

We ventured farther beyond the hospital walls than ever before in 2017. We appreciate all of your support for our efforts last year! Since 2013, we've reached over five thousand people in Baltimore!

We held a total of forty-one events in twenty-three different communities all around Baltimore this year, with a particular focus on helping our City's new refugee population and children. One of our goals was to build bridges connecting us to more of the religious communities in the City. One of our main events this year was aiding the Syrian refugees and the local Islamic community through the creation of a smaller-scale Lay Health Educator Program (LHEP) at a local masjid. Over a 6-week course, and working with the Islamic Community School and the Masjid Al-Ihsan, our LHEP graduated 22 community members trained to help answer basic medical access concerns that most refugees face. To reach everyone, we collaborated with translators here at Hopkins to provide educational materials in both English and Arabic. Alongside MGG volunteers, Principal Zakia Amin and about a dozen other LHEP participants who completed training taught their community about how to manage hypertension, get cancer screenings, and recognize signs of mental distress.

We partnered with MERIT to build social entrepreneurs and supported eight participating students working on research projects. One student worked on a tobacco cessation project, which synchronized well with our ongoing asthma education efforts. Additional student projects included HIV awareness, healthy food choices, mobile clinics, health lifestyle habits for children, wellness activities for mental health, and health lifestyle habits for adults. With each different topic, a different aspect of population health was researched and addressed. Of the eight students who worked with us, two of them won awards from the Brancati Center for their work on obesity and mental health.

We collaborated with the Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) to implement mentoring programs. The BCAC center provides forensic interviews, medical treatment, and mental health treatment to children who have suffered mistreatment. With their honorable mission, we felt it would be a perfect use of MGG's undergraduate students to work with the children at the BCAC in mentorship program. The MGG students offered insight into job applications, college experience, and what helps them maintain grit in their lives. The children at the BCAC greatly appreciated their input and have requested them to come back next year!

Here at Johns Hopkins Bayview, for our Annual Symposium, we invited Mayor Catherine Pugh to speak about community and children's health. Our auditorium was packed when the mayor of Baltimore arrived, with more people watching as the event was streamed for anyone to watch. She delivered a stirring speech about what was being done on the state level to promote people leading healthier lives as well as advice on how the youth of Baltimore needs to be motivated and nudged in the right direction. Before leaving, Mayor Pugh also stopped to speak with all of the MGG students and volunteers displaying their research projects.

In line with our academic focus, we've been working to advance research and legislature on tobacco store densities and health outcomes in Baltimore City. This culminated in a [publication](#) with the National Center for Biotechnology Information, with more evidence to present to lawmakers in Baltimore on moving tobacco stores farther away from schools and homes. We also published a paper on how community factors play a role in determining individual risk for sepsis, especially for people with low socioeconomic status.

With our Caregiver Café programs continually running at both Johns Hopkins Hospital and at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, we also published a paper on [policy and advocacy for informal caregivers](#). With a growing proportion of elderly both here in Baltimore and across the globe, the importance of unpaid family members or friends steadily rises. We want to shine light on how informal caregivers, the family members of patients in need, benefit from support and how they are impacted by the lack of policy to provide these caretakers with support. While family and friends can be a tremendous help to elderly in need of assistance, they often suffer from caregiver burnout. Physician burnout is readily discussed and there are many programs at work to minimize the issue, but informal caregivers also need a forum to voice their troubles.

We also work closely with the Called to Care initiative, a Bayview based community service program created for family caregivers. Through working with them, we have seen the "burden of care" that these people face and how religious groups often provide support. By identifying the needs of program participants, we've found that working together with congregations is one of the most effective ways to reach caregivers. This culminated in another [article](#) with the *Journal of Public Health Policy* focused on forging partnerships with congregations.

Throughout the entire year, Daniel Hale, PhD, Richard Bennet, MD, and Panagis Galiatsatos, MD collaborated on the new book *Building Healthy Communities through Medical-Religious Partnerships*. An effort shared between Medicine for the Greater Good and Johns Hopkins Bayview leadership, this book presents new solutions and approaches to community-based health education. A key mission of our organization is preventative medicine, helping people change their lifestyles prior to the point where they have health conditions that require hospitalization. In this new book, we offer guidance for religious and medical leaders who are interested in developing programs to help their people. You can also visit the *Building Healthy Communities* [companion website](#), which shares details on basic approaches.

Toward the end of the year, with winter and the holiday season upon us, we returned to Poe Homes for a "Scarves and Science" event. We had a brief talk on asthma care then another on oral care to encourage children to take care of their teeth and gums even when there are holiday sweets around. We distributed gift bags to all the children who came with winter gear, including hats and gloves, and then brought everyone outside to look through the Popscope telescope for a fun lesson on the stars.

To reach the one thousand, nine hundred and fifty people we helped this year, we collaborated with twenty students from the School of Nursing, eleven from Homewood, and two from the Peabody Institute. With the help of our volunteers and staff, we were able to reach out to a diverse range of different populations here in Baltimore City. We strive to help even more citizens of Baltimore in 2018!