

## Executive Update

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

Dear Friends and Partners,

This year marks SHORE UP's 60th anniversary — a milestone that reflects not only decades of service but also the power of strong partnerships, shared values, and community-driven action. We are incredibly proud to celebrate six decades of helping people and changing lives across Maryland's Eastern Shore.



Since our founding in 1965, SHORE UP has remained committed to uplifting our most vulnerable neighbors — whether through early childhood education, housing support, senior services, workforce development, or energy assistance. In 2024 alone, our team helped more than 12,000 individuals achieve greater self-sufficiency and stability.

But none of this would be possible without your support. Whether you've partnered with us through grants, referrals, volunteerism, or advocacy, please know that your involvement has made a meaningful difference. In today's climate of economic uncertainty and policy change, your support is more critical than ever.

As we look toward the future, we remain steadfast in our mission and more energized than ever to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and continue building equity across our communities. Thank you for standing with SHORE UP. We look forward to the next 60 years — together.

With gratitude,

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

## Holiday Closures

Please note: All SHORE UP offices and facilities will be closed on the following holidays this summer:

- Juneteenth (June 19)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (September 1)

## Opportunities to Join SHORE UP

We recently conducted an employee satisfaction survey, and we're thrilled to report that **91%** of survey respondents stated that they **believe their work is meaningful**. If you'd like to work in a role that makes a meaningful impact on local families, SHORE UP is hiring for multiple positions. Visit <https://shoreup.org/employment/join-our-team/> to view current openings and complete an application.

**SHORE UP!**  
INC.  
Helping People. Changing Lives.

**Head Start**

**ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN**

Free child care, preschool education, health & dental screenings, family activities, nutritious meals, and more for income qualified families with a child under the age of five.

For more information call 410-749-1142 or scan the QR code with your phone's camera to start your application today!

## Tax Season by the Numbers

April 15 has come and gone, and SHORE UP's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is drawing to a close. Our numbers served for FY25 were as follows:

- SHORE UP staff and trained volunteers processed 1,634 income tax returns for this program year.
- We saw to it that our tax assistance clients received \$2.76 million in refunds. That's putting money in the hands of the people who need it most.
- We did all of this with fewer volunteers than last year— 14 individuals received IRS training and certification to prepare tax returns.

Well done, VITA staff and volunteers!

## Shady Pines Hosts Prom for Adult Day Program Participants

At Shady Pines Adult Day Program, the atmosphere was anything but ordinary last Friday. Glittering decorations, classic tunes, and corsages set the stage for a time-honored tradition with a twist—a prom, specially designed for our program participants. Guests dressed in their finest attire, shared laughter and memories, and danced the afternoon away, proving that the joy of celebration knows no age limit.

The event, complete with a photo booth, refreshments, and a crowning ceremony, did more than offer an afternoon of fun. It underscored the critical need for socialization and physical activity in later life. “We wanted to give our participants something to look forward to—something that brings people together and gets them moving,” said Program Director Deschell Collins. “Social events like this aren’t just fun—they’re essential to health and well-being.”

Research continues to show that staying active and socially engaged improves mental health, reduces the risk of chronic illness, and combats loneliness and isolation. The Shady Pines prom was a joyful example of how a little music, community, and movement can make a big difference.

For many attendees, the event sparked fond memories and new friendships. “I never went to my high school prom,” one guest shared, “but today made up for it.” Another participant added, “It feels good to dress up and be part of something special.”

As the last song played and attendees gathered their keepsake photos, one thing was clear: Shady Pines isn’t just providing care—it’s creating meaningful experiences. And with programs like this, they’re showing that life can be full of joy and connection at every stage.

If you’re inspired by the work we do at Shady Pines, we invite you to make a financial donation to support the program or purchase much-needed supplies from our Amazon wish list at [amzn.to/3EijjO5](https://amzn.to/3EijjO5).





## SHORE UP Honored with Multiple Awards at State Conference

SHORE UP, Inc. recently earned widespread recognition at the 2025 Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP) Conference, with multiple honors spotlighting the agency's unwavering commitment to excellence, compassion, and community impact.

### Statewide Recognition as a Crisis Response Champion

In a proud moment for the agency, SHORE UP received the prestigious "Crisis Response Champion" award from the Maryland Department of Human Services. Presented by Secretary Rafael López, the certificate recognizes SHORE UP for modeling the Moore-Miller Administration's values and delivering tangible results for Marylanders. This honor reflects the agency's steadfast leadership and adaptability during a year marked by complex challenges, especially in areas like energy assistance, where staff navigated sweeping benefit changes and an unprecedented applicant surge.

### Volunteer Excellence: Denise Lewis and Foster Grandparents Honored

SHORE UP's spirit of volunteerism also took center stage with two MCAP Volunteer Award nominations. Denise Lewis, co-chair of the Foster Grandparent Advisory Committee and SHORE UP Board Member, was lauded for her tireless leadership and service. A driving force behind countless initiatives, Lewis infuses every project with warmth, energy, and creativity—rallying volunteers to collect eyeglasses for the Lions Club, create handmade cards for nursing home residents, and more.

Also nominated were the collective volunteers of SHORE UP's Foster Grandparent Program. These seniors are more than mentors—they are trusted role models who provide one-on-one support to children with special needs in classrooms across the Lower Shore. Their impact extends beyond education into community advocacy and service. Whether representing SHORE UP at outreach events or engaging in acts of kindness, their dedication continues to shape lives and inspire future generations.

### Individual Staff Award Nomination: Odetta Evans

In the Individual Award category, SHORE UP proudly nominated Odetta Evans, whose blend of professionalism, empathy, and tireless service exemplifies the best of community action. Known for her calm presence and solution-oriented mindset, Odetta consistently supports both clients and colleagues with warmth and dedication. Her nomination celebrates her role as a cornerstone of SHORE UP's success and a daily source of inspiration within the agency.

These accolades reflect the heart of SHORE UP's mission—helping people and changing lives. From frontline staff to devoted volunteers, the agency's team members are leading by example and creating lasting impact across the Eastern Shore.

Photo: Rev. Dr. Craig Mathies, Chairman of the SHORE UP Board of Directors (bottom left) poses with the SHORE UP award winners and staff at the Maryland Community Action Partnership's Annual Conference in May.

