



The Marion I. & Henry J.
KNOTT FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2024

*Deep Roots,
New Branches*



By the Numbers



47 years of giving back to the community



4 full-time executive team members work in our office



4 generations of family engagement



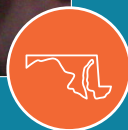
3 grant cycles are held in February, June, and October



34 family members currently serve on the Board of Trustees



\$86M in assets as of December 31, 2024



10 Maryland counties and jurisdictions comprise our giving area

\$2,721,848 *awarded in grants in 2024*



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In 2024, the Knott Foundation found itself both deeply rooted and forward-looking - honoring the legacy of our founders, Henry and Marion Knott, while embracing new opportunities to serve. For 47 years, our family has upheld the values they cherished and passed down through generations: understanding and responding to the needs of our community, respecting the values of the Roman Catholic faith, engaging in the ongoing education of trustees and staff, ensuring good stewardship, and encouraging open communication.

The year also brought exciting first steps in our three new strategic grantmaking initiatives: Catholic Schools, Youth Empowerment, and Workforce Development. These efforts, years in the making, will help us deepen our impact alongside organizations serving communities across the Archdiocese of Baltimore. At the same time, our General Fund remained a vital source of support for a broad range of grantees, continuing our tradition of responsive and flexible grantmaking.

Guided by our trustees and the leadership of Executive Director, Kelley Kilduff, we built on the ingenuity and hard work of our founders while responding to the needs of today with creativity and care. As we look to the year ahead, we carry with us deep gratitude - for our grantee partners, for our Catholic faith, and for the opportunity to serve. I trust that together, we will continue to nurture a legacy of generosity, stewardship, and love for our community.

Have a great year,

Martin G. Knott
President, Board of Trustees



These principles drive our work across all four of our grantmaking vehicles: General Fund, Strategic Initiatives, Discretionary Grants, and Cash Flow Loans, ensuring our mission, values, and donor intent are rooted in every grant we award.

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

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

In 2024, the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation proudly invested over \$2.5 million in nonprofit organizations across Maryland, from western Maryland to Baltimore City. Each nonprofit partner brought unique strategies to address pressing community needs, but they all shared a common purpose deeply aligned with the Foundation's mission: strengthening communities. Whether combating food insecurity, educating young people, supporting mental health, or creating pathways to employment, these organizations, along with their staff, boards, volunteers, and clients, worked tirelessly to make a significant impact for themselves and others.

More than 80 organizations—both longstanding and new partners—were funded this year through our General, Discretionary, and the newly launched Strategic Workforce Development funding vehicles. Each of our five program areas—arts & humanities, Catholic activities, education, health care, and human services—received at least one grant. The majority of awards went to education and human services, as is often the case.

While we'll have to wait until next year to share the impact of this funding, we already have inspiring stories from 2023. With many successes to highlight, we've chosen themes that reflect the Foundation's core values while showcasing innovative strategies, strategic partnerships, and community-driven solutions. These stories demonstrate the invaluable work of our partners in strengthening our communities for everyone.



Advancing Human Dignity and Community Well-Being

Uplifting individuals, creating safe spaces, & strengthening families

House of Ruth, Union Rescue Mission, and Asylee Women Enterprise directly address critical human needs such as safety, homelessness, and trauma recovery.

Baltimore Hunger Project and Weekend Backpacks tackle food insecurity, a fundamental barrier to physical and mental health, family stability, educational success, and human dignity.

Gilchrist Hospice Care provides vital, compassionate care to hundreds of the City's most underserved terminally ill, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Focusing on Education and Skill Building

Helping individuals achieve self-sufficiency and opening doors to opportunity

Loyola School and St. Ignatius Loyola Academy are part of a Jesuit Catholic school ecosystem that provides access to early education for vulnerable children and tuition-free education for boys in grades 5 through 8 from low-income families and underserved neighborhoods—laying a strong foundation for long-term success.

