This year we embraced our dual purpose to strengthen the community and nurture and sustain family unity by electing the largest Board in the history of the Knott Foundation.

Today, 34 family members are dedicated to the Foundation’s work of strengthening communities in the Archdiocese of Baltimore while preserving the Knott legacy of giving and working together. All of our board members are actively involved in our grantmaking process by reviewing grant applications, visiting organizations, and presenting their findings to their fellow Trustees. Through this work, we are helping to build and support stronger communities across central and western Maryland.

In 2018, we also entered into the second year of 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.

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, thank you for your interest in our mission and for working with us to help build the foundation for stronger communities in Maryland.
Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School uses education grant to send students from two all-girls Catholic schools in Baltimore City on a character-building expedition

“Ships are safe in harbor, but that’s not what ships are built for,” says Leanna Powell, Fundraising Manager at Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School.

She uses the ship metaphor to describe the organization’s work: “We prepare students to leave the safe harbor of their home, their family, and their community. We give them authentic challenges to confront, on wilderness expedition trips or our Baltimore City ropes course. Then they return home safely – mentally stronger and with the confidence that they can overcome challenges in their own lives.”

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The girls who participated in the expedition trips were challenged and changed by their experience. At the end of the trip, their comments ranged from, “Thank you for giving me this opportunity to experience a different environment other than my house,” to, “I got to know myself in ways I may have never seen without this trip. I am now able to trust myself that I am able to do more than I think.”

Perhaps one participant summed up her transformation the best: “Entering the expedition I was closemotioned, not confident, and completely unwilling to try new things. Through this week, I made new friends and hiked more than I ever thought I could, volunteered to be a navigator twice, and ate food of all kinds. I would never exchange this experience for anything.”

ABOUT OUTWARD BOUND

Outward Bound has been serving the Baltimore community for 32 years. As an educational organization and expedition school, people of all ages and backgrounds participate in active learning expeditions that inspire character development, self-discovery, and service both in and out of the classroom.

“We think of ourselves as a partner to schools,” explains Powell. “Where the traditional classroom might be limited, we can step in with our curriculum and outdoor classrooms to teach kids how to overcome very real challenges, hone their own leadership skills, and develop a greater sense of compassion for others.”

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE FOR GIRLS

The Knott Foundation funded the Catholic Girls Character & Leadership Initiative at Outward Bound, which offered programs for two Catholic girls schools in Baltimore City.

The partnership included Sister’s Academy, a tuition-free middle school, and Mercy High School. Nearly 200 students from these schools participated in Insights days, which include a rigorous outdoor challenge course and character education curriculum. Small groups of students from each school also participated in 5-day expedition trips – canoeing on the Patomac and hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Notably, 100% of the girls participating showed gains in emotional self-efficacy, conflict resolution, problem solving, and perseverance. “Ultimately, all teens are at risk, and the window to make an impact on their development is short. What we do helps them make decisions that chart a course for the rest of their lives,” states Ginger Mihalik, Executive Director.

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 barrier to participation.

Our BOOST initiative focuses on reaching these older youth. Our goal is to engage and retain them in comprehensive out-of-school time 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 II GRANT RECIPIENTS

Baltimore SquashWise aims to create opportunities for students to realize their academic, athletic and personal potential through the sport of squash.

SAFE CENTER (Safe Alternative Foundation for Education, Inc.) seeks to inform and encourage Baltimore City youth of the importance of obtaining an education and creating an acceptable life plan.

EDUCATION

NATURE’S CLASSROOM

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 because of their personal faith and because they valued 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 have successful outcomes for students. His expectation was that students, after benefiting from educational opportunity, would emerge as active citizens, ready to give back and become leaders in their communities.

Today, the Marlon 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.

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CONCRETE PROGRESS

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.

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A PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY

“Father Miller was a pillar of the community,” reflects Msgr. Bozzelli. “His philosophy was, ‘let’s look at who the neighborhood is and put a Church together for the neighborhood.’ He knew everybody and was highly respected.”

The legacy of Msgr. Miller lives on at St. Bernardine’s. Multiple generations of families remain active in the parish, including the family of one of the first African American parishioners. Even the Church’s leadership is inspired by Msgr. Miller’s approach. The current Pastor was mentored by Msgr. Miller for more than 20 years. He became Pastor of St. Bernardine’s in 2014, a year after Msgr. Miller died, and helped the parish emerge from its grief.

