Community Life Programs

The Community Life enrichment programs were created in 1998, and currently serve more than 300 children and their families at community centers at rental properties owned by MHP in Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Takoma Park. MHP partners with local organizations to provide services and resources to children and their parents. Our partnerships include Manna Food Center, Arcola Elementary School, AmeriCorps, Washington Conservatory of Music, and Rolling Terrace Judy Center.

Play & Learn

The purpose of Play & Learn is to prepare pre-school age children for kindergarten. We serve over 80 children 3-4 days a week for at least 1.5 hours a day from September to June. The program is set up like a classroom where children play, explore, and learn letters, words, numbers, and music. The program is available at Gilbert Highlands, 7610 Maple, Glenville Road, Amherst Square, and Great Hope Homes.

Homework Club/Enhanced Homework Club

We serve over 100 children ages 6-12 years old in our afterschool Homework Clubs. In addition to getting homework assistance, children take part in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities with access to our computer labs. Homework Clubs meet Mondays through Thursdays from September to June. This program is available at 7610 Maple, Glenville Road, Great Hope Homes, Greenwood Terrace, and Gilbert Highlands.

Great Achievers Toward Outstanding Results (GATOR)

In fall of 2013, MHP received the prestigious 21st Century Community Learning Center designation. Through a five-year, $1.1 million grant from the Maryland State Department of Education and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, MHP was able to partner with Arcola Elementary School in Wheaton to create two innovative after-school programs focused on strengthening students’ math, science, and reading skills. GATOR enrolls up to 120 students, including elementary school students at Amherst and Pembridge Square for five days a week from September to June.

Future Leaders of the World (FLOW Teen Program)

Teenagers have a critical need for strong support in their communities. Teen programs are designed to help young adults deal with the peer-pressure and social economic needs, and build leadership skills in their communities. FLOW is offered through small projects that have great impact in their neighborhoods. Programs meet Mondays through Fridays between 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. from September to June.
# Community Life Staff and Program Site List

## Estela Giron
Community Life Senior Program Manager  
egiron@mhpartners.org | Office: 301-812-4136

**7610 Maple Community Center**  
7610 Maple Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
Community Center Phone: 301-270-0235

**Programs**  
- Play & Learn (Morning): 9 am – 12 noon Tues-Thurs  
- Play & Learn (Afternoon): 1 pm – 3 pm Mon-Thurs  
- Homework Club: 3:45 am – 5:45 pm Mon-Thurs

## Nora Ortiz
Community Life Senior Program Manager  
nortiz@mhpartners.org | Office: 301-812-4137

**Gilbert Highlands Community Center**  
8508 Flower Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
Community Center Phone: 301-495-2360

**Programs**  
- Play & Learn: 9 am – 12 noon Tues-Thurs  
- Homework Club: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm Mon-Thurs

## Gloria Castro
Community Life Senior Program Manager  
gcastro@mhpartners.org | Office: 301-812-4118

**Arcola Elementary School**  
1820 Franwell Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
School Phone: 301-287-8585

**Programs**  
- GATOR: 4 pm – 6 pm Mon-Fri

## Jenny Mendez-Guerreo
Parent & Child Program Coordinator  
jmendez-guerrero@mhpartners.org | Office: 301-812-4140

**Amherst Square Community Center**  
11509 Amherst Avenue  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
Community Center Phone: 301-962-9404

**Programs**  
- Play & Learn: 10:30 am – 12:30pm Tues-Thurs  
- GATOR: 4 pm – 6 pm Mon-Fri

## Kony Brizuela
Community Life Site Coordinator  
kony@mhpartners.org | Office: 301-812-4143

**Glenville Road Community Center**  
8800 Glenville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
Community Center Phone: 301-942-6900

**Programs**  
- Play & Learn: 10 am – 12 noon Tues-Thurs  
- Homework Club: 3:45 pm – 5:45 pm Mon-Thurs