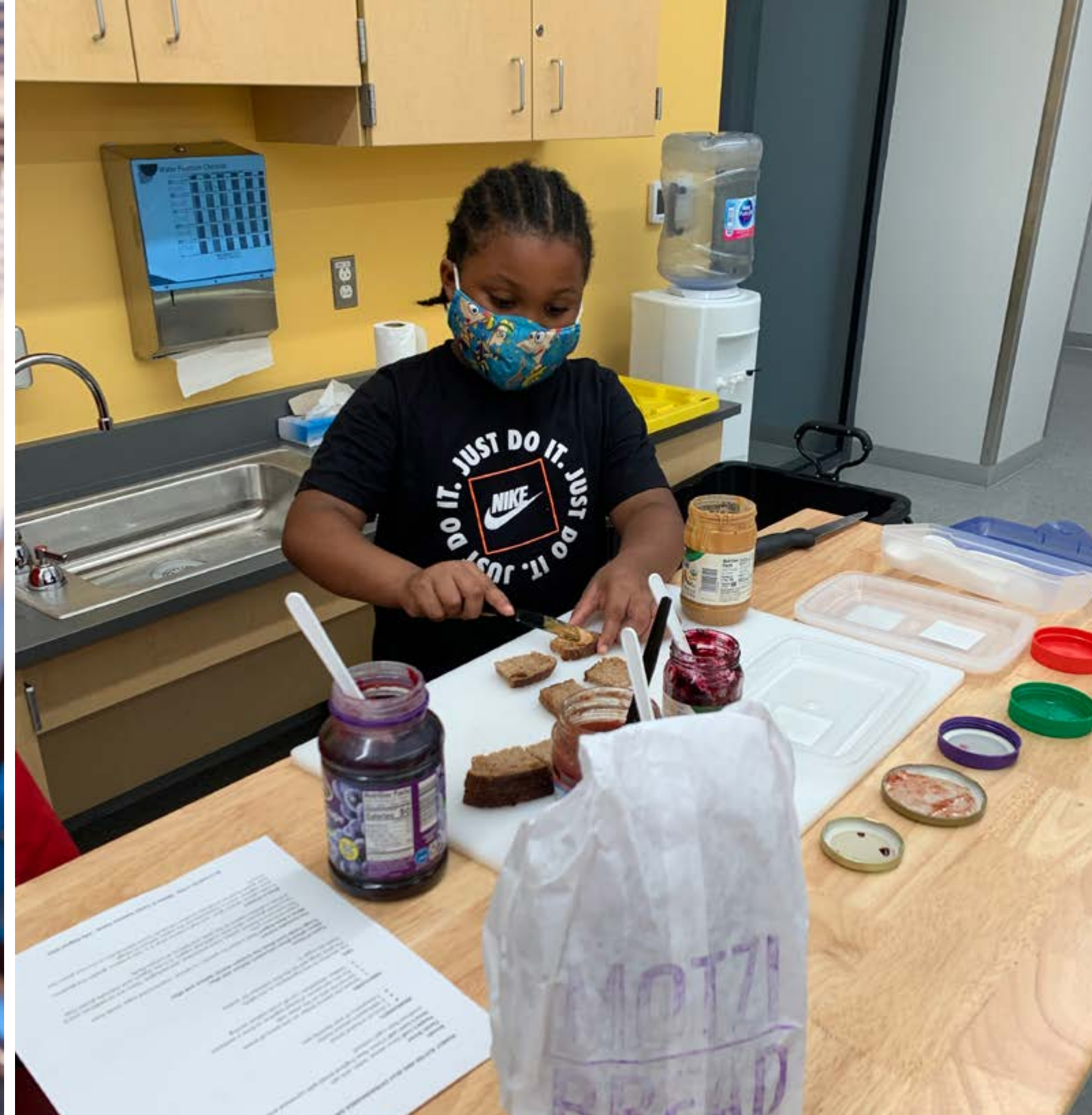


ITALIAN
CULTURAL
CENTER
of
MARYLAND

IMPACT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

www.italymd.org



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In 1955 when our founder, Regina Levi-Bianchini Soria, brought together a group of Baltimore Italophiles to celebrate the Italian experience in America she inspired all who would follow to appreciate the characteristics of a renaissance man. There is no more an ideal Italian Renaissance Man than Leonardo da Vinci.


