Dear Friends:

Thanks to your generous support, Community Law Center has been serving the legal needs of neighborhoods and nonprofits for 30 years!

Community Law Center was founded in 1986 by a group of lawyers and community organizers who saw the need for residents in Baltimore City to band together and advocate effectively for their neighborhoods. We are proud to have stayed true to our mission to provide legal services to community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to promote stronger nonprofits and more vibrant neighborhoods. We remain Maryland’s only legal services organization dedicated solely to strengthening neighborhoods and the nonprofit sector.

Community Law Center provides free legal services to groups and organizations in Maryland working to make positive change in their communities. We receive dozens of inquiries each week and on average one completed application for services every day. These legal services are provided by Community Law Center staff attorneys and by our panel of over 500 volunteer attorneys. In addition to strengthening nonprofits’ capacity and neighborhoods’ ability to have their voices heard, the goal is to use advocacy and the law to achieve meaningful solutions to complex daily problems such as abandoned properties, nuisance liquor establishments, illegal dumping and other environmental hazards.

In addition to addressing specific legal issues for clients, we also delve into systemic problems in need of reform. In 2016, these broader issues impacting many of our clients included:

- **Strategies to reduce the number and impact of vacant properties** to include developing a new legal remedy to combat vacant properties, reforming the Baltimore City tax sale, creating a new integrated user-friendly mapping and data tool for advocates, supporting the creation of a city-wide community coalition to organize around vacants, and providing the necessary legal assistance to redevelop vacant properties;

- **Reforming the Baltimore City Liquor Board** to bring transparency and accountability to this agency that has historically been opaque and unaccountable so that it will better serve to protect the general health, safety and welfare of city neighborhoods;

- **Strengthening and empowering Baltimore City’s community associations** through monthly workshops for nonprofits and community leaders, semi-annual community leadership capacity building training series, and semi-annual brief advice legal clinics for nonprofits.

Looking forward to the next 30 years, your support remains critical. On behalf of our Board, staff, and clients, we thank you for the role you have played over the past year, and we hope you will continue to support our work.

Sincerely,

Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.  Dave Ryan, CPA, JD
Executive Director  Chairperson, Board of Directors
The Pro Bono Program matches our panel of over 500 volunteer attorneys with community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to provide the legal assistance they need to achieve their missions. Volunteer attorneys handle the complex legal matters faced by communities and nonprofits that would otherwise be unable to afford the legal assistance needed to get started, protect their legal rights, and achieve their missions.

The following attorneys provided free legal services in 2016:

Glen Allen  Christopher Heagy  Vasilios Peros
Stanley Alpert  Sharon Heaton  Uyen Pham
Hirsh Ament  Reid Henderson  Thomasina Poirot
Susan Baker  Philip Hinkle  Lucas Polcyn
Keir Bancroft  Robin Jacobs  Michael Pretl
Matt Barsamian  Fu-Mei Jiang  Thomas Prevas
Greg Bedward  Collier Johnson  John Quinn
William Bernetich  Kelly Johnson  Jason Rose
Ryan Bickmore  Caitlin Johnston  Shana Roth Gormley
Anne Blumenberg  Cecilia Jones  Jeremy Rountree
Jennifer Blunt  Stacey Jones  Stephen Rourke
Raquel Bracho  Thomas Joraanstad  Gabriel Rubinstein
Gary Brooks  Venroy July  Jerome Schaefer
Darek Bushnaq  Sarah Kahl  Michael Schollaert
Brian Chappell  Henry Kahn  Christina Schoppert Devereux
Joey Chen  Stewart Kameen  Amanda Schwartzkopf
Nick Collevecchio  Ryan Kennedy  Rajni Sekhri
Joseph (Jeb) Cook  Parag Khandhar  Indira Sharma
Louis Brendan Curran  Steven Kolias  Michael Sheehan
Conrad Deitrick  Michael Leeb  Michael Sherman
Anne Di Salvo  Kelcie Longaker  David Silvers
Phillip Diamond  Lauren Lyon-Collis  Miriam Sincell
Douglas Dick  Cameron Macdonald  Dan Skowronski
Dorothy Dierdorff  Lorna Maloney  Laura Skowronski Bouyea
Michael Dietz  Samantha Manganaro  Ashley Spooner
Emerson Dorsey  Michael Mannes  Gabriel Steele
Helaine Fingold  Timothy Manuelides  Eric Steiner
Michael Floissac  Darren Margolis  Kate Titford
Brendan Fox  Damian Mark  Patrick Turley
Barbara Francis  Erica McWhorter  Davin Van Eyken
Érica Franzetti  Daniel Mendelsohn  Megan Wakefield
Christopher Fritz  Penny Minna  Amanda Webster
Colin Gaynor  Razvan Miutescu  Alana Williams
Dorcas Gilmore  Eileen Morgan Johnson  Steven Willner
Therese Goldsmith  Patricia Morrison  Michelle Winbush
Kevin Gralley  Nicole Musgrave-Burdette  Jessica Woods
Elizabeth Handelsman  Chika Ojiaku  Emily Zhao
Renee Hatcher  William Paxton  Yosef Ziffer
After three years of planning and organizing, a tax-exempt, charitable organization was formed and received initial funding to hire Anne Blumenberg as Executive Director to match a network of volunteer lawyers with small nonprofit organizations and leaders of disinvested neighborhoods.

