2026 ANNUAL REPORT





BELLA ACADEMY





BELLA Academy, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) organization serving harford Harford County, Maryland. Our mission is to nurture curious, compassionate, and connected learners by providing high-quality bilingual childhood education.

A copy of our current financial statement is available by writing, “Attention: Treasurer, BELLA Academy, Inc., 440 Doris Cir, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001”; or by calling 443-360-5393.

Alternatively, for the cost of postage and copies, it can be ordered from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401; 410-974-5534.”

COMMUNITY BIRTHDAY BASH











BELLA ACADEMY





FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS

Thanks to all who sponsored and attended our birthday bash! We celebrated our first year as a nonprofit by celebrating with and giving gifts to 32 children with birthdays in November!

BELLA ACADEMY

Bilingual
Early
Language
Learning &
Acquisition

Nurturing curious, compassionate, and connected learners in Harford County through high-quality, bilingual childhood education.

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Harford County; and the mention of trade names, commercial products,or organizations does not imply endorsement by said businesses.

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Querida familia BELLA,

When I was five years old in kindergarten, I was introduced to the idea of another language through my school's weekly Spanish specials class. I was immediately drawn to the prospect of learning to communicate in a different way so that I could do so with more people; I even have a note on my kindergarten report card that says, "Jessica loves learning Spanish!" Ever since, I have looked for any and every opportunity to connect with others via commonalities, be them language, passion, food, or friends. Immersing myself in different cultures intrigues and fascinates me because seeing the similarities and differences between them really shows me both the uniqueness and commonalities of being human.

BELLA stands for everything I have always been passionate about: fostering curiosity about and compassion for the world and other people, building bridges and connections throughout the community and world, and using languages and cultural education as the vehicle to make all of that happen.

When I moved to Harford County in 2022, I was disappointed by the lack of language immersion early childhood education businesses around, as I was raising my then-toddler (and now five year old) bilingual, speaking almost exclusively in Spanish to her while the rest of her world communicated with her in English. When I started considering employment opportunities to pursue after the birth of my second daughter, I decided to fill that gap by opening a Spanish dual immersion home daycare. As time went on, the interest in Spanish immersion daycare grew and the idea of BELLA was conceived. Throughout conversations with several community organizations, it was deduced that the best way to meet the needs of the community was to focus on nontraditional care hours, as that is a tremendous barrier to work in Harford County, affecting economic growth and overall social wellbeing.

I am completely blown away at how far BELLA has come since its initial inception in early 2025. What started as transitioning my Spanish dual immersion home daycare to a center has become the bilingual educational movement in Harford County, and I couldn't be more excited about the prospect of all that is to come, especially when we attain a building to open a childcare center. On November 17, we celebrated one year of being a 501(c)(3) and all that we have accomplished thus far. With the work of a committed and very hardworking board of directors, BELLA has connected with hundreds of organizations, businesses, and educators; developed programming partnerships with more than ten local businesses; executed a one-of-a-kind kindness campaign; collaborated with local businesses to host eight fundraisers; and brought early bilingual educational programming to more than 50 students through a summer camp, programs at The Playroom, programs with the YMCA, and more! We are excited to expand and diversify our Spanish and bilingual enrichment programs in 2027 with established local businesses while also expanding our fundraising efforts with new initiatives, expanded community engagement, and the debut of our signature annual fundraising event.

To the community members who have supported us from the beginning: muchísimas gracias! In a county with a lack of bilingual educational opportunities, your support in the forms of not only money, but in event and fundraiser attendance, social media shares, and encouragement motivates us to continue to take steps towards making Harford County filled with bilingual educational opportunities.

As 2026 comes to an end, we invite you to support BELLA Academy, Inc. in a way that is meaningful to you, whether that is through service, in-kind donations, or financial contributions at different sponsorship/donor levels. We are so agradecidos for your continued support as we begin 2027!

Humildemente,

Jess McLeod

A BIG ¡GRACIAS!

