Dear Friends,

On behalf of our board and staff, we are happy to share some of our 2020 journey with you.

We are proud to be the legal partner for Maryland’s small nonprofit organizations working to improve our communities. Community Law Center’s clients are primarily neighborhood-based and resident-led organizations that are at the forefront of fighting for improved health, safety, and the well-being of their neighbors and neighborhoods through a wide variety of programs and initiatives.

As the pandemic changed our lives in 2020, it also changed our work. We quickly saw a transformation in the priorities of neighborhood-based and other small nonprofits. Public health regulations and precautions shifted their goals away from external programs and projects to internal capacity building and improving board governance policies. Community Law Center was pleased to be able to adapt to this new focus and offer virtual workshops, brief legal advice, legal representation, and other information in printed and video formats in service to our clients.

Community Law Center also made renewing and improving our governance policies a priority. In 2020 we updated our mission statement, crystallized our values, and renewed our vision. We are committed to being intentional about using a race equity lens to examine our daily work and our decision-making. We strive to hold ourselves accountable and to be held accountable by our partners for honoring our values, achieving our mission, and pursuing our vision.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to finding new ways we can work together with you for our community.

Sincerely,

Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.  
Executive Director 

Brian Meltzer, Esq.  
Chair, Board of Directors

Cover photo credit: Ahuva Cherniak and Glen Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc. Pictured right to left: Betty Cherniak, Maxine Webb, and Joyce Sanders.
Community Law Center is a nonprofit law firm that partners with neighborhood-led organizations and small nonprofits in Maryland, with a focus on Baltimore neighborhoods that have been historically disinvested.

2021 Officers elected by the Board of Directors in December 2020

We provide accessible legal expertise with empathy, transparency, and accountability. We are an anti-racist organization actively engaged in anti-oppressive social justice work.

In 2020, we updated our mission, vision and values to better reflect our work and our direction.

Community Law Center envisions strong communities and nonprofits thriving in a compassionate, collaborative, and equitable society.

The values we hold are: Equity, Effectiveness, Communication, Collaboration & Learning. We strive to hold ourselves accountable to living up to our values while meeting our mission in pursuit of our vision.

**OFFICERS**
- Brian D. Meltzer, Esq., Chair
- Robert M. Johnson, Jr., Esq., Vice-Chair
- Franklin N. McNeil, Jr., Secretary
- Alex Obaza, Treasurer
- Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq., President (Non-voting) & Executive Director

**DIRECTORS**
- Marc Apter, APR
- Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH
- Emmanuel “Manny” Fishelman, Esq.
- Bill King, Esq.
- Joanne Nathans, Esq.
- M. Andrea Olsen-Leyden, Esq.
- Justin Redd, Esq.
- Inez Robb
- David W. Ryan
- Wendy Shaia, EdD, MSW
- Emily Steiner, Esq.
BRIEF LEGAL ADVICE
When an urgent legal question arises for an organization, having quick access to an attorney is valuable for making critical decisions on how to move forward. In 2020, Community Law Center expanded its capacity to offer brief legal advice appointments to be on a rolling basis. Brief advice topics cover a wide range, from specific questions regarding tax compliance, fiscal sponsorship, or liability, to general questions on starting up. These calls have been an important way for us to connect with potential clients as well as former and current clients.

“When Better Waverly Mutual Aid wanted to keep homes out of tax sale, we were concerned that red tape would make this impossible. CLC responded with a speedy consultation that showed us how we could move forward. One result was that we helped keep 19 houses from tax sale city-wide – not just in our own neighborhood. You really put the legs under us. Thank you!” – Miriam Avins, Better Waverly Mutual Aid

NEW VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
The COVID-19 pandemic impacted many aspects of our work, including our ability to present in-person workshops. In response, Community Law Center offered live virtual workshops and recorded webinars designed to provide information requested by the community and useful for neighborhood leaders.