Dyslexia Tutoring Program and Maryland Book Bank promote literacy by providing specialized instruction for individuals with dyslexia and free books to children without access to them, giving learners the tools to succeed academically and socially.

B&O Railroad Museum's RESTORE Baltimore program addresses systemic barriers to employment through intensive skilled trades training, paid work-and-learn opportunities, and job placement. In 2024, cohorts earned all planned certifications, gained driver's licenses to expand job opportunities, and received tools donated by Stanley Black & Decker. The program also gained national recognition when presented at the American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting as a replicable workforce development model.



Building Capacity & Sustainability

Investing in organizations' ability to serve effectively and grow

Community Free Clinic strengthened its Community Mental Health Care program by hiring a part-time Certified Registered Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, expanding access for medically uninsured residents in a county with critically low provider-to-patient ratios. Through its partnership with Brooke's House, the clinic also supports women in early substance abuse recovery while addressing top health priorities.

Improving Education's All Children Ready Initiative expanded to five new Catholic Charities Head Start sites, reaching over 600 students. Mid-year data shows that 90% of children are meeting or exceeding Kindergarten Readiness Assessment indicators in reading and math—well above the 80% goal.

Esperanza Center improved accessibility for immigrant families by hiring a bilingual Client Services Representative. This investment also enabled the Center to respond rapidly to the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, providing funeral and repatriation planning, translation services, and behavioral health and legal referrals for affected families.

Jesuit Volunteer Corps embeds volunteers in Baltimore communities, contributing over 15,000 service hours annually to mission-driven nonprofits. Volunteers engage in holistic development, community leadership, and social justice education while building lasting connections in the city.



Addressing Root Causes and Long-Term Impact

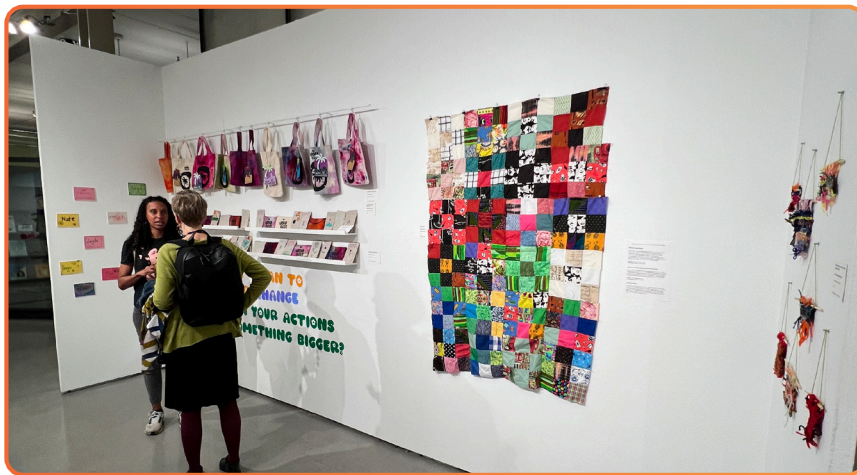
Driving systemic change and measurable outcomes

GEDCO exceeded its service goals by responding to over 4,400 food requests, supporting nearly 1,900 children, and providing eviction prevention assistance to 290 individuals—surpassing its target. Additional funding allowed GEDCO to increase aid per person, hire a Property Manager to improve housing unit turnaround, and expand mental health support, with 85% of homeless residents meeting regularly with a counselor.

Pro Bono Counseling expanded access to mental health care across the Archdiocese of Baltimore, matching over 1,000 callers with volunteer therapists and recruiting 205 new providers, including 36 bilingual therapists. Despite staffing challenges affecting follow-up capacity, the organization still met or exceeded most goals for service provision and training.

Fostering Collaboration

Building partnerships to amplify impact and access



Open Works, in partnership with **Coppin State University** and the **UMB Community Engagement Center**, launched a pilot makerspace offering hands-on training in sewing, laser cutting, and 3D printing. The organization secured \$4M in capital commitments and site control for a new Westside makerspace, expanded technical infrastructure, and co-organized the Maryland Makerspace Association to standardize maker education statewide.



