

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Veronica Blount Memorial Foundation Partners with Giant Food for Community Health Clinic in Penn North

Baltimore, MD – January 18, 2025 – The Veronica Blount Memorial Foundation (VBMF), in partnership with Giant Food, Inc., is proud to host a **Community Health Clinic** on **Saturday, January 18, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** at **Gethsemane Baptist Church**, located at 2520 Francis Street, Baltimore, MD 21217, in the heart of the Penn North neighborhood.

This initiative reflects VBMF's ongoing commitment to raising awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death worldwide. As part of its **1 For Every 1 Blood Pressure Monitor Campaign**, VBMF aims to distribute blood pressure monitors to underserved communities to help prevent heart disease and save lives.

Free Blood Pressure Monitors for Penn North Residents

Giant Food has generously donated **100 blood pressure monitors** to the Veronica Blount Memorial Foundation for this event. The first 100 eligible residents from zip code **21217** who present a **state-issued photo ID with their current address** will receive a free blood pressure monitor. Only **one monitor per household** will be distributed.

VBMF Executive Director, **Tee Blount**, stated, "Heart disease kills more women than all cancers combined, and women lead 61.3% of the households in this area. It is critical that we equip as many of these households as possible with tools like blood pressure monitors to combat this silent killer."

Vaccinations Administered Onsite by Giant Food Pharmacists

Pharmacists from Giant Food will be onsite to provide **Flu, COVID-19, RSV, Shingrix (shingles), Pneumonia, and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccines**. Vaccines will be billed to recipients' insurance, and participants should bring their insurance information. Accepted insurance includes **Medicare-B, Medicaid, Medicare-D, private, and supplemental insurance**. Vaccinations are available to all, regardless of residency.

Live Cooking Demonstration by Chef Myron Fulton

Chef **Myron Fulton** of **Catering Your Way** will provide a live cooking demonstration, showcasing how to prepare healthier versions of popular comfort foods. This engaging demonstration will inspire residents to make heart-healthy dietary choices without sacrificing flavor.

Local Leaders Highlight the Community Impact

Mrs. Breyonna Rogers, First Lady of Gethsemane Baptist Church and VBMF Volunteer Committee Chair, expressed her enthusiasm: "The church is the cornerstone of the community, and we are thrilled to host this vital initiative at Gethsemane."

A History of Friendship and Purpose

This event marks the first collaboration between VBMF and Giant Food. The partnership is rooted in a decades-long relationship between **Veronica Blount** and **Gloria Richardson**, a Giant Food Store Manager who now serves on the VBMF Board of Directors. Veronica, the foundation's namesake, passed away at 46 due to heart disease. Gloria played an instrumental role in uniting the two organizations to honor her friend's legacy and fight heart disease in underserved communities.

About the Veronica Blount Memorial Foundation

The Veronica Blount Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease through community engagement and education. The foundation's mission includes providing essential tools like blood pressure monitors to prevent heart disease and save lives.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, January 18, 2025
- **Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Location:** Gethsemane Baptist Church, 2520 Francis Street, Baltimore, MD 21217

Contact Information:

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If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Veronica Blount Memorial Foundation to aid in the foundation's efforts, please visit: www.veronicablount.org.
