

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Rooted in Faith, Family & Community



THE
MARION I. & HENRY J.
KNOTT FOUNDATION

TREES

By Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

This poem is in the public domain.

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

"Rooted in faith, family, and community," is the theme of our 2021 annual report.

As part of that theme, we invite you to reflect on Alfred Joyce Kilmer's well-known poem, "Trees." Kilmer was a devout Catholic and prolific writer, and his reverence for the tree as a symbol of God's creation is a powerful message of hope and perseverance.

Our mission to strengthen the community in concert with our identity as a Catholic family foundation resulted in a fruitful year in 2021, with over \$2.3 million in grants being awarded to organizations in education, human services, Catholic activities, health care, and the arts & humanities. We hope you enjoy reading about some of our grants in the pages that follow.

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, thank you for your interest in the Knott Foundation as we nurture and celebrate our roots in faith, family, and community.

Lindsay Gallagher
President, Board of Trustees

Kelly Medinger
Executive Director



ABOUT US: 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

\$72.0 million held in assets as of December 31, 2021

34 family members from 3 generations serve on our Board of Trustees

3 full-time staff members work in our office

5 program areas make up our grant portfolio

10 counties and jurisdictions in Maryland comprise our giving area



EDUCATION NEW SCHOOL ILLUMINATES BALTIMORE



Archdiocese of Baltimore uses education grant to build the new Mother Mary Lange Catholic School in Baltimore City

A new, 65,000 square foot school stands proudly on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. A large cross illuminates three stories of windows above the front entrance, which first welcomed students on August 30, 2021.

Henry and Marion Knott, our founders, believed that education was the key to success. They sought to support both students who were excelling academically and students who had limited access to opportunity. They believed that hard work combined with access to a quality education was the foundation from which all people could succeed in life.

Mr. and Mrs. Knott prioritized Catholic education both because of their personal faith and because they valued both the character development it nurtured in students and the moral stability it provided to the community. And though they primarily supported Catholic education, their interests were not exclusive. They sought to support the greater Baltimore community by providing opportunity to motivated students in and outside the Catholic faith.

When investing in education, Mr. Knott had high standards for schools and students alike. He supported schools that were producing leaders, and that were well-run institutions. He expected that schools would be financially sound, have excellent academics, and show successful outcomes for students. His expectation was that students, after benefitting from educational opportunity, would emerge as active citizens, ready to give back and become leaders in their communities.

Today, the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation continues our founders' commitment to education by prioritizing Catholic education. We also support special needs schools, private colleges and universities, out-of-school-time programs, and other education-related activities that provide opportunity for students and produce lasting outcomes within the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

HONORING A SAINTLY WOMAN

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange moved to Baltimore from Cuba. She opened a school for girls of color in her home in Fells Point, which became the only provider of Catholic education to black children in Baltimore during the 19th Century. She also founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious order for women of African descent in the United States, and is a candidate for sainthood.

Every floor of the school has an image of Mother Mary Lange.

During the ribbon cutting and blessing of the new school, eighth-grader Jaylah Golder announced to the crowd: "I intend to follow in the footsteps of Mother Lange by leading others to do good and try my best to stand up for those who aren't big enough to stand up for themselves."

ENROLLING STUDENTS IN A NEW TRADITION

Mother Mary Lange Catholic School began its inaugural year with over 400 children in grades pre-K through 8. The students hail from 70 zip codes. Only approximately 20% are Catholic.

"This is not just a job, it's a ministry," explains Alisha Jordan, Principal. She has involved the kids in all aspects of the school, from picking their uniforms, to selecting a mascot – the Mother Mary Lange Catholic School Tigers. They also planted two time capsules in front of the school to commemorate its opening and preserve the legacy of the two schools that were consolidated into Mother Mary Lange: the former Holy Angels Catholic School and Saints James and John Catholic School.

BUILDING AMENITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

The Knott Foundation contributed to the capital campaign to build the new school.

Once a vacant lot in the City, Mother Mary Lange is now a model of top-notch amenities: fully-equipped art and science labs; a spacious library; a cafeteria and gymnasium with a stage for student productions; a turf field; two playgrounds; and a chapel. "We are the first archdiocesan elementary school in Baltimore to have a tabernacle in the chapel," comments Jordan. "The Archbishop is very proud of that."

The school's health suite also features a partnership with University of Maryland Children's Hospital, where doctors offer physicals for students and the school nurse has access to a telehealth line during the day. A private health suite, hands-free plumbing, and sanitary devices are new features that were incorporated during construction, which further enhance the school's focus on student health.