Second Chances Garage supports low-income households through its Low-Cost Vehicle Program and Reduced Cost Car Repair Program, helping families maintain reliable transportation essential for work and daily responsibilities. Grace, a grandmother and sole caregiver to five grandchildren, was relying on her emergency brake after her car's brakes failed. With support from the Knott Foundation, Second Chances Garage repaired her vehicle—restoring not just her mobility, but her independence. In 2024 alone, the organization completed 449 reduced-cost repairs, with a goal of reaching 700 repairs by the end of 2025.

Building the Bridge Before the Gap Widens



Dyslexia Tutoring Program

In a small office in Baltimore's Hampden neighborhood, the Dyslexia Tutoring Program (DTP) is rewriting the story for children and adults who learn differently. While its administrative hub is in Hampden, volunteer tutors meet students in community based settings that are easily accessible and welcoming such as public libraries.

This new chapter for DTP builds on the remarkable legacy of Marcy K. Kolodny, who led the organization for more than two decades with vision, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to expanding access to literacy. Under her leadership, DTP deepened its reach into low-income communities and strengthened its reputation as a trusted resource for children and adults with dyslexia. In 2024, Kolodny passed the baton to

current Executive Director, Dalbin Osorio, who's already running with fresh energy and a deep belief in the strengths of every learner.

Executive Director, Dalbin Osorio, describes their mission simply: "We don't view dyslexia as a deficit. We view it as a strength, something that makes you whole. Our role is to be the bridge between where you are and where you want to be."

For decades, misconceptions have shaped the public's understanding of dyslexia. Too often, learners are labeled as lazy or inattentive; the reality is their brains simply process language differently. In Baltimore City, where public schools often lack the resources to identify and support students with dyslexia, these misunderstandings can result in lifelong consequences.

From Carceral Roots to Early Intervention

The origins of DTP trace back to the 1980s, when community advocates noticed a troubling pattern: many repeat youth offenders struggled with undiagnosed dyslexia. Without early intervention, students who cannot read often feel isolated from their peers, withdraw from classroom participation, and eventually stop attending school altogether. That disconnection leaves them more vulnerable to systemic inequities, increasing the likelihood of involvement in the school-to-prison pipeline, greater risk of un- or underemployment, and long-term challenges to their emotional wellbeing.

“If you’re not known to the school system,” Osorio says, “you eventually become known to the [carceral] system, and that system is not designed to work with our population.”

DTP was founded to disrupt that cycle. Initially, the program was launched to help incarcerated youth with dyslexia build literacy skills as a pathway out of the system. Over time, DTP expanded its mission

to focus on early intervention, reaching children before frustration and academic disengagement could take root. By providing specialized, one-on-one support tailored to how neurodivergent brains process language, the program helps students overcome barriers to literacy that traditional school system often lack the resources to address.

Osorio’s social work background shapes his understanding of what’s at stake here. He recalls sitting in school meetings where a student struggling to read was labeled as bad or disruptive. “When you put something in front of them that they can’t make sense of, it’s like handing them a word jumble and saying, ‘figure it out.’ That frustration can manifest as acting out or shutting down. Either way, the system misses the root cause.”

Without intervention, the consequences ripple outward. Poor literacy skills can limit a young person’s ability to fill out a job application, understand their rights in a legal setting, or engage fully in civic life. “Literacy opens up your world,” Osorio says. “It’s violence prevention. It’s workforce development. It’s community care.”

“It’s about building a healthy village. Because a child who doesn’t feel the warmth of the village will burn it down to feel it.”



Evidence-Based Instruction Without the Price Tag

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) estimates that 20% of the population (or one in five people) live with dyslexia or a language processing disability. Private, one-on-one tutoring with structured, evidence-based methods has proven benefits, but at \$100 to \$150 per hour, it is out of reach for low-income families in Baltimore City. For students whose parents earn just above the “free and reduced meals” (FARM) threshold, the gap can be insurmountable.

