2017

St. Mary's Outreach Center

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I feel fortunate to have built connections with older adults here in Baltimore."

I was fortunate to grow up in a small, tight-knit community in coastal Maine that valued the lives and contributions of its oldest residents. But I also learned at an early age that our "golden" years certainly brought new challenges as I watched my fiercely independent neighbors struggle after years of performing hard manual labor. While many of them were accustomed to managing tight household budgets, as they aged they faced new challenges in meeting basic needs—keeping up with home repairs, paying the rising energy bills, keeping food on the table, or affording prescriptions.

The clients we see daily at St. Mary's Outreach Center face these same challenges, and I am humbled and grateful to work with them to improve their lives. After graduating from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2013, I joined the board of St. Mary's Outreach Center and assisted with program evaluation and community outreach.

In 2017, I was deeply honored by the opportunity to oversee the organization as Executive Director. Since then, we have committed ourselves to a successful transition that built on the strong foundation created by our predecessors.

In retrospect, choosing a career working with older adults is largely shaped by my childhood. My fondest memories usually have an intergenerational element—interviewing local nonagenarians for a school project, learning to sew from my grandmother, visiting maritime museums with aging neighbors, or simply listening to my grandfather share his stories from the Navy.

I feel fortunate to have built similar connections with older adults here in Baltimore City and look forward every day to the many new and warm memories to come.

Tasha Cornish
Executive Director

"The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person."

Andy Rooney

WERE IT NOT FOR ST. MARY'S

Since its inception in 2003, St. Mary's Outreach Center (SMOC) has been guided by the belief that older adults are valuable and contributing members of society. We also recognize that older adults are often the most overlooked members of society, too.

We can all relate to getting older, as aging is a universal experience. Most of us hope that as older adults, we will be healthy, active, and remain financially sound. But what happens if we cannot? In our experience, many older adults who rely on a fixed income and are without family or other support systems simply 'make do' without complaint. Imagine, for a moment, what that must be like.

In 2017, we delivered $765,000 worth of services to 795 individuals. Our menu of programs includes assistance with gas and electric bills, food stamps, grocery delivery, healthcare and prescription drugs, and tax credits. We also sponsor social activities, health fairs, and wellness checkups. Our capacity to be responsive to the needs of the people we serve is why SMOC remains the 'go to' place for seniors living in the greater Hampden community. But what makes SMOC special are the trusting relationships we've built with our community's most vulnerable older adults.

Were it not for SMOC, many if not most of those aging quietly and without complaint would continue struggling to simply 'make do'. Instead, they are part of a caring community in which they enjoy a healthy, productive, and personally satisfying life.