FROM OUR FOUNDER

Without my hardworking board of directors, we would not only not be here, but BELLA wouldn't exist. Life has a way of life-ing and getting you down in the dumps, but my board has always been there to hold everything together; when one of us is in a rut, the others are always there to brainstorm new ideas and keep the momentum going. I want to give a huge thank you to our president, Alex, for being a figurative machine as far as her ideas, research, and visions go. I'm forever grateful for having met you at my Spanish class at We Rock the Spectrum. And to Nyssa, board secretary, an enormous gracias for believing in BELLA (and in me); I knew when we met at Colorado State University in my graduate program that I wanted you on my team, even if I didn't know what team that would wind up being. To Adam, our website guru, you surpassed all of my expectations for our website and everything IT! I love how our friendship serves as an example of everything BELLA stands for, as we met while traveling the world and making connections in different cultures. To Jennifer, our development chair, as I've gotten to know you throughout the years as strangers messaging on Facebook, I knew that you would be the perfect puzzle piece needed to make BELLA known in the community. To Julia, I've wanted you on the team since we initially talked about the idea of BELLA because your experience, connections, and overall bubbly and positive personality are just the traits needed to make us successful. To Lauren, thank you for being so willing to jump aboard this crazy train and contribute all of your cultural and educational experience. And to all of the other board members, thank you so much for your commitment to and passion for nurturing curious, compassionate, and connected learners through bilingual education; without your help, so many meetings, partnerships, and programs wouldn't have been possible.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Alexandria “Alex” Cummings
President

Julia Capallo
Vice President

Nyssa Knarvik
Secretary

Will Young
Treasurer

Jennifer Dark
Director of Development

Jessica “Jess” McLeod
Executive Director
Ex-officio

Lauren “Lala” Arroyo
Director of Education
Ex-officio

ADVISORY BOARD

Megan Chenworth
Isabel Enriquez
Nicollette Krenzien
Madicella Martinez
John Michael
Lea Picard
Nolanda Robert
Rosalind Rodriguez
Laura Szewczyk
Lindsey Valentine

INVALUABLE CONNECTIONS

BELLA ACADEMY

Jansen Azarias

Mike Bendler

Adam Cortez

Alicia Hamilton

Hilary Roberts-King

Angela Rose

Janelle Schmidt

Amber Shrodes

Paul Terzulli

Mel Vélez

OUR FIRST YEAR IMPACTS

BELLA ACADEMY

75+
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

20+
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED

10+
COMMUNITY EVENTS ORGANIZED

10+
SERVED AS VOLUNTEERS

$2,000+
DOLLARS RAISED FOR PROGRAMMING

1000+
HOURS VOLUNTEERED

GRACIAS TO OUR DONORS!

Thank you for your generosity! With your help, BELLA has offered programs for tens of families.



Community Impact Partners

HARFORD CHEERLEADING

Learning Partners

Vagabond Sandwich Co.

Community Spark

ALPHA SIDE BRANDING

apgfcu APG Federal Credit Union

ARCTIC CIRCLE EST. 1957 CHURCHVILLE, MD

BUTCHER ON THE BAY RESTAURANT

Charm City BANNERS by Sandra

Oriental Trading Nobody Delivers More Fun for Less!

The Playroom

made me mine

Raising Cane's CHICKEN FINGERS

Red Robin GOURMET BURGERS AND BREWS

REDNER'S SINCE 1970

ROUTE 24 ALE HOUSE

THE SCREAMING BEAN

S.T.E.A.M. Quest Science.Technology.Engineering.Art.Math KIDS Classes & Camps www.steamquestkids.com

TACO LOVE GRILL

TARGET

THUMBS UP YOGA

TIFFANEE & CO. SINCE 2012 BAKERY

Wegmans

We Rock The Spectrum KID'S GYM For All Kids- Forest Hill

HARFORD COUNTY'S CHILDCARE NEEDS

MD Family Network Report '26

17,170

Children ages 0-5

9,278

Licensed Childcare Spaces

When parents have dependable childcare, they can pursue their jobs. When children have access to high-quality early education, they can learn and grow. When both parents and children receive this support, the entire community becomes stronger.

BELLA Academy is dedicated to bridging this gap for families in Harford County.

54%

Capacity Covered

46%

Capacity Gap

A 24-hr childcare facility would provide more than just a place for children to stay. A place of community for bilingual early-learning and family-support that connects child development, cultural and language education, work-force participation, and economic stability

OUR FIRST YEAR IN PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Spanish Passport Summer Camp, Harford Cheer

