



Republic Services awarded Habitat for Humanity Choptank grant funding to support businesses and Neighborhood Revitalization in the Pine Street community.

Five small, locally owned and operated businesses were supported through this grant: Harriet Tubman Organization, Inc.; Jones Mini Mart Inc.; Alpha Genesis; Baking Junction, LLC; and Demby Transportation, Inc. Below is more information about these community businesses!

Jones Mini Mart Inc.

Sheila and D'Adrian Jones, owners of the Jones Mini Mart building have continued to expand the plans for their business. Republic Services funding was utilized to install a counter/showcase for their checkout, as well as to replace a retail refrigerator unit.



The Jones family are always looking forward and have been able to acquire another building in need of renovation where they hope to turn their energy into a carryout restaurant and local taxi business. Cambridge is a small city in a rural setting and the pandemic revealed a shortage of transportation and carryout/delivery services. The Jones family hopes to expand their business to fill this gap.

Alpha Genesis

Adrian Holmes and Jermaine Anderson recognize that the pandemic opened doors to communicate with a larger audience, anywhere in the country, to support the work they do in Cambridge. Videos of their Day of Resilience in September 2020 caught the attention of an artist in New Jersey and a writer in Alaska. Now, they are both sharing their creative energy to support Alpha Genesis in a fundraising drive to bring a Harriet Tubman sculpture to the Cambridge County Court House as a permanent installation.

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This is particularly moving as one of Harriet's most daring rescues took place at the auction block, in that very

location. Alpha Genesis will use the equipment purchased through the Republic Services grant to live stream their cultural events, including the Day of Resilience 2022. As Adrian says, “We use arts and culture to inspire conversation, embrace and celebrate diversity. The Arts let us have tough conversations in a way that everyone can relate to, working from within the community to build unity where there has been a long history of division.”

Follow along with Alpha Genesis

Demby Transportation, Inc.



Demby Transportation persevered through the pandemic, even as schools were closed and their two buses sat at rest. Sha’Quinda Demby, the business owner told Habitat Choptank staff that the same saving skills that helped her purchase her Habitat home, and start her own business, helped her weather pandemic-related closings and the unpredictable school schedules. Her perseverance and the operating capital offered through the Republic Services program is enabling her to get back to business, reinvesting in the buses, and looking forward to a full service schedule as the school year begins in August.

Baking Junction, LLC

In partnership with the Harriet Tubman Organization, Baking Junction teaches history, science and entrepreneurship skills. The pandemic slowed progress on their buildout of classroom space, but the work continues. Republic Services funded the HVAC equipment for the buildout. The plan includes an escape room concept in partnership with Harriet Tubman Organization. Part of the buildout is a room hidden behind a moving book case, a great feature for engaging kids!

Harriet Tubman Organization, Inc.



The Harriet Tubman Organization, Inc. has been the backbone for cultural knowledge and local history for over 50 years, growing through the efforts of the Pine Street Historic Neighborhood's community leaders.

In 2019 the Museum, Alpha Genesis CDC and Dorchester Center for the Arts developed a community art piece that led to the creation of the "Take My Hand" mural that has received national attention (pictured at the top of this newsletter). The mural, along with the opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Park just outside of Cambridge, has created a market for historic tourism, and a demand from across the country to better recognize the accomplishments of Harriet Tubman, and the strong connection she has with the Pine Street Historic Neighborhood. Many of the families currently living in the

community are descendants of Harriet, or the once enslaved people she led on a path to freedom.

During the pandemic, the museum was closed to the public and only recently reopened for limited hours. They found themselves in need of someone to anchor the museum and engage the community. They were able to recruit for the position through funding provided by the Republic Services grant.

Volunteer Linda Harris fit the bill; she has a passion for Harriet Tubman's life and inspirational legacy. Linda accepted a position to be a part-time museum manager, and immediately stepped up to spark a new vibrancy in the museum. Skilled with marketing and social media, Linda will be able to connect the museum with new audiences and reach a younger demographic.

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