DTP removes this barrier by offering free, one-on-one tutoring grounded in the Orton-Gillingham approach, a highly structured, multi-sensory,

evidence-based method proven to help students with dyslexia. This approach integrates sight, sound, movement, and touch to reinforce learning and adapts instruction to meet each student’s needs. By breaking reading and spelling into manageable steps, students build the skills and confidence to tackle new words and concepts.

“Reading for 45 minutes a day isn’t the solution,” Osorio explains. “That turns reading into a punishment. Our method is about helping learners decode language in a way that makes sense to their brains.”

Impact That Can Be Measured and Felt

With support from the Knott Foundation in 2023, DTP provided more than 7,200 hours of free services to 209 low-income children and adults from 10 counties across the greater Baltimore area. The organization processed 118 new intakes, conducted over 80 professional academic assessments, and trained 23 new volunteer tutors in multisensory literacy skills at no cost to them.

Students made statistically significant gains in fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and oral reading skills after just 30 hours of weekly tutoring. These gains matter: fluency is the bridge

between decoding words and true comprehension. Comprehension, in turn, transforms reading into a tool for learning - a shift that keeps children in the classroom and out of the courtroom.

Simultaneously, the numbers only tell part of the story. The 2023-2024 year brought high school graduations, spots on the honor roll, a young girl finally joining her school’s book club, a student accepted to both SCAD and MICA, and a once-struggling reader confidently sharing his own written words before a crowd of donors to a standing ovation.



More Than Tutoring: Building Belonging

The Knott Foundation funding also supported DTP's emotional and behavioral wellness pilot in partnership with Jewish Community Services and Be Well 365. These sessions addressed stress management, bullying, healthy relationships, and coping with the gun violence that confronts many students daily. For children who have long struggled with reading, isolation is common. By fostering supportive peer relationships, the program reinforces resilience and belonging alongside academic skills.

DTP's commitment to connection doesn't end with program participants - it extends to their parents and caregivers too. DTP intentionally brings families together so they can share resources, learn strategies, and find solidarity in a community that understands their challenges. As Osorio explains, "It's about building a healthy village. Because a child who doesn't feel the warmth of the village will burn it down to feel it."

Summer camp scholarships, also supported through the grant, gave 21 students the chance to attend specialized programs at Jemicy, Odyssey, and the Gow School. In addition to intensive reading



instruction, campers explored welding, theater, science, and sports, all while surrounded by peers who also have dyslexia. This shared experience removed the fear of being "the odd one out" and created an environment where students could focus on learning, gain confidence, and build friendships with students who shared their experience. "Camp offered an environment absent of bullying and ridicule," one parent shared, "and my child came home ready to learn with a better attitude."

A Bridge for the Long Term

DTP's tutors and staff know that progress is built on persistence, trust, and relationships. Many students work with the same tutor for years, gaining both literacy skills and a champion who believes in them. The program's volunteer tutors are the backbone of its success, giving their time and talent to ensure students who once felt left behind can instead look forward.

In the broader Baltimore education landscape, DTP stands out as both a niche provider and a critical connector - bridging the gap between neurodivergent learners and the systems meant to support them. By helping students read, the program not only opens doors to education and

employment but also protects them from being funneled into punitive systems that can harm rather than help young people.

As Osorio puts it: "Any baby that comes through our door, whether they're four or 24, needs to experience that warmth and that love from us, because maybe they didn't feel it somewhere else. And I think all nonprofits should take heed of that."

As the organization looks ahead, its charge remains clear: meet each learner where they are, honor their humanity, and ensure they feel the warmth of the village, because with that foundation, the future looks brighter for them, and for Baltimore.