Interactive and bilingual story time, YMCA

Mommy & Me Spanish Playgroup, The Playroom

After-school Spanish enrichment, Harford Day School

Fundraisers: We Rock the Spectrum, Red Robin, and Chipotle

Día de MuARTEs art camp, Made Me Mine

The Kindness Campaign, Screaming Bean



Coco trivia & fundraiser, Route 24 Ale House

Community birthday bash & fundraiser, Arctic Circle

BILINGUAL CAROLING & CRAFTING WITH MRS. CLAUS

AT EDGEWOOD LIBRARY









KINDNESS CAMPAIGN
AT SCREAMING BEAN

BELLA ACADEMY







THE SCREAMING BEAN





SPANISH PASSPORT SUMMER CAMP

HARFORD CHEERLEADING















SPANISH MOMMY & ME PLAYGROUP













The Playroom

INTERACTIVE, BILINGUAL STORY TIME

AT YMCA'S PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

BELLA ACADEMY









SPANISH ENRICHMENT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM









BELLA ACADEMY

Harford Day SCHOOL

DÍA DE MUARTES
ART CAMP

BELLA ACADEMY











made me mine

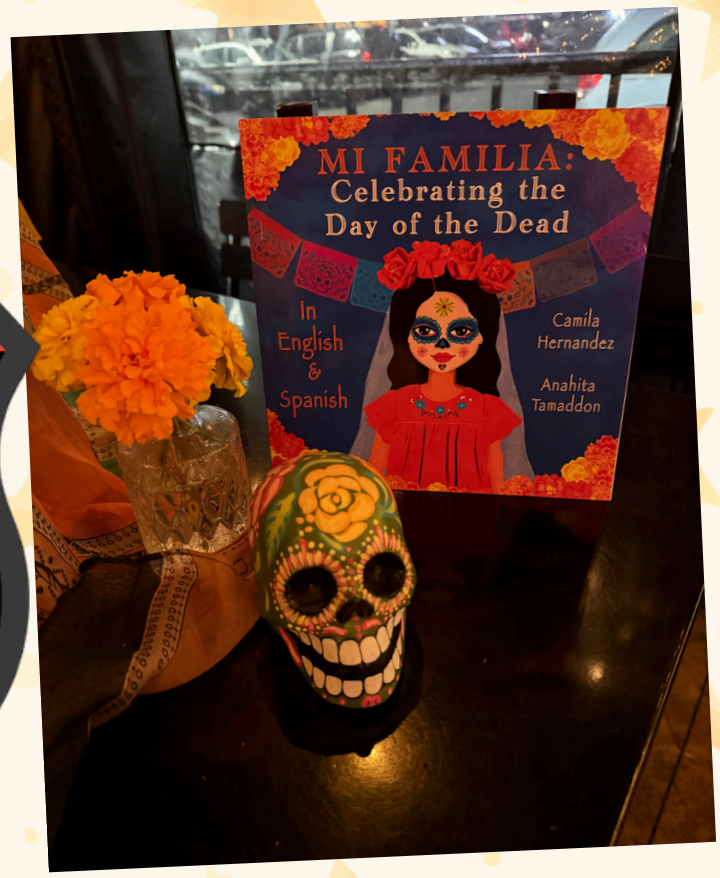


COCO TRIVIA
& FUNDRAISER

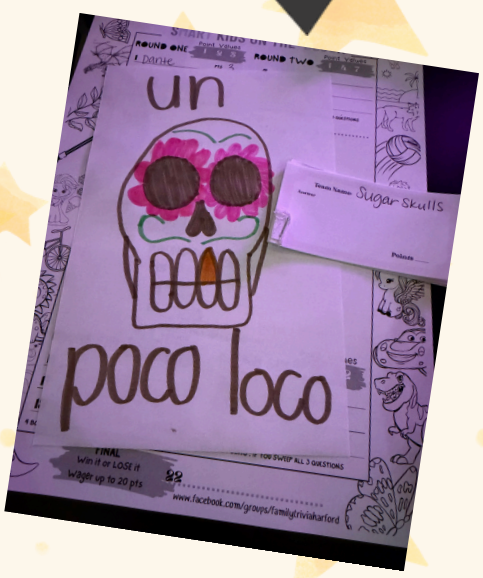




ROUTE 24 ALE HOUSE







BELLA ACADEMY



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Muchas gracias to the businesses and organizations that have helped BELLA bring bilingual education, cultural experiences, and family enrichment opportunities to our community!

ALPHA SIDE BRANDING COMPANY

apgfcu APG Federal Credit Union

ARCTIC CIRCLE EST. 1957 CHURCHVILLE, MD

41 YEARS 1985-2026 BEACON STAFFING

BUTCHER ON THE BAY RESTAURANT

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Charm City BANNERS by Sandra