We ended 2019 with our tribute to Leonardo da Vinci in our art galleries celebrating his achievements from the arts, engineering, medicine and humanities. Little did we know the beginning of 2020 would bring the Italian Cultural Center to emulate one of Leonardo’s greatest talents: the ability to adapt and overcome turning challenges into reality.

Through the stewardship of our Executive Director and the tenacity of our volunteers, an educational program known as “Be a Chef for a Day” transformed itself almost overnight from teaching Baltimore City youth and their families how to cook healthy meals on a budget using the Mediterranean diet to a community kitchen preparing over 1000 warm meals daily and delivering them to neighbors city wide in Baltimore and in central Baltimore County, all this at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Moving forward and continuously adapting to the needs of our community, Monica Lapenta is guiding ICCM to respond to the need for youth training and job opportunities through our next program: “ In Cucina” a Baltimore Food Social Enterprise. 2020 has been quite a ride. More work still has to be done. I invite each and every one of you to get on the “BACFAD Bus” and be a part of the bright future ICCM has in store for our city and state. Let’s make Leonardo proud!

Francesco Luigi Legaluppi
Board Chair





ICC was conceived as a home away from home for immigrants who had to escape persecutions and for immigrants who felt non accepted here in the US.

A place that feels like home and where everyone belongs.

When Circolo Culturale Italiano and Italcultura decided to join forces and created The Italina Cultural Center (ICCM) they did so to keep alive that purpose of being a home for everyone who was in need of one.

As such we welcome those who speak our beautiful idiom as well as those who speak every other idiom that feels like home to them.

We all have experienced, at different levels, the struggle of starting a life all over again and we know what mutual aid means.

That hand extended to you, when you least expected it, to lift you up, to show you with small gestures “we are here for you”.

In cucina (in the kitchen) is where Italians gather, where the community is celebrated, where we welcome everyone.

“Dove mangiano due, mangiano tre” is, in all its variations, a very common Italian way of saying. That there is always a seat at our table and for that however little you have, it is never too little

for you to share with your neighbors. This saying has never been more true than this year for us all.

In March we opened our Center to a transformation and stepped up to serve the neighbors who needed us.

A small program that first prepared a few hundred meals per week, became a kitchen for thousands.

Although there are numbers I share weekly, there are no words adequate enough to portray the struggles and, at the same time, the gratitude on the faces of the hundreds of families to whom we have extended a hand.

A heartfelt thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who showed up for us and have helped us to create and continue this mutual aid kitchen program in various capacities, to our funders, partners, and supporters, and to my incredible team.

V' ... io in cucina.



MONICA E. LAPENTA
ED&CEO



NIAG

NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN GALLERY

At ICCM we believe the Arts are a solution. For the first 30 years our Foundation relied mostly on the Arts to build a bridge to connect Italian immigrants and Marylanders with the love for Italy and its culture. Enrico Causici, Antonio Capellano were the first

artists whose lasting impact every Baltimorean can see while walking the streets of Charm City. Lady Baltimore, symbol of the city was created by an Italian, the Bromo Seltzer Tower was created by Capt. Emerson to resemble Florence's Palazzo della Signoria. Through NIAG

we made that connection visible. Leonardo Arts Day is a must and an exhibit every year with selected artists from Italy and Maryland will continue that tradition of bringing to Maryland the best of the contemporary Italian Art tradition and craft.



