

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

*Connecting to the Vision and Values of Our Founders*

THE  
MARION I. & HENRY J.  
**KNOTT FOUNDATION**



# BY THE NUMBERS

As of December 31, 2014

## ABOUT US

**\$56 MILLION**

in assets as of December 31, 2014

**80% OF TRUSTEES**

conducted a site visit in 2014

**28 FAMILY MEMBERS**

serve on our Board of Trustees

**16 YEARS**

is the average tenure of our Trustees

**3 FULL-TIME**

staff members work in our office

## ABOUT OUR GIVING

**3 GRANT CYCLES**

are held in February, June, and October

**EDUCATION**

is our largest program area

**APPROXIMATELY 50 GRANTS TOTALING \$2 MILLION**

are awarded each year

**\$120,000**

was our largest grant in 2014

**\$45,000**

was our median grant in 2014

## ABOUT THE KNOTT FAMILY LEGACY

**MORE THAN \$50 MILLION**

in grants have been awarded since 1977

**3 GENERATIONS**

serve on our Board of Trustees

**\$3.3 MILLION**

in grants have been awarded to Catholic schools in the last 5 years



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The year 2014 marked an important time for the Knott Foundation as we came together to explore and formalize the values and principles behind our founders' generosity to people and organizations in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Our annual report features short narratives about our founders, Marion and Henry Knott, which inform our work as a Catholic family foundation committed to nurturing family unity and strengthening the community.

Paying further tribute to our original donors, we are also pleased to feature stories about how the organizations we support are enhancing the cultural, spiritual, educational, health care, and human service activities in the Maryland counties where we fund.

Finally, in December we mourned the loss of Alice Voelkel, a past president and charter trustee of the Knott Foundation. We will remember Alice for her deep and caring commitment to our family, her unwavering conviction in her work with the Foundation, and her 37 years of dedicated service on our board.

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, we thank you for your interest in our mission and for working with us to help build strong families and strong communities in Maryland.

Handwritten signature of Owen Knott in black ink.

**Owen Knott**  
Outgoing President,  
Board of Trustees

Handwritten signature of Patrick Rodgers in black ink.

**Patrick Rodgers**  
Incoming President,  
Board of Trustees

Handwritten signature of Kelly Medinger in black ink.

**Kelly Medinger**  
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Stevie T. Photography

## EDUCATION



### Seeds of Hope Bear Fruits of Success

Living up to the organization's tag line to "inspire, empower, nurture, succeed," Boys Hope Girls Hope was founded by a Jesuit priest in 1977 to help academically capable and motivated children-in-need meet their full potential by providing them with an excellent education and a nurturing home. The Knott Foundation has supported their work since Boys Hope Girls Hope came to Baltimore in 2002, most recently with a grant to help pay educational expenses for their 16 scholars, including books, uniforms, field trips, and transportation.

#### INSPIRE

Scholars are referred to Boys Hope Girls Hope (BHGH) by teachers, guidance counselors, and social service agencies who see both potential in a child and barriers to their success, such as economic hardship, domestic abuse, or poor supervision. After extensive psycho-educational evaluations, several visits to the BHGH homes, and in close partnership with the child's parents, the scholar moves in.

This year, two new scholars joined BHGH. With the encouragement of her middle school guidance counselor, Brianna, now a freshman at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, lobbied her family to allow her to join the program. While she admits it was hard to leave her mom, grandmother and sister, after just four months at BHGH Brianna already feels at home: "I see Boys Hope Girls Hope as a second family. The other girls in the house are my big sisters."

#### EMPOWER

Once a new scholar moves in, BHGH staff helps identify a private college-preparatory school in the Baltimore area that best fits the scholar's academic needs and interests. Outside of school, scholars are encouraged to expand their horizons through service, job opportunities, sports, travel, and music.

