# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Celebrating 45 years of giving back to the community



MARION I. & HENRY J. KNOTT FOUNDATION

## **ABOUT US: 2022 BY THE NUMBERS**

#### 45 YEARS

of giving back to the community

#### \$63.1 MILLION

held in assets as of December 31, 2022

#### \$2.8 MILLION

awarded in grants in 2022

# 10 MARYLAND COUNTIES AND JURISDICTIONS

comprise our giving area

# 4 GENERATIONS OF KNOTT FAMILY MEMBERS

have served on our Board of Trustees

## DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

The year 2022 brought a good deal of change to the Knott Foundation as we celebrated 45 years of family philanthropy founded on the values of Faith, Opportunity, Character, Using business sense, and Strengthening the community.

After 28 years with the Foundation and nearly 50 years with the Knott family, our Executive Manager, Carol Hoffman, retired. I was fortunate enough to have worked with Carol in multiple capacities during that time. She was an intricate part of the Foundation, and we consider her part of our family and a close friend. I will miss her greatly.

Staying on the departure track, Kelly Medinger decided to step down as Executive Director. Her last day was December 31, 2022. Kelly wanted to spend more time with her family. We truly appreciate the leadership Kelly provided over her ten years as Executive Director and her steadfast efforts to ensure the operations of the Foundation were aligned with our values and community needs.

Now to the new items. Christina Rickman joined us in 2022 as our Business Manager and has taken over all of Carol's duties as well as assuming some of the tasks that were handled by Kathleen McCarthy. Meanwhile, I was elected to a two-year term as President in December. We also spent time in 2022 designing a new format for the Foundation that is quite exciting. I look forward to sharing more about that as well as our search for a new Executive Director in the coming months.

We are a foundation whose territory stretches from Harford to Allegany. We encourage those organizations who have not applied before to be comfortable doing so, especially those outside of the Baltimore beltway. There are critical needs in every jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and we will help as best we can to address them within our guidelines.



Have a great year,

Martin G. Knott

President, Board of Trustees



# THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL



Mother Seton School uses education grant to relocate and transform their computer lab into a modern, versatile media center

Located at the very center of Mother Seton School, a new media center blends seamlessly with the school library, adding modern technology as a platform for learning alongside volumes of books and audio resources. 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, the Knotts had high standards for schools and students alike. They supported schools that were producing leaders, and that were well-run institutions. Their expectation was that students, after benefitting from educational opportunity, would emerge as active citizens, ready to give back and become leaders in their communities. They truly believed that education was, is, and will always be the quickest path to leveling the playing field and upward mobility.

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.

#### **ABOUT MOTHER SETON SCHOOL**

Mother Seton School (MSS) is an independent Catholic school established by the Daughters of Charity in 1957. It traces its roots back to St. Joseph Academy and Free School in Emmitsburg, which was founded 200 years ago by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton herself.

Today, MSS serves 335 students in pre-K through eighth grade. Students come from 18 different Maryland zip codes to attend MSS. Consistent with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's legacy of providing Catholic education to students from families of diverse economic backgrounds, tuition is among the lowest of all private schools in Frederick County.

#### A TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

With a growing student body and a desire to integrate the richness of modern technology into the original school library, MSS embarked on a project to relocate their stand-alone computer lab and upgrade the technology it offered. They constructed a new media center that is not only larger than the previous space, but has enhanced collaboration and learning for students across all disciplines.

"Due to the generosity of the Knott Foundation and others, our current and future students will have the opportunity to increase their love of reading while becoming safe and effective users of technology in a state-of-the-art media center," comments Kathleen Kilty, Ph.D., Principal.

The new media center boasts 1:1 devices for students, technology for presentations and screenings, and five high-powered desktop computers for research, programming, and digital citizenship. For example, the Cyberpatriots Cyber Security Club meets in the media center, and students use the resources there for robotics, coding, and 3D printing.