CAFFÈ LETTERARIO



Caffè Letterario is an intimate conversation with selected guests about the arts, community and culture over coffee and pastries in the classic Italian style.

It facilitates the sharing of our culture with a diverse community, encouraging and supporting education, creativity, curiosity, respect for history, respect for the arts and respect for each other.

2019-2020 guests:

- Imelda Sansone
- The Civility Dinner honoring late ICCM Board Member Pier Massimo Forni
- Luciana Bianchi
- Ron Riley
- Gina Caruso
- Jerry Pellegrino
- Michael P. Scott
- Anthony Marchione
- Rosemary Frisino Toohey

Join us for a
special
**VIRTUAL CAFFÈ
LETTERARIO**
March 21th, 2021

BE A CHEF FOR A DAY

The Be a Chef for a Day Program (BACFAD BEAT), is a youth-centric and skills-centered dynamic food initiative of the Italian Cultural Center of Maryland that operates in the Greater Baltimore-Washington Area,

providing meals, nutritional education, life, and culinary skills, and training to youth and their families.

The ultimate goal is to pull our community out of hunger and address poor nutrition-related diseases, household instability

due to financial struggles, and food insecurity.

In our logo on the bottom right are our helpers: Sphen (ancient Greek word for Spoon) and Matt (short for Matterello the Italian world for "rolling pin"). Our classes are now virtual.



