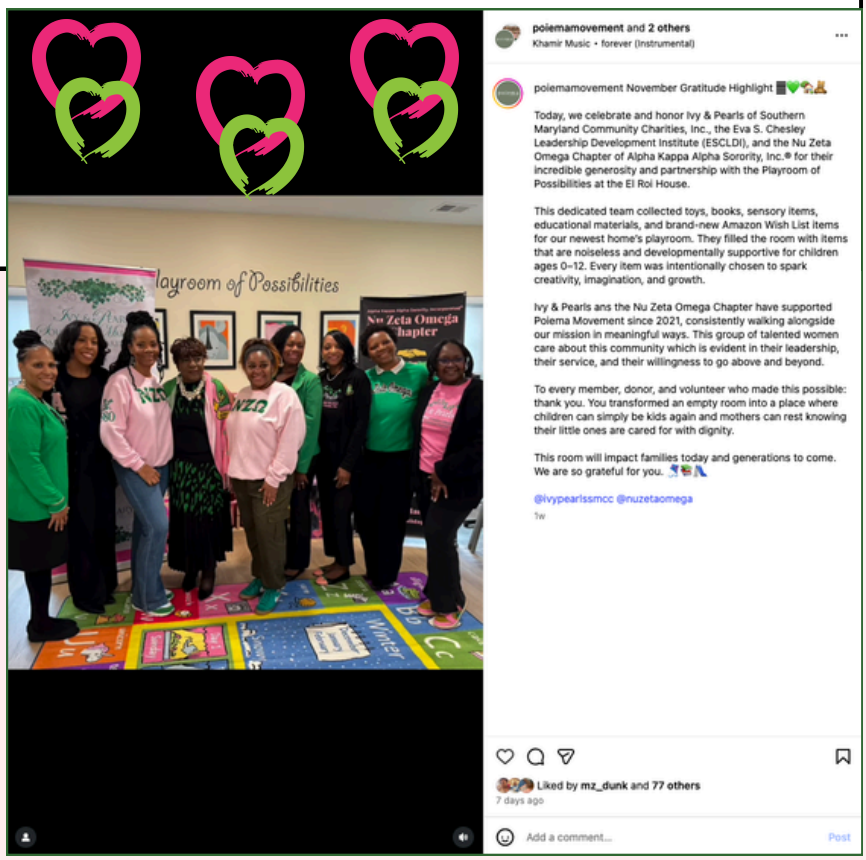
Kristia and Carmella,
I am so grateful for the continued partnership and support we have received from Ivy and Pearls and the Nu Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. I had no idea when LaKeshia did her capstone project in 2021 that it was the beginning of such an impactful partnership. Over the years, we have received vital funding, supplies, and support. The culture of your sorority is so community-focused, it leaves me wondering what our community would be like without you!! I love that you have built a sisterhood upon servanthood. We are honored and blessed to have such an impactful partnership.

I know I have said it 100 times, but THANK YOU! Thank you for investing in women and children for generations. The playroom of possibilities is filled with love, it is safe, and children will have the chance to develop as God intended. We see you, but more importantly, God sees you and your leadership around so many women who are using their lives for good.

I pray God will continue to pour out his love in you and through you.

Tiffany Barber / *Executive Director*
Office: 301-645-1007
Cell: 240-216-8353
Poiema Movement
Poiemamovement.com

poiema









President Kristia N. Watkins and Executive Director Carmella Davis-Watkins

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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thank you

The Board of Directors, officers, and members of Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated (IPSMCC) appreciate the support and contributions of our community partners. They have been instrumental in helping IPSMCC achieve its 2025 service and community outreach goals.

93.9 WKYS FM Radio
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated,® Nu Zeta Omega Chapter
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Sigma Alpha Lambda Chapter
Alzheimer's Association
Black K.A.R.E. (Kidney Awareness Resources & Education)
Building Bridges Corp.
Charles County Arts Alliance
Charles County Charitable Trust
Charles County Department of Health
Charles County NAACP
Charles County Public Schools (CCPS)
Charles County Recreation Parks & Tourism
Charles County State's Attorney's Office
College of Southern Maryland
Concerned Black Women (CBW) of Calvert County
County Commissioners
EZ Street
Fox 5 News
iWorks Corporation
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Upper Marlboro/Waldorf (MD) Alumni Chapter
Lifestyles of Maryland, Inc.
Maryland 250 Commission
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Maryland Diaper Bank

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
(con't)

National Pan-Hellenic Council of Southern Maryland
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter
Patuxent Habitat for Humanity
Rural Maryland Council
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Eta Omicron Sigma Alumnae Chapter
Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL)
St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS)
The Links Incorporated, Southern Maryland Chain (MD) Chapter
The Lions Club
The National Coalition of 100 Black Women,Southern MD Chapter
The Phi Alpha Zeta Service Foundation
Top Ladies of Distinction (Prince George's County and Southern Maryland)
Town of Indian Head
Ujima The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
UM Charles Regional Center - University of Maryland Medical System
WHUR Radio 96.3
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Phi Alpha Zeta Chapter

Looking to 2026

In 2026, Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc. will focus on strengthening long-term sustainability across Charles and St. Mary's Counties by seeking financial resources to secure a permanent IPSMCC location by 2027. Building on the proven benefits our temporary location provided this year, IPSMCC envisions a dedicated facility to serve as a visible, trusted community hub—centralizing operations, expanding program capacity, and deepening community partnerships. As the demand for our services continues to grow in our service area, securing grant funding and fundraising support will be essential to overcoming rising rental costs and limited facility options, reducing operational uncertainty, and improving cost efficiency. This strategic shift from short-term leasing to long-term investment will position IPSMCC for sustainable growth, measurable outcomes, and lasting community impact.



