

# Appendix I:

## Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) Proposal for Goal 4B

Goal 4B was authored by MRAF. The level of detail, though important, is more extensive than most goals and actions. The concept proposal and some additional “other programming ideas” are included in this Appendix, and are here in support of Goal 4B.

Turner Station residents say they have waited long enough. A reliable, locally owned grocery store isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. Local Families deserve access to fresh, healthy food directly from within their own community. Residents have made their voices clear: they want a grocery store, co-op, or food retailer within Turner Station. This isn't just about convenience. It's about dignity, health and economic empowerment. While there are different perspectives on how to achieve this, one thing is certain: the community must take action. That's why Goal 4 has been split into two separate goals A and Goal 4B—to explore multiple paths forward.

### **A Grocery Store in the Heart of Turner Station**

For many, the ideal location for a community grocery store is the 0.48-acre lot on Main Street, historically a vibrant hub for local businesses. Generations ago, this land was a thriving commercial center where businesses flourished and families gathered. Now, thanks to the generous pledge of this land by Ms. Martha Gillis, we have an opportunity to bring that legacy back to life. Further, Turner Station residents were deeply inspired by Oasis Fresh Foods, a community-driven grocery model that successfully brought fresh food to an underserved area, that created mixed-use development opportunities, and was grounded in a community ownership model.

### **More Than a Grocery Store—A Catalyst for Change**

This is about more than just selling food. The vision is to create a community hub that provides:

- Fresh, affordable groceries to eliminate the limited food access status in Turner Station.
- A gathering space where residents can connect, collaborate and build stronger bonds.
- Health and wellness services to promote nutrition, fitness and preventative care.
- Economic empowerment by creating jobs and supporting local entrepreneurship.

### **MRAF: Leading the Charge for Change**

The Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF) is at the forefront of turning this vision into reality. As a dedicated community-based nonprofit, MRAF is working toward securing 501(c)(3) status to attract critical funding and partnerships. With the pending donation of the William Wade Avenue lot, we have a golden opportunity to build something truly transformative—but we need the support of our community, partners and stakeholders.

### **Next Steps: Turning Vision into Action**

This is not just an idea—it's a movement in motion. Immediate next steps include:

- Finalizing the land transfer from Ms. Gillis to MRAF.
- Securing funding sources—grants, partnerships and community-driven investment models.
- Designing a sustainable business model, potentially as a co-op or mixed-use development.
- Engaging residents to ensure the store reflects the needs and aspirations of Turner Station.

### **Get Involved: This Is Your Community, Your Future**

Turner Station has always been a place of resilience, pride and unity. Now, we have the chance to create a permanent solution for food security—one that is owned and driven by the very people it serves. This is more than a grocery store. This is a movement for equity and self-sufficiency.

- Join us in making this a reality. Visit [www.mrafconnect.org](http://www.mrafconnect.org) to learn how you can:
- Sign up for updates and planning meetings
- Participate in community discussions
- Volunteer your time and expertise
- Help fund the project through local investment opportunities

This is about reclaiming Turner Station’s legacy and ensuring fresh food is accessible to all. The time to act is now—our community is stronger when we build together.

Let’s make it “WeStrongerTogether” WST happen. Please see the actions detailed for Goal 4B in the Community Action Plan.

#### **Contact Information:**

Antuan Scott  
Secretary | Mrs. Renee Association Foundation (MRAF)  
[info@mrafconnect.org](mailto:info@mrafconnect.org) | (443) 345-0344  
419 Main Street, Dundalk, MD 21222

---

#### **Other Events and Programming Ideas for Goal 4B: Establishing a Sustainable Grocery Store or Cooperative in Turner Station**

In addition to funding, accreditation, and conceptual design support, community engagement and programming play a crucial role in making the Turner Station Marketplace a thriving, sustainable food hub. Below are additional event and programming ideas to support Goal 4B, build community buy-in, and ensure long-term success.

#### **Community Engagement and Educational Events**

##### **1. Community Visioning Workshops**

- Host interactive community meetings where residents can brainstorm ideas, provide input, and vote on key aspects of the grocery store.
- Gather feedback on products, store layout, pricing, and additional services.
- Incorporate mapping exercises to visualize the marketplace and how it can integrate with other community spaces.

##### **2. Town Hall Meetings and Project Updates**

- Provide regular public updates on funding progress, construction, and programming.
- Invite local officials, funders, and partners to answer questions and build trust.