Italian Cultural Center of Maryland



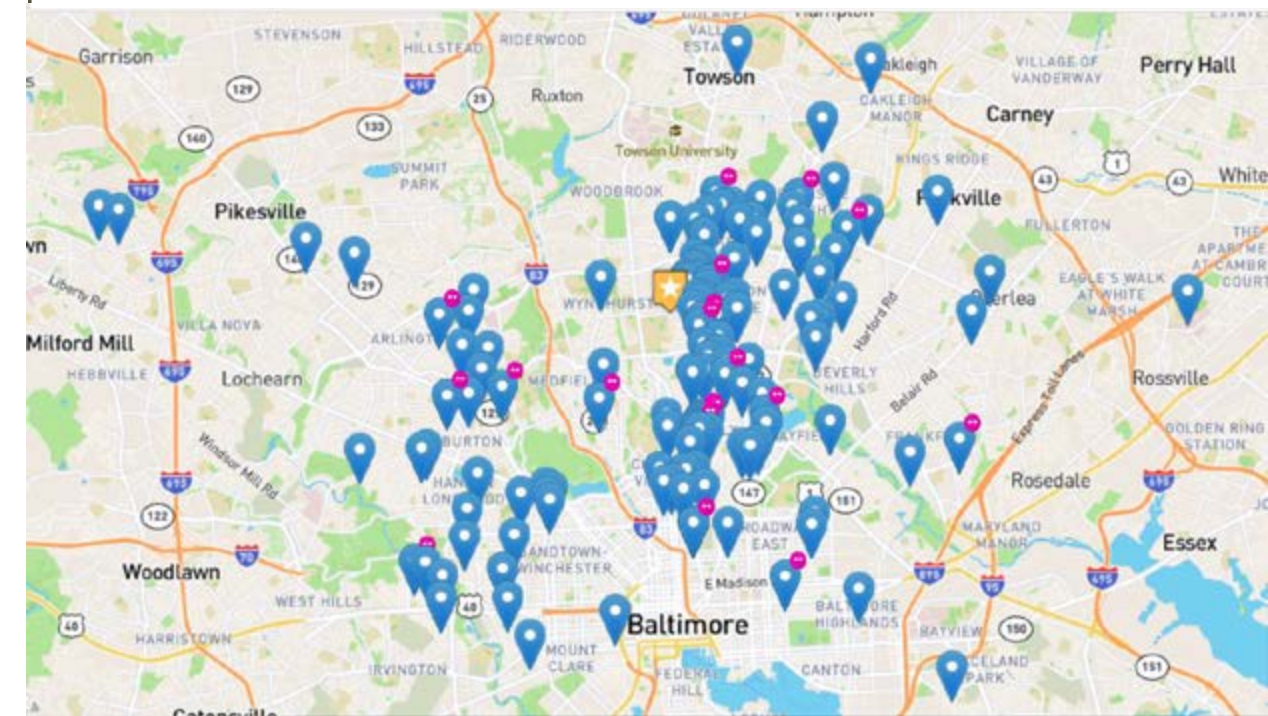
COVID-19 COMMUNITY RELIEF PROGRAM

"Un pasto caldo non si nega a nessuno".
A warm meal should not be denied to anyone.

A meal it is not just about food. It is about love. It is about care.

Our community has been tested like never before and we knew we could help. Thanks to our incredible team, this was the impact of our community kitchen in 2020:

- 132,267 warm dinners
- 403,904 total meals
- 8,925 Family Grocery Week-end Bags
- 1,100 Thanksgiving Family Dinner Boxes
- 1,112 Christmas Family Dinner Boxes
- 160+ volunteers
- 134 virtual cooking classes
- 26,000 mixed food boxes
- 9 youth trained and 5 hired



OUR PARTNERS

- Alma Cocina Latina

A Friendly Bread

B-More Kitchen

Baltimore City Department of Planning

Baltimore City Office of Sustainability

Baltimore City Public School

Baltimore Community Mediation Center

Baltimore Curriculum Project

Baltimore Office of Sustainability

Better Waverly Mutual Aid

Central Baltimore Partnership

Church of the Redeemer

Citizen Policing Project

Civic Works

Dewees Recreation Center

First Fruits Farm

Fondazione Dieta Mediterranea

France-Merrick Foundation

Front Porch Church

GEDCO

Govans Elementary School

Govans Presbyterian Church

Habitat for Humanity

HARBEL

Home Depot

IGF

Karma Farm

Keeny Produce
- Lancaster Food

Leap Tide Capital

Loyola University of Maryland

Marcato

Maryland National Guard

Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

Medstar

My Mamas Vegan

Morgan State University - School of Community Health and Policy

Motzi Bread

Office of Councilman Mark Conway

Optimo Route

Pompeian

Safe Street Woodbourne Mc-Cabe Sign-Up

The Alameda Shopping Center

The Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter

The Family League

The League

The Middendorf Foundation

Walter P. Carter Elementary School

Waverly Mutual Aid

YRP



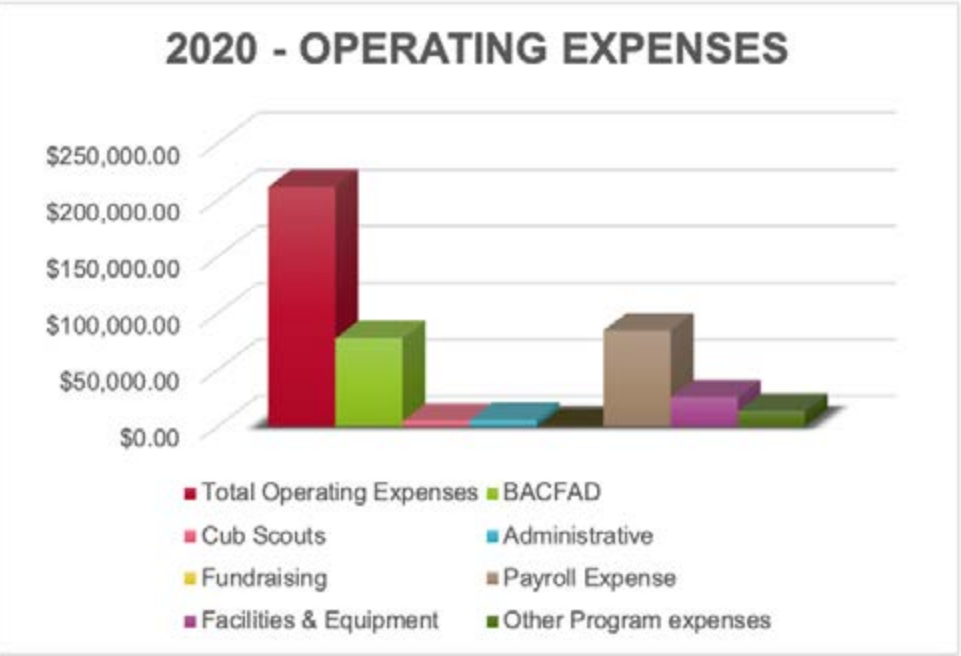
A special thank you to D43 Team: Senator Mary Washington and Delegates Curt Anderson, Regina T. Boyce and Maggie McIntosh and to their staff for their steadfast support.