"The community service we do comes from our foundation of faith," says Jennifer Meyerhoff, Development Director. Scholars volunteer at local nonprofits including Beans & Bread and First Fruits Farm, and they work at places like Downtown Sailing Center and WYPR. In addition, they take part in many extra-curricular activities. Joshua, a freshman at Gilman School, plays four instruments and also plays lacrosse with a program called Next One Up.

#### NURTURE

A typical day at BHGH begins with a 6:00 wake-up call. All the scholars leave for school at 6:45. Dinner is at 6:30, followed by two hours of required study time. Lights are out by 9:30 for middle schoolers and 10:30 for high schoolers.

While their days are highly structured, building scholars of character and compassion also comes from nurturing one another. As the oldest of five children, Noe, a junior at Calvert Hall College High School, grew up caring for his younger siblings. "Noe is now a leader among the boys in the house and takes his role as the oldest male scholar very seriously," says Meyerhoff.

#### SUCCEED

Scholars from BHGH go on to achieve great things in life. Dwayne, a junior at Loyola University Maryland, recently became BHGH's first scholar to study abroad. Another scholar, David, recently graduated from Morgan State University with a Master's Degree in Social Work and is working full-time. A current scholar, Cierra, is a senior at the Institute of Notre Dame with hopes of studying engineering in college. She sums up the program like this: "Boys Hope Girls Hope is like co-parenting. It is truly a partnership between the program, the parent, and the scholar."

Henry and Marion Knott, our founders, believed that education was the key to success. They sought to support both students who were excelling academically and students who had limited access to opportunity. They believed that hard work combined with access to a quality education was the foundation from which all people could succeed in life.

Mr. and Mrs. Knott prioritized Catholic education both because of their personal faith and because they valued both the character development it nurtured in students and the moral stability it provided to the community. And though they primarily supported Catholic education, their interests were not exclusive. They sought to support the greater Baltimore community by providing opportunity to motivated students in and outside the Catholic faith.

When investing in education, 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 show 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.



Photo Credit: Courtesy, Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise, St. Louis, MO

# CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES



## Walking with Mother Seton

“Sacredness is a big part of why people like to come to Mother Seton’s Shrine,” says Rob Judge, Executive Director of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. “That sense of peacefulness and sacredness permeates this place.”

### ABOUT THE SHRINE

Located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the mission of the Shrine is to promote the life and legacy of Mother Seton, the first native-born Catholic American saint, as a source of inspiration and encouragement for all people. The Shrine is home to a museum and historical grounds that pay tribute to the life and work of Mother Seton, and a Basilica where she is laid to rest.

Today, the Shrine welcomes more than 45,000 visitors each year. Additionally, approximately 60 religious sisters reside on the campus of the Shrine. “Through our work, the sisters hope that more people will be drawn to the Shrine, that their experience will bring them closer to God, that they will see Mother Seton’s witness of charity to the poor, and that they will go home and want to live that out in their own lives,” Judge says.

### BUILDING THE RETREAT PROGRAM

To further its mission, the Shrine recently expanded its day retreat program with support from the Knott Foundation. From large confirmation retreats with 80 eighth graders, to faculty and staff retreats from area Catholic schools, to small parish groups, the Shrine is now a bustling retreat center.

During the grant period, the Shrine held 29 retreats, up from 6 retreats the previous year. With an average retreat size of 35 people, the program also brought many new visitors to campus. Overall visitorship to the Shrine increased significantly during the grant period. The upcoming 40th anniversary of the canonization of Mother Seton also offers a unique opportunity to continue to grow the retreat program.

### CONNECTING THE DOTS

“When the groups are here, they’re able to spend time in the museum, watch the orientation film about Mother Seton, take a walking tour through the historic campus, attend Mass in the Basilica, and make private devotions in the chapel,” remarks Erica Colliflower, Retreat Coordinator. Notably, most organizers indicate that they would have hosted their retreat at a hotel, or not at all, if it were not for the Shrine’s retreat facilities.

