



*Photograph Courtesy  
of Regina Lansinger*

*The Heart of Northeast Baltimore*

# HARBEL

## Community Organization

Proudly Serving Northeast Baltimore for 43 Years

# Annual Report 2013

Sue Fitzsimmons • President  
Naomi Benyowitz • Executive Director

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of HARBEL is to unite organizations and groups in order to provide a vehicle in which to define and solve problems common to the community.

HARBEL's goals are to:

1. Provide a forum through which citizens can democratically and effectively improve their community; and
2. Provide direct service to meet community needs.

# 43rd Annual Meeting

## HARBEL Community Organization, Inc.

Monday • June 3, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

### PROGRAM

Welcome	Sue Fitzsimmons, <i>President</i>
Introduction	Naomi Benyowitz, <i>Executive Director</i>
Housing Partnership Program	Regina Buker, <i>Director</i>
Substance Abuse Prevention	Patricia Stabile, <i>Director</i>
Community Relations	Mike Hilliard, <i>Director</i>
Presentation of Awards	
Pillar of Community	Lisa Daniels <i>North Harford Road Community Association</i>
Exemplary Community Service	Richard Marsiglia <i>Hamilton Vacuum Sales &amp; Service</i>
Outstanding Achievement	Tamnika Jones
Closing Remarks	Naomi Benyowitz, <i>Executive Director</i>

**Thank you all for coming and sharing  
HARBEL's year of accomplishments.**

**We hope to see you next year.**

## **HARBEL Officers**

President	<b>Sue Fitzsimmons</b>
Vice President	<b>Cathy Kratovil</b>
Secretary	<b>Karmen Smith</b>
Treasurer	<b>Reed Hutner</b>

## **Board of Directors**

Linda Doughty	Barbara Leventhal
Rosa Dowdy	Richard Marsiglia
Patrik Fleming	Tony Randall
Joan Ford	Georgeann Roeder
Aziza Gary	Kim Sealover
Timothy Johnson	Mary Clare Simon
Cathy Kratovil	Nomiki Weitzel
Jody Landers	

## **Thank You to Those Who Have Served**

(and continue to serve) HARBEL  
in providing leadership and guidance  
through their work as executive director

David Wecht	1970 - 1977
Jody Landers, III	1977 - 1981
Joe Coffey	1981 - 1990
Mike Borneman	1990 - 1990
Lois Garey	1990 - 1995
Judy Fritsche	1995 - 2000
Naomi Benyowitz	2000 - Present

# **We Salute the Fine Staff of the HARBEL Community Organization, Inc.**

## **Administration**

Naomi Benyowitz • Executive Director  
Sharon Crist • Executive Assistant  
Estelle Peters • Business Manager  
Janie Horne & Jean Connelly • Receptionists  
Diamond Smith • Volunteer Evening Receptionist

## **Community Services**

Michael Hilliard • Director

## **Housing Partnership**

Regina Buker • Director  
Tina Lloyd • Assistant Director  
Zina Moore • Homeownership Counselor  
Mary Medley • Administrative Assistant

## **Prevention & Recovery Center**

Patricia Stabile • Administrative Director  
Martha Montgomery • Clinical Director  
Kim Szager & Gloria Ray • Weekend/Evening Supervisors  
Rhonda Bavis • Adult Team Leader  
Samantha Jefferson • Adolescent Team Leader

Amanda Honan	Gina Cook	Mitchell Feldstein
Ambrose Brooke	James Brackett	Pat Hill
Ari Jacobson	Joseph Small	Qiana Broadnax
Atiya Rideout	Kathleen Crawford	Rebecca Bradley
Avis Giggetts	Kathleen Curry	Rhonda Bavis
Curtis Mann	Kelli Mansure	Samantha Haff
David Ehrlich	Kublai Duhart	Susan Lynch
Dionna Dailey	Lauren Vaszil	Tamnika Jones
Emily Stanley	Marianne Graham	Frank Dobinski
	Mary Klausmeyer	

