



ANNUAL REPORT

FY
2019- 2020

Community
Partners



HOC ANNUAL REPORT

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HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**MESSAGE TO
OUR STAKEHOLDERS**

Chair of Board



Dear Friends,

Low- and moderate-income families living in Montgomery County's affordable housing have the potential to reach great heights and achieve the goals they hold for themselves and their children. However, these goals are often out of reach without access to supportive services and resources.

Thanks to funding from philanthropic and local government grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions, Housing Opportunities Community Partners (HOCP) and the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County (HOC) provided connections to essential programming, supporting and empowering low-income families as they seized opportunities to reach the promise of their potential.

In the midst of a global pandemic, those resource connections have become even more critical to the health, safety, and stability of the individuals and families served by HOCP and HOC. As a result, we have worked to adapt and recognize new possibilities for engaging and supporting HOC customers across the spectrum.

In this report you will read how HOC youth expanded their educational horizons through interactive STEM activities, how adults learned essential business skills and pursued entrepreneurship, and how homeless families secured access to safe permanent housing. While this report focuses on our efforts over the previous two years, we have spent 2020 working with HOC staff to forge a new way forward in a world heavily impacted by COVID-19. Our goal remains to maintain the excellent outreach and support efforts reflected in this report while learning how to expand and adjust programming and the focus of our funding to meet the needs that arise out of the pandemic.

As always, our programs hold fast to the vision that low- and moderate-income families should be able to pursue opportunities that allow them and their children to realize their fullest potential.

With your support, we pledge to increase our efforts to help more individuals, children, and families achieve their goals and positively change the trajectory of their lives.

Sincerely,

KENNETH B. TECLER
Board of Directors, Chair

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OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



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Board Chair

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



\$38,600

Montgomery County Community Grants Program

\$30,000

PNC Bank

\$20,000

Capital One Bank
CBP Constructors, LLC

\$16,000

George Preston Marshall Foundation

\$10,000

Bank of America/Merrill Lynch
Bozzuto & Associates, Inc.
EYA, LLC
R4 Capital LLC
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The Donaldson Group

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Visionary Construction Consulting
Holland & Knight LLP
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Integrity Title Escrow Co. LLC
Jones, Lang, LaSalle America, Inc.
Kishimoto.Gordon.Dalaya PC
Reno & Cavanaugh PLLC
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The Concourse Group, LLC
United Bank
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Norman Dreyfuss
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Edgewood Management Corp.
Habitat America, LLC
Lindsay Management Company, LLC
Rodgers Consulting
Scheer Partners, Inc.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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SMR INC T/A Talk of the Town
Built Solutions, LLC
Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company
Dirk A. Wallace / Megan C. Wallace
Fidelity Brokerage Services, LLC
Bob and Linda Youngtentob Family Foundation
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Kutak Rock LLP
Marc Wertheimer
Pennrose, LLC

\$500 - \$999

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Harvey W. Hottel, Inc.
Sarah Roman
Brian Reilly
Craig Descalzi
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Ferguson, Schetelich & Ballew, PA
Joseph Boyd
Stacy Benjamin

\$250 - \$499

Donna and Philip Caraci
Alex's Radon Service
Pradeep and Susan Kaul
Richard Y. Nelson
Susan Kaul
Curtis Sano
Heidi Joan Ackerman

\$100 - \$249

Bm Contracting LLC
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Girardeau A. Spann
Macris, Hendricks & Glascock, PA
David Ager (\$175)
Maser Consulting P.A.
Transformation Contractor, LLC
Al Autin (\$100)
David W. Fairweather
Helen Yanowitz
Jon Weintraub & Judith Heimlich
Linda and Steven Skalet
Linda Skalet
Lynn Hayes
Patrick Mattingly
Sherman L. Cohn
Sooraj Balgobin

Under \$100

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Dean Tyree
Alfred and Zelda Goldberg
Alfred M. Goldberg
Gail V. Quigley
Ilana and Poa Amir Frydman
John Vass
Lois B. Fisch
Stanley and Judith Stern
Patrice Birdsong
Sharon Fox
Claudia Wilson
Mary Ann P. Dubner

