It's really hard to sort through all the information online about taxes and annual filings for small nonprofits. I now feel confident that I know what I need to do to keep the organization I'm involved with in compliance with the State of MD and the IRS.

Community Law Center has been very instrumental in helping my organization receive its 501(c)3 as well as offering workshops to maintain good standing.

Community Law Center was my last hope in obtaining assistance in starting a non-profit organization. The non-profit training was well worth the fee especially for beginners like myself.

For non-profits-to-be this presentation was excellent. We have been looking for assistance for over a year to get our non-profit process started. This was just what we needed.
Dear Friends,

2021 Community Law Center marked 35 years since opening its first office in 1986. This report highlights some of our work. We hope to work with you in the coming year!

In 2021 we formally adopted a purpose-driven board leadership framework. This framework highlights that our duty of loyalty is to our mission and to YOU, our community. It continuously challenges us to weigh our decision-making against our purpose as an organization. We strive to hold ourselves accountable and to be held accountable by our partners for living up to our values, achieving our mission, and working toward our vision.

We also committed to deepening our Pro Bono Program to enhance our relationships with our over 500 volunteer attorneys across the state. We are excited to develop even more capacity to better serve Maryland’s neighborhood-based organizations and small nonprofits.

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.

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
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.

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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS
Kristine Dunkerton Esq., President & Executive Director
Brian D. Meltzer, Esq., Chair
Wendy Shaia-Devereaux, EdD, MSW, Vice Chair
Franklin N. McNeil, Jr., Secretary
Justin Redd, Esq., Treasurer

DIRECTORS
Marc Apter, APR
Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH
Emmanuel “Manny” Fishelman, Esq.
Robert M. Johnson, Jr., Esq.
Bill King, Esq.
Joanne Nathans, Esq.
Alex Obaza, M.
Andrea Olsen-Leyden, Esq.
Inez Robb
David W. Ryan
Emily Steiner, Esq.
Community Law Center’s staff and Board of Directors have been working to better understand our role in furthering the goals of the neighborhood-led organizations and small nonprofits in Maryland. Since January 2019, we have been evaluating our work with a race equity lens. We determined that it was time to redefine our mission, vision, and values. These are not statements to be put on a shelf. We know that we must continuously revisit and intentionally hold ourselves accountable to them. While the Board has formally adopted these statements at our December 2020 annual meeting, we know we have a lot of work to do to live up to them. We hope you will join us!

**MISSION**

Community Law Center’s mission is to be the legal partner to neighborhoods and nonprofits in pursuit of more just and vibrant communities.

**VISION**

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

**VALUES**

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

1. **EQUITY.** We understand that anti-racist work must be intentional. It is a process of continuous evolution and growth. We strive to be aware of our individual and collective privilege. We are committed to examining our role and the role of our clients in perpetuating structural racism. We prioritize our services in communities that have experienced intentional disinvestment and planned inequity, with the goal of furthering the equitable redistribution of power and wealth. Throughout our representation we consider how well the client group, or its Board, represents and reflects the community and takes the potential impact of their action on historically oppressed populations into account. We believe sustainable change must be driven by directly impacted people who have a shared vision and decision-making process and that those who have privilege and power have an obligation to support those efforts.
2. EFFECTIVENESS. Social change is often achieved incrementally. We support groups in identifying their legal needs, understanding their legal options, and achieving their goals to make a sustainable difference. We are flexible and open to new ideas. We move at the speed of our clients. We use a variety of tools including capacity building, policy advocacy, research, education, and litigation.

3. COMMUNICATION. We recognize that laws and the legal system can be opaque and inaccessible. We are open, consistent, comprehensive, and transparent with our advice. We share our legal expertise to expand our clients’ knowledge base and their ability to actualize their power. We explain all options available within the law, and we work to change the law if necessary to further justice. We seek reciprocal communication in our client relationships to ensure that everyone’s roles are understood, and goals are thoughtfully addressed.

4. COLLABORATION. Community Law Center recognizes that legal representation and advocacy must be in collaboration with directly impacted groups. Our work is a reciprocal relationship in which staff and volunteer lawyers learn from the expertise and experience of our clients. We share our knowledge with community organizations to support collective action. We use our relationships to create access and collaboration among our clients, elected officials, government agencies, institutions, and others.

5. LEARNING. We seek reciprocity in our relationships to learn and grow as effective advocates. We lead by example through transparency in our operations, by admitting our mistakes, and sharing what we learn. We are committed to a mutually beneficial relationship with the legal profession to provide pro bono legal services and to use the law to further social and economic justice. We seek to learn from, amplify, and make space for, client voices and power. We do this through partnerships and collaborations that inform the legal system, elected officials, government agencies, and private institutions about the goals of our clients and communities.

