Dear Friends:

2014 was another record year for Community Law Center!

Thank you very much for the support you have offered us, whether through financial gifts or donations of professional time and service. Your support has helped us continue Community Law Center’s important mission.

In 2014, Community Law Center saw another increase in the number of volunteers and volunteer hours. Community Law Center’s staff and pro bono attorneys have worked tirelessly to provide the legal support Maryland’s nonprofits and community associations need to make their organizations stronger and neighborhoods more vibrant.

Community Law Center is a unique and essential part of the legal services fabric in Maryland. Community Law Center works with hundreds of groups each year. Despite their incredible diversity in size, geography, and mission, all of Community Law Center’s clients share at least one thing in common: they care deeply and passionately about their communities.

Community Law Center also plays a critical role in ensuring that Baltimore’s neighborhoods are well-informed and have a voice. Community Law Center’s staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys are continuously advocating for the needs of all of Baltimore’s neighborhoods. Community Law Center has also created a plethora of educational opportunities to strengthen neighborhood organizations, including one-day brief advice legal clinics for community leaders. In addition, Community Law Center’s urban agriculture law work helps groups to grow healthy food and to green vacant land throughout Baltimore. Finally, Community Law Center’s Booze News blog fosters an educated discussion of the issues facing reform of the Liquor Board so that it can better serve the needs and desires of city residents and responsibly protect the health, safety, and welfare of Baltimore’s neighborhoods.

On behalf of our board, staff, and clients, we thank you for the role you have played over the past year, whether as a client, a funder, a pro bono attorney, or a friend.

Sincerely,

Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.
Executive Director

Paul Rishar
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Providing Legal Assistance to Nonprofits

The Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program matches our panel of over 480 volunteer attorneys with community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to provide the legal assistance they need.

Volunteer attorneys handle complex legal matters faced by communities and nonprofits that would otherwise be unable to afford the legal assistance necessary to get started, protect their legal rights, and achieve their missions.

The Pro Bono Program is growing rapidly. We have dramatically increased the number of pro bono attorneys serving our clients:
The following attorneys generously provided their time and expertise to nonprofit and community organizations through Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program in 2014:

George Aitken
Chijioke Akamigbo
Glen Allen
Stanley Alpert
Hirsch Ament
Donna Anderson
Susan Baker
Matt Barsamian
Greg Bedward
William Bernetich
Barbara Bezdek
Darcy Bissett
LyTia Blackmon
Jennifer Blunt
Laura Bouyea
Raquel Bracho
James Bragdon
Douglas Bregman
Gregory Bridges
Gary Brooks
Michael Brown
Miriam Burton
Derek Bushnaq
Brian Chappell
Connie Capistrant
Nicholas Collevecchio
Dan Creel
Todd Culliton
Kyle Denny
Philip Diamond
Christine Diana
Dorothy Dierdorff
T. Michael Dietz
Deborah Dopkin
Emerson Dorsey
Kaelyn Drumm
Todd Ensninger
Musa Eubanks
Christopher Fritz
Julie Galbo-Moyes
Shaun Gates
James Gede
Elizabeth Gemmell
Lauren Genvert Goetzl
Sean Gugerty
Christopher Heagy
Sharon Heaton
Reid Henderson
Anthony Ho
Peter Imsay
Fu-Mei Jiang
Robert Johnson
Cecilia Jones
Cheryl Jones
Stacey Jones
Thomas Jaraanstad
Chelsea Kadish
Matthew Kaiser
Stewart Kameen
Ryan Kennedy
Parag Khandhar
William King
Steven Kolas
Laura Koman
Katherine Lawler
Jaime Lee
Nicole Lemon
Matthew Lilienfeld
Kelcie Longaker
Lauren Lyon-Collis
Cameron MacDonald
Laura Maloney
Scott McLaughlin
Erica McWhorter
Timothy Manuelides
Darren Margolis
Damian Mark
Pamela McDade - Johnson
Mona McKenzie
Erica McWhorter
Daniel Mendelsohn
Erin Miller
Penny Minna
Eileen Morgan Johnson
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Rajni Sekri
David Shafer
Indira Sharma
Jody Shaw
Michael Sheehan
David Silvers
Lori Simpson
Christopher Smith
Gabriel Steele
Ryan Steidl
Eric Steiner
Ryan Stoker
Daniel Sunderland
Kimberly Tarver
Adriana Tibbits
Kate Titford
Patrick Turley
Davin Van Eyken
Megan Wakefield
Alana Williams
Michelle Winbush
Wayne Xu
Emily Zhao
Community Law Center’s staff attorneys and legal fellows address some of the most pressing legal needs of Baltimore’s community organizations through the Community Legal Services Program. Through direct legal representation, these attorneys tackle issues that span neighborhoods and are central to neighborhood health, safety, and happiness.

Testing New Legal Remedies to Reduce Vacant Properties in Baltimore’s Neighborhoods

Baltimore City’s vacant housing problem is extensive. There is no one solution to the problem. Knowing that it will take many different tactics to finally bring the problem of vacant housing to a manageable number, in 2014, with co-counsel from Venable LLP and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Community Law Center continued to pursue litigation under a newly amended law, known as the Community Bill of Rights, that holds promise for a successful legal cause of action rooted in community-based code enforcement.

By allowing communities to prioritize and tackle nuisance properties, Baltimore’s neighborhood associations are empowered to take action and fight back against absentee owners that have allowed their properties to be a blight and burden for the surrounding residents.

Improving Transparency and Accountability of the Liquor Board in Baltimore City

Community Law Center’s work puts the Liquor Board’s lack of transparency and accountability in the spotlight. Our Booze News blog has brought the Board’s inconsistent application of the law, which was documented in a scathing performance audit, to light and called for an even playing field with consistent application of the law. As a result, the agency has made a steady stream of minor improvements as well as several major changes.

