



Family League Announces \$21.6 Million Impact at 34th Annual Meeting

Over 150 community leaders gather to honor frontline heroes and announce \$21.6 million in transformative investments for Baltimore families

Baltimore, MD (November 13, 2025) – Family League commemorated its 34th Annual Meeting on November 6 at the Maryland Zoo Mansion House, bringing together more than 150 representatives from community organizations, government agencies, private sector, and nonprofit partners to celebrate a year of unprecedented impact across Baltimore communities. The theme “Impact at Scale,” highlighted the organization’s strategic investment of \$21.6 million in program services and partnerships with 84 community-based organizations throughout the city.

The evening featured keynote remarks from Congressman Kweisi Mfume and honored Baltimore City Solicitor Ebony Thompson with the President’s Award for her groundbreaking work in legal health equity and securing over \$400 million in opioid settlements for Baltimore.

“Tonight represents more than an annual gathering—it’s a testament to Baltimore’s collective strength,” said Nancy Blackwell, Board Chair of Family League. “Through our braided funding model that combines state, city, and private sector resources, we’ve created a powerful multiplier effect that directly benefits Baltimore families. Our \$21.6 million investment this year has touched over 14,000 lives, and we remain bold in our vision to advance upward mobility for Baltimore’s most vulnerable families and have them thrive.”

Family League President and CEO Demaune Millard delivered the annual State of Family League address, detailing significant milestones including the preservation of \$2 million in state funding despite budget challenges, the successful relocation to new headquarters at 1734 Maryland Avenue, and national recognition from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for innovative approaches to youth development.

“Family League’s transformation framework continues to deliver both impact at scale and fiscal stewardship,” said Millard. “This year, we continued to exceed state benchmarks with our B’More for Healthy Babies program achieving a 92% breastfeeding initiation rate, expanded our housing support investment to over \$6 million, tackled absenteeism through our Out-of-School Time efforts, and maintained our fourth consecutive clean audit. These achievements demonstrate that when we work collaboratively with our funded partners and community stakeholders, we can systematically dismantle the barriers that limit opportunities for Baltimore’s children and families.”

The highlight of the evening was the recognition of six community heroes whose work embodies Family League’s core values. Award recipients included Sharon Armstead of Baltimore City Local Care Team (Stewardship Award), Urban Strategies (Performance Award), Joel Miller Jr. of National Institute for Collective Strategies (Respect Award), Stacey Stephens of B’More for Healthy Babies Upton/Druid Heights (Innovation Award), Valarie Matthews of Catherine’s Family & Youth Services (Trust Award), and Cherry Hill UMBC HIPPY (Equity Award).

Congressman Kweisi Mfume applauded the organization’s comprehensive approach to community transformation. “Family League exemplifies what’s possible when we combine resources, data, and community wisdom to address systemic challenges,” said Congressman Mfume. “Their work across four priority areas—Cradle to Career Education, Economic Secure Families, Healthy Families, and Safe and Thriving Communities—represents the kind of coordinated effort needed to create lasting change in Baltimore. I’m proud to support their mission and congratulate the honorees who are making a real difference on the ground.”



Baltimore City Solicitor Ebony Thompson, recipient of the President's Award, reflected on the importance of collaborative partnerships in addressing public health crises. "The opioid epidemic has devastated out communities, and holding pharmaceutical companies accountable was just the first step," said Thompson. "Organizations like Family League are essential partners to support prevention, treatment, and family stability programs. Tonight's celebration reminds us that real change happens when we work together—from grassroots organizations to government agencies—all focused on ensuring Baltimore families thrive."

###

About Family League of Baltimore

Family League of Baltimore is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore. Since 1991, the organization has worked collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions that align resources to dismantle the systemic barriers which limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities. Guided by core values of stewardship, performance, trust, respect, innovation, and equity, Family League has invested \$21.8+ million to 84 community-based partners in the 2024 fiscal year, benefiting more than 14,000 children, youth, and adults in Baltimore.

For more information, visit www.familyleague.org.

Contact:

Zanes E. Cypress
communications@familyleague.org