"This is a loving, secure, Catholic community," concludes Jordan, "and we look forward to becoming part of the social fabric of this neighborhood for many years to come."





CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES

A COMMUNITY PILLAR OF SUPPORT



St. Veronica's Church uses Catholic activities grant to replace their roof

A clean red brick façade with a statue of St. Veronica helping Jesus, surrounded by manicured green grass and shrubbery, stands proudly on Cherry Hill Road in Baltimore.

The Catholic faith and the Catholic Church community were of central importance to our founders – it was their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Knott responded to the needs of the clergy both out of gratitude for the compassion their own family had received, and a desire to support the work of men and women of integrity whom they saw serving the needs of the broader community. They supported the development of clergy and lay leaders to strengthen the Catholic Church, the reputation of the Catholic Church, and the Catholic community.

Our founders' devotion to the Catholic faith and support of the Catholic Church has its roots in family history. Mr. Knott's grandmother died young, and his own mother and aunt were raised and schooled by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. That act of kindness made a huge impression on Mr. Knott and he felt indebted to repay their generosity. Mr. Knott desired to support the Catholic Church in part because of what the Church had done for his family, and also because of the role that faith played in his life.

The Foundation honors this legacy by supporting organizations and programs that espouse the values and doctrines of the Catholic Church. Through our focus on Catholic activities, we support churches, faith communities, religious orders, retreat houses and spiritual centers.

ABOUT ST. VERONICA'S

For over 75 years, St. Veronica's Catholic Congregation has been a community of worship in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City. The Church was established by the Joesephites, a religious community of Catholic priests and brothers, committed to serving the African American community. Today, it serves 230 registered families and attracts parishioners from Cherry Hill, West Port, Curtis Bay, Brooklyn, and Port Covington.

St. Veronica's is a small church with no paid staff. Nearly half of the congregation volunteers in management, ministry, and outreach services. "People always want to come forth and do something for our parish, and that gives me great joy," comments Fr. Stephen Ositimehin, Pastor. "Our church doesn't belong to any one person, it belongs to all of us," he shares.

RAISING THE ROOF

Realizing that the original roof installed in 1954 needed to be replaced, the Church organized a "Raise the Roof" campaign to raise money for a new roof. With support from parishioners, alumni, their sister parish (Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ellicott City), the Knott Foundation, and others connected to the mission, St. Veronica's raised over \$150,000 for the project.

"Everybody who pledged to the campaign ended up paying more than they pledged," shares Cathy McClain, Church Secretary. "When other parishes were struggling to make ends meet during the COVID pandemic, our parish was lucky," she explains. Some people donated their entire economic stimulus check to the campaign, while others gave what they would have spent on their commute to work, since they were working virtually.

Even the roofing contractor managed to save money by pairing St. Veronica's job with another one nearby, which enabled them to purchase the necessary lumber at a bulk rate. This was extremely helpful, as lumber prices increased greatly during the pandemic.

GIVING BACK

Often described as a leader and stabilizing force in the community, St. Veronica's provides much more than mass, sacraments, and Catholic fellowship. A food pantry, thrift store, healthy cooking classes, summer camp, eviction prevention services, and holiday outreach to families in need are just some of the ways the parish helps the broader community.

"It's really hard to preach to someone if they're hungry," says McClain. "We realize we have to give back in order to receive. Since St. Veronica's was established, we have always felt it was our responsibility to care for the corporal and spiritual needs of our community."





HUMAN SERVICES

THE SECRET IS IN THE CHEF



Franciscan Center uses human services grant to create more healthy meals to feed the hungry

In Baltimore City, a group of red brick row houses sit on West 23rd Street where, in 1968, Sister Irene Marshiano, O.S.F. opened an emergency food and clothing center when local residents told her that's what they needed most.

Now more than 50 years later, the Franciscan Center remains a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and offers a continuum of care to local people in need – including food, clothing, emergency health services, counseling, and technology training to help clients become as self-sufficient as possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Knott both came from humble beginnings and did not grow up wealthy. As a result, they had sincere compassion for others in need. Mrs. Knott, whose parents died when she was a young teen, had incredible compassion for people undergoing hardships in life. Mr. Knott started out driving a tomato truck, then spent time learning about construction, and eventually launched his own building business. He was given opportunities that changed the trajectory of his own life, and he wanted to do the same for others. They both believed in supporting people who wanted to help themselves and get ahead, and they hoped it would engender in them a spirit of giving and opportunity to pass on to others.