2024 Grant Awards

Foundation Grants

\$20,000.00	jAdelante Latina!	\$210,000.00	NPower Maryland
\$15,000.00	Baltimore Outreach Services, Inc.	\$45,000.00	Parks & People
\$75,000.00	Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baltimore	\$50,000.00	Per Scholas
\$68,750.00	Cardinal Shehan School	\$225,000.00	Project JumpStart
\$75,000.00	Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School	\$50,000.00	REACH of Washington County
\$70,000.00	Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	\$50,000.00	San Mar Family and Community Services
\$180,000.00	Drink at The Well	\$35,000.00	Shepherd's Clinic
\$75,000.00	Franciscan Center	\$60,000.00	Sisters Academy of Baltimore
\$25,000.00	Frank J Battaglia Signal 13 Foundation	\$65,000.00	Sisters Circle
\$50,000.00	Hagerstown Area Religious Council	\$60,000.00	Soccer Without Borders Maryland
\$35,000.00	Harford Community Action Agency	\$75,000.00	St. Ignatius Loyola Academy
\$50,000.00	Health Care for the Homeless	\$50,000.00	St. John's Catholic Prep
\$50,000.00	Helping Up Mission	\$30,000.00	St. Mary's Outreach Center
\$26,000.00	Ignatian Volunteer Corps	\$89,000.00	St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
\$25,000.00	Innovation Works Inc	\$60,000.00	The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
\$75,000.00	Intersection of Change	\$75,000.00	The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs
\$50,000.00	Junior Achievement of Central Maryland	\$50,000.00	Thread
\$25,000.00	Leveling the Playing Field	\$45,000.00	UEmpower of Maryland
\$50,000.00	Marian House	\$225,000.00	Vehicles for Change

Discretionary & Matching Grants

\$100.00	American Heart Association - Central Maryland Chapter	\$1,350.00	Calvert School
\$15,500.00	Archdiocese of Baltimore	\$2,000.00	Caroline Friess Center
\$2,500.00	Ashland Preschool Center	\$2,500.00	Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
\$1,500.00	B&O Railroad Museum	\$100.00	Chai Lifeline
\$2,500.00	Backyard Basecamp, Inc.	\$250.00	Chestnut Ridge Volunteer Fire Company
\$250.00	Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust	\$1,575.00	Church of the Nativity
\$1,500.00	Baltimore Hunger Project	\$2,050.00	Cornerstone Community Housing
\$18,499.00	Baltimore Squashwise	\$5,000.00	Family Tree
\$270.00	BARCS	\$150.00	Fluid Movement
\$5,000.00	Blue Water Baltimore	\$50.00	Friendly Loving Opportunities (FLO)
\$5,000.00	Bridges Baltimore	\$500.00	Garrison Forest
\$4,500.00	Calvert Hall College High School	\$1,250.00	GilChrist Hospice Care
		\$5,750.00	Gilman

\$100.00	Graham Equestrian Center	\$500.00	Port Discovery
\$1,000.00	Health Care for the Homeless	\$1,000.00	Pregnancy Center North
\$2,500.00	Helping Up Mission	\$2,500.00	Rise Arts Center of Baltimore
\$100.00	Hon's Honey	\$7,500.00	Roland Park Country School
\$5,300.00	Interfaith Service Coalition	\$12,000.00	Ronald McDonald House
\$2,499.00	Itineris	\$250.00	Santa's Helpers Anonymous
\$1,000.00	Jemicy School	\$100.00	School Sisters of Notre Dame
\$2,750.00	Living Classrooms Foundation	\$4,840.19	Seton Shrine
\$1,000.00	Loyola Blakefield	\$1,000.00	Signal 13
\$500.00	Maryland Film Festival	\$2,300.00	Sisters Academy
\$5,500.00	Maryland Philanthropy Network	\$450.00	Sisters Circle
\$550.00	Maryvale Preparatory School	\$5,000.00	St. Casimir Catholic School
\$8,000.00	Monsignore O'Dwyer Retreat Center	\$2,500.00	St. James Academy
		\$2,500.00	St. Joseph Parish
\$7,500.00	Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital	\$3,750.00	St. Paul's Schools
\$150.00	My Neighbors Foundation	\$100.00	Swim Across America
\$1,000.00	Notre Dame of Maryland University	\$40.00	Taking The Lead
\$50.00	Open Works	\$250.00	The Family Tree
\$2,500.00	Operation No Person Left Behind	\$250.00	The First Tee of Baltimore
\$500.00	Pathfinders for Autism	\$5,000.00	The Samaritan Community
\$2,000.00	Paul's Place	\$50.00	Valleys Planning Council
\$500.00	Perry Hall Recreation and Parks Council	\$3,250.00	Weekend Backpacks

