

MARYLAND

FROM THE COVER

Eight win grants to help disadvantaged

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 [BY A SUN REPORTER]

Eight city residents were named Baltimore Community Fellows yesterday by the Open Society Institute, giving them grants to spend the next 18 months pursuing their ideas on improving disadvantaged communities.

The awards include \$48,750 per fellow provided by the Open Society Institute in Baltimore, a private foundation created by billionaire financier George Soros. More than 220 people applied to the program. Since 1998, 78 fellows have been selected.

This year's fellows include:

- Peter Babcox, a teacher, who will work with the Remington-Guardian Angel Partnership to organize a variety of hands-on, creative, out-of-school projects for children.
- Michelle Blue, an advocate, who will establish Follow Your Dreams Records, a low-cost professional recording studio, for young people in the Harwood community.
- Michelle DeBruin, a teacher, who will lead wilderness expeditions and help create public art and special events for students in

the Community Learning for Life Program in Hampden.

- Bernard Fayall, a welder, who will provide mentoring services and activities to Garrison Middle School pupils.

- Najib Jammal, a teacher, who will develop an urban gardening and business training project for students at Frederick Douglass High School, Baltimore Freedom Academy, Southside Academy and Graceland Park-O'Donnell Heights Elementary School.

- Bonnita Spikes, an organizer

who will work with the families of murder victims and prisoners convicted of murder to work for the abolition of the death penalty.

- Matt Warfield, a data processor, who will establish a network of free stores to promote reuse of donated and salvaged items at no charge by residents of low-income and other communities.

- Christina Youngston, a volunteer services manager, who has established Unchained Talent, a theater arts program at the former Lake Clifton High School.