“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
2021 FINANCIALS

Revenues, gains and other support:

Public support

• Contributions $338,644
• Contributed professional fees $254,685

$593,329

Grants from governmental agencies $194,392

Other revenue

• Fees $14,637
• Miscellaneous $1,691

$16,328

Total revenues, gains and other support $804,049

Expenses:

Program services

• Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits $713,523

Supporting services

• Management and General $123,971
• Fundraising $21,465

Total supporting services $145,436

Total expenses $858,959

Change in net assets ($54,910)
Extinguishment of debt $161,622
Change in net assets $106,712
Net assets – start of year $160,176
Net assets – end of year $266,888

76 cents of every $1 went to programs

76¢ Programs

20¢ Management

4¢ Fundraising
2021 DONORS

GRANTS/FOUNDATIONS
Ann Casey
Argon Transamerica Foundation
Baltimore Civic Fund
CDBG
Clayton Baker
France Merrick Foundation
Fund for Change
Goldseker Foundation
Kreiger Foundation
Leidy Grant
Lockhart Vaughn
Maryland Legal Services Corporation
PNC Charitable Trust
PNC Foundation
The Venable Foundation

Attorney Reporting
Lindsay Monti

BOARD MEMBER DONATIONS
Apter, Marc L.
Bowie, Janice V.
Fishelman, Emmanuel A.
Johnson, Robert
King, William
McNeil, Jr., Franklin & Paul Fowler, MD
Meltzer, Brian
Nathans, Joanne G.
Obaza, Alexander
Redd, Justin
Robb, Inez
Ryan, David
Shaia, Wendy
Steiner, Emily

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
Algren, Margaret
American Charities
Avins, Mariam
Barry, Carolyn
Benevity Fund Donations
Boitnott, John & Carolyn
Brewer, Margaret B.
Byron, Shirley R.
Carey, Anthony & Eleanor
Cole, Jemaleddin
Colvin, Deborah
Dickens, Lydia
Dickens, Lynn
Diskin, Mark
Dooley, Brook
Dunkerton, Kristine & Lankford, Elsa
Dzierwinski, Patricia
Eurich, Juliet A and Thalheimer, Louis B.
Feigin, Judy & David
Filardi, Maria & Vincent
Furstenberg, Francois
Garver, Peter and Julia
Gazan, Heather
Gonter, Matthew
Goodell, Jr., Charles & Katherine
Haber, Mary Kathleen
Harrison, Jane
Harvey, Andrea
Heyman, Anne & Harvey
Hughes, Alexandra M.
Huttar, Elizabeth
Jacobs, Robin
Johnson, Jennifer
Just Give-Great Nonprofits
Kearney, J.
Keenan, Mary
Kersher, Ingrid
King, Richard D.
Knox, Stephen H and Bernice C.
Kyle, John
Lankford, Eileen F.
Leone, Robin
Leyden, Matthew D.
Manger, Suzanne
Maurer, Samuel
McLeod, Cheryl
Minges, Francis & David
Mitchell, Douglas & Marilyn
Monroe, Paul and Sara
Moulton, Paul
Mugar, Antoinette
Nathans, Jeremy
Network for Good
Newman, Robert
Nicole, Lori A.
Obaza, Edward
Pardue, Keith and Mariam Avins
Pfeifer, Kelly & Craig
Pollack, Kenneth
Price, Zachary
Pridgeon, Merritt and Phil Closius
Redd, Stephen & Kyoko
Reiger, J. Paul
Robinson, Harriet M.
Rodini, Laura
Rountree, Jeremy
Sloane, Mac
Smith Cooper, Mary
Thaler, Romani
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Turley, Patrick
United Way of Central Maryland
Urban, David
Venzen, Esau
Ward, Ernestine
Zimmerman, Peter

CORPORATE DONATIONS
Amazon Smile Foundation
Butcher’s Hill Association, Inc.
Pay Pal Giving Fund
T.Rowe Price-Charitable Giving Program

LAW FIRM DONATIONS
DLA Piper LLP
Kramon & Graham, P.A.
Maryland State Bar Association
2021 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
Laura Rodini, Communications & Development Associate
Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq., Staff Attorney

Monique Sanders,
Pro Bono Coordinator
Rebecca Lundberg Witt, Esq., Staff Attorney

VOLUNTEERS
Shailendra Singh
Wendy E. Shaia
Becky Davis
Susan Hullinger
Robyn Scates
Merry Campbell

2021 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 2021.

Stanley Alpert
Matthew Barsamian
Jennifer M. Blunt
Mary Claire Blythe
Gary Brooks
Derek Bushnaq
Teresa Carnell
Brian Chappell
Stephen Cohen
Gayle Denman
Christopher Geissler
Shayna Gilmore
Sandra Gohn
Edward (Phil) Hanlon
Philip Hinkle
Kathleen Hyer
Jennifer Insley-Pruitt
Cyreka Jacobs
Yitian Jin
Spencer C. Joffrion
Robert Johnson
Seema Kakade
William (Bill) King
Jesse S. Lambert
Michael A. Lehmann
Kristopher Madore
Brian Meltzer
Rita Patel
Justin Redd
Ashley Rodriguez
James (Jaime) L. Saeli
Evan Shea
Michael L. Sherman
Noah A. Shier
Bridgett A. Simmons
Tracy Steedman
Patrick Turley
Aaron Withrow
Alexander Zajac
Thomas Zutic

From January 1 - December 31, 2021
volunteer attorneys donated 1,004 hours, valued at $254,505.14

3355 Keswick Road, Suite 200
Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2650
Phone: 410-366-0922
Email: mail@communitylaw.org
Learn more at communitylaw.org or visit us on social media.