



MD State Comptroller Brooke Lierman Visits SHORE UP

On March 5, Comptroller for the State of Maryland Brooke Lierman visited SHORE UP to discuss how our VITA tax program is running and to tell us about Maryland's Direct File. Taxpayers with internet access who are comfortable completing forms online can use Direct File to prepare and electronically file their tax returns online, for free, directly with the government. Taxpayers who need some assistance, aren't tech savvy, or would prefer that someone with official training do them, can still utilize our VITA tax program.



SHORE UP Is Turning 60!

SHORE UP! Inc. is proud to celebrate 60 years of serving the Lower Eastern Shore in 2025! Since our founding in 1965, we have been dedicated to empowering individuals and families through education, employment, and essential community services. Over the past six decades, SHORE UP has provided thousands of households with vital programs, including Head Start and Early Head Start, energy assistance, housing support, workforce training, and senior services.

Our impact is undeniable—each year, we help more than 5,000 individuals achieve greater stability and self-sufficiency. Through programs like Weatherization Assistance, we've improved the energy efficiency of countless homes, while our Foster Grandparent Program has connected seniors with meaningful volunteer opportunities. As we reflect on our history, we remain committed to fighting poverty and creating brighter futures.

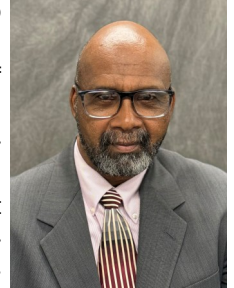
Throughout 2025, we will celebrate this milestone with special events, spotlights on our success stories, and opportunities for the community to engage with our mission. Stay tuned for more details as we honor our past and look toward the future!

Thank you for being part of SHORE UP's journey—here's to 60 more years of changing lives!

Executive Update

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

As we step into a new season, we do so with both awareness and resolve. Across the country, the future of social programs is being debated, and funding for vital services remains uncertain. At times like these, it is natural to feel uneasy about what lies ahead. But while the political climate may shift, one thing remains constant—SHORE UP's unwavering commitment to serving our communities.



For 60 years, SHORE UP has stood as a pillar of hope and opportunity for individuals and families in need. Through economic downturns, policy changes, and unexpected challenges, we have adapted, persisted, and continued to make a difference. That same resilience fuels us today. We remain steadfast in our mission, ensuring that our neighbors receive the support they need to build brighter futures.

This work would not be possible without you—our Board of Directors, community partners, advocates, and friends. Your support, whether through volunteerism, donations, or simply spreading awareness, strengthens our ability to serve. As we navigate these uncertain times, we invite you to stand with us. Together, we will push forward, championing the programs that uplift and empower those who rely on them.

Thank you for being part of the SHORE UP family. With your continued support, we will not only weather these challenges but emerge stronger, more united, and more determined than ever.

Head Start Director to Serve on State Association Board

Our Head Start program director, Dr. Corey Bowen, has been appointed to the Maryland Head Start Association's Board of Directors for a three year term. Bowen, who holds a doctorate in organizational leadership from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, has been the Head Start Director at SHORE UP since 2018.



Foster Grandparents Spread the Love for Valentine's Day

Our Foster Grandparents are pure love and nurturing personified! No surprise that they were out and about, sharing joy for Valentine's Day! From warm hugs and heartfelt smiles to the colorful cards they made by hand, this dedicated group of community angels makes the world a little brighter every day. We're so grateful for their kindness, generosity, and the love they share with everyone they meet!



Protecting the Programs That Help Our Communities

Many families depend on social programs like food stamps, affordable housing, healthcare, and job training. These programs help people get back on their feet and build better lives. However, recent proposals from the federal government threaten to cut funding for many of these important services.

If these cuts happen, millions of people—including children, seniors, and those with disabilities—could lose access to the support they need. This could mean fewer meals for struggling families, less help for people looking for work, and higher costs for medical care. But we can take action to protect these programs. Here's how:

1. **Stay Informed** – Learn about the proposed changes and how they might affect your community.
2. **Speak Up** – Contact your elected officials and tell them why these programs matter. Call, email, or visit their offices to share your concerns.
3. **Get Involved** – Join local organizations that fight for social programs. Volunteer, attend meetings, and support their efforts.
4. **Vote** – Support candidates who prioritize helping families and strengthening communities. Your vote can make a difference.

Social programs are lifelines for many people. Together, we can work to protect them and ensure that no one is left behind. Let's stand up and make our voices heard!

SHORE UP Holds Teacher Contest: Winners Share Why They Teach

First place entry — Arionah Abney:

"... the children I teach are the future. They are the next generation of leaders, innovators, caregivers, and citizens. The foundation I help provide today will shape the world they build tomorrow. I take this responsibility seriously, knowing that the skills, values, and sense of self I help instill in them will echo throughout their lives and the lives of those they impact. It's not just about teaching children to read, write, or count—it's about helping them grow into kind, empathetic, resilient individuals who can contribute positively to society."

Second place entry—Tamara Osborne:

"... being a teacher is like farming:

- ◇ I must build trust with that child so we can have a solid relationship. Farmers must till the land to prepare the soil for the foods.
- ◇ I had to use my skills as well as teaching tools to plant the seeds of learning in their minds. Farmers use machines to plant the seed in the ground.
- ◇ I must nurture my children daily with love, kindness, and patience so they can grow and hit their milestone developments. Farmers must ensure the plants have enough water and sunlight to grow.
- ◇ When I see challenging behavior, I do the best I can to try to eliminate it or have it down to a minimum. Much like the farmers who must ensure that no weeds grow with the plants because it can take the nutrients from the plant which are required for them to grow.

I am the one who plants the seed of education in their brain. From the moment they step into my classroom, they will be in school for the next 14 years. That is a long time. My goal is to plant the seed of learning is fun so that on the days when it gets hard or frustrating, they can look back and realize that the hard days don't last long, and good days are soon to follow."



FREE TAX PREP

If you make less than **\$67,000** you may be eligible to have your 2024 income taxes prepared at **no cost** to you.

TAX INTAKE PACKETS AVAILABLE AT TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

In Salisbury:

SHORE UP! Inc.
500 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury MD 21804
Appointments:
January 22, 2025 to April 9, 2025
Mondays & Wednesdays 4:30PM to 8PM
Select Saturdays 10AM to 2PM

In Princess Anne:

Loretta Village Community Room
12409 Loretto Road, Princess Anne MD 21853
Appointments:
February 7, 2025 to March 28, 2025
Fridays 9:00AM - 12:00PM



Questions? Need an appointment? Call:

410-749-1142

SHORE UP!
INC.



Helping People. Changing Lives.

VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

At SHORE UP! Inc., no person shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or otherwise be subject to discrimination in the provision of any care, service or admission.