“Being able to take advantage of all of these different services we offer really connects the dots for our retreatants,” Colliflower continues. “They see the whole picture and are able to walk with Mother Seton along her journey as a convert, a mother, a widow, a foundress, and a saint.”

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.



## HUMAN SERVICES



### Beyond Foster Care

Turning 18 is a rite of passage for any young person, but it can be especially perilous for those in foster care.

“Studies show that kids aging out of foster care without a permanent point of contact are much more likely to end up homeless within 18 months, have interactions with the justice system, face lower job prospects, and have fewer future educational opportunities,” shares Jeanette Stoltzfus, Manager of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Adoptions Together.

#### ADOPTIONS TOGETHER AND THE FAMILY FIND PROGRAM

With a mission to build healthy, lifelong connections between children and families, Adoptions Together launched a program in 2011 to connect youth in Baltimore City aging out of foster care to a permanent relationship. The program, called Family Find Step Down, intersects the fields of social work, law enforcement, and investigations to produce the best result for a child.

“Every person needs someone to celebrate a holiday with and someone who will support them when they need it,” Stoltzfus explains. Adoptions Together begins that search by asking the child who they want that person to be. Sometimes it is a family member, and sometimes it is a teacher, a mentor, or a friend. For children who have been in the foster system for a long time, locating that person can be time consuming.

#### THE PROCESS OF FINDING PEOPLE

Enter Dana Smoot, retired Maryland State trooper and criminal investigator. Through a grant from the Knott Foundation, Smoot was brought on to launch an “extreme recruitment” program where Adoptions Together works with Baltimore City Department of Social Services to link foster children to lifelong family connections.

“Basically, my job is to find people,” Smoot says. “While social workers provide direct services to children and families and law enforcement officers are out on the street, I am at my desk and able to devote my time to being analytical and persistent in locating the right people.” Smoot then passes along contact information of the people she has found to social workers who begin the process of engagement and building a permanent connection for the youth in care.

#### PRODUCING RESULTS

Her work has paid off. During the year-long grant period, Smoot conducted more than 2,300 searches and provided more than 300 prospective leads to child welfare professionals, which eventually helped to link 50 foster youth to a healthy, lifelong connection. After the Foundation’s funding expired, Adoptions Together, Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and the State of Maryland all recognized the benefits of the position and agreed to invest in the Family Find Step Down program.

Seventeen-year-old Daryl entered foster care at age two and is one of Adoptions Together’s clients. Daryl longed to connect with his birth family but didn’t know much about them, much less how to find them. Using a variety of medical records, court documents, and private and public databases, Smoot located Daryl’s mother and three of his siblings. Since then, Daryl and his mother are in weekly phone contact.

Daryl turns 18 soon and is lucky to have a new family to celebrate holidays with: his own.

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.

Compelled by their own life experiences and their faith, our founders had sincere compassion for the poor, the hungry, the sick, and in particular for women, children and families in crisis.

The Foundation continues this support by meeting many human service needs within the community. Our grants touch numerous areas -- from helping to meet people’s basic needs, to housing and homelessness, to workforce development, to family and children’s services.



## HEALTH CARE



### Caring for Nurses and Patients

Caring and nursing are synonymous in our society. Yet to be caring specialists for patients, nurses need a support system of their own. That is how the Grow Your Own program at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital in Baltimore got its start.

#### WHAT IS GROW YOUR OWN?

Grow Your Own (GYO) is a pediatric nursing professional development program that includes a year-long residency for new nursing graduates or those new to pediatrics. It includes an orientation curriculum with classes like "Flu and Electrolytes" that utilize case studies and a simulation lab to foster problem solving, critical thinking, and technical skills. Interdisciplinary team building is another component of the program. Once a month, a "Mock Code" takes place in the simulation lab to improve communication between healthcare team members. Finally, GYO supports ongoing professional development for nurses at all levels by providing accredited continuing education courses and preparation for pediatric specialty certification.

