ANNUAL REPORT 2017
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GIVING

THE MARION I. & HENRY J. KNOTT FOUNDATION
Our 2017 annual report celebrates the Knott Foundation’s 40th anniversary year, marking four decades of giving to organizations strengthening communities in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

To commemorate this milestone, we released a short film this past year about the history and mission of the Foundation. It tells the story of who our founders were, what motivated their philanthropy, how multiple generations of the Knott family are involved in our work today, and how our founders’ vision and legacy continues to strengthen the community 40 years later. You can watch the film on the homepage of our website, www.knottfoundation.org.

In 2017, we also launched our BOOST strategic grantmaking initiative. Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time, or BOOST, aims to engage and retain disadvantaged older youth in Baltimore City in out-of-school time programs that connect them to a consistent relationship with a caring adult. You can learn more about BOOST on our website or in the education section of this annual report.

It is an honor to steward the legacy of Marion and Henry Knott and to be able to share our story, and the stories of our grantees, with you.

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, thank you for your interest in our mission and for celebrating 40 years of giving with us.
ABOUT DRUID HEIGHTS CDC

Established in 1974, Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (Druid Heights CDC) seeks to cause, encourage, and promote community self-empowerment in west Baltimore through economic, educational, employment, and affordable housing opportunities.

"We've built more than 100 homes as a community developer," states Pressley. "And this year we helped 28 families transition from renting to owning their own home. Our key to making this community more successful is home ownership," he adds.

EDUCATION

**STRUCTURE & FUN**

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation uses education grant to support programs for youth in west Baltimore

A list of rules sits on every table in Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, where a group of approximately 20 young people are gathered afterschool. "Be respectful to everyone; and "don't destroy things" are two points on the list. "The kids came up with these rules themselves," explains Anthony Pressley, Executive Director, "so they've worded the way they would talk."

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 instilled 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 have 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.

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

In addition to helping house a wide spectrum of people – from seniors to young families – Druid Heights CDC hosts a variety of youth programs, which the Knot Foundation has supported.

A popular program is the summer camp, which is the only free camp in the neighborhood. The mandatory parent orientation for the camp showcases a video about the disparity between a child growing up in the county and one in the city. "The film helps parents buy in to the program – because if what we're doing at camp isn't supported at home, then ultimately we won't get the kids where we want them to be," reflects Pressley.

This past summer Druid Heights CDC hosted 86 youth and 40 YouthWorks students in its summer camp, with evaluations showing positive results in preventing summer learning loss, the camp’s primary goal.

"In the afterschool program, we have to be more creative," says Pressley, explaining that parents often take a more relaxed approach to after-school and allow their kids to do what they want. "We make it fun so the kids want to come back," he says, "and provide supper so the parents don't have to worry about it."

CREATING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

A large part of Druid Heights CDC’s successful programming for youth comes from community partnerships: the Maryland Food Bank (free supper), the Peabody Conservatory (twice weekly harp classes for youth), the Baltimore Policy Department (mentoring), and St. Peter Claver Catholic Church (gym space), to name a few.

Often these partnerships bear witness to the organization’s commitment to building community and breaking down racial barriers. For example, during the grant period, Druid Heights enhanced its cultural enrichment program for youth by forging a relationship with Beth Am Synagogue, bringing together ten African American teens and ten Jewish American teens for two weekends per month for discussions, lunch, and travel.

“We couldn’t do all this without the support of the community,” Pressley concludes. “Our programming and our partnerships really show our direct impact on families and children in our neighborhood.”

BOOST Initiative

**BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME**

Kids need committed and caring adults to help them navigate life. Out-of-school time programs are a great avenue to build those relationships and help them realize their full potential. Yet an increasing number of low-income students are on the sidelines, and older youth in particular (those in middle and high school) often face the most complex barriers to participation.

Our BOOST initiative focuses on reaching these older youth. Our goal is to engage and retain them in comprehensive out-of-school programs that promote enduring life skills. Recognizing there are many ways to do this, our strategy is all about relationships.

In our research and conversations with field experts, we learned a growing body of evidence suggests that a consistent relationship with a caring adult is the single most important ingredient to increasing the likelihood that a young person will flourish and become a productive adult.

Through our BOOST initiative, we would like to see organizations demonstrate significant depth, duration, and reach of informal and formal mentoring relationships between older youth and caring adults. With those measures, research says in the long-term these youth will experience improved educational outcomes and labor market success, improved decision-making capabilities, and beneficial effects on a number of other well-being variables – all of which point to our founders’ deep-seated value of education, opportunity, and hard work.