"Our old computer lab was outdated, small, and closed off from the rest of the school," shares Dr. Kilty. "The new media center is at the heart of Mother Seton and has breathed new life into how we are able to integrate technology into learning."





# WORKING FOR

**JUSTICE AND PEACE** 



Jesuit Volunteer Corps uses Catholic activities grant to support volunteers and partner agencies in Baltimore

After graduating from Boston College with a degree in business and economics, Codie Perry knew two things: first, he wanted to use his educational background to serve others; and second, he didn't want to sit in a cubicle all day. Perry applied to Jesuit Volunteer Corps and was placed at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Baltimore City. There, he was charged with running the Church's outreach ministries in a community experiencing deep poverty.

"The level of poverty and homelessness was something I had not seen before," reflects Perry. "It was eye-opening and tough, but also gave my work greater purpose and connected me on a deeper level to the City."

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

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, wher his grandfather was a groundskeeper. That act of kindness made a huge impression on Mr. Knott. He and Mrs. Knott felt indebted to repay their generosity. As such, they focused on supporting the Catholic Church in part because of what the Church had done for the family, and also because of the role that faith played in their lives.

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 JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS**

Over the past 60 years, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) has become one of the largest lay, Catholic, full-time volunteer programs in the world. With approximately 200 volunteers each year in 37 cities and 5 countries, Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) put their faith into action through one year of service at nonprofit agencies in high-need communities.

Four core values guide the entire JVC experience: Ignatian spirituality; simple living; community; and social justice. JVs are usually fresh out of college, age 21-25, and enjoy living in community and taking part in professional training and formation, leadership development, and spiritual direction as part of their volunteer experience.

"Orientation reminded me why I chose JVC in the first place.
Having a community formed around faith and getting to engage in meaningful conversations was one of the hallmarks of my college experience. Getting to have a community in which I could feel supported in who I am and my faith was very consoling to have as I moved to a new city with new people," commented one Baltimore JV during orientation week.

#### **MINISTERING IN BALTIMORE CITY**

Not only is Baltimore the national headquarters of JVC, it is also home to five JVs every year. The Knott Foundation has supported JVC's presence in Baltimore for over 30 years. The agencies where JVs work in Baltimore have remained consistent for the last several years and include Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Loyola Early Learning Center, Public Justice Center, and St. Vincent de Paul Beans & Bread/Homeless Outreach.

"It is hard to put the value of the Jesuit Volunteers into a few words!" exclaims Erica Meadows, School Director at Loyola Early Learning Center. "The JVC program is a key part of our school. They are such a positive addition to our team and understand the mission of the school because of their background and experience with Catholic and Jesuit education," she relays.

As for Codie Perry, he wrapped up his work at St. Vincent de Paul Church five years ago, then returned to his hometown in Massachusetts. Perry recently came back to Baltimore to join the team at Johns Hopkins' Office of Economic Development. There, he helps grow the small business community and promotes local goods and talent. "Something about my year of service drew me back to Baltimore," he admits. "I was inspired by how many people and organizations are dedicated to bringing justice and peace to this community, and I wanted to help carry that mantle forward in my own work."





#### **HUMAN SERVICES**

# HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY



First Fruits Farm uses human services grant to increase food packaging and distribution capacity

First Fruits Farm plays an important role in feeding the hungry in Maryland, where one in three people face food insecurity on any given day. 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.

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.

#### **ABOUT FIRST FRUITS FARM**

First Fruits Farm is a non-profit Christian ministry dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious produce to those experiencing hunger in the Mid-Atlantic region. Founded in 1998, the Farm has harvested more than 22 million pounds of fresh produce on its 203-acre farm in northern Baltimore County. One hundred percent of everything grown is donated to food banks, shelters, schools, churches, and other organizations that feed children and adults struggling with hunger.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Farm and generously give their time to help harvest and package the produce for a distribution network of more than 130 partners of all size. "The Farm is blessed by so many volunteers and partners who help us grow more, give more, and serve more, thereby fulfilling our calling to feed the hungry," shares Richard Bernstein, President & Executive Director.