"Change is constant in health care," remarks Sharon Meadows, MS, RN-BC, Director of Education & Professional Development. "There is always new knowledge and new evidence out there to be integrated into practice." Add to that the hyper-specialized nature of pediatric transitional care, and the need to "grow your own" team of highly-trained nurses becomes even more important.

#### ABOUT MT. WASHINGTON PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL

Founded in 1922, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital was one of the first healthcare institutions in the United States devoted solely to the care of children. In their early years, they saw children suffering from rheumatic fever, polio, and influenza. Today, they serve 7,500 children each year for conditions such as feeding disorders, congenital challenges, diabetes, and more.

In many ways, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital is the bridge between a child's stay in a more medically-intensive

environment, like the ICU, and the child's home. This transitional care environment means that the hospital's medical staff work closely with parents to make sure each child's healing continues well beyond the hospital stay.

#### FROM PILOT TO PERMANENT

Since beginning as a pilot in 2009, the GYO program has exhibited impressive results in helping the more than 100 nurses at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital learn and grow.

During the year the Knott Foundation supported GYO, the 12-month retention rate for new nurses was 100%, compared to just 50% prior to GYO's founding. Meanwhile, 10 nurses received their specialty certification. These positive results have persisted. The hospital now boasts nursing retention of 100% at 6 months, 95% at 12 months, and 83% at 18 months. Also, the number of certified nurses has grown to reach 30% of their nursing workforce.

With a track record of consistent, positive results, the GYO program has gone from being a pilot program supported by grant funding to being a permanent program sustained by the hospital's budget. "Grant funding allowed us to build the program and demonstrate success for a few years. We couldn't have done what we did without grant support," Meadows recalls.

Reflecting on the GYO program's impact, Meadows says: "The whole Grow Your Own program has really increased the level of expertise in our hospital and helped us retain our new nurses. This helps improve the quality of care and safety of our patient population - which is really what we aim to do in the education department. We help our staff be experts at what they do."

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 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.



## ARTS & HUMANITIES



### Much More Than a Museum

Standing in front of the new Fire Alarm Office at the Fire Museum of Maryland, a group of school children chant, “911, fire! 911, fire!” They clearly know who to call and what to say when they see a fire.

#### A STORY ABOUT SAVING LIVES

Founded in 1971, the Fire Museum appears to be one of Baltimore’s best kept secrets. It is one of the largest fire museums in the country and holds some of the oldest pieces of fire equipment. “Together our 41 pieces tell the story of American urban firefighting,” shares Steve Heaver, Director and Curator of the Museum. “It is the story of how people help people. How they save their lives.”

Each year more than 12,000 people come to the Fire Museum to tour its collection, conduct research in its archives, participate in a special event, or even celebrate a birthday party. The Museum relies on a team of approximately 25 people, half of them volunteers, to keep things running smoothly.

Even with a small budget and a small staff, Heaver has a big vision: double the number of visitors to the Fire Museum to 25,000. He estimates that they can achieve this goal without increasing staffing or overhead, simply by taking advantage of economies of scale. “It’s not beyond the realm of possibility,” he says with a smile.

#### A PATH TO TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Walking through the museum is like taking a step into the history of fighting fire. Visitors follow a path of technological innovation from the earliest years of hand drawn firefighting (1654 - Civil War), through the horse drawn period (1852 - World War I), and then finally the motorized era (1906 - present). Each piece of the collection is cared for and restored by the staff and speaks to the ingenuity of humankind. Many pieces in the collection are even from our own backyard - Baltimore City, Boonsboro, Ellicott City, and the Violetville neighborhood, to name a few.

The Knott Foundation recently helped the Fire Museum renovate lighting for its exhibit space. With this grant and gifts from multiple other donors, the Museum replaced all of its 1971 fluorescent lamp fixtures and installed new LED lights as well as some track spot lights. “The new lights not only save energy and keep the artifacts from fading, they are much more visually pleasing,” Heaver comments.