BOOST ROUND I GRANT RECIPIENTS

Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens (MERIT) aims to eliminate health care disparities by transforming underrepresented Baltimore City high school students into health care leaders

Next One Up seeks to transform the lives of young men in Baltimore City by supporting and advancing their academic, athletic, and social development

Sisters Circle offers long-term mentoring relationships for at-risk girls in Baltimore, empowering them to define success for themselves, make intentional decisions about their futures, and become self-sufficient young women

Thread engages underperforming high school students in Baltimore City, provides them with a family of committed volunteer mentors, and encourages them to become self-motivated, resilient, and responsible citizens

Pressley concludes. "Our programming and our partnerships really show our direct impact on families and children in our neighborhood."
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.

Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) uses Catholic activities grant to help Towson University students find fulfillment through faith and friendship.

Four out of five people who leave the Catholic Church do so between the ages of 18 and 23. Meanwhile, the American College Health Association routinely reports widespread unhappiness among college students in this age range. So how does the Church find those who are lost and ultimately show them a path to a more fulfilling life?

FOCUS provides that environment for these students and becomes their support system outside of their family.

Amber Cybulski graduated from college interested in the field of college ministry but unaware of FOCUS. She learned about the organization from a friend, applied to become a missionary, and then took part in an intensive 5-week training program for new staff. Today Amber meets with Towson students one-on-one and helps to lead the Newman Center’s campus ministry activities. In the words of a vice president in administration at the college: “It’s great that Catholic campus ministry has awoken again.”

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

“When you go to college, you want to belong somewhere,” says Nan Leahy, Philanthropy Officer. “FOCUS provides a home away from home.”

Amber Cybulski graduated from college interested in the field of college ministry but unaware of FOCUS. She learned about the organization from a friend, applied to become a missionary, and then took part in an intensive 5-week training program for new staff. Today Amber meets with Towson students one-on-one and helps to lead the Newman Center’s campus ministry activities. Through this discipleship, she has witnessed positive developments in students’ friendships, compassion, willingness to lead, and ability to make good choices.

“So much comes down to good choices,” adds Father Matt Buening, Director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Towson University. “Having the guidance of faith, a community to support them, and good friendships to help them make good choices is so important during college.”

A TIME FOR CONVERSION

“In a way college is actually the easiest time for conversion,” shares Cybulski. “You’re not yet tied to a spouse, children, job, profession, or way of life, and perhaps for the first time you are charged with making decisions without the influence of your parents.”

Indeed, the culture of FOCUS has proven to be a powerful catalyst for conversion and discernment. Fr. Matt was recently contacted by an unbaptized student interested in exploring the Catholic faith. Simultaneously, FOCUS has inspired two recent Towson graduates to enter the seminary.

“When you fall in love with Christ, it just transforms everything,” says Fr. Matt. “This growth in the human person then translates into effective servant leadership, renewed dedication to the important things in life, a true commitment to helping the community, and a more fulfilling journey through life.”
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.

Complied 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 CASA
Located in rural western Maryland, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Allegany County was founded in 2012 by two local citizens who had seen the results and benefits of CASA programs in nearby towns in West Virginia. The organization hired Raines as Executive Director in 2013, and in 2014 their first CASA was appointed by the court.

CASA of Allegany County has trained approximately 40 CASAs since its founding. These volunteers are currently advocating for approximately 25 foster children, speaking to everyone on the child’s behalf in order to create the best life situation for them — whether that is adoption, kinship care, or other living arrangements.

“People in Allegany County are really starting to recognize our program and see the benefits,” comments Raines. “We actually had to waitlist a number of volunteers at our most recent training, because interest was so high.”

BEING THERE FOR KIDS
The Knott Foundation has awarded CASA of Allegany County two grants since it opened its doors. “When I think of where we were in the very beginning with our first grant — wondering what the next year would look like for all these kids in the foster care system — to where we are today with so many active CASAs, it is a testament to all the great people who have worked so hard to make a difference in our community,” shares Raines.

CASA is a serious volunteer commitment in the life of a child, and volunteers are trained accordingly. CASAs go through a rigorous 5-week training program based on a national curriculum. All are asked to commit to 12 months of service, or the life of the case to which they are assigned. For some volunteers, this can mean several years of service.

