

# EMERGING LEADERS UNITED



## How Emerging Leaders United (ELU) Membership Works

 Your Gift	 What It Supports	 What You Get
<p><b>\$260+/year</b></p>	<p>Your donation fuels real work in our neighborhoods– from housing stability to access to healthy foods, so families have what they need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Connection</b> to a growing network of emerging leaders who care about making an impact</li> <li>• <b>Invitations</b> to volunteer together</li> <li>• Professional <b>development experiences</b></li> <li>• <b>Networking opportunities</b> with ELU and UWCM’s networks who are building Baltimore’s future.</li> </ul> <p><b>BONUS:</b> ELU members receive a member discount to our annual signature event, Taste &amp; Toast.</p>



### Your Impact + Our Impact

Every member – every hour volunteered, every dollar given – adds up. Together we create real change: stronger neighborhoods, healthier families, more opportunity, and a deeper sense of community across Baltimore.

- Because when many give a little – **it becomes a lot**
- **Your contribution matters.** Your presence matters
- **Together, we move Baltimore forward**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ➤ What is Emerging Leaders United (ELU)?

ELU is a network of young professionals and emerging leaders who are building a better Baltimore through collective giving, volunteer engagement, professional development, and community connection. Membership is open to anyone who wants to make an impact – no title, income level, or prior experience required.

### ➤ How do people get involved?

Most people join ELU by making a qualifying donation through a workplace fundraising campaign or through a friend who is already a member. Others join after they find us online or on social media or in person at a Social Hour, volunteer event, or professional development session. You can also join directly online anytime – membership starts at **\$260 annually or with a monthly gift of \$21.66.**

If you’re unsure where to start, just show up to one event. We’ll take it from there.



### › Are there meetings?

No required monthly meetings. Instead, members are invited to programming throughout the year including:

- Social/networking events
- Professional development workshops
- Volunteer opportunities
- Our annual Taste & Toast celebration

You participate when and where you're interested – no fixed schedule.

### › How much time does this require?

You decide your level of engagement. Some members attend a few events per year; others volunteer or eventually become Ambassadors or Executive Council leaders.

There is no required time commitment to be a member – just willingness to contribute and show up when you can.

### › How are members selected?

Membership is open to anyone who makes the annual or monthly ELU gift. There is no application or exclusive criteria – if you care about community, can give the qualifying amount and want to connect, you belong here.

Leadership opportunities (Ambassador or Council roles) are offered to members who show interest, consistency, and enthusiasm for the work.

### › How does this help my career?

ELU offers professional growth on multiple levels:

- Leadership development through hands-on engagement
- Networking with peers and civic leaders
- Opportunities to amplify your voice and skills
- Resume-building experience in philanthropy, community work, and impact leadership

### › I want to support a specific cause, but I'm not sure how. Can ELU help?

Yes. Many young professionals care deeply about issues – they just don't know where to plug in. ELU makes it easier by offering:

- Volunteer pathways
- Programmatic insights
- Community impact days

Philanthropic connection points through United Way

You don't have to know where to start – we'll help you find your place.

### › Do small gifts really make a difference?

Absolutely! In fact, ELU is powered by many small gifts, not just a few large ones. When members contribute together:

- \$21/month x 100 members = meaningful community impact
- Individual effort becomes **collective power**

We scale impact by showing up *together*.

### › I don't hear about opportunities to get involved – how do I stay in the loop?

Once you join, you'll receive:

- Bi-monthly newsletters
- Event emails and reminders
- Opportunity to be matched with a current active member as soon as you complete the brief questionnaire

You won't have to search – we'll keep you connected.

### › Is ELU mostly social or mostly service-based?

Both – by design. ELU blends purpose with connection:

- Social hours = meet people
- Volunteer days = act on values
- Taste & Toast = celebrate impact and leadership

You can lean into the parts that resonate most.

### › Is this right for me if I'm early in my career?

Yes – especially but not exclusively. ELU is built for *emerging* leaders. You don't need years of experience, a large income, or community connections to be involved. You just need willingness, curiosity, and a desire to help our region thrive. While most members are young professionals, there is no age limit. If you want to connect with others and take the next steps in your journey to make a difference, ELU is for you!

### › Is my donation tax-deductible?

**Yes.** Your contribution helps strengthen United Way of Central Maryland and may be tax deductible as permitted by law.



**UNITED WAY**  
Central Maryland

[uwcm.org/ELU](http://uwcm.org/ELU)