



Mary's Center



2020-2021

Annual Report

OUR MISSION

Mary's Center embraces all communities and provides **high-quality healthcare, education, and social services** to build better futures.



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

These past two years, we were put to the test as we navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatened so much of what we hold dear. I am immensely proud of our Mary's Center team for supporting each other and constantly pivoting and innovating to stay relevant and hopeful for the community in which we live, play, and work.

With your support, Mary's Center was able to be at the forefront of our community's pandemic response and played a pivotal role in ensuring our participants continued to be well-served and our staff remained safe. This response, including helping to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations to so many in our community, has saved lives and provided most of us an opportunity to move beyond the pandemic. In addition, Mary's Center has emerged stronger than ever because of the support of our Board of Directors, staff, supporters, volunteers, and friends who helped us weather this unimaginable, volatile, and still uncertain time.

We continue to serve at the forefront of response efforts with a commitment to increasing vaccinations in our communities and to ensuring equitable vaccine distribution. By mid-July 2021, we proudly surpassed 20,000 doses administered to over 11,000 people, most of whom belong to racial/ethnic minority groups. Thanks to our many devoted community partners – local organizations, universities, embassies, labor unions, and hospitals – we keep expanding vaccine outreach to protect as many people as possible.

Our far-reaching vaccination efforts have received accolades from the highest levels of government, with President Biden inviting Mary's Center to speak at a White House roundtable, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff visiting our Silver Spring site, and Maryland elected officials visiting our clinic in Prince George's County, including Department of Health Secretary Dennis R. Schrader, Delegates Ms. Wanika B. Fisher, Esq. and Joseline Peña-Melnyk, National Guard Brigadier General Janeen Birckhead, and State Senators James C. Rosapepe and Malcolm Augustine.

Mary's Center would not be where we are today without the brilliant, creative, strong, and compassionate leadership of our President and CEO Maria Gomez. I know you share in my heartfelt gratitude to her as our beloved Maria transitions from Mary's Center at the end of 2021. After her 33 years of dedicated service, influencing the lives of countless community members, we wish Maria all the best in her next chapter.

We remain steadfast in our mission to build healthier and stronger communities as we prepare for this new stage in the evolution of Mary's Center. I can assure you that the Board of Directors, along with Mary's Center senior leadership, is working hard to ensure a smooth transition.

We are counting on your support through this leadership change so we can honor Maria's legacy by continuing to offer the high-quality health care, education, and social services that so many have relied on for decades. Many thanks for standing by Mary's Center now and always; we greatly appreciate your generosity, your partnership, and your friendship.

Warm Regards,

Todd A. Cox, Esq.
Board Chair



TRIBUTE TO OUR FEARLESS LEADER

For over 30 years, Mary's Center President and CEO Maria Gomez has been a beacon of hope for every member of our community. As Maria prepares to transition out of her role at the end of 2021, we look back on her extraordinary impact and extend our eternal gratitude for her steadfast leadership.

Mary's Center started as a small basement clinic providing only maternal and newborn care. Through Maria's conviction and the willpower of her small team at the time, she grew Mary's Center into the multi-site community health center it is today, building an infrastructure of compassion and quality care. As a result, we now serve nearly 60,000 participants a year, offering a full range of services for the entire family.

"I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to have served this vibrant, ever-changing, resilient community for the last 33 years. Together, we built a model of care that promotes socioeconomic mobility within our most financially fragile communities. Now it is time for a new leader to take the helm and continue to propel the organization forward."

MARIA GOMEZ, PRESIDENT AND CEO

From the beginning, Maria focused on the whole person, not just their medical conditions. This empathy and insight that Maria brought from her public health nursing background led to the development of Mary's Center's Social Change Model, addressing all the factors that affect a person's health.



Founding staff at Mary's Center's first clinic in a small basement on Columbia Road, NW in 1988.

That model of care, combined with Maria's strong belief that every individual – regardless of immigration status or ability to pay – is entitled to a dignified, healthy life, has forever shaped Mary's Center's ideology and transformed hundreds of thousands of lives. We are truly grateful for the impact Maria has had on so many lives.

Join us in honoring Maria's great legacy by empowering future generations of aspiring nurses with a meaningful gift to the Friends of Maria Fund: www.maryscenter.org/friendsofmaria

Mary's Center Highlights and Awards

- ★ **The Mary's Center & Briya Public Charter School partnership made the list of Washington Post 2021 Top Workplaces in the Greater Washington, DC area.** This is the fourth time in six years that Mary's Center received this recognition, and the second time receiving it together with Briya. Mary's Center and Briya were also recognized with the national Top Workplaces Women-Led Culture Excellence Award, a testament to the many incredible women leading at all levels of the organization, and Mary's Center President and CEO Maria Gomez was honored with the Large Workplace Leadership Award.
- ★ **Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-08) selected Mary's Center and President/CEO Maria Gomez as Local Heroes of the Week in April 2021** because of the Center's advocacy and commitment to get Maryland residents tested and vaccinated for COVID-19.