Such is the case for CASA Don, who has served his child for three years. Once or twice a month, CASA Don drives more than three hours to visit the child in a special group home setting. They go out for lunch, shop for things the child might need, see a movie, or celebrate birthdays together. CASA Don is his only visitor; the boy’s mother died of cancer, his father was his abuser, and he has no siblings.

CASA Roni Ringler sums it up like this: “Albert Einstein said, ‘Only a life lived for others is worth living.’ Through my decades of adulthood, I have tried to live by this — as a teacher, crisis counselor, friend, and now, a CASA. Becoming a CASA has made me a better person, a more determined person, with the hope my child will be reunited with parents, foster parents, or adoption that will regain a stable and happy home life for them. It is my honor to be a CASA and I am thankful for this.”
FOR PEOPLE LIKE MELVIN

Gilchrist Center Baltimore – Joseph Richey Hospice uses health care grant to provide compassionate, personalized care in Baltimore City

When Melvin came to Joseph Richey Hospice, he likely did not expect a party thrown in his honor. It turns out Melvin loved to fish, and he often spoke to the hospice staff about taking a fishing trip before he reached the end. When a trip with a friend fell through, the staff decided to take matters into their own hands: they threw a fishing party for Melvin in the backyard of the house, complete with a kiddie pool, fishing poles, and party hats.

For people like Melvin, Joseph Richey Hospice is often the only place to find quality, end-of-life care. “There are no other residential options in Baltimore City for people who don’t have the resources or a strong support system,” remarks Ted Blankenship, Director of Development.

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 to 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 JOSEPH RICHEY HOUSE

Joseph Richey House is a 19-bed hospice in Baltimore. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Like Melvin, patients often do not have a caregiver at home, or even a stable living environment. Some have experienced homelessness, incarceration, or addiction, and many have been underserved medically.

Patients are referred to Joseph Richey by a physician because they suffer from a terminal illness and have less than six months to live. What they find when they get there, however, is a deeply compassionate medical team and support system, including a social worker, bereavement counselor, chaplain, and more than 20 physicians who volunteer their time to treat patients at the House.

A BALTIMORE BLESSING

Joseph Richey was founded in 1987 by The All Saints Sisters of the Poor and Mt. Calvary Church. Since that time, approximately 8,000 patients and their families have been served. The Knott Foundation has supported the organization for ten years.

In 2014, Joseph Richey was acquired by Gilchrist Center Baltimore to bolster its financial standing and prospects for future success. “Both Joseph Richey and Gilchrist saw a need that existed for end-of-life care in Baltimore, that otherwise wasn’t being filled. Joining forces ensured that commitment to serving the City and the underserved,” comments Blankenship.

Gilchrist’s relationship with Joseph Richey has helped the hospice serve more medically complex patients, as well as cover the uncompensated care cost that the small nonprofit faces each year due in large part to the fact that Medicaid does not cover patients’ food and lodging. “We really depend on grants and donations from individuals to be able to deliver the care we are providing,” shares Blankenship.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“With a strong organizational structure in place, recent capital renovations, and a burgeoning fundraising campaign, we are all very pleased with the growth that’s been happening at Joseph Richey House,” says Blankenship.

“We may be a small nonprofit, often flying below the radar screen,” he notes, “but we always find a way to serve those who need it most... and do so in a way that brings compassion, dignity, and a personal touch to their final life celebration.”
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.

Port Discovery Children's Museum uses arts and humanities grant to make science fun for students at four Catholic schools in Baltimore City

"Science is the way we learn about everything in the world," wrote one student. She was responding to the question, "How do you feel about science?" after partaking in the Port Discovery Children's Museum STEMventures program.

"Port Discovery's research-based, proven philosophy is that playful, joyful learning broadens children's horizons, builds their self-esteem, sparks their creativity, and piques their lifelong interest in subjects like science," explains Bryn Parchman, President and CEO.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

The mission of Port Discovery Children's Museum is to connect purposeful play and learning, with the goal to develop smarter, healthier, engaged kids. Port Discovery is counted among the country's top children's museums and has served nearly five million visitors, or about 270,000 people annually.

In 2016, Port Discovery teamed up with the four Catholic community schools in Baltimore City. Archbishop Borders, Cardinal Shehan, St. James and John, and Holy Angels Schools serve children in grades pre-K-8 from at-risk neighborhoods. “Our relationship with these schools is really an extension of our efforts to reach kids in as many low-income, urban schools as possible,” shares Christina McLoughlin, Grants Director.

