

THE 2021

LAZARUS LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM

“Our students ought to be taught fundamental lessons that say democracy is precious, democracy is perishable, democracy requires active attention, and democracy requires hard work.”

— Roger Wilkins,
Professor of History and American Culture,
George Mason University

COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Learning About Leadership

We were able to hold three in person sessions to start the 2020 Lazarus program before the virus required us to finish with virtual programming. Our introductory meeting at A Wider Circle included volunteering and meeting with the founder. We visited the executive director of the National Center for Children and Families and met with three former Fellows to discuss how best to organize summer projects. In March of 2020, we moved to virtual meetings via Zoom. The Fellows held sessions with leaders from *Bethesda Magazine*, Button Farm Living History Center, Music Center at Strathmore, Bethesda Urban Partnership, KID Museum, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad.

In the summer, while the Fellows worked on their projects, we had a Zoom session with community activist and blogger Dan Reed. In September, Fellows helped lead sessions at the virtual Interfaith Unity Walk followed by a reflections session where Fellows shared what they learned from their summer projects.

In 2021, we will follow guidance from health and school officials to determine if we will be able to hold in person sessions or continue with our highly successful sessions via Zoom. Sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons or evenings on February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, and 21, April 11 and 25, and May 16.

The program continues throughout the summer, with Fellows meeting once or twice to share experiences about their projects and help each other with problem solving. Fellows are expected to participate in all of the meetings.

Serving the Community

Each Fellow designs a community service leadership project that requires a commitment of 200 hours during the summer. The purpose of the

project is to effect change—to make something happen that might not happen without the initiative of the Fellow. The Program Founder works with the Fellows to select and design service projects, which may be team projects of more than one Fellow.

Reflecting on and Celebrating the Experience

On the afternoon of Sunday September 12, the Fellows will help staff an Interfaith Unity Walk along Massachusetts Avenue and then meet to share and reflect on their experiences. A graduation ceremony follows on Monday evening October 4 at the Strathmore Hall Mansion.

Personal & Project Expenses

In mid-June, as they begin their service projects, each Fellow receives \$250 for meals, transportation, and expenses for the summer.

Stipend or Community Service Credit

Upon completion of the program in September 2021, Fellows elect to receive a stipend of \$750 or credit for 200 student service learning hours. To receive the stipend or the service hours credit, a Fellow must participate in the seminars and summer meetings, complete a journal reflecting on the entire Fellowship, and submit a report on his or her project that includes an evaluation from the Fellow’s supervisor.

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Named in honor of Julius and Dorothy Lazarus in recognition of their years of service to the children of the Bethesda area and the generous financial support provided by their foundation, the Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program helps prepare 15 high school juniors and sophomores for their citizen leadership responsibilities each year. Since 1997, the Lazarus Fellows have completed more than 68,000 hours of service to our community.

All previous groups of Lazarus Fellows tell us it was a life-changing experience. An applicant a few years ago recalled an end-of-summer conversation with a Lazarus Fellow:

“I was amazed at the scope and detail that went into his endeavor, but the real shock came when I asked, ‘Who is running this program?’ and he replied ‘Oh, me.’ He described the way he was able to literally create this program from the ground up. He was immensely happy with the idea that he could challenge himself the way he did and for the results to be self-evident.”

STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM

The Fellows Program is open to all 10th and 11th grade students living in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community. Each year, at least 12 of the 15 Fellows are students at B-CC High School. Past Lazarus programs have also included students from area public and private schools. The program seeks a diverse range of students.

Fellows are selected on the basis of demonstrated academic ability and service to the community. The most important part of the selection process is an essay describing an issue about which the applicant feels passionately enough to devote 200 hours of community service during the summer. The selection committee is made up of business and civic leaders, a parent, a teacher, a former Lazarus Fellow, and a representative of Leaders Institute.



“I learned that communication and teamwork are crucial to successful leadership. Over the summer these were things that I used every day with my group members and were important to running our camp successfully. I feel that I have already developed these traits over the summer, and I know they will be very useful to me in the future.” — Lazarus Fellow



PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Bruce Adams, Program Founder

Bruce received the 2011 Distinguished Service to Public Education Award from the Montgomery County Board of Education in recognition of his 25 years teaching leadership seminars to County high school students. A former president and two-term member of the Montgomery County Council, Bruce served as the director of County Executive Ike Leggett's Office of Community Partnerships from 2007 to 2018.

Bruce was named a "Washingtonian of the Year" by *Washingtonian* magazine in 1998. He received the Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in 1993 and the William Prescott Allen Award from the B-CC Chamber of Commerce in 2005. Bruce started Montgomery County's Community Service Day in 1987, founded Bethesda Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field in 1999, and started the World of Montgomery Festival in 2008. He received the Peacemaker of the Year award from the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County in 2017.

The Lazarus Leadership Fellows Program was honored by the B-CC High School Educational Foundation in 2010 and has been endorsed by:

- Shelton Mooney, B-CC High School Principal
- B-CC High School PTSA
- The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce
- B-CC Diversity Parents Council

THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR THE 2020 LAZARUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

Founding Sponsor

The Julius and Dorothy Lazarus Foundation
Michael Gelman and Joseph Baldinger, Trustees

Fellowship Sponsors

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Educational Foundation
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Lerch, Early, and Brewer, Chtd.
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Bethesda Custom Framing • Bethesda Urban Partnership
Bradley Food & Beverage • Honest Tea
National Center for Children and Families
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Youth for Equity (Sammer Hajhamad and Neha Kohli) expresses special thanks to Dan Reed, Mary Abdo, Rebecca Sutton, Tasneem Alim, and Jessica Prophet for their support.

THE PROJECTS OF 2020 REFLECTED THE BREADTH OF INTEREST, CREATIVITY, AND COMPASSION OF THE FELLOWS.

- ★ **Be Ready:** helping rising freshmen learn what it takes to succeed in high school.
- ★ **Youth for Equity:** ensuring ALL students receive the same quality of education regardless of differences.
- ★ **Nurturing Kids in Science:** providing students with fun and free STEM lessons from the safety of their homes.
- ★ **Zoom as a Linkage Institution:** organizing town hall meetings to encourage youth engagement with policy making.
- ★ **Project Quarantines:** penpalling to improve mental health and literacy skills for children in isolation.
- ★ **Confident Kids Communicate:** helping kids of all abilities build confidence, manage emotions, and increase self advocacy.
- ★ **Juvenile Invisible Disabilities:** empowering youth with invisible disabilities through education and skill building.

"If something needs fixing, then lace up your shoes and do some organizing."

— Barack Obama

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Sunday January 3, 2021

Applicants will be notified by February 2, 2021 whether they are accepted in the program or not.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Tomorrow's Leaders Changing the World Today

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