Opened the Community Law Center office to the public on May 1, 1987 to provide legal services to help public interest organizations set started, address complex legal issues, and to offer educational programs to nonprofit organizations and leaders of disinvested neighborhoods.

Developed legal strategies, organizing tactics, and organizational and statutory infrastructure for enabling community associations to identify and document nuisance properties and prepare to file suits directly to clean up or acquire nuisance properties.

Initiated the “Community Bill of Rights” legislation enacted to allow community associations to seek enforcement of housing, building, zoning and health codes.

Filed the first drug nuisance abatement case and developed a self-help nuisance abatement strategy to allow communities to board up vacant houses. Began to provide legal services to support communities with anti-crime efforts. In its first year, violent crime is reduced from 25–56% in communities represented by CLC.

Created an initiative to focus on Environmental Justice to give communities a voice in land use decisions impacting neighborhoods, as well as environmental contamination threatening health and safety.

Established the Project to End Predatory and Deceptive Real Estate Practices to conduct research and analysis designed to curb illegal and unethical property transactions after recognizing that the high rates of vacancy and foreclosure in the city were largely the result of property scams and mortgage fraud.
1986

1987

1988-89

1991-92

1993-95

1996

1997

1998-99

2000

2001-02

2003

2004

2005-07

2008-09

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2004

Created the Real Estate Services Project to focus on vacant property acquisition and renovation in Baltimore.

2005-07

Led city-wide effort to remove “We Buy Houses” signs from city streets leading to the removal of over 1,200 illegally posted signs. Established an Enforcement Committee of the Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition to focus attention on the need to better regulate and enforce the banking and real estate industry in Maryland.

2008-09

Educated community leaders and volunteer attorneys with the start of a regular workshop series on topics to help neighborhood leaders understand their rights.

2010

Developed a legal focus on Equitable Development and began a dialog with community groups, government, private developers, and others about the importance of including neighborhood residents as stakeholders in developments.

2011

Pro Bono Program grew exponentially, more than doubling the amount of volunteer time in past years. The program continues growth into 2016.

2012

Urban Agriculture Law Project was developed to update laws and regulations to make Baltimore City a leader in allowing for growing food, beekeeping and raising animals.

2013

Created Booze News, a blog to bring transparency to the city Liquor Board. By 2016, over 200 articles were written about our posts and the blog received 3 Best of Baltimore awards. We also demanded, and obtained, higher standards for Liquor Board Commissioner appointments.

2014

Expanded the five-part Community Capacity Building series, a continuing education program for community leaders.

2015

Successfully argued a four year, ground-breaking lawsuit utilizing the Community Bill of Rights against Baltimore’s biggest speculator in vacant properties.

2016

Spearheaded the creation of a city-wide community association, Baltimore RENEW, to use the grassroots power of a bold alliance uniting Baltimore City residents, community associations and business owners to eliminate nuisance, vacant properties.
## Financials

### Revenues, gains and other support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$354,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed professional fees</td>
<td>$811,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public support received directly</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,166,064</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>$1,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants from governmental agencies</td>
<td>$197,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,709</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$17,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$1,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues, gains and other support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,384,396</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services –</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal assistance to communities &amp; nonprofits</td>
<td>$1,305,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$147,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund raising</td>
<td>$17,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$165,176</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,470,811</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in net assets                         | (86,415)   |
| Net assets – beginning of year               | $298,439   |
| Net assets – end of year                     | $212,024   |