MEETING CONTENT OBJECTIVES

The Knott Foundation awarded Port Discovery a grant to offer its STEMventures after-school program to students at the Catholic community schools, as well as on-site workshops and field trips.

After participating in five-week programs on themes including primates, nanoscience, and engineering, students from the Catholic community schools showed respectable gains in knowledge. For example, the percentage of students who knew primates are a group characterized by a large brain, 3D vision, and opposable thumbs grew from 46% to 90%. And 88% of students identified the correct image of a DNA molecule, a 60% increase from before the program.

Equally as important, the students had fun. In Nanoscience Exposed, students learned about things too small to see and enjoyed a theatrical performance by New Moon Theater called “Alice in Nanoland.” The Everyday Engineers session taught about the five main branches of engineering – civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, and aerospace – and allowed students to perform experiments, build structures, and create the ultimate slime.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Beyond this content area knowledge, Port Discovery strives to create a comfortable atmosphere where children feel they can explore science. That feeling of comfort starts with the people in the room when the program is happening. With the same facilitators from the Museum running all of the programs at each school, students looked forward to their arrival and developed strong bonds with them.

These relationships – coupled with the exciting content of each program series – ultimately helped create more positive attitudes about science. At the conclusion of the program, one student described it best when she exclaimed, “Science is my life!”
2017 GRANT AWARDS

FOUNDATION GRANTS
Adoptions Together, Inc., $49,463
Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outdoor Bound School, $40,000
Calvert Hall College High School, $167,000
Camp Puh’tok for Boys and Girls, Inc., $75,000
Center Stage, $50,000
CHANGE, Inc., $25,000
Charm City Care Connection, $17,000
Church of the Nativity, $67,506
Dyslexia Tutoring Program, $50,000
Franciscan Center, $33,335
Irvine Nature Center, $70,000
Job Opportunities Task Force, $35,000
Loyola Blakefield, $60,000
Marian House, $150,000
Maryland Farmers Market Association, $30,000
Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST), $35,000
Maryvale Preparatory School, $100,000
Maryville Preparatory School, $100,000
Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc., $45,000
MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital, $50,000
Montsiong O’Dwyer Retreat House, $60,000
Mount St. Mary’s University, $40,000
Notre Dame Preparatory School, $80,000
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, $50,000
Penn-Mar Human Services, $45,000
Paul’s Place, Inc., $50,000
School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, $80,000
Seton Center Inc., $100,000
Sisters Academy of Baltimore, $100,000
Umar Boxing Program, $50,000

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS
Archbishop Curley High School, $50,000
B&O Railroad Museum, $10,000
Baltimore SquashWise, $50,000
Bishop Walsh School, $50,000
Church of the Nativity, $50,000
Druid Heights Community Development Corps, $50,000
Helping Orphans Prosper Everywhere, Inc. (H.O.P.E.), $50,000
Helping Up Mission, $50,000
Holy Angels Catholic School, $50,000
Maryland CASA Association, $50,000
Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST), $50,000
Paul’s Place, Inc., $50,000
Safe Alternative Foundation for Education, Inc., $50,000
Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy, $50,000
School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, $50,000
Seton Center Inc., $50,000
Sisters Academy of Baltimore, $50,000
Umar Boxing Program, $50,000

BOOST GRANTS
Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens (MERIT), $1,000,000 over four years ($250,000/year)
Next One Up, $40,000 over two years ($20,000/year)
Sisters Circle, $175,000 over three years ($50,000/year)
Thread, $70,000 over two years ($35,000/year)

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, 2017

Dan Gallagher  Martin Knott, Jr.  John Riehl
David Gallagher  Owen Knott  Margie Riehl
Lindsay Gallagher  Teresa Knott  Michael Riehl
E.B. Harris  Brian McDonald  Brooke Rodgers
Kelly Harris  Meghan McDonald  Michael Rodgers
Thomas Harris  Peter McGill  Patrick Rodgers
Carlisle Hashim  David Porter  Geralynn Smyth
Erin Knott  Joanna Porter  John Smyth
Marion Knott  Laurel Porter  Emmett Voelkel
Martin Knott  Martin Porter  Ryan Voelkel

KNOTT FOUNDATION STAFF

Kelly Medinger  Carol Hoffman  Kathleen McCarthy
Executive Director  Executive Manager  Grants and Information Technology Manager

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