



# IMPACT Silver Spring

**Our Vision:** A thriving, multicultural community where people of all backgrounds are engaged and have the power to bring about changes they need to live a full and quality life.

**What We Do:** IMPACT Silver Spring builds new **networks** and **capacity** across lines of difference. We **engage**, **empower**, build **leadership**, and spark collaborative **action** for change!

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## What's Happening in the Network?

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### Closing the Access Gap: The Neighbors Campaign

The Neighbors Campaign is a collaboration with diverse residents and the County Department of Health & Human Services. We're knocking on 10,000 doors in Long Branch, Wheaton, and Gaithersburg to connect struggling neighbors to emergency services. We're also bringing neighbors together to learn about other critical resources, develop strong relationships across lines of difference, and pioneer a new culture of mutual support in these neighborhoods. Follow our stories at: [neighborscampaign.wordpress.com](http://neighborscampaign.wordpress.com)

### Transforming Social Service Delivery

Door-knocking is one step to tackling the service access gap, but we're also:

- Working with HHS leaders to transform social service systems through unprecedented collaboration
- Training bilingual residents to be "Community Connectors" at new Neighborhood Service Centers, guiding neighbors through a dignified service application process
- Building leadership in each neighborhood through the "Neighbor Corps" — residents, HHS staff, Connectors, and other community partners who are transforming the relationship between residents, services, and neighborhood institutions

### Building Economic Security

Emergency services aren't the only answer. We can build long-term success among diverse families by addressing their biggest concerns — finances and jobs. IMPACT is building new support spaces for residents to learn about budgeting and saving, to build assets, and to help job-seekers exchange advice and connections.

### Empowering Parents

Parents are teachers' best partners in educating our children. IMPACT's "Parent Educators" are diverse parents who are working side-by-side with teachers in after-school classrooms. They're learning workforce skills in education while building their empowerment and long-term relationships with teachers and schools.

### Transforming School Culture

Our achievement-driven schools still aren't working for all children — so how do we build thriving multicultural schools that reduce the achievement gap? Just ask the group of parents, teachers, and principals at Piney Branch Elementary School who are coming together over the year to design a new school culture. They are leading projects that build an environment of inclusion and equity within and beyond school walls. Follow their journey: [pineybranchactionteam.blogspot.com](http://pineybranchactionteam.blogspot.com)

### Mixing it Up: The IMPACT Network

How do we sustain a shared vision for our multicultural community? By bringing all those we meet together through the IMPACT Network. As a marketplace for exchange, the Network nurtures connections among people and kindles new ideas through networking events, community action support, information sharing, and local issue exploration. Our spaces help people with vastly different life experiences to connect, share, and act for positive change.



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2010 recipient of the  
Washington Area Women's  
Foundation Leadership Award

2009 recipient of the  
National MultiCultural Institute's  
Leading Lights Diversity Award

The Neighbors Campaign was  
selected as the 2009 winner  
of the HHS Public-Private

// *We are the leaders we've been waiting for.*

~ Grace Lee Boggs

