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Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center

1101 Smithville St Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: 410-263-1860

Email: office@whbateslegacycenter.org

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WILEY H. BATES LEGACY CENTER

Membership Guide



WHO WE ARE

The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center exist to preserve and tell the stories of Mr. Wiley H. Bates, Wiley H. Bates High School, and the alumni and faculty of that great institution.

In the legacy of Bates High, we also serve as a gathering place for the community in times of celebration and grief, and for the sake of learning, action, and camaraderie.

We also carry out programming in line with the legacy of Wiley H. Bates, a legacy of concern for those most vulnerable in our society, especially students and senior citizens.

WHAT WE DO

Through our many partnerships, we encourage student growth, and provide safe spaces and people to help students thrive. The thousands of dollars we give each year in scholarships continue that help even after High School.

Our Senior Programs provide things like food, health screenings, community resources, and entertainment to those who are often left out.

We do this, because these are the sorts of things Mr. Bates fought for, and that Bates High School did for over 30 years.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Wiley H. Bates was born into slavery in North Carolina on August 1, 1859. When he died in 1935, the headline in The Evening Capital called him the "City's Wealthiest Colored Man." But it wasn't all about money to Mr. Bates. It was about serving, leading and uplifting his community. He spent 60 years in Annapolis. While the grocery store he owned downtown was small, his voice and impact were powerful. He was an Alderman, a businessman, a Trustee, a Philanthropist, and a fierce advocate for educational equality.

His generosity resulted in the building of Wiley H. Bates High School, which served as the county's only secondary school for African-Americans from 1933-1966. Despite being understaffed and underresourced, Bates High wasn't just a good "colored" school, it was one of the finest educational institutions around. To the students and faculty, it was more than just a school. Bates symbolized community -- a place where black students were not only educated, but could safely, and with dignity, flourish with their peers.

After the building was added to the National Registry of Historic Places, a plan was devised to use this space to continue the Legacy of Mr. Bates, and the Legacy Center was born. Opening its doors in 2006, it has been serving this community ever since.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members are invited to attend and vote in the General Meetings of the Center to ensure this organization continues.

All Members receive 10% discount on Rental Rates and the in-house Gift Shop

Charter Life Members receive 1 free rentals in their first year and will be recognized by name in the Legacy Center and on our website.

Institutional Charter Life Members receive 24 hours of free meeting time every year, and will be recognized by name in the Legacy Center and on our website.

Your membership make everything we do possible.

TYPES/COST OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Membership - \$50/year Alumni/Senior Membership - \$25/year Student Membership - \$25/year Institutional Membership - \$100/Year Charter Life Membership - \$500

Institutional Charter Life Membership \$500/One Time plus \$500/year