

## Message from the Executive Director



As I reflect on my first six months as Executive Director of SHORE UP!, Inc., I am filled with gratitude, humility, and an overwhelming sense of purpose. It has been an incredible journey of growth, learning, and collaboration, and I am honored to be serving this remarkable community.

Since stepping into this role, I've had the privilege of working alongside our dedicated team, whose unwavering commitment to our mission has inspired me every day. Together, we have faced challenges head-on, celebrated successes, and continuously strived to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been the opportunity to connect with our stakeholders—our clients, partners, donors, and community members. Your passion, resilience, and unwavering support have been the driving force behind our work, fueling our determination to create meaningful change and empower individuals and families to thrive.

In these first six months, we have achieved significant milestones, from serving more individuals in need, to strengthening our partnerships, to amplifying our advocacy efforts. But perhaps the most valuable lesson I've learned is the power of community—together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

As we look ahead to the future, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the journey that lies ahead. With your continued support and collaboration, I am confident that we will continue to make a difference, changing lives one at a time.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your Executive Director. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this incredible organization and community. With heartfelt appreciation,

T.A.H. Chase, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

## Honoring a Legacy

On Monday, May 6, SHORE UP staff, Board members, and guests were joined by the Mayor of Salisbury, Randy Taylor, in dedicating the block on which our office complex is located as “Freddy L. Mitchell Way.” Signs bearing this name have been installed at the corner of Snow Hill Road and Washington Street, and on the corner of Snow Hill Road and Vine Street.



Following the unveiling of the street name, SHORE UP announced that our buildings in that block will be collectively renamed the Freddy L. Mitchell Community Action Complex.

“Renaming the complex and the street are a small tribute for a gentleman who has done so much to serve low income households in our communities. We are honored to have benefitted from his leadership, so we are making sure that his legacy is never forgotten,” explained Executive Director Tyrone Chase, Ph.D., who stepped into Mitchell’s role following his retirement.



## Staff Notes

Energy Assistance Intake Worker Chakira Chambers was honored at the Maryland Community Action Partnership's Annual Conference last month with a Community Action Vision & Value Award. Our nomination read: "Ms. Chakira Chambers is an Intake Worker in our Energy Assistance Program. She works diligently and consistently, recently processing close to 900 applications in one day!"

"When we surveyed our Energy Assistance participants last year, Chakira's name was frequently mentioned in the comments for her outstanding customer service skills and pleasant demeanor. She never complains (not even when facing a stack of 900 applications!), works earnestly, and is kind to everyone. We can't say enough about how much we appreciate her!"



## Sign Up for Head Start/Early Head Start

Registration for our 2024-2025 Head Start and Early Head Start programs is now open! These programs provide valuable services to preschool age children up to age 5 with:

- ♦ early childhood education
- ♦ child care
- ♦ medical screenings
- ♦ nutritious meals and snacks
- ♦ dental screenings, and
- ♦ parenting and job skills training services for their parents.



We offer Early Head Start and/or Head Start in the following Eastern Shore towns: Berlin, Cambridge, Chestertown, Crisfield, Easton, Eden, Hurlock, Grasonville, Princess Anne, Salisbury, Snow Hill, and Stockton.

To find out if you qualify, or to refer someone to the programs, please call 410-749-1142 or email [agency@shoreup.org](mailto:agency@shoreup.org).

## Buying a Home: What You Need to Know

Do you know someone who is considering buying a home? The home buying process can be overwhelming, to put it mildly! But SHORE UP can help! Beginning in August, our Housing Counseling program will offer a Pre-Purchase Homebuyer Education course to help navigate the process. This training is required by many lenders in order to secure approval for a mortgage. Topics include household budgeting, credit repair, foreclosure prevention, and much more!

If you are interested in attending the class, or know someone who would be, call 410-749-1142 and ask for Denise White (ext. 1061) or Odetta Evans (ext. 1056) for more information. The cost is \$100.

## DHS Visits SHORE UP!

Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) recently visited SHORE UP to discuss the rollout of categorical eligibility for Energy Assistance last year, and how the process could be improved for the upcoming program year. The goal is to streamline application processing by reducing duplication of efforts: if Social Services has already established a person's income and found that they qualify for SNAP (food stamps), we can use that information and approve eligibility rather than collecting our own proof of income.



*Pictured: Dr. Tyrone Chase (SHORE UP Executive Director), Augustin Ntabaganyimana (Acting Executive Director of Family Investment Administration), Sabrina DeWitt (Acting OHEP Deputy Director), Carnitra White (Principal Deputy Secretary, DHS), Keith White, Program Director for SHORE UP Energy Assistance Program, and William Barclay, Housing Administrator for SHORE*



## Perseverance Pays Off

In February, SHORE UP's Weatherization Administrative Assistant Claudene Sincere took information from someone (we'll call her Vicki) who had requested help through the Weatherization Assistance Program. Upon reviewing her information, our Weatherization Auditor, Carl Esteve, discovered that the delay was due to her status as a renter; the homeowner would not agree to participate in the program. Carl was professional, calm, and informative when explaining the process to Ms. Vicki. But he also even went a step further to call the homeowner / landlord. The owner ended up being a large property management company and according to the secretary they were not interested in the services SHORE UP! Inc. could provide them and the renter.



The story could have ended here, but it does not. After a few more calls made by Carl, who shared his knowledge of the program with the customer in a way that highlighted his professionalism and customer service skills. The homeowner asked for the Weatherization Assistance agreement for rentals to be emailed. After reviewing the agreement and listening to the information Carl provided, the owner reconsidered his decision about Weatherization Assistance and agreed to participate. Ms. Vicki is scheduled for an Energy Audit, the first step to having her place of occupancy weatherized and her energy bill reduced!

This is a true success for SHORE UP! Inc's Weatherization Assistance Program, where teamwork and being customer centered truly wins! Thank you, Carl, for turning a "no" to a "yes" and to Claudene for ensuring that her request for assistance did not fall through the cracks!

## Foster Grandparents Close Out Program Year

Our Foster Grandparent Program recently celebrated the conclusion of another successful program year with a luncheon and awards ceremony at Brew River in Salisbury. We are so grateful for the dedication of our Foster Grandparents, and for the unconditional love that they show their foster grandchildren.

Advisory Council co-chairs Maxine McCray and Denise Lewis spearheaded an effort to recognize the dedication of our Foster Grandparents by collecting donated good for a "swag bag" that each Foster Grandparent received. Generous businesses that contributed were: Sam's Club, Sara Lee, Pepsi, and three Walmart stores (Berlin, Fruitland, Salisbury).



*Front row: Advisory Council Members Maxine McCray (co-chair) and Tina Holland. Back row: Advisory Council co-chair Denise Lewis, Foster Grandparent Program Director Joyce Farrare*



*From left to right: Joyce Farrare, Foster Grandparent Program Director; Mary Fortune, the 2024 Shining Star; Shirley Schoolfield, the 2023 Shining Star, and Melody White, Foster Grandparent Program Assistant.*



## Shady Pines Holds Senior Prom



Every year on the Friday prior to Memorial Day, the staff at our Shady Pines Adult Day Center host a prom for their program participants, and they go all out! There is themed décor, a grand march, a DJ spinning tunes, dancing, good food, and of course an opportunity to dress up and have fun. To say that a good time was had by all would be an understatement! We hope you enjoy these photos from the 2024 Shady Pines Senior Prom.





## Shady Pines Senior Prom 2024