Generous In-kind Contributions from our Corporate Partners:

Starbucks
Auntie Annes Pretzels
MC MD Delta Alumnae Foundation, Inc.
Costco

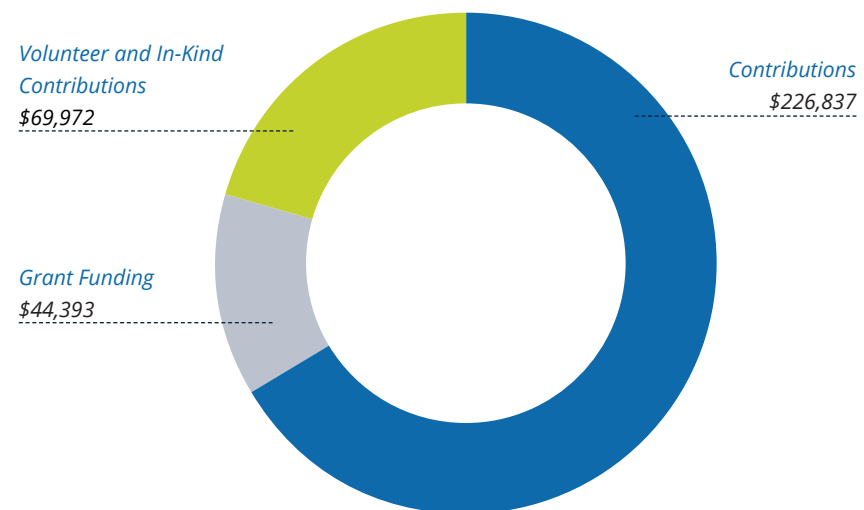
FISCAL YEAR 2019

AUDITED

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2019

TOTAL INCOME

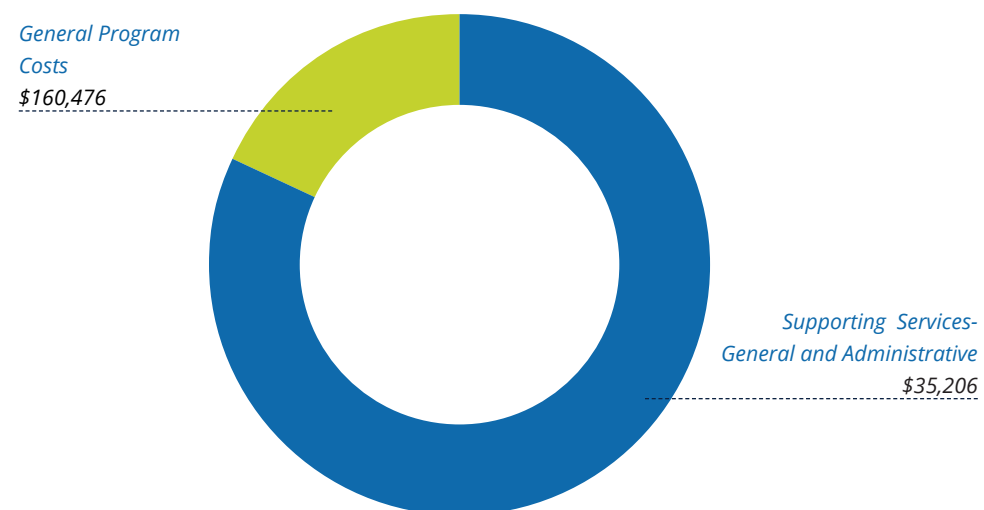
TOTAL REVENUE: \$341,202



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2019

TOTAL EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$195,682



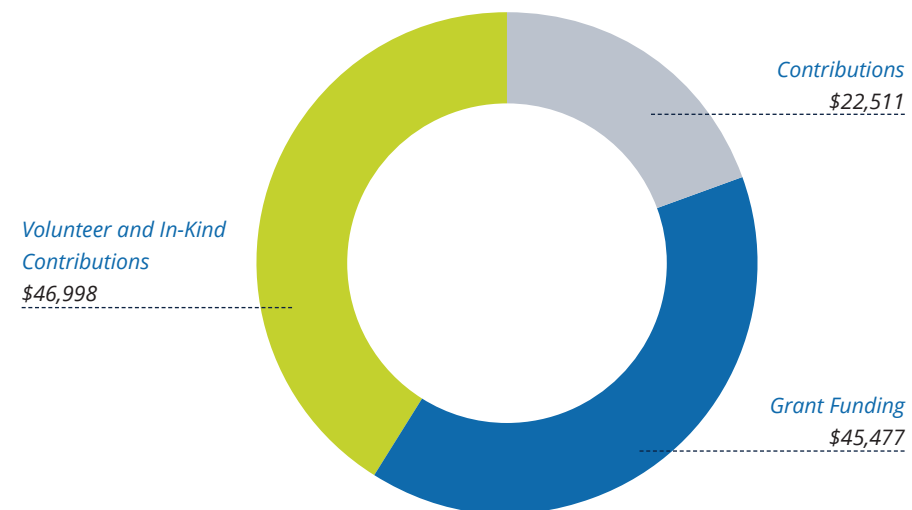
FISCAL YEAR 2020

UNAUDITED

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2020

TOTAL INCOME

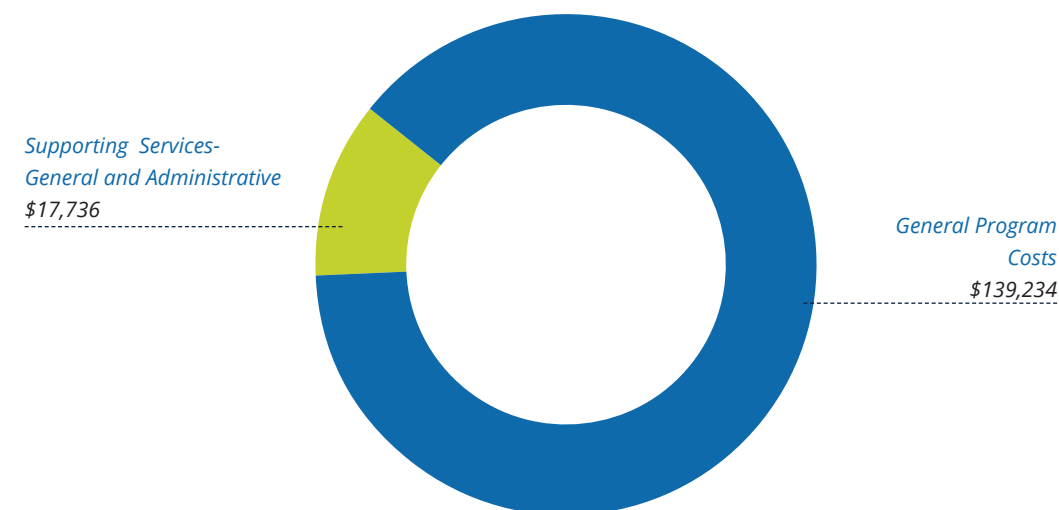
TOTAL REVENUE: \$114,986



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2020

TOTAL EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$156,970



HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS STORIES

Last year the board of directors approved an ambitious strategic plan that outlined our agency's priorities through 2022. In it we focused on ways to empower low- and moderate-income families and individuals living in Montgomery County's affordable housing to pursue opportunities that allow them and their children to realize their fullest potential. Over the last two years, the programs described below provided a good beginning for meeting our strategic goals. Thanks to your support, these programs had a great impact on the lives of many families.

Our strategic priorities:

- **STEM programs**
- **Small Business Development**
- **Senior Adult Health/Well-being**

Youth Enrichment Highlights	2018/19	2019/20
Youth completing STEM Programs – After school and summer	467	338
Youth receiving Back-to-School Supplies	1,000	846



HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY.

