STATEMENT FROM 2022: (In the process of being revised and updated)

Updated May 2022

We are a group of Bi-Co students who are inspired by mutual aid efforts taking place all over the country. **We recognize the disparity of wealth created by capitalism and white supremacy and see how our schools' attempts to promote narratives of total equality on campus erase the needs within our community.** We see the unmet needs of many students and want to take matters into our own hands by harnessing redistribution of resources within our community.

What is mutual aid? As Mariame Kaba and Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez put it in their Mutual Aid Tool Kit, "mutual aid means that we understand our survival depends on cooperation, not competition."[1] In doing this work, we wish to honor mutual aid's history in Black and Indigenous Radical Tradition. We understand that mutual aid has always existed in societies that predate settler colonialism and acknowledge that this group's aims of collective care today owe everything to examples set by LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities, organizers and abolitionists in centuries preceding this one. **We acknowledge that mutual aid is *not* reparations, nor is it charity!** This is about a sense of collective care and responsibility for our fellow students.[2]

Mutual aid aims to act outside of the bureaucratic systems that often require people to defend any requests for support. Instead, **we encourage people to simply ask for what they need**. We have no expectation or requirement of any further explanation. At the same time, we hope you can extend the same sense of community trust to us! Our bandwidth is limited by the fact that BCMA is made up of a team of students who care deeply about this work in addition to other commitments. Though our team is made up of Bi-Co students, this project has no official affiliation with either Haverford or Bryn Mawr.

This group was created in late August 2020 as an effort to redistribute wealth with racial justice (particularly as catalyzed by the Covid-19 Pandemic and media attention to anti-Black violence) in mind, and this remains an important consideration on campus given the deep roots of white supremacy that exist in the Bi-Co. **BCMA will consistently attempt to prioritize Black students, students of color, and first generation/low income folks**. Our platform expanded during the Haverford and Bryn Mawr strikes organized by BIPOC students in October and November 2020, and will continue to work as we can to support the racial justice efforts of BIPOC students.

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[1] https://gdoc.pub/doc/e/2PACX-1vRMxV09kdojzMdyOfapJUOB6Ko2_1iAfIm8ELeIgma21wIt5HoTqP1QXadF01eZc0ySrPW6VtU_veyp

[2] To learn more about the history and operations of mutual aid, we recommend these zines and publications:
Queer Mutual Aid and Beyond - A BQIC Zine
https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LOGGANS-mutual-aid-zine.pdf
https://azinelibrary.org/approved/insurrectionary-mutual-aid-1.pdf

Finally, **we want to acknowledge that many services and forms of aid we attempt to provide to students in the community are resources that Haverford and Bryn Mawr should already be providing** and are failing to support their students with. Keeping this in mind, BCMA can exist not only to fill these requests, but also to aid and support in forms of advocacy and pressure on our college administrations to better provide for their students. We recognize that while mutual aid is a crucial step in filling the basic needs of students in the short term, **this work must happen simultaneously with broader, systemic, anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-colonial change**.

How does it work?

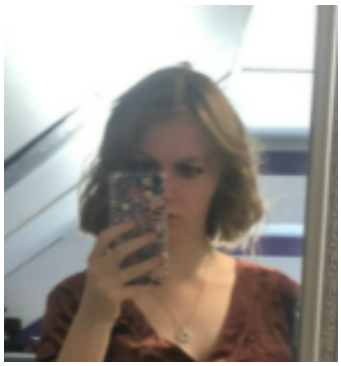
1. BCMA solicits contributions from the Bi-Co Community, ONLY when needed.
2. The funds pool in a Bi-Co Mutual venmo balance. From there, we can send up to $5K per week, and/or transfer money into the attached bank account for writing checks.
3. Community members request aid through the "Aid Request Form."
4. BCMA team reviews the form, contacts students if need be, and makes plans for filling requests.
5. BCMA also sends money to groups in Philly for distribution as funds allow.[3]
6. At any time, a community member may request a non-monetary service (car ride, grocery pickup, etc), and BCMA will reach out to a network of volunteers to coordinate fulfillment of the request.

Aspirations

Bi-Co Mutual Aid is not just a bank account. Although we understand the importance of financial needs, we also aim to create a more fundamental network of collective care and non-monetary aid. We have resources available to provide car rides, grocery deliveries, prescription pickups, job connections, gender-affirming clothing and more. In addition, we are willing to work with any student who reaches out to us with a need or request not currently in our form.

[3] In the interest of keeping this group small and supporting existing networks for distribution set up by mutual aid groups in Philly, BCMA does not directly distribute money to non-Bi-Co students/alums, but will recommend/research other resources to people and support the endeavors of Philly groups.

Meet Our Operations Team Members.



Hi! I'm **Olivia (she/her)**. I'm a senior history major and I have been working with BCMA since fall of 2023. I generally do a lot of odd jobs and communications.



Hi everyone! I am **Brisa Kane (she/her)** and I'm a senior at Haverford, interested in anthropology and education. I joined BCMA in 2023 and I help with general operations work.