**For every dollar spent, 89% goes directly to programs.**

**PRO BONO PROGRAM 2016**

- 2,054 HOURS
- VALUED AT $811,759
Abell Foundation
Alexander, Mary
Amazon Smile Foundation
Angelella, Michael J.
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Avins, Miriam
Balvany, Iris J.
Bamberger, Clinton & Katharine
Bar Associations Insurance Trust
Barringer, John H. & Linda R.
Barry, Daniel
Bates-Hopkins, Barbara
Ben Zev, Juliya
Bessor, Bonnie
Betsy Braun
Bezdek, Barbara
Bishop, Brian
Blom, Brenda & John
Blumenberg, Anne L.
Boitnott, John & Carolyn
Bone, William & Lee
Bowie, Janice V.
Bowmaster, Paige
Boyson, Jack
Brosilovsky, Natalya
Buckley, Kevin
Butcher’s Hill Assoc., Inc.
Byron, Shirley R.
Carey, Anthony & Eleanor
Castro, William M.
Chesapeake Compensation Solutions, LLC
Clayton Baker Trust
Coates Madsen, Amy E.
Cole Jr., Emried D.
Community Development Block Grant
Czapanskiy, Karen
Dalmas, John R.
Day, Julie
Deckard, Danielle
Disney, Elizabeth
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Dooley, Brook
Duncan, Steven D.
Dzierwinski, Pat
Erlichman, Susan
Eveland, Janet
Evergreen Protective Association
Eye Candy Opticianry, Inc.
Filarid Law, LLC
Fingold, Helaine
Footner, Karen
Forest Park High School Alumni
Francis, Barbara Hull Fund For Change
Goldseker Foundation
Gondol, Steven
Gonter, Matthew
Grundmann, Heide
Harber, Elizabeth E.
Harris, Vonnette
Harrison, Jane
Harvey, Andrea
Heyman, Anne & Harvey
Hirschhorn Foundation, Inc.
Holmes, Marcelena
Horton, Keith
Howarth, Michael & Danielle
Hughes, Alexandra M.
Hystad, Cheryl
Intersection of Change, Inc.
Iyer, Seema
Johnson, Robert
Jones, Fatima
Jurkiewicz, Darryl
Kandel, David & Betsy Krieger
Keller, Bess Carlton
Kershner, Ingrid
Knowlton, Virginia
Kosok, Maya
Kramon & Graham Charitable Fund
Kyle, John
Lankford, Eileen F.
Lankford, Elsa & Kristine Dunkerton
Larsson, Lowell
LeGrand, Michelle
Leidy, John J.
Foundation
Lenhard, Danielle A.
Leone, Robin D.
Levy, Michele
Lewis, Robbyn
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, Inc.
Louie, Ruth M.
Lucksted, Alicia
Madaio, Christopher
Mannes, Michael
Marcouilides, Demetrius
Maryland Legal Services Corporation
Maurer, Samuel
McGrath, Mary
McNeil, Jr., Franklin & Paul Fowler, MD
Meagher, Francis & Alma
Melnick, Jonathan
Meltzer, Brian
Meltzer, Ellen
Miller, Guy
Mitchell, Molly & Vincent DeMarco
Moore Jackson, Peter
Morrissey, Kristin
Moulds, Patrick
Moulton, Pearl
Mowbray, Douglas
Nathans, Jeremy
Nathans, Joanne G.
Neelon, Sara
Nestor, Sterne M.
Nicolle, Lori
Northern Harford Road Community Assoc.
Obaza, Alexander
Obaza, Edward
Oliver, James C.
Paradise, Johnny & Alexandra
Parkville Giant
Penfield, Leigh A.
Perkins, Louis
Perry, Helene F.
Petersen Moore, Dana
PNC Charitable Trust
PNC Foundation
Polikoff, Nancy
Pollack, Kenneth
Pretl, Michael A.
Pringle, Laura
Rieger, J. Paul
Rishar, Paul & Kate
Robb, Inez
Robinson, Michael
Rodini, Laura
Rose, Jason
Roth-Gormley, Maura
Roth-Gormley, Shana
Rothwell, Kimberly
Ryan, David
Sakamoto-Wengel, Joy R.
Sanders, Cynthia
Sarbanes, Paul S.
Schamp, J. Brough & Carol A. Newill
Schneiderman, Franz
Shook, Megan G.
Smith, Edward
Southard, Brian S.
Stainrod, Renee
Strupp, Robert Joseph
Sullivan, Bonnie
Sweeney, Maureen
Syron, Laura
T. Rowe Price Foundation, Inc.
Tarud, Esq., Jerry
Taylor, Patricia
Thalheimer, Louis & Eurich, Juliet
Urban, Laura
Valeri, Henry & Barbara
Venable LLP
Williams, Tina
Willis, G. P.
Willis, Michael R.
Yelp Foundation
Zanvyl & Isabelle Kreger Fund, Inc.
Zimmerman, Peter
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Senior Paralegal & Resource Manager
Fatima Jones
Office Manager
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Communications & Development Associate
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Pro Bono Coordinator
Becky L. Witt, Esq.
Staff Attorney

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