



BCHI Always FALLS in Line with Community, Culture & Care

REAL TALK

Feature Story

On Thursday, June 12, 2025, BCHI brought the “Real Talk” panel series to Hartford for a groundbreaking night of truth, healing, and transformation at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. This electrifying conversation explored the intersections of violence prevention, mental health, and culturally responsive education, featuring Dr. Chris Emdin, Dr. Jay Barnett, and Malik Champlain. Guests left inspired, challenged, and connected to BCHI’s mission of bold, healing spaces.



JUST MEN BOOK TALK

Author Sadiq Ali

In May 2025, BCHI hosted the “Just Men” Book Talk with author Sadiq Ali, discussing Resilient Advocacy: Empowering Young Black Males for Success. The dialogue centered mentorship, leadership, and dismantling systemic barriers.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Find Your Flow: Music, Movement & Mental Wellness

Held at the Wilson-Gray YMCA, this event united youth and adults to explore wellness through sound and movement. Highlights included Access Health CT & Wheeler Clinic resources, a drumming session with President Leonard Epps and Brother Carl Hardrick, DJ Ronn P, and empowerment coaching by Sista Anyango (The Fly Movement LLC).



I AM A MAN INITIATIVE Partnership with Amistad

BCHI joined the Amistad Center & Wadsworth Athenaeum for an evening with artist and filmmaker Titus Kaphar and his acclaimed film Exhibiting Forgiveness. The program fostered reflection on generational trauma, healing, and the silent struggles of Black men; attendees wore custom "I Am A Man" shirts as a symbol of strength and solidarity.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS & ADVOCACY

Barbershop Talk Series — A cultural safe haven for deep, solution-focused conversations on education, safety, mental health, and violence prevention.



Celebrating Juneteenth with GHABSW

At the Greater Hartford Association of Black Social Workers Juneteenth Scholarship Breakfast, BCHI President Leonard Epps attended the program where Brother Carl Hardrick accepted a scholarship award on behalf of his niece, BCHI Intervenor Jade Hardrick.

YOUTH & EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT

GEM Conference (Southern Connecticut State University) — BCHI inspired students (grades 5–8) at this powerful event hosted by June Archer.

Aerospace School of Engineering Breakfast — Annual celebration awarding certificates and custom BCHI T-shirts.

HBCU College Tour — Sponsored students for the Union Baptist HBCU Tour, providing sweatshirts and guidance for next-step pathways in education.



Calling All Brothers — Back to School — On the first day of school, BCHI leaders joined educators, clergy, and community to welcome students at Dr. Martin Luther King School of Social Justice.



Hartford Night Out — BCHI partnered with the Hartford Police Department and Mayor Arunan Arulampalam to promote community unity and safe spaces.



PARTNERSHIPS & SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

CLOSING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT LEONARD EPPS

“BCHI always FALLS in line with the needs of our community. Whether through conversation, mentorship, or cultural healing, we will always show up for Hartford’s youth and families. Together, we create safer spaces and a brighter future.”

Backpacks & BBQ Bash (WilsonnGray YMCA) — A day of food, resources, fun, and live entertainment for Hartford families.

The Missing Piece Collaboration — BCHI led a drumming workshop and joined partners including Our Piece of the Pie, Hartford Yard Goats, and the YMCA to celebrate camp counselor and recreation worker graduates.

