

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 of 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 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 who speaks our beautiful idiom as well as who speaks 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, 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” it is, in variations, a very common Italian way of saying.

There is always a seat at our table and for the 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 that needed us.

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

Although there are numbers I share weekly, there are no adequate words 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.

An 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.

Vi aspettiamo in cucina.

MONICA E. LAPENTA
ED&CEO



NIAG

NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN GALLERY



At ICCM we believe the Arts are the solutions. 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 Charmcity. Lady Baltimore, the City symbol was created by an Italian, the Bromo Seltzer Tower was created by Capt. Emerson to resemble Florentine Palazzo della Signoria. Through NIAG we

made that connection visible. Leonardo Arts Day are 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 Toohy

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

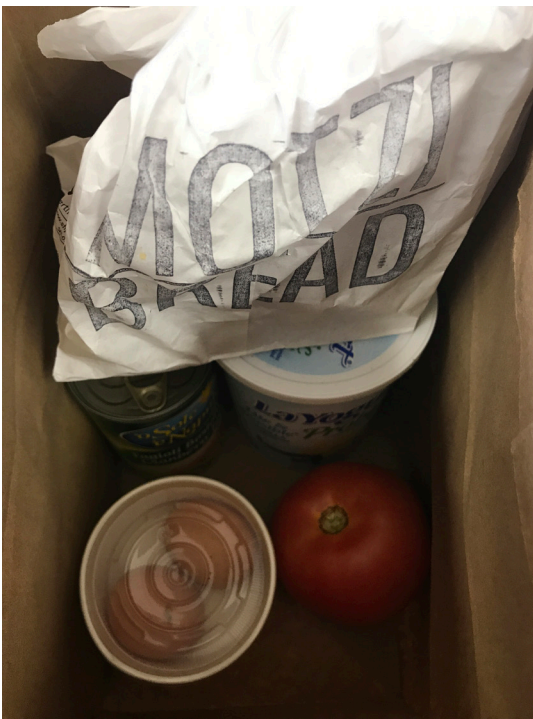


BE A CHEF FOR A DAY

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

and provides 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 our helpers: Sphe (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



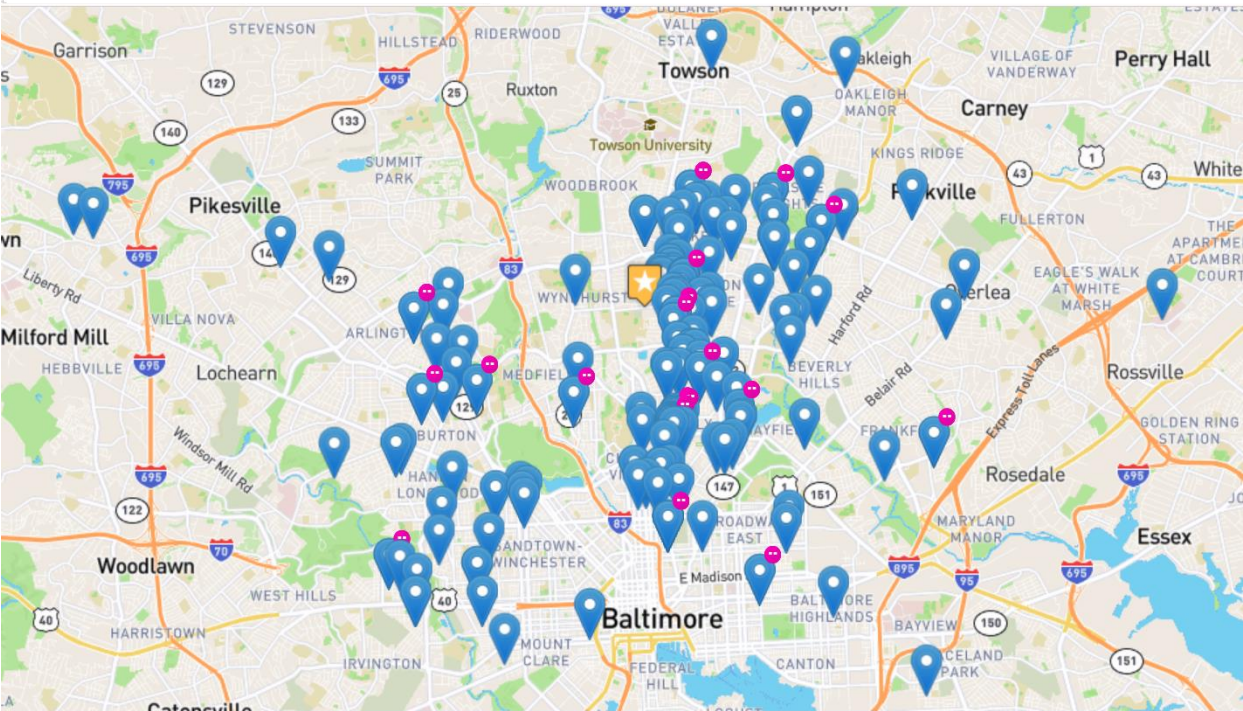
COVID-19 COMMUNITY RELIEF PROGRAM

"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. Thank you 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
Arbell
B-More Kitchen
Baltimore City Department of Planning
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
Deweese Recreation Center
First Fruits Farm
Fondazione Dieta Mediterranea
France-Merrick Foundation
Front Porch Church
Gedco
Govans Elementary School
Govans Presbyterian Church
Habitat for Humanity
Home Depot
IGF
Karma Farm
Keeny Produce
Lancaster Food
Loyola University of Maryland