A special ***Thanks*** to our student interns from the  
University of Maryland School of Social Work,  
Morgan State University, Bowie State University,  
University of Baltimore, Grand Canyon University

# **HARBEL Leadership (1969-2009)**

Rev. E. Gerald Huesman (1969-1970)  
(Steering Committee Chairperson)

William Clark	1970-73	Dennis W. King	1992-94
Joseph M. Ernst	1973-74	James M. Potter	1994-96
Carl W. Hobbs	1974-76	Vikki A. Schick	1996-97
Norman K. Buker	1976-78	Mary Clare Simon	1997-00
Charles D. Pacunas	1978-80	Jack Ray	2000-02
Elizabeth M. Maher	1980-82	Vikki A. Schick	2002-03
Carlton R. Insley	1982-83	Stephen J. Ports	2003-04
Lois A. Garey	1983-85	Mary Clare Simon	2004-07
R. Terrence Farrell	1985-86	Linda Doughty	2007-09
Joseph T. Landers, Jr.	1986-88	Reed Hutner	2009-12
Regina W. Buker	1988-90	Sue Fitzsimmons	2012-
Jean S. Snyder	1990-92		

## **We Salute Our Volunteers!**

Atiya Rideout	Irene Fidal	Allison Kinter
Joanne Phillips	Andrea Neidzwick	Joe Domotor
Bill Barry	Mario Orlando	Carol Frank
Michael Preston	Cathy Brown	Mike Barrett
Corrie Ivey	Pat Rhodes	David Lowry
Paul Cashour	Dennis Buskey	Quenton King
Kelli Mansure	Robert DeAlmeida	Don Crist Sr.
Rodney Arcable	Frank NcNeil	Shemie Davis
Frank Simon	William Washington	Gary Doughty
Gina Cook	Guy Stafford	Tony Vavakas
Jake Jacobs	Virgina Zalinkas	Tamnika Jones

Board of Directors who so generously give of their  
time and talents to meet every other month  
to discuss the present and future  
of the HARBEL Organization - ***we thank you!***

# HARBEL Supporters

AARP Hamilton Chapter	Jerusalem Evangelical Church
American Legion Auxiliary Post	Johns Hopkins Bayview
American Legion Hamilton Post #20	K of C Md Chapter 370
Arcadia Improvement Association	Lauraville Improvement Association
Archbishop Curley High School	Library - Hamilton
Baltimore Medical System, Inc	Library - Herring Run
Baltimore Medical System, Inc.	Mayfield Improvement Association
Belair Road Lodge O.S.I.A. #2265	Mercy Medical Center
Belair-Edison Improvement Association	Moravia-Walther Imp Association
Bethlehem Ev Lutheran Church	Morgan Park Improvement Association
Beverly Hills Improvement Association	Morgan State University
Brehms Lane Elementary PTA	New Creation Christian Church
Calvary Lutheran Church PTA	North Harford Rd Imp Association
Cedmont Community Imp Association	Northeast Food Pantry
Epiphany Lutheran Church	Northeast Middle School PTA
First Church of God	Northeast YMCA
Frankford Improvement Association	On Our Own, Inc.
Furley Elementary PTO	Overlea Chapel UMC
Gardenville Elementary PTO	Overlea Community Association
Gardenville Rec Coordination CI	Overlea Lions Club
Glenham-Belhar Community Association	Parkside Improvement Association
Garrett Heights Elementary PTG	Poor Boys Country Market
Glenmount Elementary PTA	Ray of Hope Baptist Church
Grace Lutheran Church	Rosemont Community Association
Hamilton Business Association	Sharon Seventh Day Adventist
Hamilton Elementary/Middle PTA	Shrine of The Little Flower Church
Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association	St. Anthony of Padua/Most Precious Blood Church
Hamilton Lodge O.S.I.A. #2342	St Dominic Catholic Church
Hamilton Optimists	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Church
Hamilton Presbyterian Church	St Luke Lutheran Church
Harford Center for Senior Citizens	St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
Harford Park Community Association	St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Harford-Belair CMHC	St Michael's Overlea Catholic Church
Harford Gardens-Harborside	St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Hazelwood Elementary PTA	The Episcopal Church of the Messiah
Herring Run Head Start	Thurgood Marshall Mid School PTO
Hilltop Improvement Association	Waltherson Improvement Association
	Woodbourne Day School PSTO