#### A PACKAGING PROBLEM

When their partners added additional packaging requirements as part of their COVID safety protocols – basically requiring that food be packaged in smaller quantities to limit the number of hands touching it – First Fruits knew they needed to respond. The Knott Foundation awarded the organization a grant to help renovate their packaging and distribution space, so they could better serve their partner organizations in the post-COVID era.

"This expansion will be a game-changer for our operations," states Jamison Hunsberger, Director of Farm Operations. "It's a constant dance and coordination between what is growing in the fields, the volunteers that are coming to help, and the need from our distribution partners. As our operations continue to grow, the new facility will greatly improve this coordination while ensuring fresh, nutritious food reaches those who need it most in our community."

#### **REACHING ACROSS MARYLAND**

Potatoes, corn, green beans, cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and more grown on the Farm feed the young and old, across Maryland. Some of First Fruits' distribution partners in the state include the Maryland Food Bank, Helping Up Mission, Our Daily Bread, Little Sisters of the Poor, and Student Support Network in Baltimore County.

Jeff Griffin, Executive Director of the Franciscan Center, another one of the Farm's distribution partners, sums it up like this: "First Fruits Farm's fresh, nutritious produce has become part of countless meals we've served the homeless, indigent, and working poor in Baltimore City. The Farm is an indispensable partner for us, and a clear sign of the Holy Spirit at work in central Maryland."





# STANDING UP FOR IMMIGRANT HEALTH



Catholic Charities uses health care grant to provide primary care medicine to uninsured immigrants at Esperanza Center

When a 21-year-old woman who immigrated to the United States from Guatemala came to Esperanza Center, she had acute scars from her journey. A train had run over her legs, and after receiving sub-par care in Mexico, she arrived in the United States with infected site wounds from bilateral amputations. At Esperanza Center, the Medical Assistant set her up to receive primary care at their Clinic as well as rehabilitative services, mental health support, and other specialty care at local partner facilities.

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

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 CATHOLIC CHARITIES – ESPERANZA CENTER**

Founded in 1923, Catholic Charities of Baltimore is the leading private provider of human services in Maryland. Through the operation of 80 programs, Catholic Charities serves 160,000 vulnerable Marylanders each year, including children and families, immigrants, individuals with intellectual disabilities, people living in poverty, and seniors.

Located in the heavily-Latino Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore City, the Esperanza Center is a program of Catholic Charities of Baltimore. For 60 years, Esperanza Center has provided health, social, legal, and educational services to the region's immigrant community. The Center's Health Clinic was established in 1995 and provides free adult and pediatric primary care to more than 2,000 immigrant patients.

#### **EXPANDING CAPACITY**

Immigrant patients are too often locked out of the health care system by barriers that include language, immigration status, and cost. Demographically, non-elderly Latino immigrant adults are the highest uninsured population in Maryland; the Clinic at Esperanza Center is their medical home.

With support from the Knott Foundation, Esperanza Center Health Services Clinic hired a Medical Assistant who helped the Clinic conduct over 3,200 patient visits over the course of the year, expanding its capacity back to pre-pandemic service levels. Patients received primary care, dental services, diagnostic testing, immunizations, and over half were referred to specialty care through a partnership with Johns Hopkins Health System.

"The Knott grant let us demonstrate the value of the Medical Assistant for our overall model and was a very impactful investment as we look to grow the Medical Assistant role within our practice," states Matthew Dolamore Program Director at Esperanza Center. In the upcoming year, the Clinic hopes to hire a second Medical Assistant to enhance the patient care experience, maximize the equipment they now have on-site, and serve more people in need.