Community Law Center has also continued to represent neighborhood associations before the Liquor Board. The community leaders have experienced a greater opportunity to be heard and received more appropriate consideration by the Liquor Board of public health, safety, and welfare issues as well as the needs and desires of the neighborhood.
Increasing the Capacity of Baltimore’s Community Associations

Over 75% of Community Law Center’s clients are community associations in Baltimore City. These amazing organizations are largely volunteer-run and tackle a myriad of quality-of-life issues that make all of Baltimore’s neighborhoods cleaner, safer, and more vibrant places to live, work, and play.

Maintaining these organizations and operating them effectively and efficiently is no easy task. Community Law Center provides the counsel and support needed to make sure that Baltimore’s neighborhood leaders had a solid base of information from which to make decisions. Community Law Center offers many educational opportunities for neighborhood leaders. This includes an intensive 5-part workshop series focused on capacity building for community associations. The individualized attention and thoughtful discussion is an important part of helping each organization meet its goals.

Addressing the Legal Needs of Nonprofits in Maryland

Community Law Center has the opportunity to represent small nonprofits from across Maryland. These groups address a wide array of community needs. The legal services provided help these organizations to grow and achieve their missions.

Community Law Center has now partnered with the University of Baltimore School of Law to offer a new service to reach groups with legal needs. Attorneys and law students meet with nonprofits at one-day events held during the spring and fall semesters. Dozens of groups at each event had their legal needs met or were matched with attorneys to provide further advice.

Making Urban Agriculture Laws Work “On the Ground”

Community Law Center is at the forefront of a growing new field of law - urban agriculture law. In September 2014, Community Law Center held the first national conference focused on urban agriculture law. The conference was attended by 200 lawyers, professors, advocates, farmers, and others interested in this evolving field to share best practices from Detroit, Washington DC, Philadelphia, and other cities.

Community Law Center stays on top of this emerging and exciting area of the law thanks to a diverse and growing client base with a long and varied list of legal needs. From determining whether or not to organize as a nonprofit organization to developing agreements with partners, from signing leases or licenses to obtaining easements, from complying with labor, animal control, and food distribution laws to much more, these clients are moving forward.
# 2014 Audited Financial Statement

Revenues, gains, and other support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public support received directly:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$448,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed professional fees</td>
<td>912,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,361,168</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>13,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants from governmental agencies and MLSC</td>
<td>193,669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>20,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,003</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total revenues, gains, and other support**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,589,754</strong></td>
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Expenses:

Program services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal assistance to communities &amp; nonprofits</td>
<td>1,449,808</td>
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</table>

Supporting services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>109,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>16,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>126,438</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenses**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,576,246</strong></td>
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</table>

Change in net assets  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,508</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets - beginning of year  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>407,109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets - end of year  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$420,617</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abell Foundation  
Amazon Smile  
Neilson Andrews  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Bar Associations Insurance Trust  
Daniel Barry  
Julie & Jeremy Ben-Zev  
Susan Bennett  
Barbara Bezdek  
Brenda & John Blom  
John & Carolyn Boitnott  
Janice V. Bowie  
Margaret B. Brewer  
Butchers Hill Association, Inc.  
Anthony & Eleanor Carey  
Dawna Cobb  
Clayton Baker Trust  
Combined Charity Campaign  
Community Development Block Grant Program  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
Amanda Dodge  
Kristine Dunkerton & Elsa Lankford  
Judy & David Feigin  
Maria & Vincent Filardi  
Peter French  
Fund For Change  
John A. Gephart  
Sally B. Gold  
Goldseker Foundation  
Steve Gondol  
Matthew Gonter  
Frank T. Gray  
Ayanna Graham  
Valerie L. Green  
John Hall  
Elizabeth Harber  
Jane Harrison  
Daniel Harvey  
Hirschhorn Foundation, Inc.  
Jeffrey Holmes  
Alexandra M. Hughes  
Reed & Kathleen Hutner  
John J. Leidy Foundation  
Johns Hopkins Center For a Livable Future  
Ingrid Kershner  
Kramon & Graham, P.A.  
Kramon & Graham Charitable Fund  
John Kyle  
Eileen F. Lankford  
Law Office of Robert M. Johnson  
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, Inc.  
Lord Baltimore Capital Corp.  
William Magruder  
Gerald Majer  
Donald Manekin & Seawall Development  
Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
Lindsay McCroty  
Arch & Sarah McKown  
Franklin McNeil, Jr. & Paul Fowler, MD  
Francis & Alma Meagher  
Merritt Properties  
Mom’s Organic Market  
Pearl Moulton  
Joanne G. Nathans  
Lori A. Nicolle  
North Harford Road Community Ass’n, Inc.  
Alex Obaza  
Ocwen Financial Corporation  
James C. Oliver  
Leigh A. Penfield  
PNC Bank  
PNC Charitable Trust  
Michael A. Pretl  
Christina Ramsey  
Charles A. Rees  
Residential Title & Escrow Co.  
Paul J. Rieger, Jr.  
Paul & Kate Rishar  
Inez Robb  
Jason Rose  
David Ryan  
Sandtown-Winchester Condominium Ass’n, Inc.  
Paul S. Sarbanes  
Brian S. Southard  
St. Andrews Christian Community Church  
Robert Strupp  
T. Rowe Price Foundation  
Louis Thalheimer & Juliet Eurich  
United Way of Central Maryland  
University of Maryland Agriculture Law Education Initiative  
Jill Valenstein  
Waverly Improvement Association, Inc.  
Wegman’s Food Market  
Zavmyl & Isabelle Kreiger Fund, Inc.

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"The Breeze News blog is the reason that I've added Community Law Center to my annual giving," Matt Meade


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