# Our Thanks To All Who Contributed To HARBEL This Year

1st Mariner  
7-11 Store- 21572  
Adult Medical Day Care of Overlea  
Alessi & Son Citgo Auto  
Baltimore County Savings Bank  
Bel-Garden Bi-Rite  
Big Bad Wolf  
Borden Insurance Agency  
Leslie Brown  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
Carrllton Bank  
Catering Specialist  
Cedonia Community Association  
Cedmont Improvement Association  
Chesapeake Bank of Maryland  
Church of the Messiah  
Clark Auto Services  
Clifton Upholstery  
Hari P. Close Funeral Service, P.A.  
Charles Cronauer  
Dominicks of Parkville  
Eastern Savings Bank  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Euro-Tech  
Sue Fitzsimmons  
Foot Care Associates  
Joan Ford  
Frankford Towing  
Zack Germroth  
Glenham-Belhar Community Association  
Glenmore Service Center  
Delegate Cheryl Glenn  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Grace Evangelical Congregation  
Hamilton Assm. Of God Christian School  
Hamilton Business Association  
Hamilton Federal Bank  
Hamilton Vacuum  
Harford Beverage Co.  
Harford BP  
Harford-Belair CMHC  
Mike Hilliard  
Johns Hopkins Bayview  
Reed & Kathleen Hutner  
Intern'l Union Oper. Engrs. - Local 37  
J.D. Carpets  
Jiffy Lube  
KFC  
Senator Kathy Klausmeier  
Koco's Pub  
LG Accounting Service  
M&T Charitable Foundation  
Madison Square Fed. Savings Bank  
AR Marani, Inc.  
Senator Nathaniel McFadden  
Mieneke  
Miller-Dippel Funeral Home  
Minute Art Services  
Chris Muldowney  
Municipal Employees Credit Union  
New Creation Church  
Northern Pharmacy & Medical  
Parkside Improvement Association  
PNC  
Poor Boy Country Market/  
Signature Landscape  
Ray of Hope Baptist Church  
Red Canoe  
Georgeann & John Roeder, Jr.  
Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan Bank  
Rosemont East Community Association  
Cliff & Ruth Rowland  
Ruck Funeral Home  
Rudolf's, Inc  
Sanders Auto Repair  
Congressman John Sarbanes  
Service Master  
Frank & Mary Clare Simon  
Slavie Federal Savings Bank  
Spears/Votta & Associates, Inc.  
Stastny Insurance Agency  
State Farm  
H. Lee Stierhoff, Jr.  
Sun Trust Bank-Mid Atlantic Foundation  
Susquehanna Bank  
T. Rowe Price Foundation  
The Chameleon  
Today's Care and Family  
Toner-Parsons Opticians  
Valentino's  
Verizon  
Visuals (Cathy Kratovil)  
Waltherson Improvement Association  
Wockenfuss Candies



## **President's Message**

*Sue Fitzsimmons*

HARBEL - What does the word HARBEL mean? Obviously, the word is combined from the names of both the Harford Road, Belair Road communities. As a member of the Board for 4 years and President of the Board since last year, I have an idea of what it really means.



HARBEL is a group of community members: 22 Community Associations, 3 Community Business Associations, 3 Business Members, and 17 Religious Institution Members. This means that HARBEL is responsible for ascertaining the wishes, hopes, and dreams of all these members- and then-acting as the spokesman and in the best interest of them all! Daunting responsibility, isn't it?

As President, I along with all the other members of our community, are very lucky that there are two people who really continuously work towards our goals - Naomi Benyowitz and Mike Hilliard, along with all the rest of the dedicated HARBEL staff!

How do we let people know what we do?

