

Mavelly

B a l e n t i n a

EMERGENCY & SURVIVOR SUPPORT VOLUNTEER SAFE HOUSE PROJECT

I am originally from the beautiful island of Curacao, Dutch Caribbean. During my childhood and teenage years, I was very active and involved in my local church, as well as, dancing ballet, being a girl scout and being part of a track and field team. Breaking my country's Javelin Throw record in 2013 has surely changed life. This led to me receiving a full track and field scholarship to study abroad in the United States. I started Jacksonville State University in 2016 and in 2018 I transferred to Regent University in Virginia, where I have earned my bachelor's degree in criminal justice and my master's degree in national security studies. During my collegiate career, I have had the wonderful opportunity to throw on the women's track and field team, run with the women's cross-country team, and play on the women's soccer team. Apart from these collegiate sport teams, I have also served as the president of the international student organization and the president of FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). My experience on the women's soccer team has led me to play as a national goalkeeper on Curacao's women's national soccer team at the 2022 Concacaf Qualifying Championships to the 2023 FIFA World Cup.

Career-wise, I also served for three years in Athletics and University Marketing by holding various positions, such as Social Media & Website Coordinator, as well as Graphic Assistant Design. A few months prior to graduation, I decided to switch from marketing to being a Research & Teaching Assistant for the Robertson School of Government because I wanted to be more involved in my field of study. Upon graduation, I got offered a one-year position to work as a Public Administrative Call-taker at the Norfolk Police Department in Norfolk, Virginia. Working alongside first responders has taught me a lot about how to put others first, by serving the community, and making sure that the citizens feel not only safe, but also heard. I am passionate about music, I love playing the guitar, piano, and drums. In my free time, I love spending quality time with my husband, my best friend or loved ones. Whether it is going to the beach, watching a movie, getting coffee, a solid picnic date, hiking, running, or a casual day trip, know that I am always down for fun and laughter, and lots of Jesus. Moreover, an interesting fact about me is that English is my 4th language, so if you ever want to speak something else like Spanish, Dutch or my native language Papiamentu, I would love to have a conversation with you someday. Finally, I am driven, not only about helping people, but helping people well. A saying that I always live by is, "The will of God will never take you where His grace will not protect you". And, if you have not heard the story about how I ended up here at the Safe House Project, once you hear my story you will understand why I believe that this season is meant for me to...simply...serve...here.



SAFE HOUSE
PROJECT