While they prioritized creating opportunity for people, our founders weren't above meeting basic needs. While living on their family farm and after having achieved success, they worked the land and donated the fruits of their labor to those in need. At another time, Mr. Knott's children recalled their father being particularly happy. Reportedly he had just gone to a coat manufacturer to buy out the remaining inventory at the end of season, and was on his way to donate the hundred or so coats to Catholic Charities to give to the homeless.

Compelled by their own life experiences and their faith, our founders had sincere compassion for the poor, the hungry, the sick, and in particular for women, children and families in crisis.

The Foundation continues this support by meeting many human service needs within the community. Our grants touch numerous areas – from helping to meet people's basic needs, to housing and homelessness, to workforce development, to family and children's services.

A KEY INGREDIENT FOR SUCCESS

A hallmark of the Franciscan Center's programming is daily hot lunch service. As a longtime supporter of the Center, the Knott Foundation recently made a grant to support the Center's new culinary director who helps lead their dining services program.

"We believed that a trained culinary chef could change the culture of the Franciscan Center's dining services, by creating a new way of feeding and a new way of cooking for our patrons," shares Jeff Griffin, Executive Director of the Franciscan Center.

Enter Chef Steve Allbright, a two-time graduate of Stratford University with an Advanced Culinary Degree and Baking & Pastry Arts Degree, a decorated US Navy Veteran, and an experienced chef at multiple high-end restaurants.

CREATING HEALTHIER MEALS

"As much as I appreciate casseroles, I believe cooks are supposed to cook," proclaims Chef Allbright. In his first year at the Franciscan Center, he partnered with four farms in and around Baltimore to increase the amount of fresh food and vegetables coming into the Center. He also started teaching people how to make healthy and delicious meals with donated provisions.

"Folks eat with their eyes, so we plate what we're going to serve every day and post it to our Facebook Page," says Chef Allbright.

By changing the products they were getting and where they were getting them from, the Franciscan Center dramatically reduced its food budget from \$125,000 per year to \$75,000 per year. They also made other nutritional changes, like serving water instead of a sugary lemon drink traditionally offered to the hot lunch patrons. Then COVID hit.

EXPANDING DURING THE PANDEMIC

"We've just about tripled the amount of food we typically serve during the pandemic," explains Griffin. The Center changed its model from only serving food at the Center, to adding a meal delivery system, going to apartment complexes and homeless encampments throughout Baltimore City.

"By going to where the people are and bringing them healthy meals, we have also created some very helpful conversations and opportunities for our patrons," comments Griffin. "We are able to help them with more than just food."





HEALTH CARE

A WAY TO REFILL THEIR CUP

Pro Bono Counseling Project uses health care grant to connect caregivers to donated therapy sessions

When 30-year old Jasmine moved home to take care of her father with cancer and mother with depression and hoarding issues, she needed someone to help her through the grief, pain, and psychological stress of becoming a caregiver. Enter Pro Bono Counseling Project.

Our founders raised a family during an era where good medical care was hard to come by. Hospitals were just beginning to be built as pillars within communities and were not as accessible as they are today. Mr. and Mrs. Knott saw the potential that accessible, quality care had for strengthening the community, and they were also empathetic towards the strife that illness and death causes in a family.

During his lifetime, Mr. Knott used his business acumen and builders experience to purchase and then donate land to Johns Hopkins for their west campus expansion, as well as to other institutions. He knew that having world class medical facilities would bring recognition and strength to the Baltimore community.

Today the Foundation continues our founders' commitment in health care by supporting compassionate care needs of families and their caregivers. We concentrate on programs that provide curative, preventative, rehabilitative, and palliative care, as well as patient support services.

ABOUT PRO BONO COUNSELING PROJECT

Pro Bono Counseling Project (PBCP) connects individuals, couples, and families living in Maryland to free mental health services, whether they are experiencing stress, anxiety, sadness, grief, a life transition, or relationship issue.

“We really work with folks to make a good match between patient and therapist,” describes Amy Greensfelder, Executive Director. “This fit is the most important predictor of success in therapy. We interview people up front to find out what they’re looking for in a therapist, and we use our extensive network of clinicians to find the best match.”

Founded over 30 years ago, PBCP has helped over 30,000 Marylanders find volunteer counselors and receive the therapy they otherwise could not afford. Over 850 volunteer clinicians work with PBCP’s clients to provide thousands of hours of donated therapy sessions each year.

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

PBCP’s Caring for Caregivers program helps people cope with the psychological stress of caring for a loved one with high medical needs or a chronic condition.

