Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This year we celebrated our 35th anniversary.

Since Marion I. and Henry J. Knott founded the Knott Foundation in 1977, we have grown to include 30 family members on our Board of Trustees, who together represent three generations of the Knott family.

We are a premier Catholic family foundation in Maryland and continue to dedicate ourselves to honoring the legacy of generosity that our founders began many years ago.

This annual report tells the story of some of our contributions to the Maryland nonprofit community. We hope you enjoy learning more about the impact of our grantmaking, and we look forward to continuing to share our story with you in the many years to come.

Owen Knott
President, Board of Trustees

Kelly Medinger
Executive Director
As the only professional ballet company in the state, Ballet Theatre of Maryland is a natural gateway into the world of dance for people of all ages. Each year the Ballet Theatre reaches more than 23,000 people through performances, contemporary and classical dance training, and outreach in schools.
A
as with any church built
in 1880, the Catholic
Community at Relay
(CCR) was peppered with steps
and narrow passages until they
embarked on a major renovation
project to make the church more
accessible to those with disabilities.
The Knott Foundation helped fund
the construction of a ramp leading
up to the church’s entrance, which
provides people in wheelchairs, with
walkers, on crutches, or even those
pushing strollers easy access to the
worship space.

“A large part of my healing is being
back in my faith community,”
lifelong CCR member, Elise Cole,
proclaims. Due to a knee injury, the
young mother of three has relied on
crutches for nearly a year, so she is
especially grateful for the ramp.

In addition to solving a physical
access issue, the construction
project served as a community
building experience for CCR. All
100 households belonging to the
faith community, representing
more than 250 individuals in total,
contributed volunteer time and/or
financial resources to the effort.
Notably, CCR exceeded its
fundraising goal for the work by
30%. And one CCR member even
recruited a local Boy Scout to
undertake the landscaping and
hardscaping surrounding the new
ramp as his Eagle Scout project.

CCR is an intentional eucharistic
community located in the historic
village of Relay, Maryland. It is
ecclesiastically approved by the
Archdiocese of Baltimore but
different than a traditional parish.
Visiting priests, usually from
religious orders such as the
Franciscans, Jesuits, or Trinitarians,
celebrate mass on Sunday.

Beyond that, each member of the
community takes full responsibility
for running CCR. “An underlying
theme is that every member has a
vested interest in the church. We
are all responsible, from managing
the finances, to emptying the trash,
to cleaning the church. Volunteerism
is something we see in every aspect
of what we do,” states Greg Bean,
CCR member.

Connie Maas, CCR member,
concludes: “The words ‘faith
community’ really sum it up. We
are bound by faith, and we work
together as a family to support each
other, our own spiritual growth, and
our commitment to actively carry
out the message of Christ.”
EDUCATION
Junior Achievement of Central Maryland

How many young people can calculate the value of a stock portfolio, or define the difference between gross and net income? Nine in ten Catholic school seventh and eighth graders could, after participating in Junior Achievement of Central Maryland’s Finance Park program.

“Junior Achievement, we give young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices,” remarks Jennifer Bodensiek, President of Junior Achievement of Central MD (JA). JA’s programs are designed to deliver hands-on experiences that give young people knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship.

“JA helps students by supplying a real-world perspective that complements classroom learning,” Bodensiek says. “This approach is especially important given so many young people drop out or perform poorly in school because of boredom. This sense of boredom often stems from a disconnect between the classroom and the skills they perceive needing in the real world. The goal of JA programs and our cadre of trained corporate and community volunteers is to share life lessons to make learning come to life and be that connector between class and the real world,” she adds.

When it comes to connecting with more young people, JA has had great success. The organization currently serves 33,000 students annually in 12 Maryland counties, a 64% increase from the previous year. Over the last 15 years, the Knott Foundation has invested nearly $100,000 to support JA’s work in Catholic schools in particular. Most recently, a grant enabled more than 3,000 middle grade students and 800 elementary students to participate in JA’s two capstone programs, JA BizTown and JA Finance Park Virtual.

JA BizTown is an interactive experience where students visit a simulated town, work at assigned jobs, receive paychecks, buy and sell goods and services, and manage their business and personal finances. When students are older, they participate in JA Finance Park Virtual—a computer simulation where a student receives a unique profile (such as a married woman with two children making $40,000/year) and then plays the game of life, budgeting and investing her own money as various situations arise.

Notably, the Foundation’s grant was a key ingredient to helping take the JA Finance Park Virtual program system-wide in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The program is now taught to all seventh grade math students throughout the Archdiocesan school system. Students’ reactions have been positive. A recent graduate of St. Stephens School in Kingsville who took part in JA Finance Park Virtual even told her former teacher, “Keep doing Finance Park because it has already helped me in high school!”
The name itself references the chemotherapy drug Adriamycin, commonly used in the treatment of a wide range of cancers including breast cancer. It is also the title of Katherine Russell Rich’s spirited memoir about her own breast cancer treatment entitled The Red Devil: To Hell with Cancer and Back (Methuen, 2002). The book inspired the mother of breast cancer patient Jessica Cowling, and she later adopted the team name The Red Devils for the Susan G. Komen Race. When Jessica and her friend Ginny Schardt died of breast cancer, the organization The Red Devils was founded in their honor.

