



2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

YOU made a difference in the lives of many

Expansion of Quality After School Programs in High Poverty Schools

The **Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary programs** will serve 720 students and their families this year, thanks to AIM's hard work! AIM won the initial funding and expansion of the program that includes an hour of academic instruction from teachers, an hour of recreational enrichment activities (dance, cooking, martial arts, drama, STEM, etc.) and a hot meal, five days a week. AIM trains parents in community leadership to help address local

issues that interfere with education including community safety, school construction and sub-standard housing issues including mold, rats and vermin. The program was independently evaluated and shown to improve academic outcomes and attendance for participants. The two new schools for this year are New Hampshire Estates and Gaithersburg Elementary schools.



1200+ AIM leaders attend the GOTV and Candidate Assembly



Frustrated that the central issues facing our communities were not front and center in the 2018 election, *AIM led the largest candidates' night this year* on May 30th at the People's Community Baptist Church, 1200 AIM leaders and members gathered with spirit, power, and love to ask each candidate to commit to working with us in concrete and specific ways to address affordable housing,

equity in education, and immigration. The issues came out of AIM's listening campaign with over 3000 residents. We received strong commitments from the candidates to double the production and preservation of affordable housing, hire 20 new lawyers to keep immigrant families together, and expand after school programs and renovate neglected schools.

Over \$660 Million for Affordable Housing!

"I know many of the 30,000 people who are still on the waiting list for affordable housing. We need to start seriously addressing the affordable housing crisis!" said

Meghan Jones, a young adult with developmental disabilities who rallied the crowd on **May 30** of this year. Affordable housing continues to be the number one issue

facing Montgomery County residents. AIM successfully pushed for \$64 Million for affordable housing this year alone, the largest amount to date. This brings AIM's total over the past 16 years to **\$660 Million**.

Support for Survivors of the Deadly Flower Branch Explosion and Fire

No one can forget the deadly gas explosion that killed seven, including two small children, in August 2016. The tragedy devastated families who have yet to regain any semblance of a normal life due to physical injuries and PTSD. The survivors, all of whom are immigrants, were struggling day-to-day and felt alone and unheard. AIM and St. Camillus Catholic



Church organized survivors to win commitments for their top demands: mental health care, affordable housing, and inclusion in the county's evaluation of the response to the fire. In front of over 240 people and numerous TV and print cameras, County Councilmembers responded to the three demands, and agreed to come back in three months to share the progress that had been made.

AIM successfully pushed and was able to secure \$64 Million for affordable housing in 2018 alone!

Holding Smith and Wesson Accountable to Addressing Gun Violence

Smith and Wesson shareholders are now requiring the company to report on the impacts of its guns and how they are working to make them safer. The vote happened despite CEO James Debney's

aggressive campaign to stop the measure and his "extreme disappointment" in the outcome. AIM played a key role in this victory by securing the support of Montgomery County

Police Chief Manger and the Major Cities' Chiefs Association, of which he is President. Chief Manger penned an op-ed in the *Houston Chronicle*. AIM has been a key

player in the **Do Not Stand Idly By** campaign that has engaged some of the largest investors in the gun industry including BlackRock, Vanguard, and Northern Trust.

Justice Served to Historic African-American Communities

"This never would have happened without AIM!" exclaimed County Executive Ike Leggett

There was much celebration at the ribbon cutting for the Good Hope Community Center, the last of four centers AIM campaigned to rebuild. In 2005, AIM leaders identified four centers being severely neglected in Historic African-American communities while new centers were built in other neighborhoods.

After dozens of actions, including one with over 1000 people, the County allocated \$27.9 Million for the projects. At the ribbon cutting in the Scotland community, Ms. Bette Thompson declared, "This is the first time the Scotland community has gotten the respect that it deserves."



Women of AIM and Good Hope/ Scotland Community