Msgr. Bozzelli’s focus on the community has been a steady force: the parish is active in the local community association, 40 West Ministries; they host an ongoing food pantry; they provide Christmas gifts and dinner to 100 families each year; and they host an annual neighborhood walk on Martin Luther King Day in honor of their late pastor.

A NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Built in 1928, St. Bernardine’s Church continues to have a strong spiritual presence, but a deteriorating structural one. Msgr. Bozzelli recently launched a capital campaign, Destined Under the Dome, to make some much-needed repairs and upgrades. The initial campaign goal was $800,000, and the Church has pledges just shy of $900,000.

A grant from the Knott Foundation, designated to repair the exterior steps leading up to the Church, helped kick-off the campaign. With the Foundation’s funds as well as help from parishioners and the Archdiocese, the entrance to the Church was renovated to include new steps, a landing with a small courtyard, and multiple access points from Edmondson Avenue and Mt. Holly Street.

“When people can see concrete progress – and in this case, it was literally concrete – they are energized,” shares Msgr. Bozzelli. “The funding the Knott Foundation gave us really launched our campaign. I’m not sure we would’ve had the same result without it.”

St. Bernardine Catholic Church in Baltimore City uses Catholic activities grant to launch capital campaign and renovate Church’s entrance

Situated in the Edmondson Village neighborhood of West Baltimore, St. Bernardine Catholic Church has a storied history. As one of the largest Catholic parishes in the City in the 1950s, it nearly closed 20 years later when it struggled to adapt to changing demographics and a changing Catholic Church.

In 1975, Msgr. Edward Miller arrived and chose to see opportunity in the face of the Church’s challenges. He worked with the community to grow St. Bernardine’s into the largest African American parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Today, under the leadership of Msgr. Richard Bozzelli, the parish serves 900 households and is celebrating its 90th anniversary year.
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.

ABOUT PARTNERS IN CARE
For 25 years, Partners in Care (PIC) has helped older adults remain independent and an active part of their community, through the exchange of the time and talents of its membership. Its membership has grown dramatically since its founding, from 13 volunteers helping roughly a dozen seniors, to more than 900 volunteers helping upwards of 1,000 older adults.

PIC’s services mostly consist of transportation and home repairs, both of which support seniors aging in place. Members do not pay money for these services, but rather give their time and talent in exchange for them. The membership process includes an application, orientation, and background check. Whether a member is a provider or receiver of services, everyone is considered a member, and no one is turned away.

The Knott Foundation has awarded PIC five grants over the past 15 years, most recently for general operating support. “We could not do what we do without this type of support,” shares Arnold.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD
One PIC member drove a patient to her chemotherapy appointments for an entire first round of treatment. When the patient needed a second round of treatment, the member rearranged her schedule so that she could be the one to continue driving her. The patient’s cancer is now in remission.

Another member had been driving a 94-year-old woman to the grocery store for some time, when a new PIC volunteer took the shift. The member called to check-up on the new volunteer and make sure he was “doing everything right,” Arnold laughs. “She wanted to make sure the new volunteer was going into the store with the woman, getting everything on her list, stopping to buy her and her husband a sub on the way home, and putting all the groceries away in the cupboard once they were home.”

A TALENT BANK
When asked how PIC has managed to grow over the years and still maintain such a personal touch, Arnold states, “Everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Their value is based on the time they can commit, not monetary net worth. Members feel it is a give and take, and not a charity.”

Leveraging the time and talent of members is a serious part of PIC’s service model. Some members provide home repairs. Other members write birthday cards to the general membership. Recently, 25 members baked desserts for a local fundraising event.

“Everyone has their own talent and all of these talents together is what we were created to be – an organization of neighbors helping neighbors,” Arnold concludes.
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 builder's 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.

When Macy showed up at Charm City Care Connection’s clinic in East Baltimore, she wanted help getting medical insurance coverage. The case management team signed her up for Medicaid and reconnected her with her primary care doctor. They also recommended she do some preventative health screenings; their medical team was offering that day — which was how they found her blood pressure was dangerously high.

Without insurance for several months, Macy had been cutting her blood pressure pills in half to save money. Now facing a health crisis, the clinic staff rushed her to East Baltimore Medical Center where a medical team got her blood pressure under control and restarted her on the correct dosage of medication. Crisis averted.