New workshops included:
• How to Run an Amazing Community Association Meeting
• Real Talk about Fiscal Sponsorship
• Bookkeeping Basics for Nonprofit Organizations
• Employment Law Basics for Small Nonprofits in Maryland

“Community Law Center is an invaluable resource for neighborhood associations! It’s so reassuring to know that if we have a legal issue CLC has our back for an affordable price. And the workshops are so well done and useful. I have taken How to Be Legit & How to Run an Amazing Community Association Meeting and both were wonderful. Please support CLC! Strong neighborhoods make a strong city.” – Leslie Kopchinski, Moravia-Walther Improvement Association
LEGAL CHECK-UP FOR NEIGHBORHOOD-LED ORGANIZATIONS IN BALTIMORE

As a way to conduct outreach to both new and long time community leaders, we offered free “legal check ups” to provide a broad overview of the legal health of an organization. We worked with groups to identify issues such as good standing and tax-exempt status, bylaws, meeting minutes, conflict of interest policies, and much more. While some groups were satisfied with the check up and sent down the path towards greater compliance, others were ready to seek further legal assistance. We were very pleased to be able to connect with so many groups in such a short time.

“Working with Community Law Center was an invaluable and great experience. We began with Board Capacity Building training, which set us on a course to enhance our capacity and recruit new Directors and expand our Board expertise.”
– Atiba Nkrumah, Historic Marble Hill Community Association, Inc.

QUICK TIPS

In the early months of quarantine, we sought new ways to quickly and widely present information to answer the most commonly asked questions we received from nonprofit leaders. One way we sought to provide this information was by developing a series of 5-10 minute Quick Tips videos for free on our website and on YouTube. The short videos covered subjects including coronavirus relief measures for nonprofits, making organizational decisions remotely, nonprofit tax filings, donation receipts and tax deductions, red flags for 501(c)(3)s, conflicts of interest, tax exemption, and building a strong nonprofit Board of Directors.

“Looking back, if I knew what I know today, I wished I stayed connected with Community Law Center every step of the way when I was leading the neighborhood association. Community Law Center was a huge help and support system to us. Now, I recommend that any organization reach out to Community Law Center, pick their brain, don’t give up, stay connected with them in every way you possibly can.”
– Sandra Coles, Founder and Former Board Member of Greater Greenmount Community Association
## 2020 FINANCIALS

### Revenues, gains and other support:

**Public support:**
- Contributions: $294,409
- Contributed professional fees: $221,826
  
  **Total from Public support:** $516,235

- Grants from governmental agencies: $213,154

**Other revenue:**
- Fees: $19,209
- Miscellaneous: $2,052
  
  **Total other revenue:** $21,261

**Total revenues, gains and other support:** $750,650

### Expenses:

**Program services –**
- Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits: $661,449

**Supporting services:**
- Management and General: $117,005
- Fundraising: $12,864
  
  **Total supporting services:** $129,869

**Total expenses:** $791,318

- Change in net assets: ($40,668)
- Net assets – start of year: $200,844
- Net assets – end of year: $160,176