Ten years later, The Red Devils serves nearly 700 breast cancer patients and their families each year. The organization’s geographic reach has grown from one hospital in Baltimore to 39 hospitals across Maryland. Notably, they are able to serve all of these patients with only two staff members and a network of hospital coordinators, namely nurses and social workers. “It’s a brilliant business model that was created by our founders and has served us well,” shares Janice Wilson, the Executive Director, explaining that the organization dramatically limits its overhead by vesting certain decisions with professional staff at the hospital level.

The Knott Foundation has awarded The Red Devils $60,000 in operating support over the past five years, ultimately helping the organization grow from serving 500 patients in 2008 to nearly 700 in 2011. On average, The Red Devils provides each patient or family with $300 for critical needs, including transportation to treatment, family support, and medical costs.

The support provided by The Red Devils enhances patients’ quality of life and promotes normalcy in a most traumatic time. “The Red Devils made it possible for survival. The pressure that I carried impacted my healing process. Your kindness and thoughtfulness gave me peace to heal,” commented one patient. Another simply stated, “I could not afford to go to my treatments without your support. You were a godsend for me as I didn’t know what I was going to do.”

So what does it mean to be a Red Devil? It means a life-giving helping hand to someone in need. It means hope above despair. “Until there’s a cure for breast cancer, we need to be here,” Wilson concludes. “That’s why, for now, it’s great to be a Devil.”
Founded in 2001, Second Chance provides people, materials, and the environment with “a second chance.” The organization simply deconstructs buildings and homes, salvages usable materials, and then sells them to the public. The sales proceeds funnel into their workforce development program, which then provides job training and placement to those with employment obstacles in the Baltimore region.

“...”

Second Chance's new headquarters located at 1700 Ridgely Street in South Baltimore has brought the organization’s retail operations, job training program, and central office all under one roof—a meaningful achievement for the growing nonprofit and social enterprise.

The general public comes to Second Chance to shop in the warehouse for home furnishings, architectural salvage materials, building materials, and kitchen and bath elements,” shares Foster. “What they may not know is the whole story of our organization, what we accomplish for the universal good of us all.”

Impressive are the outcomes from the program: during the grant period, for example, Second Chance boasted a 100% graduation rate. Every graduate was placed into a green job, and 97% remained in their jobs after one year. Moreover, ten workforce trainees were then promoted, resulting in a combined annual pay increase of $52,000.

With funding from the Knott Foundation, Second Chance expanded the capacity of its job training program from 10 new trainees in 2010 to 30 in 2011, and they grew to reach more than 50 in 2012. Even more

HUMAN SERVICES
Second Chance

52,000 labor hours created. $3.2 million consumer dollars saved. 11 million pounds of landfill waste diverted. And that was just in one year!

The Knott Foundation’s focus on human services touches numerous areas, from helping to meet people’s basic needs, to housing and homelessness, to workforce development, to family and children’s services.

It was hard to fully appreciate the social benefit of what we do until the first four guys graduated from our job training program,” Mark Foster, Founder and Executive Director, says with emotion in his eyes. “Then I saw what it actually meant—to watch four guys completely turn their lives around.”

Yet the turn is not an easy one. Job trainees must pass a rigorous two-week evaluation and qualifying period, which includes life and safety skills development, and then embark on 16 weeks of on-the-job technical instruction in how to use numerous types of power tools, hand tools, and equipment. Upon completion of the program, qualified trainees receive specialized training in lead abatement and other hazardous materials removal and handling, as well as forklift operation. And those motivated to advance further can go on to receive certificates in carpentry, restoration, manufacturing, plumbing, electrical and masonry. In the end, trainees are placed in green jobs at companies such as Hirsch Electric and Waste Management System.
The first known resident of what is now Patterson Park arrived in 1669. A lot has happened in the last 340 years, and now Friends of Patterson Park, which was founded back in 1998, is working with more than 600 volunteers to preserve and enhance all that the Park offers.

Kathy Harget, who joined Friends of Patterson Park as the new Executive Director in the summer of 2011, sees how the mission extends beyond the physical space: “The green spaces in our city are a perfect connector to bring neighborhoods together. Hosting the right programs can attract a whole lot of diverse people who otherwise may not have met each other.”

The Knott Foundation stepped in to help Friends of Patterson Park in late 2011 through a Program-Related Investment (PRI). PRIs, also referred to as cash flow loans, provide nonprofits with access to capital at lower interest rates and at shorter turnaround times than might otherwise be available. For the Friends of Patterson Park, some of their fundraising activities, including a major event for corporate donors, had been delayed with the leadership transition, so they needed a boost to carry them through the fall.

The result? Friends of Patterson Park received a $25,000 loan from the Knott Foundation. With sufficient financial footing, they were able to either meet or exceed all of their fundraising goals, including hosting a corporate fundraiser that brought in $10,000 more than budgeted; receiving increased annual grants from two foundations; exceeding individual giving goals with the help of the State’s tax credit program; and meeting a $15,000 matching grant from the Meyerhoff Foundation in just 45 days. The year finished with a cash surplus, and the Friends paid the loan back to the Knott Foundation early.

“This is a new chapter in the history of the Friends of Patterson Park,” states Harget. Indeed it is, and the Knott Foundation is honored to be part of it.

Since 2003, the Knott Foundation has provided over $700,000 in small loans ranging from $10,000-$30,000 each to more than 30 nonprofits. To date, all loans have been or are being repaid.
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