#### **RETAINING CLINICAL STAFF**

"We were fortunate to have hired a fantastic Medical Assistant with the funds from this grant, and we hope she will be with us for a long time to come," shares Katie Phillips, CRNP, MPH, former Health Services Manager at the Center. "Having adequate clinical support for our physicians and nurse practitioners is a critical component of recruitment and retention of our clinical staff, and also helps us expand our capacity, which is important because we're not even coming close to meeting demand for care in this community," she observes.



As for the patient who was treated for acute injuries to her legs, Esperanza Center's Medical Assistant is now working with her to identify funding for the purchase of prosthetic legs, so that she may be able to walk again and hopefully live the life she envisioned when she made the hard choice to leave her home and seek better opportunities in the United States.



#### **CASH FLOW LOANS**

# BUILDING COMMUNITIES ONE HOME AT A TIME



North East Housing Initiative uses cash flow loan to bridge receivables from Baltimore City's Department of Housing and Community Development

"The cornerstone of a healthy family is housing. You can't think about your grades as a child if you don't have a good place to stay. You can't think about crime and safety if your house is not a safe place," states Garrick R. Good, Executive Director of North East Housing Initiative (NEHI).

Our founders believed in ensuring good stewardship of the resources they had to share. In 2003, the Knott Foundation designated funds to establish a cash flow loan program to increase the impact of our resources and respond more quickly to the needs of our nonprofit community. These loans, also referred to as Program-Related Investments, provide nonprofits with access to capital at lower interest rates and shorter turnaround times than may be otherwise available from typical lenders. Upon repayment, these funds can be recycled for another charitable purpose.

To date, the Foundation has provided over \$1.2M in small loans ranging from \$10,000-\$30,000 to more than 43 nonprofits. All loans have been or are being repaid.

#### A HOUSING MODEL UNIQUE TO BALTIMORE

NEHI is a community land trust dedicated to providing permanently affordable shared equity housing in Baltimore. "A community land trust is community-owned land that is removed from the private real estate market, overseen by a board of directors, and made up of members who live and work within the geographically defined area," Garrick explains. NEHI buys vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties, and using subsidies, rehabs these properties into permanently affordable homes for families earning less than 50% of the area medium income.

If this doesn't sound like something you've seen before, that's because it isn't. "Baltimore is the first city to have an affordable housing trust fund. We now have states across the country looking to see if they can replicate it and how," Garrick says.

NEHI is working to educate state and city legislators about the social and fiscal benefits and functions of community land trust organizations. In addition to giving low-income families the opportunity to create and build wealth, the community and city realize the benefit of increased property values.

#### **DELAYS IN GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

Baltimore City depends on nonprofits like NEHI to provide services ranging from housing and food assistance to rehabilitation, youth mentorship, and job training. Baltimore's most disenfranchised and vulnerable populations rely on these essential services. However, the City's contracting and payment process often leaves nonprofits waiting over a year for payment. To avoid a disruption in services, directors like Garrick must find creative solutions to keep the lights on.

This is where the Knott Foundation's cash flow program can help. Under Garrick's leadership, NEHI has been the recipient of four cash flow loans from the Knott Foundation. Three of these loans were awarded during the pandemic, helping NEHI to weather exacerbated delays in government payments at the same time that housing insecurity worsened.

#### THE FUTURE OF NEHI

When Garrick started at NEHI in 2018, their annual budget was \$50,000. Today, it's \$5 million. He has also worked to develop institutional partners who provide services ranging from financial literacy counseling to a tool-library homeowners can borrow from for home repairs. By 2025, his goal is to have 200 homes in their community land trust. "Our goal is to make dreams come true for families that didn't feel they had the ability to buy a house."