STEM SUMMER DAY CAMPS 2018 & 2019

An increasing amount of research shows that effective out-of-school programs significantly help to enhance student interest and understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). When summer and after school programs use hands-on contextual learning, engineering design processes, and content integration children's attitudes change, and interest grows. These programs open a whole new world for children who become much more interested in studying STEM subjects and ultimately in pursuing STEM careers.

Our STEM Summer Day Camps do just that – open new worlds of possibilities for our youth.

In the summers of 2018 and 2019 Community Partners and the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) coordinated robotics summer day camps and STEM research day camps for low-income children living in affordable housing in Montgomery County. In total, more than 200 children enthusiastically participated in these academically strengthening summer programs, which were supported by Montgomery County Community Grants Program and the George Preston Marshall Foundation.

Our complex and changing world demands an adaptable workforce that is prepared to collaboratively reason through tough problems and come up with creative solutions to the challenges of tomorrow. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) educational opportunities cultivate students' curiosity and creativity while teaching them to work as a team, base their reasoning on evidence, and solve problems through experimentation.
STEM Education Coalition Policy Forum, April 2016.

Robotics Day Camps

The robotics camps were for students in grades 1-5, working on WeDo 2.0 and EV3 robotics kits. We also included other STEM modalities. Children were encouraged to add audio effects, accessories (with art supplies), design settings and more to their robots. This feature was tremendously popular among all the campers.

All the campers successfully built functioning robots, which had an impact on the kids. Surveys showed that **81% of the campers** expressed greater interest in STEM and **84% reported** more interest in pursuing additional activities/classes in robotics. The certified public-school teachers who led the camps did a great job in getting the kids excited about robotics. An impressive **92% attendance** rate was maintained.

Young Science Explorers Program Day Camp

MdBio Foundation-Learning Undeclared and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) partnered with Housing Opportunities Community Partners, Inc., and the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) on the collaborative implementation of the Young Science Explorer's Summer Camp Program.

MdBio-Learning Undeclared's Young Science Explorer's Program (YSEP) engaged middle school students in authentic research experiences and tours of Maryland STEM organizations to promote positive attitudes and confidence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

For each session, students began with a field trip at a local STEM company, performed a hands-on activity, and engaged professionals about career paths. The students explored various career options that many of the companies hold including research, legal, marketing, accounting and more to reinforce the idea that their interest in STEM offers many possibilities. The second half of the day was spent in a laboratory setting at Montgomery College-Germantown, where they conducted experiments such as DNA extraction and agarose gel electrophoresis, alternative fuels, bioengineering, and crime scene investigation.

For the second week, the Washington Suburban Sewer Commission (WSSC) conducted a day camp to educate middle-school youth on how people's actions affect the environment. The program featured hands-on learning and introduction to careers in water while providing students a chance to use their creativity and problem-solving skills to solve real problems that water professionals face. Participants conducted experiments at wastewater treatment plants, highlighting the importance of math and science in today's careers.

Through innovative education experiences WSSC helped to prepare the next generation for careers in engineering and environmental science. WSSC's STEM programs brought its staff members from a variety of backgrounds to educate students about the science and technology behind drinking water production and wastewater treatment, along with introducing students to the variety of careers available in the water industry.

All of the YSEP campers (100%) successfully completed the laboratory experiments assigned to them by the Montgomery College facilitators. Surveys showed that **80% expressed** a greater interest in STEM careers and 65% reported more interest in pursuing additional activities/classes in STEM fields such as biology, chemistry and mathematics. **Almost a perfect attendance rate was maintained.**

The YSEP camp was featured on the local ABC TV channel WJLA:

<https://wjla.com/news/local/students-clean-water-stem-camp>



BACK-TO-SCHOOL FEST

The HOC School Supply Drive in 2018 and 2019 distributed back-to-school supplies to approximately 1,900 HOC youth. Each year HOCP and HOC reached out to local companies, community groups and individuals throughout Montgomery County to collect backpacks, notebooks, folders, and other supplies. In late August, students received the supplies at a "Back to School Fest" where games, academic activities and parent resources were also provided. Although we receive many backpacks and other supplies through donations from Alpha Kappa Alpha (Xi Zeta Omega Chapter) and other organizations, HOCP provided \$13,000 over the last two years to ensure that all the back-to-school needs of our youth were met before they returned to school.

