



# Celebrating 25 Years with Hope for the Future

**JENNIFER CUMMINGS, ECYP EVENT CHAIR**

As 2023 ends, we reflect with gratitude and hope for a peaceful and prosperous year ahead.

We close out the year grateful for our ECYP fellows, alumni, their loved ones and all the supporters who made the program's 25th year possible. We are also thankful for our extended ECYP family, including Governor Wes Moore, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Mayor Brandon Scott, Comptroller Brooke Liernan, WYPR, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, all our sponsors and other donors who helped us mark ECYP's 25th anniversary during a special event.



While our celebration at the Baltimore Museum of Industry was inspiring, it was also solemn, taking place against the backdrop of war, just 18 days after the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel. Collectively, as a community, our hearts ache for the innocent lives lost and the devastation caused by the conflict. We also understand that in the face of horrific violence and hate, we must have hope.

As we prepare for 2024, we hold out hope for lasting peace in the Middle East. Part of what gives us this hope is our ECYP fellows.

When my Dad worked with the Baltimore Jewish Council and other organizations to create ECYP, he did so with a vision that teens from Baltimore would have an opportunity to have their young minds and worlds expand through this program. Through curriculum, dialogue, community service and travel, ECYP imparts the values critical for peaceful coexistence, whether it's here in Baltimore, in Israel, or anywhere in the world. That was my father's vision 25 years ago, and it's as important today as it was then.

Our fellows are indeed "our living messages we send to a future we will never see," and we pray that future is a peaceful and prosperous one. With your sustained support, we will ensure ECYP continues to build bridges between cultures and cultivate youth leadership for generations to come.

## Kathleen St.Villier Hill, ECYP Executive Director

On October 25, 2023, ECYP celebrated 25 years surrounded by so many friends, alumni and current participants of the program, and our special guest, Governor Wes Moore. It was an exciting night and one that I was honored to be a part of. For 25 years, ECYP has become a space for young people to tap into their identity, learn about leadership, build community, and travel to Israel. Our mission is to invest in promising teens from Maryland's 7th Congressional District and prepare them to serve as open-minded leaders with the skills, community ties, and global exposure critical to success in a diverse society. Today, more than ever, ECYP is needed. Congressman Cummings' legacy imparts the values critical for peaceful coexistence, whether it's here in Baltimore, in Israel, or anywhere in the world. We are working with youth leaders, ready to be in conversation and relationship across difference and divides.



## Brooke Foyle, ECYP Alumni '20

The Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel created a pivot in my life to indulge in different cultures and see the world in a larger view. Since being in the program, I have learned more about myself, global issues, and how I want to leave my legacy. Every day I thank the program for not only the friends I made but the lifelong family and community that it afforded me with. The program has namely assisted me with public speaking and encouraged me to always believe I deserve a seat at the table. Finishing my final year at Morgan State University, I have met so many other former ECYP fellows and people who support the mission of educating the youth and branching into the future. Now as an alum, I encourage students who are eligible to apply and take a leap of faith on themselves as this program did for me.



### The ECYP Class of 2023 is attending:

- Bowie University
- Coppin State University
- George Washington University
- Franklin and Marshall College
- Harvey Mudd College
- Morgan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Toronto
- Temple University
- Yale University



### ALUMNI OUTCOMES:

**92%** of our eligible college alumni are currently enrolled in college

**95%** of our ECYP alumni have graduated from college

**Congratulations to our Class of 2023! 100% of the Class of 2023 graduated from high school!**





## Congressman Kweisi Mfume, ECYP's Honorary Chair

Maryland's 7th Congressional District has a crucial relationship with ECYP, as this program prepares our young people to serve as open-minded leaders with the skills, community ties, and global exposure necessary for success in a diverse society. With the unfortunate news of Elijah Cummings' passing some four years ago, I, like so many others, felt a chunk of me had left also.

I felt a number of obligations, but the one thing that I wanted to make sure of was that Elijah would be remembered and his work would not be taken for granted. The longstanding relationship between Elijah and the Baltimore Jewish Community lives on through this program — a program that has prepared over 300 graduates to become ambassadors of cross-cultural relations.

I was honored to partake in the celebration of ECYP's 25th anniversary, and I am confident your work will continue for the next 25 years, as you remain inspired and driven by Elijah's famous words: **"Our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see."**

**"You must  
have  
confidence  
in your  
competence."**

— Congressman Cummings





## Class of 2023 and 2024 with Anthony Brown, Maryland Attorney General



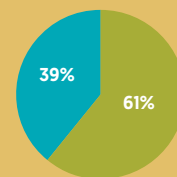
### Randi Pupkin, ECYP Board Chair

I was blessed to have known Congressman Cummings — his powerful voice, his incredible story telling, and his passion for all things good and right. He was approachable, fair and committed to his constituents, staff, the ECYP students and alumni. It is no wonder that through his foundational leadership the organization reached a notable 25th Anniversary this year. Congressman Cummings' commitment to building and promoting unity and understanding among Black and Jewish students is more important now than ever. And if he were here today, I know the Congressman would be proud of the work that continues in his name and honor: building bridges through education, experiential learning (an annual trip to Israel), and a robust social justice curriculum. We remain grateful to Congressman Cummings for his unwavering commitment to bridging the Black and Jewish communities and for being a champion of unity and understanding. We continue to carry on this legacy and work each day toward a more united and inclusive city, state, country and world.

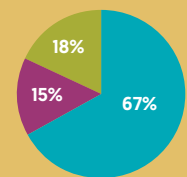
**Thank you, Congressman, for being our inspiration and motivation.**



#### 2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



REVENUE  
■ Contributions  
■ Investment



EXPENSES  
■ Program Services  
■ General & Administrative  
■ Fundraising







**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 overnight teambuilding program
- 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](http://www.ecyp.org/donate) or mailed to:**

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

#### STAFF

Kathleen St.Villier Hill  
*Executive Director*

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#### THANK YOU TO ECYP'S MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS:

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**Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel**  
5750 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215-3930

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



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# ECYP 25th Anniversary Celebration



Thank you to all of  
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