Thank you to Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Comptroller Bill Henry and Councilwoman Odette Ramos for volunteering with us while busy with Elections and Census.

OUR FINANCIALS



TOTAL REVENUE:
\$ 327,745.04



OPERATING EXPENSES:
\$ 211,529.41

COMING IN 2021

We are committed to families and youth and we know that the youth of our community need job opportunities.

Our experience during COVID-19 has taught us that support through warm nutritious meals, is a permanent, not a temporary, need so we have looked for a solution to combine job creation and meal service. In Cucina was born.

Youth will be trained in every aspect of the business, not only the culinary aspect, and one of the products of this social enterprise will be warm nutritious meals. Our first wholesale product will be artisanal dry pasta made with Maryland grains.



Supporting our community starts with providing our neighbors with choices. Healthy eating is what we teach to our little ones in school everyday, but the reality is that not everyone has access to healthy nutritious food and fresh produce and fruit at affordable cost.

Our BACFAD Mobile Teaching Training Kitchen and Market (BACFAD MTTKM) will have a full classroom / market space on wheels and a full commercial training kitchen.

This space will allow us to serve the York Road and Greenmount Corridor, providing classes, fresh produce, fruit and meals daily at affordable prices.



OUR BOARD

ICCM is governed by a volunteer board of directors and advisors, chaired by Francesco L. Legaluppi.

FRANCESCO LEGALUPPI
ICCM BOARD CHAIR
THE LEGALUPPI FIRM

ROBERT BALDASSARI
MATTHEWS, CARTER & BOYCE

JAY I. BLOCK ESQ.
LAW OFFICES OF JAY I. BLOCK

ED BOSCO
VERDE PIZZA

EMILIO BRAMATI
BRAMATI MARBLES AND GRANITE

PATRICIA BRAMLET
FRIENDS OF EVESHAM PARK

FULVIO DOMENICALI
POMPEIAN

PIER MASSIMO FORNI* (deceased)
EMERITUS

JOHN KARLSEN

ARMANDA LIGABUE

GIOIA MILANO

LOUIS MISERENDINO
CALVERT HALL, THE MCMULLEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

CURTIS SCHWARTZ

MORRIS WEINMAN AND BEVERLY WEINMAN
TOBY AND MORRIS WEINMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION



About our Foundation

The Italian Cultural Center is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1955 and incorporated in 1999 to build a strong bridge between our Italian culture, love of the Arts, and family life. It supports neighborhoods and community with love and respect.

We have called Baltimore home since 1955 and our Center is headquartered just a few yards away from where ICCM was originally founded.

Our lifelong goals are to empower kids and families, build stronger communities, and create lasting change at the local, national, and global levels. The foundation oversees the Be a Chef for a Day Educational Program, and the In Cucina Food Social Enterprise.

We believe long-lasting changes come with informed choices and that education is the key to open the coffer of possibilities.

The Arts, including the Culinary Arts, are the arrows in our quiver.

THANK YOU

*This work wouldn't be possible without your support.
We are proud stewards of your gifts.*

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND DONORS, VISIT ITALYMD.ORG