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In the second year of the pandemic, we continued to meet the moment we were in, guided by the needs of our partners. There were months that resembled pre-pandemic activity levels (August, October). There were months that felt like nothing had changed since April 2020. It was a singularly unique year that followed a singularly unique year.

In the following pages, we offer a map of service that feels very familiar at this point. In some cases, our events equipment has been in the hands of the same partners for nearly two years. They are serving the same populations. Yet we know each partner served saves them time and money to pour into their vital mission. This is the essence of the moment we are in: individuals are impacted long-term, organizations are impacted long-term; and so we serve long-term.

While our service delivery looked similar in 2020 and 2021, when we look back in five or ten years, this document will chronicle our response to a very dynamic situation. It will show how we served in the year vaccines became widely available. It will show how we responded to partners as they combatted long-term negative impacts of COVID-19. It will show how we supported partners as they resumed activities they had abandoned the year prior. Exploring the community sector and our service in the Baltimore region in the year 2021 provides a unique lens with which to view the pandemic, its direct impacts, and its ripple effect on a diversity of community projects.

Not every story told here is directly about the pandemic. Yet each story is of our time and highlights our responsibility to leverage everything we have to benefit the broader community. Everything we have. The ToolBank movement is nothing more than sharing resources and nothing less than social justice.

Sincerely,

UPS

In 2021, the Baltimore Community ToolBank empowered partners with **1,102 rakes** for **177 distinct orders.**

COVID-19 continued to impact operations at the ToolBank in 2021. AS we served in innovative ways to meet the moment for our partners, we also saw more typical ordering patterns. As spring arrived, greening projects resumed and we managed to safely equip partners with a range of tools to support powerful community projects.

INDIVIDUALS EMPOWERED

TOOL ORDERS

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

RETAIL VALUE OF TOOLS BORROWED

2021 IMPACT

\$2,151,542.24

50,633

746

230

A GROWING CANOPY







With a refreshed inventory of tools to help plant and maintain trees in 2021, we empowered a diversity of partners in their work to fortify neighborhoods with tree canopies. In autumn alone, we tracked 687 trees planted by partners with our trusty blue tools!

The benefits of enhancing tree canopies in urban neighborhoods are multiple and include reduction of summer peak temperatures and air pollution, providing wildlife habitat, and improving social ties among neighbors. A robust tree canopy also attracts businesses and residents.

ToolBank partners who planted trees with our gear in 2021 include Baltimore Tree Trust, Blue Water Baltimore, the Canton Community Association, Civic Works, the Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association, Friends of Betty Hyatt Park, Green Street Academy, the Locust Point Community Garden, Midtown Community Benefits District, the Mount Clare Community Council, the Seton Hill Community Association, The 6th Branch, Volunteering Untapped and more!



TURNING THE CORNER



Locally, the response to the pandemic by our partners was swift and strong. When the vaccine was made available to essential workers early in 2021, we were there to lend a hand to partners as they established pop-up vaccination sites. This resembled our support of partners as they established testing sites one year earlier.

We partnered with the Essential Manufacturer's Coalition in Baltimore to establish three vaccination sites in

May 2021. In addition, we continued working with the Mayor's Offices of Emergency Management and Human Services to equip multiple vaccination sites. In total, eight vaccination sites were established using our tools and equipment. We also noted numerous community projects and resource fairs that included vaccinations as part of their event. One example of this occurred when the Kevin L. Cooper Foundation borrowed equipment to host their Rowing for Change event in September, which included a community vaccination clinic.



Inventory metrics map our partners' response to COVID in 2021 as they started reigniting standard events. For example, 17 different projects utilized touchless thermometers in 2021. This number seems small, but many projects were still on pause throughout the year. This number shows that safety was a cornerstone of hosting projects-even on a smaller scale-during the pandemic.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

In early 2021, we were asked by Baltimore City Public Schools if we could coordinate construction of picnic tables to empower students to eat in safe outdoor spaces as the pandemic persisted. Within a few weeks, we devised a plan to have corporate partners sponsor and help build tables on site, then deliver tables to local schools as a donation. In total, more than 25 tables were built for and delivered to local schools.

School partners included Arundel Elementary, Baybrook Elementary, the Joseph C. Briscoe Academy, the National Academy Foundation and the Reginald F. Lewis High School. Corporate and community partners included Baltimore Gas & Electric, Cove Property Management, JP Morgan Chase, the Rotary Club of Baltimore and Stanley Black & Decker.

While coordinating construction of picnic tables is not a standard ToolBank deliverable, we were proud to meet the moment to boost safety for local students. Serving our partners demands that we listen to them first, then explore all the assets we can leverage to support them.

83 individual volunteers joined hands to build picnic tables for local students at the ToolBank in 2021.

Brushless drills, like the ones pictured here, adjust speed, torque and power supply to the task at hand rather than issuing a single, consistent power output.