CHESS SUMMER DAY CAMP

Our chess summer day camp was expanded in 2019 to include four sites in different parts of Montgomery County. In total 60 HOC middle school aged youth learned the basic elements and important strategies of chess. This classic game helped the kids to learn important problem-solving skills, improved their critical thinking abilities, and strengthened their self-discipline. The competition was always friendly and very instructive. By playing chess, kids gain the skills needed for success in the classroom and for healthy social interactions with their peers and adults.

Recent scientific studies have found that intelligence is linked to chess skills, particularly among young chess players and those at lower skill levels of play. When young children play the game of chess, they improve their concentration, memory, and performance in school, utilizing more effectively important problem-solving skills. The kids in our chess summer day camps not only learned something new but also came to love this classic game!



FAMILY STEM NIGHTS

On Friday nights most kids are not thinking about academics. But HOC youth have enthusiastically participated in HOCP's Friday STEM nights and other special STEM activities after school. At these exciting events, middle-school and elementary school aged youth with their parents and siblings participated in fun and educational STEM activities, some of which engaged the whole family. They conducted science experiments, explored fun ways to learn basics in chemistry, built mini robots using computer code and learned about the laws of physics. Thanks to generous contributions to HOCP, more than 150 HOC youth significantly increased their interest in STEM subjects at school. And all of them reported new-found interest in learning more about future careers in STEM. Research increasingly shows that when elementary and middle school students are given out-of-school opportunities in STEM, they do better in school and are more likely to take subjects in high school that prepare them for building future careers in STEM fields.

SENIOR FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial scams come in many forms, including email phishing, phone scams and door-to-door gimmicks. Unfortunately, senior adults are at a higher risk of falling victim to these nefarious schemes. To help HOC senior adults avoid potentially disastrous scams, our regular schedule of monthly senior financial literacy workshops continued with much success over the last two years.

Thanks to these engaging workshops, our seniors have learned about protecting their personal information, identifying scams, and improving their overall money management skills. Other important topics include family budgeting, healthy savings habits, effective use of banking tools and ways to improve one's credit score. With better financial literacy skills, our seniors can hold on to their hard-earned dollars and remain safe and stably housed.

Over the last two years, The Housing Counseling Plus Program (HCPP) helped 28 low-income families meet their move-in costs as they transitioned out of homelessness and into stable permanent housing. For these families, move-in costs, such as application fees, security deposits, utility connection costs, beds and mattresses are prohibitively high and present unsurmountable barriers to housing. By helping to offset these expenses, HCPP offers crucial assistance to bolster the other services provided to homeless families. Without this assistance, homeless individuals and families often cannot move into rental housing and are more likely to remain homeless.

HCPP is offered in conjunction with ongoing case management from HOC that helps further stabilize the household. Families receive assistance with finding medical insurance, meeting clothing and furniture needs, identifying mental health services and connecting to workforce development programs and employment. A tailored portfolio of supportive services is composed to meet the various needs of the families transitioning from homelessness. These services support HOC residents' ability to maintain their housing for the long-term.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

HOCP and HOC partnered with AlstonTec Small Business Strategies to empower low-income future entrepreneurs in overcoming the obstacles that prevent many from starting, growing, and sustaining small businesses. Thanks to financial support from HOCP, 11 HOC customers completed extensive training in small business development. They learned how to write a business plan, identify their customer base, develop a marketing strategy, and complete the required documents for licensing. All the participants reported that they learned much more than they ever anticipated. Thanks to this training they were able to successfully meet the challenges in opening their small businesses that many others fail to overcome when starting out completely on their own. Together, HOCP and HOC keenly understand that by promoting small business development, we can provide a pathway for low-income households to become economically self-reliant.



THANK YOU TO OUR
FUNDERS & PARTNERS



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KARL RIEDEL
