

Mark your calendars for these
BRMA upcoming events!



JANUARY 4 **YLI Meeting at East Chapel Hill High**
Room 185
During Lunch

JANUARY 12 **BluePrint Meeting**
Smith Middle School
1:00-2:00 pm

JANUARY 13 **MLK Day Youth Event**
Century Hall
1:00-3:00 pm

JANUARY 15 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
Offices will be closed

JANUARY 16 **YLI Meeting at Chapel Hill High**
Room C216
During Lunch

JANUARY 17 **YLI Meeting at Carrboro High**
Room D212
During Lunch

JANUARY 19 **BluePrint Meeting**
Culbreth Middle School
10:50-11:50 am

Global Amazon Gives Award Recipient

We want to congratulate **Fatima**, our **Program Support Specialist** leading the **DREAM** program for elementary scholars. Amazon selected Fatima as a finalist for the **Community Think Big Category** for their **Global Amazon Gives Awards**. Out of over **1,400 nominations**, Fatima's application stood out due to the incredible impact of the DREAM program. Fatima has been a part of Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate since 2018. In her current role, she is revitalizing Blue Ribbon's elementary school programming, which positively impacts scholars and creates brighter futures for them. As a Global Amazon Gives Award recipient, Fatima selected Blue Ribbon to receive a **\$5,000 donation** to support the DREAM program. **Congratulations, Fatima!!**



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JANUARY UPDATES



National Mentoring Appreciation Month

This month we celebrate ALL mentor advocates in the community for volunteering their time to transform the lives of our scholars by igniting their passions, to turn them into a reality. Mentor advocates are the heartbeat of our program. Through meaningful relationships with mentor advocates, scholars begin to develop positive interactions with supportive adults outside of their family. Support and advocacy is a unique component of BRMA's program and it provides scholars with a foundation to develop their full potential. Engage with Blue Ribbon on social media throughout this month to share the impact that mentoring on your life using the hashtags

#MentoringAmplifies
#MentoringMonth

On **January 18th**, CHHCS will recognize **National Mentoring Month** at the CHCCS Board of Education meeting at **7:00 p.m. at Lincoln Center**. We hope you will join us.



Happy New Year from the Blue Ribbon Staff to You!



- Lorie Clark, Blue Ribbon, Student Leadership & Engagement Coordinator
- Terrence Foushee, Blue Ribbon Specialist
- Karida Giddings, Blue Ribbon, Middle School Program Support Specialist
- Fatima Ramirez, Blue Ribbon, Elementary Program Support Specialist
- Abbi Williams, Blue Ribbon MSW Intern
- Sharie Walker, Blue Ribbon MSW Intern



December Recap



A new year is full of new promises. As we prepare for a new year with more opportunities to engage and enrich our scholars through program activities, we want to reflect on past experiences to build a successful future in 2024.

In December, we matched **15 scholars** with new mentors and have **77 scholars in 4-12 grade**. Mentor Advocates are integral to the success of Blue Ribbon. With more mentors, we can pair scholars with mentors who provide **advocacy, encouragement, enrichment, and support**. As our program grows, **our need for new mentors is ongoing**. If you know someone who would make a great mentor, encourage them to complete our **Interest Form Here**. New mentor training will be held **April 24 and 27** at Lincoln Center.

Families play a significant role in the success of the mentor-scholar relationship. Last month, we hosted a **New Parent Orientation** for families with newly nominated BRMA scholars. The New Parent Orientation aimed to lay a foundation for **brighter futures** and **deeper engagement**. Families left orientation with a better understanding of Blue Ribbon's goals, mission, expectations and the available resources to support their scholars' success.

At the core of the enrichment activities for our scholars is **servant leadership**. Our scholars continue to make an impact on their community through service projects. Each year, our scholars participate in a holiday craft service project that helps to spread holiday cheer to seniors in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community. Last month, **55 scholars, mentors, and parents** gathered together to create sequin ornaments and holiday cards that our team delivered to seniors in the community, shining light and love into those who cannot be with their loved ones during the holiday season.

Here's to making more memories in 2024!



January YLI Meetings

We are kicking off the New Year with Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) meetings starting on January 4. All scholars in grades 9-12 are encouraged to attend. Each year we take a group of scholars who have actively participated in YLI meetings and service-learning projects on our alternative Spring Break trip. Scholars who want to remain eligible should plan to attend upcoming YLI meetings.

- Chapel Hill- January 16 in Room C217
- East Chapel Hill- January 4 and January 18 in Room 185
- Carrboro- January 17 in Room D212

Gap Year Fair

Have you always dreamed of **exploring different parts of the world** and immersing yourself in new **cultures**? If so, consider taking a **Gap Year** after completing your graduation! A Gap Year provides the opportunity to acquire new skills and experiences while also giving you the time to reflect and focus on your future goals after high school. We invite you to join us for the **North Carolina USA Gap Year Fair**, scheduled for **Tuesday, February 6, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at Carrboro High School**. This event will be an excellent platform to learn about various Gap Year options and determine which experiences align with your interests and aspirations. To register for the event, please scan the QR code below or click **HERE**.