VOLUNTEERING

In 2021, we were joined by 278 unique volunteers. Taken out of context, this number is far fewer than our last standard year of volunteer engagement in 2019, when we engaged more than 1500! But given restrictions on how many people we could host safely during the pandemic for any given project, combined with the fact that many of our corporate and higher education partners were restricted from volunteering at all in 2021, we are proud to have kept our volunteer program vibrant.

In to 2022 and beyond, we know that our ability to engage volunteers is contingent on the ebb and flow of virus transmission at any given moment. With respect to this, we cannot make reliable predictions about how many volunteers we will host on site. Yet we know that we can flex with the times and will continue to combine our efforts with those who seek to serve alongside us.

We are grateful to have worked with individual volunteers as well as these group partners in 2021: Baltimore Gas & Electric, Break A Difference, Business Volunteers Maryland GIVE Alumni, CareFirst, Civic Works, COPT, Cove Property Management, Howard Community College, JP Morgan Chase, Stanley Black & Decker, University of Maryland Baltimore County, UPS, and Volunteering Untapped.

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE TOOLBANK

In 2020, we developed a series of environmental education lessons that could be offered virtually. In the second year of the pandemic in 2021, we continued to offer a range of lessons virtually. We served diverse audiences, including students from 1st grade to college, business and governmental partners, and community-based organizations. Lessons focused on water conservation in our hyper-urban environment as well as teachings about pollinators, native plants, litter and pollution reduction, and water filtration. More than 300 individuals joined us for these lessons virtually in 2021.

In addition to advancing our ambitious plans to engage more students and local partners in environmental education, our stormwater management systems operated at peak efficiency in 2021. Our region experienced 40.79 inches of precipitation. While this is less than the annual average of 45 inches, it still equates to millions of gallons of stormwater rolling off our roof! In fact, our rain gardens and Stormwater Factory together re-routed 1,001,394.50 gallons* of rooftop runoff in 2021. This water fueled our native gardens, providing habitat for native birds, bats, bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

*According to BioHabitats, Inc., our stormwater management features together re-purpose 24,550 gallons of water per inch of precipitation.

Echinacea, or purple cone flower, is abundant in the ToolBank Rain Gardens. This flower is known for its medicinal immune-boosting properties.



2021 AWARDS

In 2021, the Baltimore Community ToolBank was honored with multiple awards in recognition of our service to others. In June, we were named one of five winners of the 2021 Sustainability Leadership Awards from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

In October, Executive Director Noah Smock was named a Baltimore Homecoming Hero finalist on behalf of his work at the ToolBank.

In November, we were recognized by ToolBank USA as the ToolBank of Year. Separate honors at the award ceremony went to Baltimore ToolBank board member Brian Pham for Director of the Year.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS!

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Empowerment Academy Environmental Control Board BMORE Beautiful Equity Now, Inc Fabpro Technologies -Vaccine Site Federal Hill Preparatory School Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association First Fruits Farm Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore Francis Scott Key Elementary / Middle School PTO Franciscan Center Franklin Square Community Association Friends of Betty Hyatt Park Friends of Carroll Park Friends of Herring Run Park Friends of NW Park Friends of Riverside Park Friends of Jones Falls, Inc. Fulton Baptist Church/ N.A.C.D. Garrett Heights Elementary/ Middle School PTA Gaywood Community Association **Genesis Project**

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Leveling the Playing Field Libraries Without Borders Lillian Jones Residence Association Living Classrooms Foundation Locust Point Civic Association Locust Point Community Garden Locust Point Dog Park Committee Lovola University Maryland Market Center Association, Inc. Maryland Lottery/ Stadium Authority Matthew Henson Community **Development Corporation** Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety Oliver Beautification Alliance and Engagement Memorial Episcopal Metamorphosis Cafe- Free Block Party Midtown Community Benefits District Mind on Fire Morgan State University Mount Clare Community Council Inc. Moveable Feast Inc. Mt Royal Parent Teacher Association, Inc. MUG's Multiple Sclerosis Baltimore N.A.T.U.R.E. Project

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United Way of Central Maryland Unity Properties Bon Secours Upton Planning Committee, Inc. Urban Land Institute Vehicles for Change Village of Violetville, Inc. Volunteering Untapped Waterfront Partnership We Our Us Western High School Foundation Westport Community Economic Development Corporation Wm T Burnett - COVID Vaccine Woodbourne McCabe Neighborhood Association Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

MISSION STATEMENT

The Baltimore Community ToolBank serves communitybased organizations by providing tools, equipment & expertise to empower their most ambitious goals.

VISION STATEMENT

To equip all communities with tools for change.

CONTACT

(410) 244-5565 baltimoretoolbank.org

DONATE

The ToolBank movement is sustained by donors at every level. Gifts in any amount will echo throughout our shared community. Direct online donations can be made at www.mightycause.com/us/story/Tools-for-Change. You may also give via Facebook.

LEARN

The ToolBank hosts field trips for students of all ages. To schedule a tour with us, inquire by calling (410) 244-5565.

VOLUNTEER

In a typical year, the Baltimore Community ToolBank engages over 1,500 on-site volunteers. For information on volunteer opportunities for groups or individuals, visit www.baltimoretoolbank.org/volunteer/.





