**Baltimore Neighborhood
Collaborative**

WELCOME!

The Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative is excited to have you as a participant in the pilot initiative of the Community Organizer Training Institute!

The Community Organizer Training Institute is designed to provide skills training and peer-to-peer support for organizing staff of local community organizations to strengthen their community outreach, community organizing, and neighborhood planning work. The training program is being developed in two phases: with a pilot initiative that has been developed by a work group of local professionals who practice or manage organizing programs and by staff of local institutions that have community organizing tracks in their academic programs. The second phase of this program involves a feasibility study for a sustainable longer-term effort that is being conducted by a local consultant group.

The program will focus on the professional skill development of community organizers and will educate and teach a broad understanding of community development and the role of the organizer in that process. We hope your participation will benefit and enhance the work in your neighborhoods. Your participation will also help us 'test' this pilot by evaluating each session and the overall effectiveness of this program for a wider community organizing audience. Your recommendations are critical to continuing planning efforts.

Classes are expected to meet twice a month during full work hours. The schedule has been completed through December 2001 with future classes based on the schedule of the participants. There will be a total of 12 sessions scheduled through Spring 2002. Following the pilot will be a comprehensive evaluation of all participants, instructors, and work group members to prepare for what we hope will be an on-going training program.

Thank you again for your interest, support and participation in this training. Collectively, all of us will contribute to the success of this initiative.