

Dear Honorable Chairperson, Committee Members, and concerned individuals.

My name is Dwayne Dawson and I serve as the Director of Programs of Community Services Foundation. It brings me great pleasure to come before you today to discuss community services programs offered within the Brookland Manor Community Center.

I have over twenty years of experience working with non-profits and human services agencies serving residences throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. It is truly a pleasure to work with "Mid-City Development's and be a part of their commitment to provide free programs to the residents." The Brookland Manor Community Center offers after school and summer enrichment programs to youth ages 5 – 13, which includes "homework assistance, reading and math tutoring, public speaking, journaling, girl scouts, Big Brothers, Big Sisters Mentoring program, arts & crafts and fun, educational and recreational field trips. The program is offered from the time school lets out until 6pm on school days and from 9am to 6pm during the summer program. The program provides breakfast, lunch, supper, snacks, and/or weekend bags at no cost thanks to the program's partnership with Capital Area Food Bank.

The Brookland Manor summer program received funding from DC Trust (formerly known as DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation) for 13 of the past 15 years. The summer program was enhanced by the on site swim instruction programs, weekly field trips to local venues and health and wellness activities.

Once participants age out of the youth programs, they are able to participate in the onsite teen program. The teen program has included art initiatives, music instruction, mentoring, communication skills, conflict resolution, job development activities, anti-bullying workshops and city wide activities with teens at other Community Services Foundation community centers.

These programs are provided either in the Teen Space, an area specifically reserved for the teens, or in the general Brookland Manor Community Center.

Adults and seniors participate in the onsite programs which include job searches, donated food programs, computer instruction, social activities, and a host of health and wellness programs that assists with their everyday needs. The adult population is well organized and active in determining their program offered in the Community Center.

The Brookland Manor Community Center programs are so much more than programs and services to the residents. They are often a safety net or lifeline to their development. The commitment of both Mid City Development and Edgewood Management Corporation is evident in its dedication to provide funding so that all programs, activities and events are free! In an era where social programs are not always valued, this is a phenomenal testament to their commitment to the Brookland Manor residents.

We know that helping communities transition through a redevelopment effort can be a very challenging and scary experience for residents. However, Mid City Development has worked to keep the residents abreast of the redevelopment from the very beginning and I completely lend my support to them in bringing their plan to reality.