“Caregiving is often an unrecognized, misunderstood, and neglected issue in our community. Even caregivers themselves may not identify with the term. Because the vast majority of caregivers are loved ones – a spouse, a parent, a child, or a family member – they might classify ‘caregiver’ as someone who does the job full-time, or is a paid professional,” mentions Greensfelder.

Meanwhile, the competing priorities caregivers face, such as work, family, and medical management, often block their ability to take care of their own mental health needs. The Caring for Caregivers program helps these to find the space to “refill their cup,” as Greensfelder puts it.

The Knott Foundation supported PBCP’s Caring for Caregivers program with a grant in 2020. That support enabled PBCP to train more than 40 clinicians in caregiver mental health practices, to answer 41 phone calls from people experiencing caregiver stress, and to serve 30 people with 300 hours of donated therapy – equating to \$45,000 of donated care.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED

Oftentimes people focus on those with the highest need – the parent who just received a cancer diagnosis, the grandparent who is aging in place, or the child who is born with a chronic health condition. While this focus is necessary, it can gloss over the needs of the caregivers.



“The biggest thing is just recognizing these needs in our community and being there when our friends and loved ones step into the role of caregiver,” reflects Greensfelder. “It’s important to make sure people who are supporting the needs of others also support themselves.”



Photography by Jill Fannon, courtesy of the Walters Art Museum

ARTS & HUMANITIES A GLOBAL TREASURE



Walters Art Museum uses arts & humanities grant to restore a rare statue of St. Michael the Archangel

“Conservation and repair of our collective cultural heritage is key to our understanding of world history and the universal human need to create,” observes Julie Lauffenburger, Director of Conservation, Collections, and Technical Research. “Works of art that have been preserved and shared with the public help bring history to life and foster conversation about world events, religion, culture, and life in periods beyond our own.”

Our founders valued arts and humanities for the well-rounded education it brings to humanity and the role it can play in strengthening a community.

Today the Foundation supports performing, visual and instructional arts programs in the community.

ABOUT THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM

Established in 1934, the mission of the Walters Art Museum is to bring art and people together for enjoyment, discovery, and learning.

Located in Baltimore’s historic Mount Vernon neighborhood, the Walters offers free admission to all visitors. The museum’s campus includes five buildings and 36,000 art objects from the Mediterranean, Africa, East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. By collecting, preserving, and interpreting art, the Walters creates a space for people of every background to engage in dialogue and be touched by art.

ABOUT ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael is an archangel in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In Roman Catholic tradition, St. Michael is the guardian of the Church and the leader of heaven’s forces in their triumph over the powers of evil. He is the patron saint of soldiers, police officers, and doctors.

The Walters collection includes a rare 17th-century ivory sculpture of St. Michael the Archangel, which was not on display for several decades due to needed restoration. The Knott Foundation helped fund conservation treatment that repaired his broken wings and consolidated paint and gilding loss on the statue.

Today, Michael stands nearly four feet tall, with long hair, wings, pleated skirt, sash, and boots. He holds a sword above his head as he stands on the body of the devil. The size and detail of the St. Michael statue are rare, and it would have been an expensive and high value sculpture to produce.

A STORY OF GLOBAL TRADE

When it came into the collection in the early part of the 20th century, the St. Michael statue was believed to have been made in Italy during the Renaissance period. However, further research revealed his true origins.

“This striking 17th century sculpture was made in Manilla from African elephant tusks for a church in Mexico,” reveals Katarina Ziegler, Director of Institutional Giving & Government Affairs. It was created as a devotional statue for a Mexican church, by artisans in the Philippines, with material from Africa. “What a remarkable story of global exchange of ideas, art, crafts, materials, and faiths!” she exclaims.

The St. Michael statue is a physical embodiment of early international trade routes and the spread of Catholic iconography and beliefs throughout the world. Its history is a marriage of three continents, dating back some 400 years. It is a global treasure in our own local art museum.