1. Every year we have a Community Flea Market, an Annual Meeting, a Crafter's Fair, and the Annual Fundraiser Event;
2. We continue to support the Housing Partnership, Prevention & Recovery, and NECOP;

3. Naomi spends a great deal of her time connecting/meeting with individuals and groups in the community who need to know who we are and how each of them can contribute towards our goals; and

4. Mike connects with the individual community members and associations. The Harford Road, Belair Road communities are fortunate that these two people know the community and how to connect the myriad community members to HARBEL and each other!

What is the future of our community? Will we prosper? I don't have a crystal ball, but I sincerely hope so and I know that every one reading this report hopes so, also.

We need to continue coming together in all of our endeavors and working towards our common goals.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Fitzsimmons".

## **Naomi Benyowitz** *Executive Director*

On the verge of beginning my 15th year with HARBEL (14 years as executive director) serving the residents of Northeast Baltimore, I pause to take a look back to the “good old days” and forward to “better days are coming”.



In the late 1990s, foundations and government programs were eager to recognize and reward community building and development, and encourage agencies to succeed at innovative programs. Innovation succeeds when it is well-thought out and staffed by committed individuals who are willing to think creatively and work together toward common goals.

Our state government, through the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), took an avid interest in our newly-created NorthEast Citizens Patrol. The Patrol was developed in 1999 with enthusiastic assistance from the Northeast District of the Baltimore City Police Department. Over the years, funding from GOCCP helped to buy some of the equipment needed to keep the cars on the road to drive through neighborhoods to keep them safe, secure, and thriving. A success. Thank you GOCCP!

The city’s Community Development Block Grant, under the Department of Housing, recognized the value in keeping the Northeast neighborhoods unified and keeping homeowners in their homes. After several years of reduced funding, this year Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano granted an increase to the Patrol to continue its work. A success. Thank you Commissioner Graziano!

The Baltimore Community Foundation continues to provide funding (albeit reduced) to our neighborhoods to create projects directly benefitting the neighborhood and spearheaded by residents. A success. Thank you BCF!

We are encouraged that the highly successful job resource program, once funded by a federal earmark, will once again be able to help reduce unemployment. HARBEL is in a unique position to help this population, and with some luck, good leadership and staff skills, and the right environment, we are hopeful that funding will become available.

The staff of all of HARBEL's programs – the Prevention and Recovery Center, the Housing Partnership, and the Community Relations Program – continue to work diligently every single day to better the lives of our varied and diverse communities. We are all in this big boat together, and together we are steering a ship bound for more successes as we strive mightily to make Northeast Baltimore the best place to live, work, and enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Noone Bengurty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'y' at the end.

# **HARBEL Housing Partnership**

## ***Regina W. Buker, Director***

The investment of time by several HARBEL volunteers in the Spring of 1993 lead to the establishment of one of the most respective homeownership programs in the region. The comprehensive education and counseling provided to potential home buyers have created long-term homeowners for our community by reducing the risk of foreclosure.



Beginning with \$18,000 - contributions from 12 community banks and savings and loan associations - HARBEL Housing began operation in the Fall of 1993. In 1994, we held three home buyer workshops for 75 people. This year, I anticipate that an estimated 1,550 people will have attended one of our 40 home buyer workshops. It will be the sixth year with a workshop attendance of more than 1,100 people.

Our three-hour home buyer workshop provides extensive information on budget, credit, and savings - elements critical to successful home purchase and long-term homeownership. We have found that about two-thirds of our attendees learn that they must work on credit and savings and have learned the skills to make improvements prior to purchasing a home.

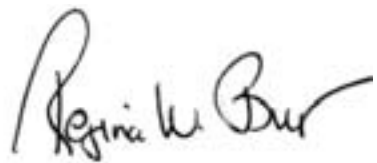
As the years progressed, additional funding has been secured. HARBEL Housing now has 14 financial partners, a corps of preferred agents, grants from both Baltimore County and Baltimore City governments, and contributions from our home buyers. With additional funds, our staff has grown and with their past professional experience and continued educational training, HARBEL Housing has one of the best teams in town; Tina Lloyd, Assistant Director, Zina Moore, Senior Homeownership Counselor, and Mary Medley, Office Manager.