CAPA

Grounded in the Clouds

HARFORD CHEERLEADING

Harford Day SCHOOL

IDENTIFY HER MENTORING

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

Macaroni KID Bel Air MD

made me mine

A Marvelous Spark CREATIVE STUDIO

Mis Amiguitos Daycare

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THUMBS UP YOGA

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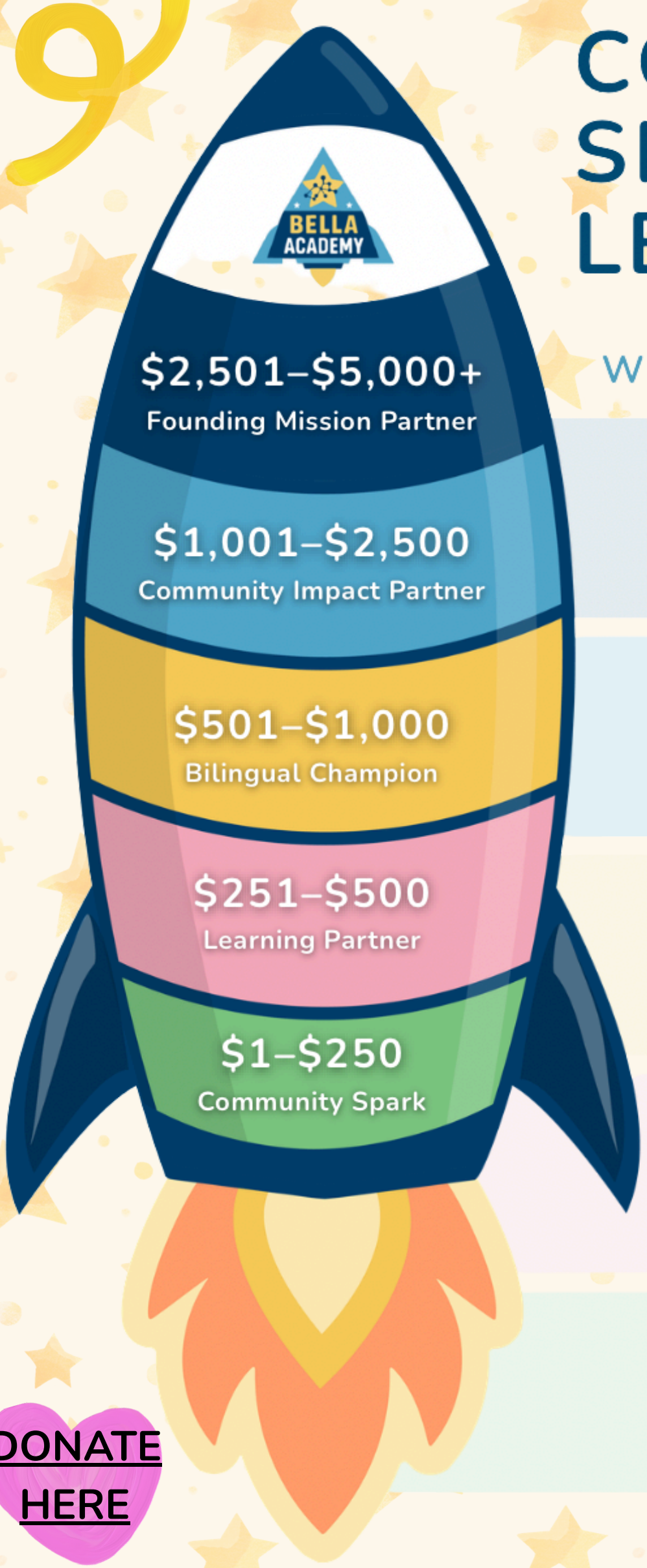
Vagabond Sandwich Co.

We Rock The Spectrum KID'S GYM For All Kids - Forest Hill

Wegmans

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP LEVELS, 2027



What Your Donation Supports

Founding Mission Partner
Multiple enrichment programs, expanded, scholarship assistance, new community, partnerships, space for childcare center

Community Impact Partner
A multi-week enrichment series, scholarship funding, free community learning opportunities,etc.

Bilingual Champion
Instructor fees, venue expenses, program materials, sponsored registrations, etc.

Learning Partner
Materials and delivery costs for a small class series, subsidized registrations, etc.

Community Spark
Art supplies, bilingual learning materials, and registration assistance

DONATE HERE

Fueling Brighter Futures Through Bilingual Learning

BELLA ACADEMY

Support the launch of bright futures!

We envision vibrant, inclusive communities where children and families thrive: rooted in empathy, enriched by bilingualism, and empowered to build bridges across cultures, communities, and the world!

Stay conectado with us!

WWW.BELLAACADEMY.ORG






Negro
Blanco
Rosado
Gris


LAUNCHING BRIGHT FUTURES!
OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD LEARNING!
BELLA ACADEMY
SER BILINGÜE




Corona

2026


Corona










Corona