WE DON'T GIVE UP ON OUR CLIENTS

OUR **IMPACT IN 2017**

275 Filed for Energy Assistance

125 Received support with applying for Medicare

95 Applied for Medical Assistance

166 Applied for Food Stamps and participated in My Groceries to Go

121 Applied for Renter or Homeowner tax credits

50 Volunteered to support SMOC programing

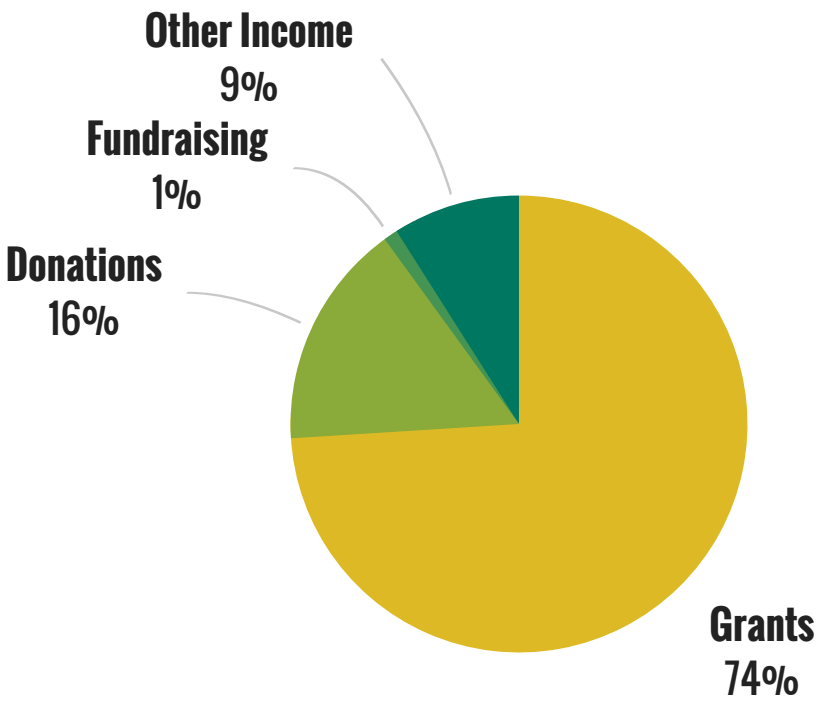
890 Total volunteer hours

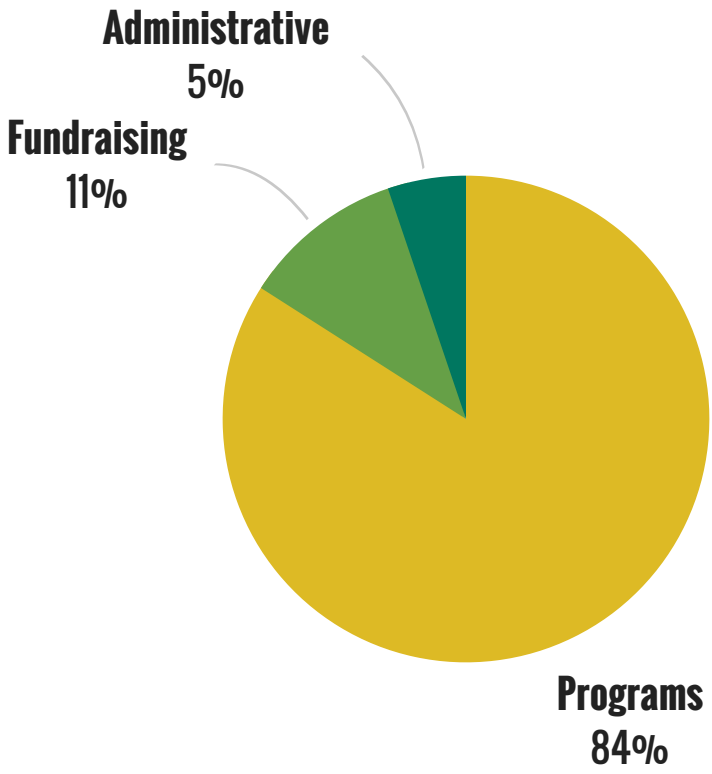
795 Unduplicated clients served

$765,000

Total Value of Services

2017 **FINANCIALS**





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Terry Snyder
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Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton
SweetSide Cafe
Holly Szafran
Adriane Renee Thomas
Linda Thompson
Towers East Salon
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Miles White Beneficial Society of Baltimore City
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilhelm
Lou Willett
Thelma Winn
Carol Wolbert
Anne M. Wyatt-Brown

Riley belongs to our Case Manager, Fred. He visits our office 2-3 days a week and is being trained as an Emotional Support Animal for our clients. While he's still just a puppy, Riley brings a smile to everyone who meets him.

STAFF

Tasha Cornish, M.S.P.H, CIRS-A/D - Executive Director

Fred Gorman, CIRS-A/D - Case Manager

Elizabeth Smith, LCSW-C - Clinical Director

Kashay Webb - Special Projects Administrator

Riley - Office Mascot

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Deborah Finnerty, Vice Chair
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Lou Willett
William Miller, Pro Bono Consultant

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