By telling the story of American urban firefighting, the Fire Museum manages to be so much more than a museum: It becomes a lesson in democracy and making decisions. It serves as an example of technology improving peoples’ lives. And it ultimately stands as a witness to heroism.

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.

# 2014 GRANT AWARDS

## FOUNDATION GRANTS

At Jacob's Well, Inc., \$25,000  
Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc., \$50,000  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore, \$35,000  
Brook Lane Health Services, \$50,000  
Caroline Center, \$50,000  
CASA of Allegany County, \$15,000  
Catholic Charities, \$50,000  
Catholic High School of Baltimore, \$100,000  
Code in the Schools, \$20,000  
Enoch Pratt Free Library, \$44,000  
Family Tree, \$40,000  
Franciscan Center, \$41,205  
Gilchrist Hospice Care, \$40,000  
Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, \$40,000  
Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, \$25,000  
HopeWell Cancer Support, \$32,699  
Hospice of the Chesapeake, \$45,000  
Immaculate Heart of Mary School, \$45,000  
Jesuit Volunteer Corps: East, \$20,000  
Job Opportunities Task Force, \$25,000  
Light House Shelter, \$20,000  
Marian House, \$95,000  
Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training, \$57,705  
Maryland School for the Blind, \$52,035  
Mission of Mercy, \$42,000  
Mount De Sales Academy, \$50,000  
Mount Saint Joseph High School, \$120,000  
Moveable Feast, \$45,000  
Notre Dame of Maryland University, \$80,000  
Notre Dame Prep School, \$80,623  
Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School, \$24,371  
Pathfinders for Autism, \$48,533  
Saint Margaret Church, \$90,000  
School of the Incarnation, \$67,000  
School Sisters of Notre Dame, \$24,768  
St. Frances Academy, \$30,000  
St. John Catholic School (Westminster), \$60,000  
St. Joseph School (Cockeysville), \$35,000  
St. Maria Goretti High School, \$80,000  
St. Mary's Outreach Center Inc., \$35,000  
The Arc Baltimore, \$17,400  
The Arc Carroll County, \$40,000  
The Josephites, \$60,000  
Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults, \$75,000  
Village Learning Place, \$31,224  
YMCA of Cumberland, \$62,311

## DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Baltimore SquashWise  
Church of the Nativity  
Everyman Theatre  
Garrett Mentors  
Holy Angels Catholic School  
Living Classrooms Foundation  
Mount Saint Joseph High School  
My Sister's Place Women's Center  
Notre Dame Prep School  
Parks & People Foundation, Inc.  
Southeast Community Development Corporation  
Special Olympics Maryland  
St. Francis of Assisi School  
St. Ignatius Loyola Academy  
St. Vincent's Villa  
TuTTie's Place  
Washington County Community Action Council

## 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.

## 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

## 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.





# KNOTT FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

**As of December 31, 2014**

Dan Gallagher  
Lindsay Gallagher  
E.B. Harris  
Kelly Harris  
Thomas Harris  
Erin Knott  
Marion Knott  
Martin Knott  
Martin Knott, Jr.  
Owen Knott

Teresa Knott  
Brian McDonald  
Meghan McDonald  
Peter McGill  
David Porter  
Laurel Porter  
Joanna Porter  
Martin Porter  
Margie Riehl  
Michael Riehl

Brooke Rodgers  
Patrick Rodgers  
Geraldyn Smyth  
John Smyth  
Patrick Smyth  
Peggy Smyth  
Jan Steendam  
Emmett Voelkel

# KNOTT FOUNDATION STAFF

**Kelly Medinger**  
*Executive Director*

**Carol Hoffman**  
*Executive Manager*

**Kathleen McCarthy**  
*Grants and Information  
Technology Manager*



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