

**GREATER HOMEWOOD COMMUNITY CORPORATION  
AND BARCLAY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL AND MARGARET BRENT  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Barclay Elementary/Middle School serves 479 students in grades PreK-8 from the Abell, Waverly, and Upper Charles Village communities of north central Baltimore. Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School serves 260 students from the Charles Village and Remington communities in grades PreK-8.

Named by the American Planning Association as one of the 10 Great Neighborhoods in America for 2008, Charles Village was one of Baltimore's original Healthy Neighborhoods. Median sales prices for homes in the neighborhood nearly tripled from 2000 through 2009, from \$71,800 to \$214,200. Sales prices for homes on Healthy Neighborhoods target blocks more than tripled during that same period, from \$66,000 to \$235,000.

Both Barclay and Margaret Brent have longstanding partnerships with the Greater Homewood Community Corporation (GHCC), which implements the Healthy Neighborhoods program in the community. GHCC places AmeriCorps VISTA members and Experience Corps volunteers in the schools, and works to strengthen family and community engagement. The partners are propelled by a vision of strong, diverse neighborhood schools that are the first choice of all neighborhood families to enroll their children. Barclay is a certified Maryland Green School which uses the schoolyard habitat to teach children about nature and the environment, and where at least 84 percent of students have consistently scored proficient or advanced on both the reading and math portions of the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) test in the last two years.

Margaret Brent is a much smaller school, with a family-like environment where 80 percent of students met or exceeded state standards in reading on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in 2008-09, and 67 percent made the state grade in mathematics. The school has a strong partnership with the nearby Village Learning Place, a community-created library with after-school programs for students.

For the Neighborhood-School Partnership, GHCC convened a focus group of Charles Village parents—including those not using the neighborhood schools—to identify the most important factors to them in choosing a school. Inspired by the discussion, several of these parents founded a neighborhood parents group, "Village Parents," whose mission includes supporting a new Great Schools Charles Village Initiative. The initiative will use Goldseker funding to implement a thematic, project-based curriculum in both schools emphasizing the rich history, art, architecture and social activism in the surrounding neighborhoods. Loyola University will provide in-kind professional development and technical assistance as they implement the new curriculum.

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