The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

2021 GRANT AWARDS

FOUNDATION GRANTS

10:12 Sports, \$10,000
Associated Builders & Contractors Craft Training Trust, \$25,700
Associated Catholic Charities – Esperanza Center Clinic, \$50,000
Baltimore Hunger Project, \$12,500
Building STEPS, \$35,000
Calvert Hall College High School, \$40,000
Caroline Friess Center, Inc., \$40,000
Community Assistance Network, Inc., \$40,000
Community Free Clinic, \$45,000
Dyslexia Tutoring Program, \$40,000
First Fruits Farm, \$45,000
Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), \$40,000
Hampden Family Center, \$40,000
Harford Family House, \$40,000
Higher Achievement Baltimore, \$50,000
Horizon Day Camp Baltimore, \$32,000
House of Ruth Maryland, \$41,000
Ignatian Volunteer Corps., \$25,500
Jesuit Volunteer Corps, \$25,000
Living Classrooms Foundation, \$40,000
Loyola Blakefield, \$40,000
Loyola University Maryland, \$54,852
Maryvale Preparatory School, \$100,200
MERIT Health Leadership Academy, \$35,000
Monsignor Slade Catholic School, \$40,000
Mother Seton Academy, \$45,000
Mother Seton School, \$34,000
Mount Saint Joseph High School, \$58,000
Next One Up Foundation, \$55,000
Notre Dame of Maryland University, \$120,000
One Love Foundation, \$30,000
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, \$95,000
Sacred Heart School of Glyndon, \$65,000
Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy, \$40,000
Soccer Without Borders Maryland, \$60,000
St. Francis Neighborhood Center, \$60,000
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (Long Green), \$14,503

St. Margaret School, \$75,000
St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Congregation, \$67,500
The Catholic High School of Baltimore, \$110,000
The Family Tree, \$19,500
The John Carroll School, \$30,000
UEmpower of Maryland, \$40,000
University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation, Inc., \$90,000
Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids, Inc., \$40,000
YMCA of Cumberland, \$43,000

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Baltimore Hunger Project, \$1,000
Baltimore SquashWise, \$9,500
Byte Back Baltimore, \$1,500
Calvert School, \$2,500
Camp Opportunity of Maryland, Inc., \$5,000
Christ the King Church, \$1,500
Church of the Immaculate Conception, \$5,000
Comfort Cases Inc, \$2,500
Fund for Educational Excellence: MENTOR Maryland | DC, \$5,000
Garrison Forest School, \$1,200
Horizon Day Camp Baltimore, \$1,500
Interfaith Service Coalition of Hancock, MD, Inc., \$5,000
Maryland Nonprofits, \$8,500
MERIT Health Leadership Academy, \$2,500
Notre Dame of Maryland University, \$2,500
Pregnancy Center North, \$3,000
Roland Park Country School, \$2,500
Roland Park Country School, \$2,500
Saint Casimir Catholic School, \$4,671
Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy, \$2,500
Sisters Academy of Baltimore, \$1,300
St. James Academy, \$2,000
The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, \$500
The Walters Art Museum, \$7,500
UEmpower of Maryland, \$8,500
Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids, Inc., \$5,000

MISSION

The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation is a Catholic family foundation committed to honoring our founders' legacy of generosity to strengthen our community.

VISION

Our founders Marion and Henry Knott had a vision: To provide resources for nurturing and sustaining family unity through cultural, educational, health care and human service activities in the Roman Catholic community and through the activities of other deserving agencies that the Knott family encouraged and supported. This vision resulted in the establishment of the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)(3) corporation, in 1977.

VALUES

Working as a family, we are guided by the following shared beliefs and values:

UNDERSTANDING

and responding to the needs of our community through informed grantmaking

RESPECTING

the values of the Roman Catholic faith

ENGAGING

in the ongoing education of trustees and staff in the field of philanthropy and the nonprofit community

ENSURING

good stewardship of the resources entrusted to our use

ENCOURAGING

open communication, compassion, respect and trust among community, staff and family



KNOTT FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

As of December 31, 2021

Dan Gallagher

David Gallagher

Lindsay Gallagher

Michael Gallagher

Emily Hanssen

E.B. Harris

Kelly Harris

Thomas Harris

Carlisle Hashim

Marion Hashim

Erin Knott

Marion Knott

Martin Knott

Martin Knott, Jr.

Owen Knott

Teresa Knott

Brian McDonald

Meghan McDonald

Carroll McGill

Peter McGill

David Porter

Joanna Porter

Laurel Porter

Martin Porter

John Riehl

Margie Riehl

Brooke Rodgers

Patrick Rodgers

Geralynn Smyth

John Smyth

Jamie Stodd

Erin Tielsch

Emmett Voelkel

Ryan Voelkel

KNOTT FOUNDATION STAFF

Kelly Medinger

Executive Director

Carol Hoffman

Executive Manager

Kathleen McCarthy

Grants and Information

Technology Manager



THE MARION I. &
HENRY J. KNOTT
FOUNDATION

3904 Hickory Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21211

knott@knottfoundation.org • www.knottfoundation.org • 410.235.7068