REVEREND MELVIN TUGGLE ENDOwMENT

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East Baltimore Community Programs

Sponsored by the Department of Health Behavior and Society

The Department of Health, Behavior and Society collaborates with communities locally and globally to develop behavior change programs and interventions that address today’s top public health issues.

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Reverend Melvin Tuggle Endowment

BACKGROUND

Reverend Melvin B. Tuggle is Pastor of the Garden of Prayer Church in East Baltimore and Chair of Heart, Body, and Soul, Inc., a formalized non-profit corporation representing a collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Schools of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing and Clergy United for Renewal in East Baltimore (CURE). He has given selflessly of his time, resources, and spirit to the genesis of a successful grassroots public health and disease prevention program in East Baltimore. Rev. Tuggle’s efforts involve churches and the entire community, city, state, and federal government.

His work was seminal in obtaining major external funding for faculty and students of Johns Hopkins University, providing support for community disease prevention and treatment programs. Through this, he represents East Baltimore authentically and compassionately. Born at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1949, Rev. Tuggle was raised in its shadow, transitioning as a youth with few opportunities to an accomplished leader in public health throughout the United States. His book on how to partner with churches to improve the public’s health, *It is Well With My Soul*, offers a template for true community engagement. Published by the American Public Health Association, it serves as a text in many community-based academic courses throughout the country.

Though now gravely ill with severe diabetes, he has persevered. Hopkins faculty members have been inspired to create a fund to recognize students and post-doctoral trainees on the Johns Hopkins East Baltimore campus for exemplary commitment to research, education, and/or practice in partnership with the East Baltimore community. The Tuggle Endowment was initiated by The Department of Health, Behavior and Society in the Bloomberg School of Public Health in concert with the department’s mission.

We now strive to endow this fund at the level of $100,000 to assure that its legacy and spirit endure. To date, more than $50,000 have been raised, and the first two awards to students/fellows were presented in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

We recognize that community-engaged public health requires integration of programs, dialogue, and recognition to build strong collaborations in East Baltimore where preventable health problems demand attention.

The importance of this honor cannot be overstated. Few awards recognize the amazing influence of community where collegial work enriches our institution, just as it inspires the community.

With the growth of the fund, we hope to encourage the genesis of a comprehensive approach congruent with Rev. Tuggle’s approach including to:

- continue the annual Tuggle Award in perpetuity
- sponsor a forum for an exchange of novel ideas co-lead with the community
- plan a model community diabetes self-care program

We hope you will participate in and support this East Baltimore grassroots oriented effort to foster the most potent and effective strategies to achieve improved health for all, a more just society, and opportunity for growth, working under the guidance of our own community leaders and partners.
Mr. Stefan Prendergrast was recognized for his work addressing local health disparities at Baltimore’s Charm City Clinic with East Baltimore residents. He was Co-director of fundraising and a hands-on case manager, often working into the night to help local people access health care. Stefan served as a mentor and team leader at Thread, an organization that engages underperforming high school students with tutoring, sports programs, and meeting daily needs. His work was accomplished in concert with neighborhood mentors. His parents came from Australia to celebrate the award with the Tuggle family.

Ms. Amonike Akinleye was in large part responsible for the Johns Hopkins Dunbar Partnership Enrichment Program in nursing, serving high school students. The curriculum provides School of Nursing workshops in Pathways in Nursing, Professional and Academic Development, Clinical Skills, and CPR certification for students preparing for health care careers. Through the commitment of volunteers, the students are CPR Certified, and in good standing for college or professional school. The program is now sustained and funded in the School of Nursing.

Dr. Holliday’s work in East Baltimore focuses on reducing intimate partner violence and developing prevention strategies that address key social determinants of health. She has served as a mentor for Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens (MERIT) to improve racial/ethnic disparities by increasing under-represented minorities in the health professions, and has partnered extensively with the House of Ruth Maryland—a comprehensive domestic violence agency. She works closely with mentors from the community. Her work is sustainable through her continuing role as assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
As co-founder of the initiative "Medicine for the Greater Good", one of Dr. Galiatsatos' first projects was the creation of the Lay Health Educator Program. Partnering with faith-based organizations, parish members took part in a 12-week program and became lay educators for the community. These individuals provided health resources and also served as liaisons with the hospital. A great deal of his work addressed medical education and competence of physicians to work on community health issues. He continues his work in East Baltimore to assure sustainability of strong community partnerships.