

*“When you can’t put your Prayers into words, God hears your heart!”*



June 11, 2025

Dear Wonderful Friends and Advocates:

Here we are at the end of another informative and productive year. A lot has happened in 2025! We never thought we would live to see such a stinging blow to our democracy. The good news is...we are still here, and God is in charge! Many wonderful things are happening because of you and this coalition which have operated with love, focus and determination for over 31 years. Our children and those who can't speak for themselves are "raising the bar" for us!

Our last breakfast meeting until September will convene on **Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** at St. Margaret's Catholic Church, 410 Addison Road, South, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743. You may be aware that our county has the highest incidence of sickle cell anemia in Maryland. Therefore, we have invited Dr. Ivan Zama from the Cancer Center to do a presentation regarding this urgency. Representatives from Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission will address programs and activities for children, adults, and teens. Also, we are asking the state's attorney's office and law enforcement for suggestions and programs to help us with Juvenile Justice for our children. We cannot afford to allow our children to fall through the cracks!

**Special Announcements:**

- To our delight, The Maryland Umbrella Group has received a grant for the Maryland Department of Aging to establish a computer center and two computer labs to deliver AARP's Older Adults Technology Services - trainings and workshops in Prince George's County. The last day for the interns in the Maryland Corps Apprentice Program will be June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. We would like for them to give us an update regarding their experiences.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June was declared "**Father's Day.**" The **DATA** is clear! When a father takes an interest in the life and well being of his child, the child is prone to be extremely successful in life!

Thank you so much for all you do in helping to be a powerful force for this coalition. We will have our anniversary celebration after September and keep you informed as things progress during the summer. We have done much with little and we will continue to press forward with our hands and heart on the prize. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at (410) 841-3148. Visit us on our website at: [www.joannecbenson.com/202Coalition.aspx](http://www.joannecbenson.com/202Coalition.aspx).

With lots of Peace, Love, and Hugs,

*Joanne C. Benson*

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