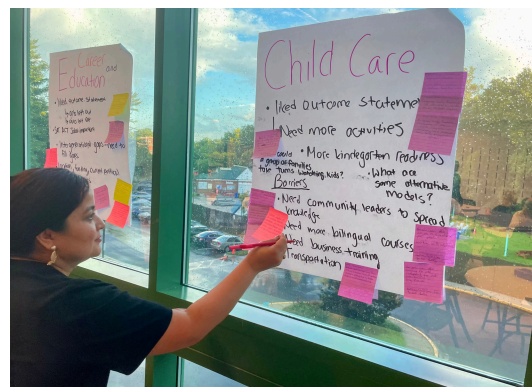


# Summer 2025 Newsletter

## Long Branch Thrives ENOUGH

Long Branch Thrives, a part of Governor Wes Moore's ENOUGH Initiative (Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Government, and Households), wrapped up its **Phase 1: Cradle to Career of a Neighborhood Action Plan**.

This community-based initiative will develop interventions in 4 areas: **youth safety, childcare accessibility, children/youth programming, & education/career**.



## CHEER Meet & Greet



On June 26, 2025, CHEER hosted a community awareness event at El Gavilan Restaurant, Silver Spring. Guests included Del. Charkoudian, Councilmember Stewart, Takoma Park Mayor Searcy, and Takoma Park Councilmembers Gilbert and Honzak. Over 85 people attended with live music and light refreshments.

The highlight of the event was the real life testimonies of diverse community members on how CHEER programs have positively affected their personal and family lives. Stay tuned for the next event!

## Maple Tree Support Group

On July 20, 2025, the 2nd round of the 12-week Family Wellness & Digital Literacy Training successfully launched with **25 participants**. Key topics included effective communication, digital literacy, & community engagement. Children separately shared stories involving parent-child challenges to identify critical issues for future sessions. This initiative highlights the importance of sustaining culturally responsive family support programs.





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## Food as Medicine

The MCPS Food as Medicine Program in schools ensures healthy nutrition and fitness for eligible children. Our partner, Community FarmShares (CFS), provides a \$30 monthly credit for parents to select fruits and vegetables at a weekly market. Additionally, CHEER staff provides bi-weekly Zoom nutrition/fitness classes to parents and children to include a final healthy food live demo on simple and healthy recipe prep. Participants tremendously enjoy these events due to the family interaction, engagement and the information it provides.



## Community Gardening



On June 19, 2025, CHEER hosted a medicinal herbs gardening workshop led by Serda Ozbenian, a clinical herbalist, medicine maker, and experienced forager.

During this workshop, participants learned about the healing potential of medicinal and nutritious plants growing all around us, safe foraging, key herb identification and how to create their own natural remedies. Participants harvested plants and prepared herb-infused vinegars to take home.

## Long Branch Housing Action Team (LBHAT)



On May 29, 2025, LBHAT and community leaders hosted a panel discussion with members of the District 20 Team. Members included Sen. Smith, Del. Charkoudian, and Chiefs of Staff for Del. Moon and Wilkins. Community leaders presented results from a renters' housing survey with **33 responses**. Community members who faced eviction also shared their stories to advocate for Good Cause Eviction. This meeting was a great first conversation around tenant protections and housing justice to showcase the realities that Long Branch renters are facing. We continue to work with Sen. Smith on this issue.