

2024 Annual Report

**GROWTH,
INNOVATION,
AND IMPACTFUL
CHANGE**



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we step into the 2024-2025 academic year, it's with profound gratitude and renewed determination that I reflect on the journey we've shared over the past year. The Center for Restorative Change continues to be a beacon of hope and strength in a world that is constantly evolving. Our collective efforts to navigate through challenges and seize opportunities have borne fruit, paving the way for a future brimming with promise and potential.

The 2023-2024 academic year was a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering social justice, equity, and community power. Despite many obstacles, our community has shown remarkable resilience and adaptability. We have continued to center our work around antiracism and anti-oppression, striving to create an infrastructure that supports rapid growth and quality, ensuring long-term sustainability and collective impact.

Our accomplishments this past year have been significant. The establishment of the new Rise Family Support Center stands as a beacon of our commitment to holistic, community-driven support. This initiative, alongside numerous federal grants totaling over \$7.5 million, has enhanced our capacity to serve and uplift our community. These funds have allowed us to extend our reach in community schools and prepare the next generation of mental health service professionals, ensuring that our impact is both deep and broad.

The heart of our mission remains steadfast: to promote social justice through mutually transformative partnerships between our community and the university. We are dedicated to serving the communities we work with, sharing our commitment to antiracism and anti-oppression, and fostering a lasting, positive impact. Our vision is for all communities to be equitable, promote well-being, and power for individuals and collectives alike.

As we look ahead, I am incredibly grateful for the champions who have supported us from the beginning and the new champions who join us in defining a new era. Your support, whether through advocacy, partnership, or funding, has been instrumental in our successes.

We anticipate another year of growth, innovation, and impactful change. Our goals include expanding our Positive Schools Center to serve additional schools, integrating new programming across our initiatives, and continuing to deepen our support for family engagement and father involvement programs. We are also committed to addressing current challenges, such as staffing shortages and the need for effective resource management, with innovative and adaptive strategies.

Together, we are changemakers, driven by compassion and commitment. As we continue to experiment, identify new solutions, and implement transformative changes, we harness the full potential for systemic improvements that will benefit all.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership. Let's embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with hope and determination.

In partnership,



Wendy E. Shaia, EdD., MSW

Clinical Associate Professor and Executive Director
Center for Restorative Change

2024 IMPACT

A photograph of a woman with braids and a young boy in a striped shirt, both smiling and looking at each other. The woman is wearing a pink shirt and the boy is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background is a teal color with purple and blue wavy patterns.

15,000+ SERVED

More than 15,000 children, youth, and adults were served across all CRC programs and services

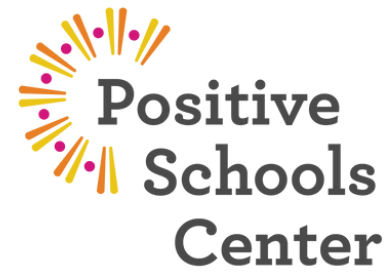
130 + PARTNERSHIPS

130 community partnerships were cultivated

250+ INDIVIDUALS
TRAINED IN SHARP

Over 250 individuals were trained with anti-racism training (SHARP)

PROGRAMS



The **Positive Schools Center** helps prepare adults inside schools to support the whole child, creating an environment with a restorative culture and reducing the need for punitive discipline.



Through the **Promise Heights** initiative, The Center for Restorative Change demonstrates its long-term commitment to supporting Baltimore's oldest African-American neighborhoods of Upton and Druid Heights.



Family Connections Baltimore works with families to identify specific needs—whether housing, food, or support with their child's educational progress. They also work alongside families to help them advocate for getting their needs met.



**Social Work
Community
Outreach Service**

Our student practicum, **Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS)**, works with aspiring social workers. It gives them valuable experience using the SHARP Framework to build capacity and work alongside community members to take steps to overcome racism and systemic oppression.



**Rise Family
Support Center**

The **Rise Family Support Center** is a safe and welcoming space where families can come together and access resources as well as strategize to push for system-level change.



B'More for Healthy Babies works to improve family and community health through an intergenerational approach by addressing the root causes of health disparities to decrease the infant mortality rate.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: B'MORE FOR HEALTHY BABIES

B'more for Healthy Babies

B'more for Healthy Babies works with the community to ensure positive birth and early parenting experiences with a focus on safe sleep, smoking cessation, breastfeeding and reproductive health. The program has since evolved to focus on building parental power to meet the broader needs and aspirations of families and uses creative ways to share information.



2024 IMPACT


106 NEW FAMILIES
SERVED IN 2024

384 REFERRALS

82% OF MOMS INITIATED
BREASTFEEDING

88% OF MOMS GAVE
BIRTH FULL TERM

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: FAMILY CONNECTIONS

2024 IMPACT

123 FAMILIES RECEIVED SERVICES

110 FINANCIAL REQUESTS COMPLETED

98% FAMILIES STILL UNIFIED

3,010 INTERACTIONS WITH FAMILIES



**Family
Connections
Baltimore**



Family Connections Baltimore has served families for more than 20 years. The program is able to work with hundreds of Baltimore City families each year to identify specific needs — whether housing, food, or support with their child’s educational progress—and work alongside families to help them advocate for getting their needs met.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: SWCOS



Social Work
Community
Outreach Service

The Social Work Education & Field Initiative provides students with hands-on experience working on critical social issues in an encouraging, creative atmosphere that prepares them to be leaders in community social work. It also provides those in need with quality services and creates research opportunities to generate new knowledge in social work practice.



KEY HIGHLIGHT

10 out of 11 MSW fellows from the first cohort secured employment in an approved school-based mental health placement. In addition, 9 out of the 11 MSW Fellows passed the graduate level licensure exam.

2024 IMPACT

100%

of program partners who said our
interns helped their organization

100%

% of program partners who
would **recommend our interns** to
other organizations

1,089

children, youth, and adults
served (direct + indirect)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: POSITIVE SCHOOLS CENTER



Positive Schools Center

The Positive Schools Center (PSC) employs a strategy to proactively and restoratively transform school climate, acknowledging the challenges at play. The PSC exists to develop adults inside school buildings so they are prepared to support the children to learn and develop and to create an environment that reflects and supports restorative culture.



2024 IMPACT

30 BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS SUPPORTED

5,072 CHILDREN, YOUTH,
AND ADULTS
served via community
engagement initiatives

>95% OF NEXT GEN. SCHOLARS
WHO GRADUATED HIGH
SCHOOL

KEY HIGHLIGHT

Provided regular training and coaching for 1,000+ teachers and staff, who were responsible for educating more than 8,200 students, or about 10% of all BCPS students.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: RISE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER



Rise Family Support Center

The Rise Family Support Center is a safe and welcoming space where families can come together and access resources as well as strategize to push for system-level change. The center supports and partners with families at every stage of life, bringing them together in the community to make plans, receive support, and fix things together using principles of community organizing.



KEY HIGHLIGHT

Rise has successfully enrolled 20 families, onboarded three new teachers, developed a new playground, and hosted community events, all while fostering external partnerships and advancing its mission to support family well-being and social justice.



**The Center for
Restorative Change**



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK