



JENNIFER CUMMINGS, ECYP EVENT CHAIR

A Year of Building Bridges

As 2023 begins, I reflect with great joy and pride on all that ECYP accomplished this year. After two program years online, **ECYP fellows connected in person for thought-provoking discussions, leadership development, team building and even podcast production.**

In addition, for the first time since 2019, **ECYP fellows traveled to Israel!** What an amazing journey it was to travel with such a remarkable group of teens from the classes of 2022 and 2023 and witness firsthand how ECYP is building bridges between the Black and Jewish communities—which is ever more important.

From a day of hiking, preparing dinner and singing by the campfire in Haifa, to a night of ushering in Shabbat at the Yemin Orde synagogue and playing board games until the wee hours of Saturday morning, **the bonds formed between the ECYP fellows and their Israeli counterparts were evident and heartwarming.** Together, they explored historic sites, from Caesarea and Akko in the north to the Dead Sea and Masada in the south, and had meaningful conversations about race and diversity, social issues and current affairs. **These experiences are what my father envisioned when he banded together with Baltimore's Jewish community to create ECYP in 1998.**

When the fellows returned from their near-month-long trip, **they each shared stories about their experience. They reflected on finding their voices, strengthening their self-reliance and expanding their cross-cultural awareness, including the diversity of Jewish people both in Israel and around the world.** What I heard in their testimonials were the voices of promising young people who are prepared to serve as open-minded ambassadors to the world, equipped with the skills and global exposure critical to their success in a diverse society. This is the mission of ECYP, and it is being accomplished.

Looking ahead, this year marks ECYP's 25th anniversary. I know it will be another banner year thanks to our outstanding teens, their supportive parents and families, ECYP alumni and generous contributors who make the program possible. As we prepare to celebrate 25 years, it is this strong community that will ensure generations of young people from Maryland's 7th Congressional District have the opportunity to participate in program for many years to come.



ECYP will celebrate 25 years

ECYP is approaching a momentous milestone, 25 years. As we turn 25, ECYP staff and board have reflected on how our many years have allowed us to grow stronger and build leadership programming that truly serves students in Maryland's 7th District. As Ryen, an ECYP current senior states, "ECYP has made me a more open person. In Israel, I was exposed to a different culture. I learned new things, including Hebrew words and Jewish traditions like Shabbat. In Baltimore, I have been exposed to a new environment and explored issues facing the Black and Jewish communities." Ryen and her peers have been part of our continued commitment to serve our students. ECYP has fully returned to in-person programming and is now in season three of our teen-led social justice podcast, that started during the pandemic. And after a two-year hiatus, ECYP sent 24 students (two classes of fellows) to Israel. As we enter 2023, I am thrilled to celebrate ECYP's 25th year. ECYP wouldn't be celebrating this milestone without the leadership of Congressman Cummings and his commitment to building positive relationships with diverse communities. We are honored to continue his legacy. I hope that you will join us later this spring, in celebrating Congressman Cummings' vision and ensuring that ECYP continues to shape future leaders in Maryland's 7th District.



KATHLEEN ST. VILLIER HILL
Executive Director



ALUMNI OUTCOMES:

- 92% of our eligible college alumni are currently enrolled in college
- 95% of our ECYP alumni have graduated from college

Erika Love, Class of 2020

Going into my second semester of my junior year at Syracuse University, I have been blessed with many opportunities both on and off campus. I was chosen to anchor our on-campus political news program and have had the opportunity to cover President's Biden's recent trip to Syracuse. I've served as President and currently as Secretary for my chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and this past summer, I was honored to work for the TODAY show as an intern. Working at the DC Bureau of the Today show allowed me to cover some of the biggest issues impacting our nation. I was able to produce stories including the Jan 6. hearings, the aftermath of Uvalde and the impacts of inflation on business owners. Since graduating ECYP I have been able to build and strengthen relationships with many groups and people, and I am proud of how much the program has influenced who I am today.

The ECYP Class of 2022 is attending:

- Elon University
- Morehouse College
- Morgan State University
- Northeastern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- The University of Tel Aviv
- Yale University



100% OF THE CLASS 2022 GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL!

Randi Pupkin, ECYP Board Chair

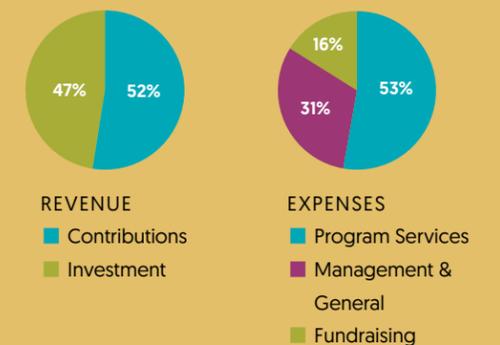
In 2015, when Congressman Cummings was meeting with a group of young athletes, many of whom were low-income immigrants, he said, "Whatever it is that you believe is stopping you from being all you can be, you need to change that right now....You must have confidence in your competence."

Seven years later, the effort to encourage youth to be all they can be continues through the work of the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel. This past year, 26 students gathered for impactful meetings, experiential learning, and an inspiring trip to Israel. The young leaders prepared to launch their third season of the ECYP Social Justice Teen Podcast and attended the Congressional Black Caucus in-person for the first time since COVID.

I am proud to help carry on the Congressman's efforts through my work with the students, alumni, ECYP's wonderful Executive Director, Kathleen St. Villier Hill, the Congressman's daughter, Jennifer Cummings, and ECYP's dedicated Board of Directors. On behalf of Kathleen and the entire ECYP Board, we wish everyone a healthy, happy, and successful 2023.



2022 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



"YOU MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR COMPETENCE."

— Congressman Cummings



Please consider making a donation today and help us continue to shape Baltimore's future leaders!

- A \$50 gift provides supplies for our leadership program
- A \$100 gift helps ECYP subsidize transportation cost for students who need help getting to and from program around the 7th District
- A \$500 gift supports our February teambuilding program at Pearlstone
- A \$1,000 gift provides one round trip airline ticket to Israel for one ECYP fellow.

Donations can be made online at www.ecyp.org/donate or mailed to:

Kathleen St.Villier Hill
ECYP Executive Director
5750 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

**All candid photos of the fellows are from the 2022 Israel trip unless otherwise noted.*



Congressman Kweisi Mfume with ECYP fellow



Victor Blackwell, ECYP Alum & CNN Anchor with ECYP fellows

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Kathleen St.Villier Hill
Executive Director

Samuel Lubell
Program Coordinator

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THANK YOU TO ECYP'S MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS:

- Comcast Community Foundation
- Johns Hopkins East Community Foundation
- The Klein Foundation
- The Hirschorn Foundation



Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel

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A partnership between the Baltimore Jewish Council and Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