Hello! I'm **Kira Wu-Hacohen (she/her)** and I am a senior at Haverford majoring in Anthropology and Education. I joined BCMA in January 2023 and help out with whatever needs doing.



Hi there! I'm **Hannah Ivester (they/them or she/her)** and despite transferring from Hav to ASU Barrett, majoring in Conservation Biology to study milkweeds in the Sonoran Desert, I'm still involved in BCMA! I help keep BCMA transparent by posting updates regarding our funds and weekly meetings. I also help manage requests and crochet items to sell at tabling events. I've worked with BCMA since January 2023.

picture...
Hey to whoever reads this in the future, I hope you're doing as well as you can be. My name is **Desman (they/he)**. I'm writing this as a Sophomore, but I joined BCMA as a freshman in the early spring of '24. I help manage requests, write emails, create fundraising graphics, and collaborate with the student organization S.A.L.T.



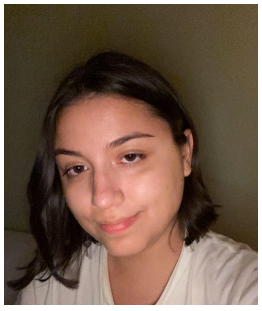
Hi! I'm **Ocean Carter (she/her**) and I'm a first-year at Bryn Mawr hoping to major in sociology and cities, and I joined BCMA in the spring 2025 semester

ARCHIVE OF PAST MEMBERS

Hi! I'm **Cee Jaklevic (they/them)**, I'm a first-year at Bryn Mawr with an intended double major in Classical Languages and Creative Writing. I've been involved with BCMA since Fall 2023 and I help with general operations.



Hi! I'm **Noa Gilbert (they/them)**. I'm a freshman at Haverford, initially from Omaha, Nebraska, intending to major in Growth & Structure of Cities. I've been with the organization since fall 2023 and I'm helping with our general operations and outreach.



Hi folks! I'm **Marianela Luna-Torrado,** a junior majoring in computer science at Bryn Mawr. I joined BCMA in September 2021. Like other team members, I help with requests, communication, and additional tasks as needed



What's up, my name is **Maddy Kessler (she/her)** and I am a junior history major at Bryn Mawr. I joined the team at the start of August 2021. I help manage requests, write emails, and do other organizational work. I have also planned a few fundraising events with Bi-Co clubs.



Hey everyone. I am **Fatima Irfan (she/her)** and a junior CS major at Bryn Mawr. I joined BCMA in May 2022. I help manage request management and monitor the aid form and the spreadsheet.



Hi! I'm **Anna Garrison-Bedell (she/her)** and I'm a senior Spanish major at Haverford College. I joined BCMA in September 2021 and I help with requests, social media, and communication.



Hi! I'm **Naren (he/him or they/them)**. I'm an anthropology major '23. I started working with BCMA in January 2021. I help in different areas including outreach, social media, and request management as well as some spreadsheet & banking stuff:)



I'm **Frankie (they/them)**, I'm a senior at Haverford. I've been working with the group since August, 2020 and help with request management, social media, and coordination with Philly organizations.



I'm **Diana (they/she)**. I've been working with the group since August 2020. I do request management, social media, outreach, and other miscellaneous tasks.

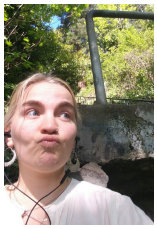
Vic: I'm **Vic Brown(he/him).** I am a second year at Haverford. I am a recent recruit to the team, originally joining as a representative of the strike organizers and then joined as a member in November. I don't have a focus or specification right now, but my interests are in outreach, collection, and distribution of funds.



I'm Vivian! (they/them) - junior at bryn mawr who's been a part of the group since august 2020. I help with emails and taking notes during meetings--mostly general things--but i also help with outreach, and whatever else is needed with the group <3



Hey :) I'm **Daisy (any pronouns)** I'm a Bryn Mawr junior and have been a part of BCMA since September 2020. I do whatever needs doing around here including request fulfillment timelines and spreadsheet updates!



I'm **Will (they/them)**. I work on spreadsheet design and the Venmo/bank account. I try to make sure the technology we use works smoothly so everyone else can focus on the important stuff.



I'm **Jake VW (he/him)**. I do a lot of miscellaneous things, but mostly manage the spreadsheets by way of adding features that help us know our spending capacity more clearly, as well as statistical analysis of the donations and distributions. I've also done some outreach and spreadsheet updating! I've been in the group since August 2020.

Emma (they/them) I do a mix of outreach as well as organizational work on our end such as managing timelines and updating spreadsheets. I have been in the group since August as well!

hi friends :) i'm **gaby (he/him)** and i'm a senior at haverford. i've been working with bi-co mutual aid since august 2020. I work on keeping our linktree updated, creating/editing our google forms, request management, and other general tasks!

Hi I am **Lauryn (they/them)**. I am a senior religion major at Haverford and have been working with bcma since August 2020. I worked more with the email in the beginning and now I just do odd jobs.


BI-CO
MUTUAL
AID