### 3. Pop-Up Grocery Markets and Food Tasting Events

- Organize temporary farmers' markets or grocery pop-ups before the full store opens.
- Offer fresh food sampling from local suppliers and future store vendors.
- Engage residents in "Taste and Vote" events, where they sample products and provide feedback on which items should be stocked.

### 4. Community Design Challenge

- Host a community-wide competition where local residents, students, and artists submit store design ideas.
- Award prizes or recognition for the best concepts and integrate community-inspired elements into the final design.

### 5. Business Incubator and Vendor Training Program

- Offer small business workshops to train local entrepreneurs on selling at the marketplace.
- Create a Food Business Accelerator Program for aspiring food vendors to get startup support.
- Provide "meet the vendor" networking nights where potential suppliers and community members connect.

## **Health, Wellness and Nutrition Education Programs**

### 6. Cooking Demonstrations and Meal Planning Workshops

- Partner with local chefs, nutritionists, and health professionals to teach residents how to cook affordable, nutritious meals using grocery store products.
- Host cultural food nights where residents learn recipes from different traditions.

### 7. Health Screenings and Wellness Clinics

- Offer onsite health screenings (blood pressure, diabetes checks, BMI screenings) in partnership with local hospitals or clinics.
- Provide nutrition counseling and meal prep sessions for families and seniors.

### 8. Healthy Kids Program

- Launch a "Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures" initiative that teaches children about nutrition, gardening, and cooking.
- Organize school field trips to the grocery store once it opens, where kids can learn about reading nutrition labels and making healthy choices.

### 9. Food as Medicine Initiative

- Partner with local healthcare providers to introduce prescription food programs where doctors prescribe fresh fruits and vegetables to patients managing chronic illnesses.
- Develop special discount programs for seniors and those with food insecurity.

## **Sustainability and Urban Agriculture Initiatives**

### 10. Community Garden Expansion and Farm Partnerships

- Establish rooftop gardens, hydroponics, or urban farm partnerships to provide fresh, local produce to the grocery store.
- Offer gardening workshops teaching residents how to grow their own herbs, fruits, and vegetables.

11. Zero-Waste Grocery Program

- Implement recycling and food waste reduction programs to minimize environmental impact.
- Host "Bring Your Own Container" days and teach residents about reducing plastic waste.

12. Solar and Energy Efficiency Workshops

- Educate the community on how the grocery store will use solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and other green initiatives.
- Offer home sustainability workshops to teach residents about energy savings.

13. Food Rescue and Redistribution Program

- Partner with local food banks, shelters, and nonprofit organizations to ensure that no food goes to waste.
- Train volunteers to help with food distribution to families in need.

### **Economic Development and Workforce Training**

14. Workforce Development and Job Fairs

- Provide career training programs in grocery store operations, logistics, and food service.
- Organize job fairs to hire local residents for roles within the grocery store.
- Offer paid internship programs for high school and college students.

15. Youth Entrepreneurship and STEM in Food Industry

- Host a "Youth Entrepreneurship in Food & Retail" program, helping young people develop business skills related to food, agriculture, and grocery management.
- Introduce STEM-focused workshops in food technology, supply chain management, and agricultural sciences.

16. Financial Literacy and Budgeting Workshops

- Offer financial literacy programs that help residents budget for healthy groceries, use coupons, and maximize food savings.
- Partner with local banks and credit unions to teach about community investment and cooperative business models.

17. Small Business Vendor Training

- Provide workshops for minority-owned businesses and local entrepreneurs interested in becoming suppliers for the grocery store.
- Offer certification and licensing assistance for small food businesses.

## **Community and Cultural Engagement**

### **18. Food and Music Festival**

- Organize an annual Turner Station Food and Culture Festival, featuring local vendors, live music, and cultural food demonstrations.
- Celebrate Black-owned food businesses, urban agriculture, and food justice initiatives.

### **19. Community Storytelling: Food and Heritage Night**

- Host "Food & Heritage" storytelling events, where residents share family recipes and cultural food traditions.
- Create a community cookbook with contributions from local families.

### **20. Volunteer and Community Service Days**

- Establish monthly service days where residents can volunteer at the grocery store, work in the community garden, or assist with food distribution.
- Offer volunteer appreciation events to celebrate those contributing to food security efforts.