Marcato
Maryland National Guard
Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success
Mayor's Office of Homelessness Services
Morgan State University - School of Community Health and Policy
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 Middendorf Foundation
Walter P. Carter Elementary School
YRP

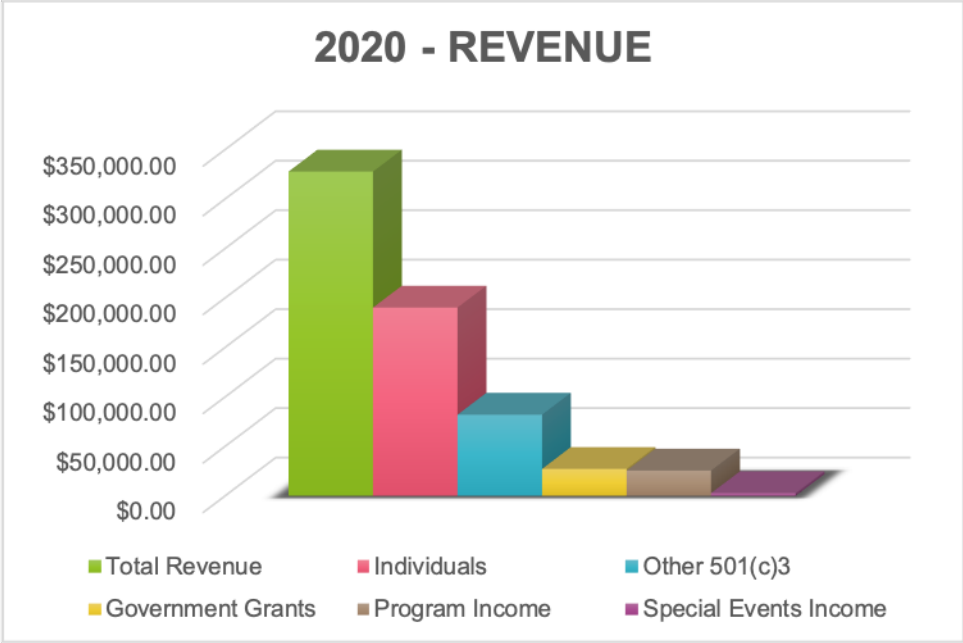


A special thank you to D43 Team: Senator Mary Washington and Delegates Curt Anderson, Regina T. Boyce and Maggie McIntosh and to their staffs for their steadfast support.

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

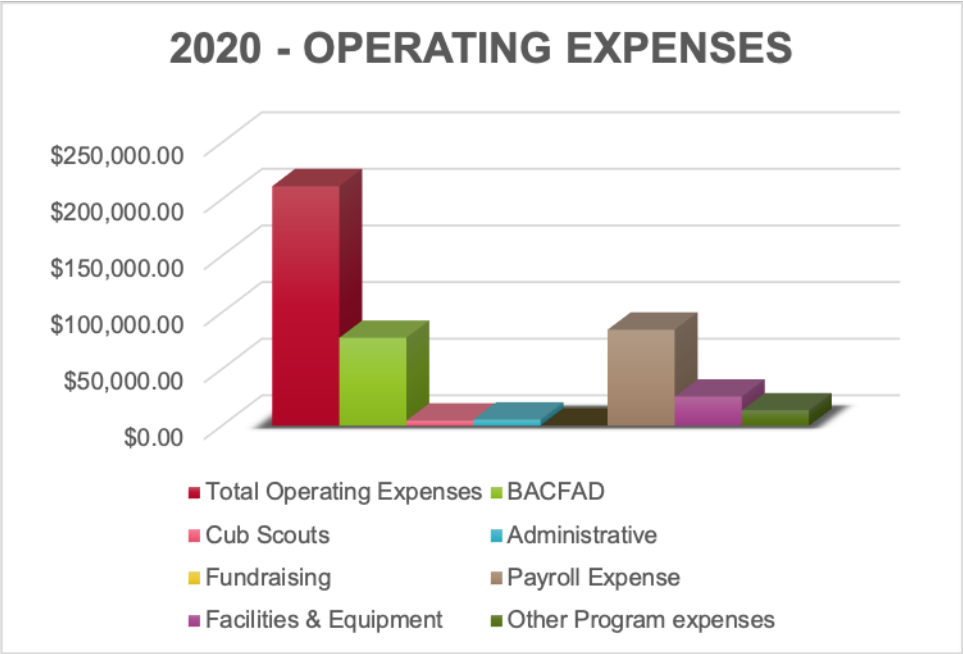
OUR FINANCIALS

2020 - REVENUE



TOTAL REVENUE:
\$ 327,745.04

2020 - OPERATING EXPENSES



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 have taught us that temporary support through warm nutritious meals, is a permanent need and we have looked for a solution to combine job creation and meal service. And In Cucina was born.

Youth will be trained in every aspect of the business, not only the culinary aspect and one of the product 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 it 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 wheel and a full training commercial kitchen.

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



OUR BOARD

The Foundation 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) nonprofit corporation established in 1955 and incorporated in 1999 to build a strong bridge between our Italian culture, love of the Arts, family life and supportive neighborhoods and the community with love and live in.

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

Our lifelong goals are 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, the In Cucina Food Social Enterprise.

We believe long-lasting changes come with informed choices and 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