### **2022 GRANT AWARDS**

#### **FOUNDATION GRANTS**

¡Adelante Latina!, \$20,000

Associated Catholic Charities. \$40,000

Associated Catholic Charities, \$120,000

Associated Charities of Cumberland, \$20,000

Baltimore Lab School, \$15,000

Baltimore Outreach Services, \$10,000

Baltimore SquashWise, \$78,500

Bishop Walsh School, \$90,000

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baltimore, \$50,000

Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School, \$50,000

Cornerstone Community Housing, \$45,000

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, \$50,000

Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County, \$25,000

First Tee-Greater Baltimore, \$40,000

Franciscan Center, \$75,000

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, \$89,500

Irvine Nature Center, \$15,000

Jemicy School, \$78,500

Junior Achievement of Central Maryland, \$50,000

LET'S GO Boys and Girls, Inc., \$45,000

Marian House, \$91,200

Maryland Nonprofits, \$45,000

Mercy High School, \$120,000

Mission of Mercy, \$50,000

Mount St. Mary's University, \$60,000

Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital, \$25,000

Notre Dame Preparatory School, \$50,000

Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School, \$80,450

**Parks & People,** \$45,000

Pathfinders for Autism, \$31,800

**Paul's Place,** \$75,000

Project Jumpstart, \$50,000

Project Pneuma, \$45,000

Resurrection-St. Paul School, \$85,000

Saint Ursula School. \$79.250

Shepherd's Clinic, \$30,000

Sisters Academy of Baltimore, \$50,000

Sisters Circle, \$50,000

St. John Regional Catholic School, \$80,000

St. John's Catholic Prep, \$95,000

St. Michael - St. Clement School. \$65,000

St. Michael the Archangel Church, \$24,300

St. Paul Catholic Church, \$24,300

Taking the Lead, \$15,000

The National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton, \$54,398

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, \$40,000

The Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC), \$25,000

The Shrine of the Little Flower, \$40,000

**Thread.** \$42.500

Trinity School, \$70,000

Women's Housing Coalition, \$15,000

#### **DISCRETIONARY GRANTS**

Archdiocese of Baltimore, \$6,000

Baltimore Hunger Project, \$7,500

Baltimore SquashWise, \$3,500

Calvert School, \$2,500

Calvert School, \$2,000

CASA of Baltimore, \$9,999

Cornerstone Community Housing, \$29,500

Franciscan Center, \$896

Gilman School, \$2,000

Interfaith Service Coalition of Hancock, \$5,000

Living Classrooms, \$1,500

Loyola Blakefield, \$5,000

MENTOR Maryland | DC (Fiscally sponsored by the Fund for

Educational Excellence), \$5,000

MERIT Health Leadership Academy, \$1,500

Mt. de Sales Academy, \$2,500

No More Stolen Childhoods, \$896

Notre Dame of Maryland University, \$2,500

Port Discovery Children's Museum, \$4,500

Roland Park Country School, \$2,500

Roland Park Country School, \$2,500

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC), \$2,500

ShareBaby, \$500

Sisters Academy, \$2,500

St. Casimir School, \$4,500

St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, \$1,000

Star Spangled Banner Flag House, \$1,500

University of Maryland Medical System Foundation, \$9,500

Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids, \$2,000

#### **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 and grounded in our donor intent, we are guided by the following shared beliefs and values:

#### FAITH FIRST

align our giving with the values of the Catholic faith and prioritize the Catholic community

#### OPPORTUNITY OPENS DOORS AND HEARTS

provide people opportunities to be successful and get ahead as a means to engender a spirit of gratitude & generosity

#### CHARACTER COUNTS

look at character, and give to leaders and organizations that exude integrity and have a high standard of accountability

#### Use business sense

make charitable giving decisions much like in business (look at financial soundness, impact, etc.), and don't fund a sinking ship

#### STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

give locally, in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in ways that both meet needs, and that grow and strengthen the local community



## **KNOTT FOUNDATION TRUSTEES**

As of December 31, 2022

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 G. 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
Morgan Voelkel

### **KNOTT FOUNDATION STAFF**

As of December 31, 2022

**Kelly Medinger Executive Director** 

**Christina Rickman**Business Manager

**Kathleen McCarthy**Grants and Information
Technology Manager



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