---

83 cents of every $1 goes to programs

- **Programs**
- **Management**
- **Fundraising**
Algren, Margaret
Amazon Smile Foundation
American Charities
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Apter, Marc L.
Arnold-Garza, Sara
Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development
Baltimore Community Foundation
Barnard, Suzanne & Armistead Webster
Barry, Daniel
Benevity
Berry, Youshea A.
Boitnott, John & Carolyn
Bowie, Janice V.
Butcher's Hill Assoc., Inc.
Byron, Shirley R.
Cantone, Dale E.
Carey, Anthony & Eleanor
Chalker, Phillip
Clayton Baker Trust
Cole, Jamaedddin
Cutler, Audrey
David L. Cahn Charitable Fund
Diskin, Mark
Djerassi, Alexander
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Dooley, Brook
Dunkerton, Kristine & Elsa Lankford
Eurich, Juliet & Louis Thalheimer
Feigin, Judy & David
Filardi Law, LLC
Fishelman, Emmanuel A.
Frost, William
Fund For Change
Furstenberg, Francois
Garagioila, Robert
Garver, Peter and Julie
Gascoigne, Tina
Gilman, Michelle
Goldseker Foundation
Gomez, Neydyn
Gonter, Matthew
Gray, Anne B.
Gunning, Sarah
Guthorn, B.
Harold & Ruth Garber Family Foundation
Harrison, Jane
Heyman, Anne & Harvey
Howe, Jeannie
Hughes, Alexandra M.
Jacobs, Robin
John J. Leidy Foundation
Johnson, Robert
Johnson-Betts, Zita
Johnston, David
Kalaria, Kristen
Kelly-Washington, Lauren
King, Bill
King, William
Kramon & Graham, P.A.
Kronmiller, Wendy A.
Kukay, Nancy
Lankford, Eileen F.
Lewis, Jean
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, Inc.
Lyon-Collis, Lauren M.
Magruder, William W.
Manger, Suzanne
Maryland Bar Foundation, Inc.
Maryland Legal Services Corporation
McCrary, Lindsay
McNeil, Jr., Franklin & Paul Fowler, MD
Meltzer, Brian
Mendoza, Yelitza
Mills III, Robert
Mitchell, Marilyn & Douglas
Morales, Marciee
Moulton, Pearl
Nathans, Jeremy
Nathans, Joanne G.
Nicolle, Lori A.
Norman, Gary
Nover, Jeffrey
Obaza, Alexander
Obaza, Edward
Ogburn, Lee
Olsen-Leyden, M. Andrea
Pardue, Keith & Avins, Miriam
Pay Pal Giving Fund
Payton, Cecil
Pfeifer, Kelly & Craig
Piscopo, Kristen
PNC Foundation
Pollack, Kenneth
Price, Zachary
Pugh, Belinda
Reed, Justin
Reed, Stephen & Kyoko
Rieber, J. Paul
Robb, Inez
Rodini, L.
Romano, Stephane
Rosen, Elizabeth
Rountree, Jeremy
Ruffin, Martha
Ryan, David
Shaia, Wendy
Shaukat, Imran
Slade, Maricruz
Smail, Paul
State of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
Steiner, Emily
Stokes, Carl F.
Strupp, Robert Joseph
Swann, Maxine
T. Rowe Price-Charitable Giving Program
United Way of Central Maryland
Urban, Laura
Ward, Ernestine
Wilmer, Niles Barton
Wilson, Shari T.
Wood, Robin
Yannopoulos, Demetrios
Zanvyl & Isabelle Kreiger Fund, Inc.
Zimmerman, Peter
2020 STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

STAFF
Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq., Executive Director
Pat Dzierwinski, Accountant
Ingrid Hitchens-Hall, Senior Paralegal & Resource Manager
Fatima Jones, Office Manager
Denice Ko, Esq., Staff Attorney
Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq., Pro Bono Coordinator
Rebecca Lundberg Witt, Esq., Staff Attorney
Laura Rodini, Communications & Development Associate

INTERNS AND NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS
Francoise Wilson
Jessa Lauer
Julie Kil
Matt Gonter
Pam Falkner
Patrick Jenkins
Samantha Shyam
Shailendra Singh
Shalita O’Neale

INTERNS AND NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS
Francoise Wilson
Jessa Lauer
Julie Kil
Matt Gonter
Pam Falkner
Patrick Jenkins
Samantha Shyam
Shailendra Singh
Shalita O’Neale

2020 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS
Community Law Center’s Pro Bono Program matches volunteer attorneys with neighborhood-based and small nonprofits throughout Maryland. The following attorneys represented clients in 2020.

Aaron Withrow
Ashley Rodriguez
Brian Chappell
Bridgett A. Simmons
Chika Ojiaku
Christopher Geissler
Cyrekia Jacobs
Edward (Phil) Hanlon
Emily Portanova
Gary Brooks
Gayle Denman
George Ritchie
Jaime Lee
James L. Saeli
Jennifer Insley-Pruitt
Jesse S. Lambert
Kathleen Hyer
Kristopher Madore
Lauren Lake
Leyla Roshanian
Mark Franco
Mary Claire Blythe
Michael A. Lehmann
Michael L. Sherman
Michele Gilman
Nicole Musgrave-Burdette
Noah A. Shier
Patricia Artimovich
Patrick Turley
Philip Hinkle
Rita Patel
Rob Johnson
Sandra Gohn
Sarah Adkisson
Seema Kakade
Shayna A. Gilmore
Spencer C. Joffrion
Stephen Cohen
Susan Baker
Teresa Carnell
Thomas Zutic
Thomas Pilkerton III
Trevor Coe
Dorcas Gilmore
Veryl Pow
William McComas
Yitian Jin

From January 1 – December 31, 2020
volunteer attorneys
donated 1,607.48
hours valued at
$221,826.