



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

October 22, 2004

Ms. Bonnie Bessor
Rebuilding Together Baltimore
West 36th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Dear Ms. Bessor, Ms. Johnson & Friends:

Greetings and congratulations to Rebuilding Together Baltimore, the Southwest Senior Center, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Office on Aging on the occasion of this upgrade to C.O.I.L.'s Southwest Senior Center. I wish I could be there in person to recognize the hard work of all the partners on behalf of the senior citizens of southwest Baltimore City.

I understand that this initiative will address a number of deficiencies at the Center including making the restrooms safer and more accessible, replacing the flooring in the bathrooms and kitchen, and creating a computer classroom with workstations and storage. Thirty-five volunteers and \$15,000 will make these vitally needed upgrades possible.

C. O. I. L.'s Southwest Senior Center serves hundreds of people annually. The programs and services provided by this and many other senior centers across the state are exactly what I had in mind when I sponsored the initial Older Americans Act in the Senate of the United States. *Honor thy father and thy mother is an excellent commandment to live by and good public policy to govern by.* Funding through the Older Americans Act permits C. O. I. L. to assist seniors through Meals on Wheels, community service employment, nutrition, vulnerable elder protection and other state and community aging programs.

Rebuilding Together Baltimore reinforces the good work of C. O. I. L. and this senior center. You make it possible for Baltimore City Office of Aging and their volunteers to execute their mission to enhance the quality of life for seniors.

Thank you, everyone, for all you do every day. You are simply the BEST!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara A. Mikulski".

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator