



**EXPLORE. LEARN. CREATE. CONNECT.** 



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I send well wishes to you and your loved ones during a continued difficult time. I want to share all the wonderful things our Foundation was able to accomplish during the past fiscal year, in spite of the beginning of the pandemic. For most of the fiscal year, things were going great! We held fantastic events for both the general public, our 5th annual A Toast Among Ghosts, and for the highest-tier All In Crowd members, a reception with bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand. We were having our best year yet in terms of fundraising, grants and donor support. Thanks to the generosity of our individual and corporate donors, we were able to fund a significant number of projects giving back a record amount of funding to Baltimore County Public Library. It seemed like nothing could stop our upward trajectory!



And then the world changed.

Like everything else, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the day-to-day operations of Baltimore County Public Library and the Foundation. Branches closed their doors to the public, in-person programs were cancelled, staff worked from home. But while the doors were closed in mid-March, services didn't stop. Staff worked hard to bring programming to the homes of customers everywhere, via platforms like Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. Library staff also partnered with the county to boost WiFi signals inside the branches for customers to have internet access outside the buildings and worked with the county and Kidz Table to distribute free meals to students in need. In June, the library began providing curbside service, which allows customers to reserve books and materials and then pick up when notified. And as of this writing, plans are being made to allow a limited number of customers inside the branches to use public computers. We at the Foundation are so proud to support such an innovative, caring group of people — and I know I'm so grateful to have the ability to check out books and materials, both for me and my children, in a way that's safe for both my family and for library staff.

And of course, the work of the Foundation didn't stop, either. Although we had to postpone and eventually cancel our largest annual fundraiser, Taste of the Town, we held a virtual "80 for '80s" fundraiser the week of the originally scheduled event in April. We raised some money and had a lot of fun posting pictures of ourselves from the 1980s. We also launched the Be All In Shop on Etsy. It features Baltimore County Public Library- and Foundation-themed merchandise. All proceeds go directly to funding library programs and projects. It's proven very popular so far! Keep checking back periodically for new merchandise.

As always, but especially now, we are so grateful for our loyal donors. We know that this year has been particularly challenging in more ways than one, so we are beyond grateful when you choose to send your charitable contributions our way. It means that you, like we here at the Foundation, believe very much in our mission. That is, enriching the library's commitment to empowering the citizens of Baltimore County to explore, learn, create and connect.

Thank you again for showing your commitment to our work. I hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy.

With sincere thanks,

Eller York President

Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library Board of Directors

# **FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library supports the library in its quest to meet the goals of its strategic plan. Some of the goals, and the projects we funded, are below.

### Pillar of Education

Libraries have always been places of learning — the first classroom for babies and toddlers, a destination for students with research and study needs and the "People's University," where equal access is paramount to serve as an instrument of democracy. Baltimore County Public Library has cultivated this role throughout its entire history by building relationships with local public and private schools, providing early childhood learning opportunities and supporting lifelong learners of all ages. Regardless of the approach, the end goal is still the same: reach more people, make more connections and provide opportunities to ensure equity in education.

## Storyville Refurbishing and Renovations

The Foundation was integral in bringing both Storyville locations to life, and considers it a privilege to make sure these child-sized villages stay in the best condition possible. We encourage learning through play at Storyville, and wear and tear in these facilities is an expected consequence! To that end, the Foundation paid for more than \$56,000 total in refurbishing and renovations at Storyville @ Rosedale and Storyville @ Woodlawn. This includes any repairs to broken equipment and replacements when necessary. Both locations also had extensive painting, sanding and cleaning.



Thanks to our sponsor Sylvan Learning, the Foundation was proud to support Battle of the Books, a program in which students in grades 4 to 6 from participating local elementary schools read Black-Eyed Susan-nominated books

and came together in teams chosen by the schools to demonstrate their abilities and to test their reading comprehension in a quiz show format. With the pandemic, this year's contest looked a little differently with independent play with virtual questions, virtual school meetings and virtual author appearances. The funding supported the purchase of one set of books for each participating school to provide equal access to the materials in order to level the playing field for the competitions. Equal access, collaboration and inclusion within our communities are all values of Foundation and Baltimore County Public Library.



# Summer Reading Challenge

Summer Reading 2020 looked different because of the pandemic, but it was no less important or exciting! The theme was "Imagine Your Story," and with the generous support of our sponsors Rosedale Federal, BGE, Maryland 529 and Sylvan, we helped kids of all ages use their imaginations to explore, learn, create and connect through a variety of platforms, including virtual and paper game boards and virtual programs. Paper game boards were distributed through local newspapers and at curbside pickup. A week-long series of virtual programs featuring magic, theater and musical performances kicked off the challenge. All participating were eligible to pick up a prize at curbside at the conclusion of the summer challenge.



# (Re)Define the Library

While proud of its heritage, the library is also focused on new services and technologies that are critical for succeeding in the 21st century by providing the resources and opportunities for learning and education, economic and workforce development, arts and culture, and community engagement and inclusion. Today's library is a safe zone, a civic center, a technology hub and a space for ideas and learning. As the library equalizes access, provides opportunities and encourages intellectual freedom, it continues to be a resource for lifelong learning.

## Sensory Story Trail at the Woodlawn Branch

The staff at the Woodlawn Branch and Storyville @ Woodlawn sought to create an inclusive, sensory-rich early literacy experience, in order to make children of all abilities feel welcome at the library. Research shows that only 22 percent of children with disabilities enter kindergarten ready to learn, as opposed to 53 percent of children with typically developing abilities. The hope is that this Sensory Story Trail will encourage all children to take advantage of library resources to better prepare for kindergarten. The Foundation was proud to help fund this project with a Give 'Em What They Want microgrant.





# Laptop Kiosk and Laptop Bar at the North Point Branch

When our generous partners at Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan approached us and said they'd like to fund a project at our North Point Branch, they were excited by our idea to provide customers with full-size laptops to use inside the branch. Customers access these laptops via a secure kiosk. This way, instead of sitting at the fixed bank of public computers, customers can find a comfortable spot to work within the branch, such as the new laptop bar, also provided by Rosedale Federal. Unfortunately, customers didn't have much of a chance to use the laptop kiosk before branches closed in March, but we are confident that this innovative way to serve our customers will prove very popular!

# Art and Maker Equipment at the Parkville Branch

A Foundation microgrant funded the purchase of equipment to be used in preparing and presenting programs for the Parkville-Carney Branch community. Equipment

includes a Cricut and accessories, soldering irons, a laminator, button maker and an expanded selection of items to use in conjunction with the branch's popular sewing programs. This equipment allowed the branch staff to expand on the ability to offer quality, creative and innovative arts and making programs to the community.

# Mobile Library Law Center

We are excited to be a part of a first — the first public library to have a vehicle devoted to legal services. Once it hits the road when conditions allow, the Mobile Library Law Center will visit targeted communities and groups, such as seniors and veterans, to provide free legal services in areas like expungements, housing and eviction issues, immigration issues, bankruptcy and more. We are grateful to our funding partners at American Bar Endowment, Maryland Legal Services Corporation, Maryland Bar Foundation and Wheels for Change, and our legal partners at Maryland Legal Aid for helping us in this effort.



# Cultivate a Connected, Inclusive, Thriving Community

A critical resource and community partner, Baltimore County Public Library is committed to nurturing a thriving and inclusive community. In addition to providing equal access and intellectual freedom, the library provides a safe and welcoming gathering space to support diversity and collaboration for all community members to connect, learn and succeed. Simply put, the library is the village green, where all community members are welcomed and encouraged to take an active role in the community.



# Teen Space at the Rosedale Branch

Our friends at Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan make a generous donation to a local nonprofit organization whenever they open a new branch. Our Rosedale Branch was the fortunate beneficiary of one of these grants. The Rosedale Branch is within walking distance of two local schools, and becomes a safe haven after school for many students. We proposed to use Rosedale Federal's funding to create a teen space, where students can gather after school to socialize, study and play video games in a comfortable environment and in a space that they can consider their own. With the funding, we purchased a modular wall to help dampen noise and designate the space, tables and chairs for studying and chairs for gaming. We are so grateful to Rosedale Federal for their continued, generous support.

# Free Tax Preparation at the Randallstown Branch

Thanks to a generous grant from PNC Bank, and to our partners at the CASH Campaign of Maryland, we were able to offer free tax preparation service at our Randallstown Branch, for the second year in a row. The service started in early February, and every appointment

was booked until we unfortunately had to close our doors in mid-March due to the pandemic. Before we closed, we helped 811 customers and generated \$1.6 million in federal and state refunds.



# Inspire a Curious, Creative and Culturally Vibrant Community

Baltimore County Public Library is a trusted and notable place for people to come together to share and celebrate the love of reading. Programs, training, exhibits and artistic demonstrations that feature creativity, innovation and emerging technologies are becoming part of the library landscape, creating a more comprehensive view of lifelong learning. Enriching the community through arts and culture is equally important to promote the progress of knowledge.

#### **Book Club Bash**

We were excited to help bring *The New York Times* bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand to Baltimore County Public Library in 2019. More than 150 attendees were treated to a reading from one of Ms. Hilderbrand's novels and a lively conversation. Many waited to meet Ms. Hilderbrand and get photos and autographs. She was a delightful guest, and we were happy to help host her appearance!