ABOUT CHARM CITY CARE CONNECTION

Founded in 2009 by Hopkins students in collaboration with the East Baltimore community, Charm City Care Connection (CCCC) helps Baltimore’s poorest families access high-quality medical care and social services. CCCC staff and volunteers meet with clients through walk-in clinic hours at two community locations and build long-term relationships with them through home visits, phone calls, text messages, and hospital visits.

“Macy’s case is a wonderful example of how we connect residents to the health care they need and want, and also find undetected health issues that could easily get out of hand,” says Wynn Engle-Pratt, Executive Director of CCCC. Macy is now working with CCCC’s medical student volunteers on long-term goals to continue to improve her health and wellbeing.

EXPANDING TO MEET THE NEEDS

CCCC received a Knott Foundation grant in 2017 to expand its services and open a second clinic location. Using neighborhood indicators, the organization selected Dee’s Place as their second site. Dee’s Place is one of the only 24-hour-a-day addiction programs in Baltimore, and research shows addiction issues have a strong correlation with chronic health and social service needs.

With two locations in East Baltimore that residents know and trust — Dee’s Place, and one at The Men and Families Center — CCCC has seen its client base grow by more than 40% and has been able to make even more referrals to social services. Most often, clients need help getting dental care, finding affordable stable housing, and enrolling in medical insurance. Access to mental health treatment is a rising need as well.

“Overall our success rate is about 75% for meeting a client’s individual need for services,” notes Engle-Pratt. The most common barriers are dental care (which is often not covered by insurance) and access to mental health treatment.

NEW WAYS TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

CCCC hasn’t stopped growing. The organization just piloted a community training program for Naloxone use in emergency situations and is now looking to develop a healthy cooking and lifestyle class. They are also preparing to welcome a group of new nursing student volunteers from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing to complement the teams of medical residents and students already dedicating their time to CCCC.

“My future interest lies in how to incorporate Charm City Care Connection’s comprehensive model for meeting patients’ needs into the wider healthcare system,” reflects Engle-Pratt. “There is a real opportunity for primary care to provide day-to-day, long-term case management and address people’s needs for housing and other services that so greatly impact their health.”
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.

Baltimore Center Stage uses arts & humanities grant to provide access for all

When he’s not running the Front of House at Baltimore Center Stage, you might find Alec Lawson, Audience Services Manager, narrating one of the theater’s productions for a visually impaired audience member.

The audience member wears an earbud, with Alec (or another trained member of his staff) providing a detailed, live audio description of the set, costumes, entrances and exits of each actor, and action on stage. “Doing a good audio description is tricky,” says Lawson. “You have to watch the show many, many times to learn how to break it down, and you have to share information strategically since you can’t talk while an actor is talking.”

ABOUT BALTIMORE CENTER STAGE

Founded in 1963, Baltimore Center Stage is the City’s leading professional producing theatre, named the State Theatre of Maryland in 1978. It welcomes nearly 100,000 people each season from all 24 Maryland counties.

In 2017, the theatre completed a $33 million renovation, which included upgrades to the technology and services available to patrons with special access needs. The Knott Foundation supported Baltimore Center Stage with this work, awarding a grant for new assistive listening devices, improved captioning services, American Sign Language interpreted performances, increased audio description offerings, and more availability of Braille and large print programs.

AN ENHANCED THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Audiences are putting the new services and equipment to good use.

Approximately 750 people each season benefit from assistive listening devices and captioning services, and another 15 members subscribe to the American Sign Language interpreted performance of the mainstage productions. Braille and large print programs continue to be printed at 20 per show.

An average of 100 people also attend “touch tours” of the theatre each season, where they learn about a particular performance by touching props, costumes, and stage items. While staff originally designed the tours for the visually impaired, a large number of attendees have been children. “By opening the touch tours to everyone and attracting lots of kids, it has created a really nice sense of community where we can all interact together to experience theatre,” comments Lawson.

A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND ACCESS

“Diversity and access are key priorities for Baltimore Center Stage,” notes Brandon Hansen, Institutional Giving Coordinator. He points to the evidence: One quarter of their audience identifies as a race other than white, and over a third of households have an annual income below $75,000. The newly renovated Head Theater is equipped with removable seats accessed immediately from the entrance ramp, with wheelchair accessible seats built into the theater’s design. Anyone can email access@centerstage.org with a question and one of eight staff members trained in accessibility issues will respond.

