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Baltimore Reads helped Jamar Hunter turn his life around. Once arrested and now earning both a paycheck and a GED, Jamar epitomizes redemption. Without a present father-figure in his youth, he didn't have strong role models to show him how to be a good man. Now he's the kind of positive role model for young men that he didn't have growing up.

Since his father was not around much, Jamar developed anger and trust problems which affected him in school. He was kicked out of school so he took to the streets.

"The streets were really addictive. It was home," he told me. The friends Jamar made on the streets became like family to him. Some of the guys became his father-figures and helped him overcome his anger issues. They'd tell him, "Don't let it stop you." He realized anger was holding him back.

The streets had a negative influence on his life, too. After some jail time, Jamar secured probation which included attending Baltimore Reads to get his GED.

When Jamar was still in jail, one of his brothers told Jamar he wanted to quit school so he could join Jamar in the street life. It really hit Jamar that without their dad around, since he was the oldest, his brothers looked to him for how to be a man.

He encouraged his brother and other young men who looked up to

Gladys Poole is at Baltimore Reads studying to get her GED.

Although she loves her job as medical records clerk, she wants to “move on.” She seeks to have new experiences in life, specifically in the position of a medical billing and coding specialist. Medical billing and coding is an important job that involves sending insur-

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17 East Mount Vernon Pl.
Open Tues. to Thurs.
9am-5pm
Fri. 9am-3pm

Transportation
Light Rail: Centre Street
stop then walk.
Charm City Circulator:
Stop #307 Washington
Monument

What is there to do in Baltimore that costs no money? Plenty—it's just a matter of knowing what's available to you! For instance, Baltimore takes part in "Free Fall." Every year the month of October is celebrated by Baltimore City with arts organizations hosting free arts activities. While October has come and gone, many venues throughout Baltimore provide services for patrons all year!

The George Peabody Library has a magnificent foyer filled with intricate railings and numerous floors of grand bookcases. The library, which cost \$400,000 to construct, opened in 1878. It is free for visitors to enjoy many different collections: archaeology, biography, history of science, geography and British and American history. The Library is a gorgeous, quiet place to sit, relax and read a wonderful book or get some studying done.

The Baltimore Reads Book Bank "In 1992, Baltimore Reads created the Book Bank where we collect, house and distribute thousands of new and gently-used children's books for free! Books of all kinds are donated to the Book Bank all year round by people like you . . . After being sorted, thousands of children's books are distributed free of charge throughout Baltimore City and County. The Book Bank augments school libraries and opens its doors to teachers, families, churches, Head Start programs, shelters, children's centers and other community establishments. To date, we have provided more than 1.3 million books to Baltimore-area teachers and disadvantaged families" ("About").

The Walters Art Museum is located in Baltimore's historic Mt. Vernon Cultural District. The collection of art includes world art from ancient Egypt to 20th-century Europe. General admission to the Walters Art Museum is free with the exception of special exhibitions. The calendar of events has ongoing events and exhibitions detailed for you to plan your next visit! The best part about the museum is that it can be reached from three different public transportation routes.

Baltimore is a city that has a lot to offer so take advantage of the resources and places that are available to you! Go out and explore the businesses and activities within the city that offer you more than you would expect—the George Peabody Library, The Baltimore Reads Book Bank and the Walters Art Museum. As the old saying goes, money doesn't buy happiness or in this case knowledge and culture.

Photo cred: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walters_Art_Museum

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600 North Charles St.
Open Wed.-Sun.
10am-5pm
Thurs. 10am-9pm

Transportation
Light Rail: Centre
Street stop then
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