In 1996, we began to offer homeownership counseling and have served more than 5,200 potential home buyers. We quickly expanded our counseling to include not only pre-purchase counseling, but also credit and budget, enabling people to purchase a home in the future.

Five years ago we again expanded our services to include more education. We now offer a three-hour pre-settlement workshop. Topics include events leading up to settlement, settlement day, but most important are the topics related to the home buyers life as a new homeowner. This year more than 800 people will attend the pre-settlement course.

After several years of a poor housing market, more buyers are purchasing homes. Housing values are beginning to increase from the lows of 2010. This year I anticipate that 200 of those households that participated in workshops and counseling will purchase their first home. Since 1997, we've tracked purchases and I anticipate that as of June 30, our clients will have purchased homes valued at \$381 million.

This Fall we will celebrate our 20th anniversary. The tradition begun in 1993 demonstrates the community's commitment to provide comprehensive education and counseling designed to prepare home buyers in the purchase of their first home. Our goal is to lessen the risk of foreclosure and we have been successful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina W. Bur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

# **HARBEL Prevention & Recovery Center**

***Patricia Quinn Stabile, LCSW-C***  
***Program Director***

HARBEL Prevention and Recovery Center provides outpatient services to adults and adolescents who are in need of substance abuse treatment. It is the mission of the program to provide effective services that assist individuals in reducing and eliminating the harm caused by substance abuse. The program offers intensive and standard outpatient services to adults, standard outpatient and school based services to adolescents, and case management services to our clients. Services are available to persons insured with Medicaid and PAC, some private insurances, and for uninsured Baltimore City residents.



In the near future, our mission will expand to include providing services to assist persons with mental health needs. This additional service is being developed because of both a recognized need for additional clinical services to our clients, and a fiscal reality. HARBEL Prevention and Recovery Center is being impacted by a transition at the state level that includes plans to merge the funding streams for mental health and substance abuse into a different funding mechanism than currently exists and the merger of two state administrations (Mental Health Administration and Alcohol Drug Abuse Administration) into a combined behavioral health agency. The local authorities, Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems and Baltimore Mental Health Systems are also in the process of merging to reflect this new reality. Under these new organizations, grant funds will continue to shift to Medicaid and to decrease, with the expectation that sustainable programs will be able to bill Medicaid for mental health/substance abuse, in order to replace lost grant funds. From a financial perspective, an ability to bill for both services will be increasingly important to the financial health of the organization. Fortunately, the merger also makes clinical sense- as many of our clients do need mental health services and have to be referred elsewhere because substance abuse grants do not pay for that service.

There continue to still be many unknowns as the implementation of the federal Affordable Health Care Act and Maryland's health insurance exchanges go forward. Increased federal regulation and

requirements for electronic health records for all health service providers, more integration of mental health and substance abuse services, increased credentials of staff in order to obtain payment from insurers, and a likelihood that all state providers will have to meet national accreditation standards in the near future, are other issues that will continue to affect our services and budgets. These are challenging times with many unknowns- the only certainty is that there will be lots of change going on!

Although the annual report is designed to give the Board and the community a snapshot of major developments impacting the program, the most important part of what we do is the lives we touch and the people we help. In that spirit, I share some of what our clients have said in their client satisfaction surveys this year:

*“I learned nothing is ever easy but overcoming the obstacles to achieve success will be worth it”*

*“It helped me stop using”*

*“It’s a step to recovery”*

*“ I really needed this program, It has been a great help to me”*

*“ I would just like to say that being at HARBEL has really helped me alot in dealing with my substance abuse as well as taking a look at myself as a man to be a better son, father and partner. “*

*“It helped me change my life around for the best”*

*“ I enjoyed talking to my counselor, she helps take alot of weight off my chest”*

*“ They have helped me to be a stronger and more focused person”*

*“ I was treated with respect”*

*“Well spoken staff and they take care of people”*

*“ The staff cares about my treatment”*

*“ I’m getting help”*

Those quotes show the real story of how the staff of HARBEL Prevention and Recovery Center “ contributes to community. On behalf of our clients, I thank all staff, Board of Directors, funders, and community members who have supported us this year!