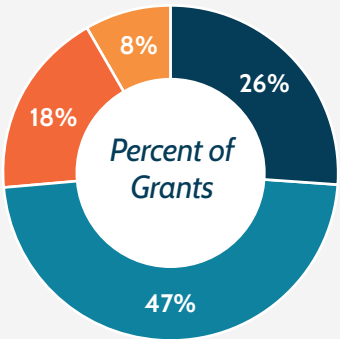
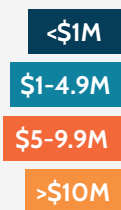


2024 Grantmaking by the Numbers

Organization Budget

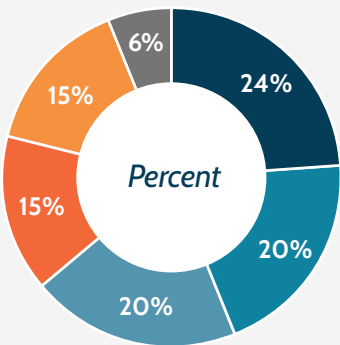
Most of the Knott Foundation grantees are small nonprofits with budgets under \$5M. 73% of giving in 2024 was to organizations in this budget range with just over a quarter or grants going to organizations with budgets under \$1M.

Organizational Budget



Leveraging of Funds

The Knott Foundation awarded \$1,748,750 in General Fund grants in 2024. These funds supported projects totaling \$38,208,228. 59% of grants were given to support projects totaling under \$500,000 in total project costs.



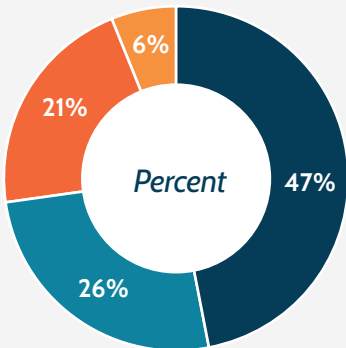
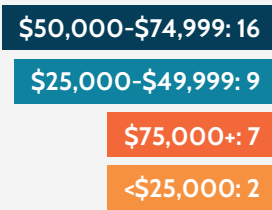
Project Costs



Grant Size

The Knott Foundation gave out 34 General Fund grants in 2024. The largest grant was \$89,000 and the smallest was \$15,000. The average grant size was just over \$51,000. 73% of grants were between \$25,000 and \$75,000.

Grant Amount



Knott Foundation Trustees

(as of December 31, 2024)

Andrew Ellis	Meghan McDonald
Daniel Gallagher	Carroll McGill
David Gallagher	Peter McGill
Lindsay Gallagher	David Porter
Michael Gallagher	Joanna Porter
Emily Hanssen	Laurel Porter
E.B. Harris	Martin Porter
Kelly Harris	John Riehl
Thomas Harris	Margie Riehl
Marion Hashim	Morgan Riina
Erin Knott	Brooke Rodgers
Marion Knott	Patrick Rodgers
Martin Knott	Geralynn Smyth
Martin Knott, Jr.	John Smyth
Owen Knott	Jamie Stodd
Teresa Knott	Erin Tielsch
Brian McDonald	Emmett Voelkel

Knott Foundation Executive Team

(as of December 31, 2024)

Kelley Q. Kilduff
Executive Director

Kathleen McCarthy
Program Director

Christina McMahon
Business Manager

Jessica Feldt
Grants & Database Administrator



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