2025 Membership Roster

Represents our Deceased Members

Abney, Diana
Adams, Ashley
Addison-Thompson, Tammie
Alfred, Candi
Anderson, Claren
Anderson, Michelle
Anderson, Starlisha
Anderson, Tawnya (Denise)
Armstrong, Donnis
Avant, Danielle
Baker, Ella
Barber, K. Judith
Barnes, Denise
Barnes, Sandra
Bond, Sharon
Bonner, Arin
Booker, Felicity
Bowen, Desney
Brailsford, Terry
Brewer, LaKisha
Brewer, Shaina
Brewer, Sierra
Briscoe, Harriette
Brooks, Janice
Brown, Lanet
Brown, Sheree
Brown, Zsa Zsa
Bryant, Janis
Butler-Cleveland, LaToya
Cannon, Kimberly
Carrington, Kelly
Canthorne, Carol
Chase, Brenda
Christensen, Temesha
Cobbs, Kelly
Cooper, Faith
Countryman, Yvette
Croom, Amia
Cuffy, Lena
Cunningham, Donna
Cutler, Tracy
Dashiell, Evelyn
Datcher, Delores
Davis, Tamara (Tami)
Davis, Elsie (Yvonne)
Day, Frances
Deloatch-Hill, Courtney
Dixon, Markeeta
Djossou, Sonja
Dorsey, Karleshia
Dorsey, Patty
Doublin, Aerika
Douglas, Gwendolyn (Gwen)
Dunk, Laura
Edwards, Cassandra
Estep, Dana
Estep, Judy
Estep, Lillian
Estep, Tasha
Evans, Ernestine
Forbes, Vitalia (Vee)
Freeman, Felicia
Gale (Higgins), Tajuana
Glasper, Celisa
Gravely, Linda
Gray, Jacqueline (Jackie)
Gross, Dhimitri
Gumbs, Naomi
Hamilton, Rosa
Harris, LaShele
Hart, Natalie
Harvey, Nkenge (Niki)
Hawkins, Erika
Hawkins, Francine Dove
Henderson, Andrea
Henry, Caroleeta
Hickey, Bridgette
Hill, Bria
Hill, Jocylin
Hill, Tonya
Hodge, Deidre
Hopkins, Tawanya
Hunt, Kenyatta
Hurry, Jasmyn
James, Maria
Johnson, Jennifer
Johnson, Pamela Crenshaw
Johnson, Pamela D.
Johnson, Rochelle
Johnson, Tya
Johnson-Smith, Jasmine
Jones, Cheryl
Jones, Felicia
Jones, Holiday
Jones, Jessica
Jones-Coleman, Nita (Wyatte)
Jordan, Andrian
Kearney, Tina
Killens-Cade, Rushyannah
Ladson, Princess
Lambert, Michelle
Lancaster, Tameka
Lewis, Karen
Lilly, Agnes
Little-Jones, Christy
Makle, Kimberly (Kim)
McNeil, Alison
Morehead, Lannie
Murrell, Jamelah
Mutz, Arkera (Kera)
Parker, Diane
Patterson, Edith
Pender, Deirdre
Penn, Yolanda
Phillips, Leith
Plater, April
Plater, Tyra
Powell, Trina
Price, Kiara
Reid, Laura
Rice, Donna
Richardson-Ware, Susan
Robinson, Anita
Ross, Claudette
Sanddler, Erin
Sanders-Moore, Cindy
Savoy, Margot
Savoy, Rochelle
Scian, Tamiko
Scott, Lola
Seymore-Green, Terrill (Terri)
Short, Mary Jane
Simmons, Sharone
Slater, Tamika
Smith, Antoinita
Smith, Vanessa
Spencer-Patrick, Karen
Starks, Stevie-Mari
Stowe, Jamine
Sturdifen, Da'Net
Taylor, Chimere
Taylor, Stephanie
Thenstead, Wualanda
Thomas, Arryelle
Thomas, Cynthia
Thompson, Janean
Thornton, Rayna
Trent, Kiana
Wade, Mary
Walls, Delores
Walston, Mashonda
Watkins, Carmella Davis
Watkins, Kristia
West, Melanie
Williams, Angelica
Williams, Jessica
Williams, Kerry-Ann
Williams, LaVersa (Danielle)
Williams, Patirnce
Wilson, Mildred
Wilson, Nicole
Wimbush, Vernita
Woody, Sandra
Young, Adrienne
Young, Lisa
Young, Ruth

Ivy & Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Inc.

IPSMCC

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Contact Us:

P.O. Box 975, Waldorf, MD 20604 | www.ipsmcc.org | ipsmcc@ipsmcc.org