## **Community Relations**

***Mike Hilliard, Director***

There is a sign in my office that was made by HARBEL's Executive Director, Naomi Benyowitz. It says, "The House of HARBEL welcomes Michael Hilliard. We're very excited you are here, so much to do and so little time, April 7, 2003." Wow, it has been 10 years since I retired from the Baltimore Police Department to accept the position of HARBEL's Community Services Director.



I started to reflect on the accomplishments of the Community Services Program over those years. We held a series of leadership forums to attempt to address the issues concerning group homes in Northeast Baltimore. We did not resolve the problem, but we now know how community leaders can deal with those group homes that are problematic. Councilman Bob Curran nominated me to sit on City Wide Traffic Calming Task Force, and I helped develop the current traffic calming procedures utilized by the Baltimore City Department Transportation. The relationships developed while serving on that task force are still utilized today to deal with traffic calming issues throughout Northeast Baltimore. I co-chaired the Northeast Planning Committee of the Baltimore City Public School Systems Facility Solutions Process in 2007, which I believe was the forerunner of the System's current capital reconstruction program. We also assisted the community, elected officials, and faith leaders in negotiating what was then a new use of the St. Dominic's School, which is now the John Manley House at the intersection of Harford Road and Echodale Avenue, that provides quality housing for many of our area's senior citizens. We helped close the Cameo

Lounge, which had plagued the residents of the Lauraville and Moravia-Walther communities for years. It is now the community friendly Chef Mac's and All That Blues, serving quality Louisiana cuisine. We have facilitated forums with the command of the Northeast Police District that have made our neighborhoods safer places to live, earn, work, and play. We assisted the police and city officials in closing the Club 410 on Belair Road, a bar operated by the Black Guerilla Family that was plaguing the communities surrounding the intersection of Belair and Moravia Roads.

Throughout the years HARBEL, and its communities have successfully dealt with problematic liquor establishments. We have continued that work this year with several communities, and we supported the portion of the proposed new zoning code that eliminates package goods stores that do not conform to the zoning code in their neighborhoods.

The NorthEast Citizens Patrol, which I helped found as a Lieutenant working at the Northeast Police District in 2000, is still preventing crime in Northeast Baltimore. The patrol has been a key component in the crime fighting plans of eight different Commanding Officers of the Northeast Police District. If you do not believe the Patrol works, just talk to a member of either the Cedmont or North Harford Road Communities, whose neighborhoods have been made safer by participation in the Patrol.

As anyone who has done community work knows, what really impacts a neighborhood's quality of life is consistently dealing with the myriad of small problems that on a daily basis affects a community's stability. On a daily basis we at HARBEL assist residents and community leaders deal with issues pertaining to crime, sanitation, zoning, transportation, and housing that frequently confront our communities, and by dealing with those problems on a daily basis we continue to help our communities to be great places to live, earn, learn and play.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hilliard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# HARBEL Annual Fundraiser

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

**Sunday, October 20, 2013**

**3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Corporate Sponsorships  
Available**

Includes a table for 10 guests

**D.J.  
Dancing  
Neighborhood  
Celebrations!**



## **GET with a READING PROGRAM**

**Enhance Learning • Explore the World!**

We're collecting new books which will be distributed to area schools.

Bring a new book for our collection.

**Columbus Gardens | 4301 Klosterman Avenue | Baltimore, MD 21236**

**Tickets: \$40 per person (a portion is tax deductible)**

Purchase Tickets at [www.harbel.org](http://www.harbel.org) or call 410.444.2100

*All proceeds benefit the fine work of HARBEL Community Organization.*

VISIT:

**WWW.HARBEL.ORG**

AND

**WWW.NECOP.COM**

CURRENT EVENTS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED

ON-LINE DONATIONS