### African American Heritage Celebration at the Randallstown Branch

With the help of a Foundation microgrant, the Randallstown Branch hosted its 5th annual African American Heritage Celebration during the month of February. This year's theme was "It's a Family Affair," which aimed to celebrate families of all types. A variety of programming was offered, including a Black doll exhibit, family movie night, genealogy panel, dance workshop, art contest and a Black history presentation. The Foundation funds allowed the branch to include an art contest and a dance workshop. More than 300 participants attended programming throughout the month.







# **FOUNDATION EVENTS**

## A Toast Among Ghosts

The 5th annual A Toast Among Ghosts fundraiser was a big hit, as usual! Held at the Reisterstown Branch, the event's name is a nod to presence of the historic Reisterstown Community Cemetery, which is adjacent to the branch's property. Each year, members of the cemetery committee give tours to our guests, who also enjoy live music, ghost stories, food trucks, beer and wine. Guests even mingle with Edgar Allan Poe, who always makes an appearance and regales everyone with recitation of his famous literary works. We hope to hold this event again in 2021 — stay tuned!

## All In Crowd Event: Private Reception with Elin Hilderbrand

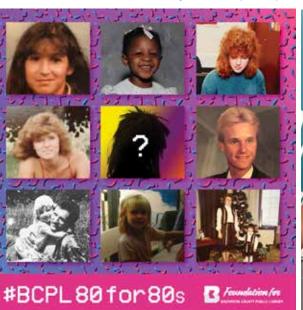
Those in the highest member levels of the All In Crowd were invited to an exclusive members-only reception with *The New York Times* bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand. Ms. Hilderbrand was a genial guest, and our donors were delighted to be in her presence. Join the All In Crowd to have access to exclusive events like this in the future!

#### **B Artful: Staff Art Show**

For the second straight year, the Hereford Branch hosted the B Artful Staff Art Show. The branch, which is home to our Center of Excellence for arts and making, The Hive, also held a reception in early February. Staff throughout the entire 19-branch Baltimore County Public Library System contributed to the exhibit, and included paintings, photography, jewelry and more. We are so grateful to our staff for participating each year!

## #80for80s Challenge

To say we were disappointed that we had to cancel our 9th annual Taste of the Town is an understatement! Like everyone these days, though, we pivoted. We found another way to celebrate, have some fun and raise some money — virtually. The #80for80s Challenge was held on several social media platforms during the week in April when Taste of the Town was to be held. Participants posted a picture of themselves from the 1980s and asked people to post their own pictures and make a donation to the Foundation as well. It was a lot of fun seeing some of the old fashions and hair styles in the photos, and we thank everyone who participated!







# FY2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

With the help of generous donors and partners, we are able to provide additional opportunities, resources and services to the citizens of Baltimore County to explore, learn, create and connect.

Statement of Activities	
Support and Revenue	
Contributions without Restrictions	\$127,049
Contributions with Restrictions	\$126,194
n-Kind Contributions	\$229,173
Special Event Income	\$34,412
nvestment Income, Net	\$28,678
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$184,170
Total Support and Revenue	\$729,676
Expenses	
Program Services	
Grants and Donations	\$397,328
Support Services	
undraising and Development	\$70,637
Management and General	\$115,049
Total Expenses	\$583,014
Change in Net Assets	\$583,014 \$146,662

The FY20 financial overview is a summary of the audit by CliftonLarsenAllen, which represents the financial statements of Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library in compliance with the general accepted accounting principles. CliftonLarsenAllen issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020).

# FY2020 DONOR RECOGNITION



# The All In Crowd

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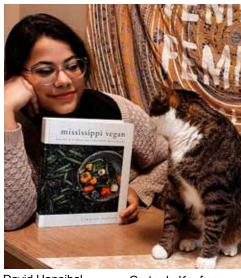
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#### Paula Miller

Ex-Officio Director, Baltimore County Public Library

#### Ian Parker

**Atapco Properties** 

## Regina Sanderoff

**Baltimore Gas and Electric** 

#### Susan Waxter

Retired Baltimore County Public Library

#### Anne West

**Community Member** 

# AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

# Friends of the Arbutus Library

Contact Person: Harry Robertson hrob1256@verizon.net

### Friends of the Catonsville Library

Contact Person: Karen Nicolaus catonsvillelibraryfriends@gmail.com

# Friends of the Hereford Library

Contact Person: Jackie Brooks friendsofherefordlibrary@gmail.com

# Friends of the Loch Raven Library

Contact Person: Bruce Knauff lochravenlibraryfriends@gmail.com

# Friends of the Perry Hall Library

Contact Person: Jaymee Farinacci phplfriends@yahoo.com

# Friends of the Pikesville Library

Contact Person: Ruth Goldstein ruthgoldstein@comcast.net

# Friends of the Towson Library

Contact Person: Carolyn Baron towsonfriends@gmail.com



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