



**Caroline Center**

*Committed to Women • Committed to Work*

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

Contact: Nancy Sherman  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
nsherman@caroline-center.org  
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410.563.1303 x25  
Web: caroline-center.org  
Blog: ccbreakroom.com

### ***Editorial***

Submitted by Pat McLaughlin, SSND, Caroline Center Executive Director

## **Economic ‘Vital Signs’ – The View from Caroline Center**

Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill, who coined the familiar phrase, “All politics is local,” may not have intended its meaning also to apply to the economy, but in many ways, the sentiment is the same. Our perception of the economic picture often does not extend beyond our own front steps or, at least, beyond the families, neighborhoods, and communities in which we live.

The new data reported in *Vital Signs 12*, a study produced by Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators-Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore and released a few weeks ago does, indeed, have a human face. Hundreds of human faces, in fact. And, they are revealed to us each and every day through the women who are enrolled in the education and career skills training program provided by Caroline Center.

No matter where Caroline Center trainees live in Baltimore, they are among the city’s struggling underemployed workers, the temporarily or long-term unemployed, and even those who, principally, out of discouragement or because of the lack of appropriate work skills have found themselves simply out of the labor market. We all have read the statistics showing that women and women who are heads of their households in Baltimore are among the city’s poorest residents – most working at least one job and many working two jobs just to meet basic food, clothing, and shelter needs. As the *Vital Signs 12* report indicates, an education below the high school level, neighborhoods in which businesses fail early or don’t even take root, and where access to affordable housing, healthy foods, and critical business and social services is poor, all contribute to creating an impoverished local economy and dim employment prospects.

Enter Caroline Center.

From the front steps of its thriving education and training center in East Baltimore, Caroline Center is emitting a thousand points of brilliant light and eclipsing dim employment prospects through its accomplished alumnae – women who are contributing to a more favorable economic forecast for the city and adding immeasurably to the quality of health care and health-related services in Baltimore by filling critically needed professional positions as certified and geriatric nursing assistants and pharmacy technicians. When the unemployment rate in Baltimore City is 10.5%, it's good to know that there is a little light peeking through – light in the form of Caroline Center alumnae whose employment prospects at graduation are 100%.

Pat McLaughlin, SSND – [pmclaughlin@caroline-center.org](mailto:pmclaughlin@caroline-center.org) – 410.563.1303