Baltimore Center Stage’s accessibility program has achieved national recognition, so much so that Lawson and a colleague have been invited to present at the Leadership Exchange for Arts and Disabilities. Their presentation will address how to create inclusive programs that reflect diverse communities, how diversifying opens perspectives and opportunities, and the role volunteers play in a successful accessibility program.

“Access for all applies to everyone,” emphasizes Lawson. “We often talk about access in the context of race or socioeconomic status, but access needs exist across a wide spectrum.” That could include people who have low vision, are hard of hearing, or have a family member with autism. “These groups with special access needs have often been taught to hide,” Lawson continues. “Here at Center Stage, we want to make theater a welcome place for everyone, to come as you are.”
2018 GRANT AWARDS

FOUNDATION GRANTS
Acts4Youth, $45,000
Archdiocese of Baltimore, $1,000,000 payable over 3 years
Associated Catholic Charities, Inc., $40,000
Associated Catholic Charities, Inc., $50,000
Associated Charities of Cumberland, Inc., $12,000
At Jacob’s Well, Inc., $100,000
B&O Railroad Museum, $74,263
Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc., $50,000
Bishop Walsh School, $50,000
Caroline Friess Center, Inc., $50,000
CASA of Baltimore, $19,760
Churches for Streets of Hope, $12,000
Community Assistance Network, Inc., $10,000
Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), $40,000
Harford Community Action Agency, $24,348
Helping Up Mission, $50,000
Ignatian Volunteer Corps., $30,000
Institute of Notre Dame, $70,000
Interfaith Service Coalition of Hancock, MD, Inc., $60,000
Itineris, $36,000
Jesuit Volunteer Corps., $20,000
Living Classrooms Foundation, $50,000
Loyola Blakefield, $2,500
Loyola University Maryland, $2,500
Maryland Out of School Time Network, $5,000
MERIT Health Leadership Academy, $2,000
Monsignor O’Dwyer Retreat House, $2,200
Next One Up Foundation, $7,500
Next One Up Foundation, $5,000
Notre Dame Preparatory School, $1,500
Notre Dame Preparatory School, $5,000
Rose of Sharon Equestrian School, Inc., $5,000
Saint John’s Catholic Prep, $500
Sisters Circle, $1,500
St. Paul’s School, $1,000
The Catholic Community of South Baltimore, $2,500
The Producers Club of MD, Inc; MdFF, $2,000
There Goes My Hero, $500
UEmpower of Maryland, $5,000

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS
Adelante Latina!, $2,500
Alternative Directions, Inc., $500
At Jacob’s Well, Inc., $1,000
Calvert School, $2,500
Charles North Community Association, $500
Cool Kids Campaign Foundation, $3,000
Garrison Forest School, $1,500
Greater Baltimore Medical Center, $3,000
Interfaith Service Coalition of Hancock, MD, Inc., $5,000
Itineris, $3,000
Liberty’s Promise, $500
Living Classrooms Foundation, $2,500
Living Classrooms Foundation, $1,250
Loyola Blakefield, $2,500
Loyola University Maryland, $2,500
Maryland Nonprofits, $3,000
Maryland Out of School Time Network, $5,000
MERIT Health Leadership Academy, $2,000
Monsignor O’Dwyer Retreat House, $2,200
Next One Up Foundation, $7,500
Next One Up Foundation, $5,000
Notre Dame Preparatory School, $1,500
Notre Dame Preparatory School, $5,000
Rose of Sharon Equestrian School, Inc., $5,000
Saint Ignatius Loyola Academy, $3,750
Saint John’s Catholic Prep, $500
Sisters Circle, $1,500
St. Paul’s School, $1,000
The Catholic Community of South Baltimore, $2,500
The Producers Club of MD, Inc; MdFF, $2,000
There Goes My Hero, $500
UEmpower of Maryland, $5,000

BOOST GRANTS
Baltimore SquashWise, $90,000 over two years ($45,000/year)
SAFE CENTER (Safe Alternative Foundation for Education, Inc.),
$108,000 over three years ($35,000/year one; $36,000/year two; $37,000/year three)

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