- ★ **In April 2021, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) selected Maria as one of nine members of a national advisory panel** to provide guidance on its new National Health Equity Strategy, based on Mary's Center's work on racial health disparities. Mary's Center was also selected by UnitedHealth Group to serve on their Advisory Board to inform best practices and strategies in working with FQHCs.
- ★ **Mary's Center earned a 2020 Platinum Seal of Transparency** from GuideStar and was announced as one of the 2020 Top-Rated Nonprofits by GreatNonprofits.

For more highlights, visit www.maryscenter.org/annual-report.



L: DC Mayor Muriel Bowser cuts the ribbon for a new Mary's Center mobile vaccination unit



R: Second Gentleman Mr. Doug Emhoff visits Mary's Center



WE CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY FROM COVID-19

From the start of the pandemic, Mary's Center has been there for our community. When we received one of the first vaccine shipments in the region in December 2020, our staff immediately began contacting our most at-risk participants who were eligible to be vaccinated.

We expanded our outreach as vaccines became more readily available, partnering with dozens of local organizations to spread the word across the DC area – all while continuing our regular services.

Mary's Center Was My Miracle: **Carlos's Story**

"I felt like I was suffocating." That's how Carlos, a local mechanic, describes his experience with COVID-19. Like many other essential workers throughout the nation, he was unable to telework when the pandemic hit. Soon after, he got sick.

"My symptoms were getting worse every day," said Carlos. "I could barely talk, breathe, or move." He went to a hospital, but they were overcrowded and turned him away. As his desperation grew, his mental health began to deteriorate.

"I was ready to end my life. I was in so much pain and was scared to infect my family. But that's when Mary's Center called."

Throughout the pandemic, Mary's Center actively reached out to participants – especially those like Carlos with pre-existing medical conditions – to ensure that they were safe, healthy, and supported. Carlos received his call just in time.

"It was a miracle," said Carlos. He started crying when he heard the doctor's voice, and within an hour, he was being

Through July 2021, we administered over 20,000 vaccines to over 11,000 people, most of whom belong to racial/ethnic minority groups.

Our efforts quickly caught the eye of the administration. In March 2021, President Biden invited Mary's Center to participate in a roundtable on the American Rescue Plan at the White House. This was a significant moment in Mary's Center history, the first opportunity we had to discuss our work directly with the new administration.

The momentum continued in March 2021 when we had the immense honor of hosting the Second Gentleman, Mr. Doug Emhoff, along with Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin, for a visit to our Silver Spring site. Mr. Emhoff chose Mary's Center specifically because of our direct outreach to get our participants vaccinated.

Then in June, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Health Director Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt joined Mary's Center and UnitedHealthcare for a ribbon cutting to launch our new mobile vaccination unit in Fort Totten, and Mayor Bowser commended Mary's Center for being on the front lines of the pandemic from day one.

treated at Mary's Center with oxygen. He was soon transferred to a different hospital, where his provider continued to check on him throughout his stay in intensive care.

One year later, Carlos still has lingering effects from his illness. His voice is barely back and he struggles to catch his breath sometimes. But now fully vaccinated, he has a brighter outlook for the future.

"I thought the vaccine was only for the rich," said Carlos, "until Mary's Center called and encouraged me to come get my shot."

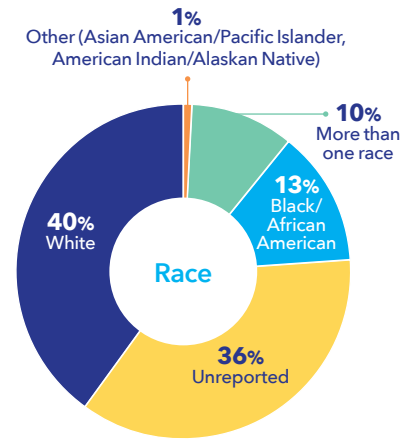
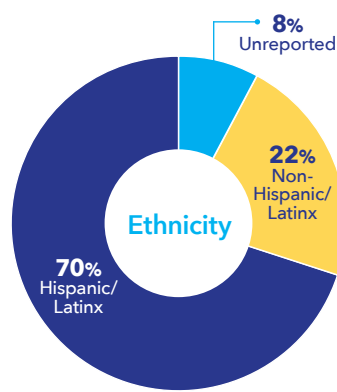
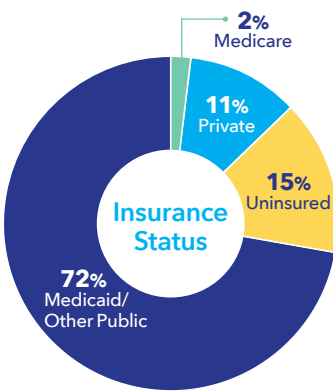
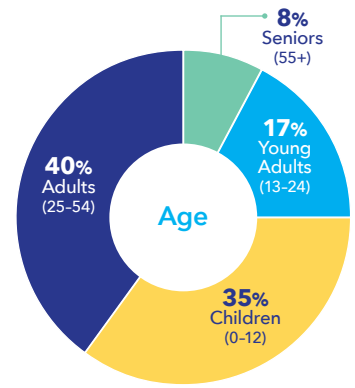
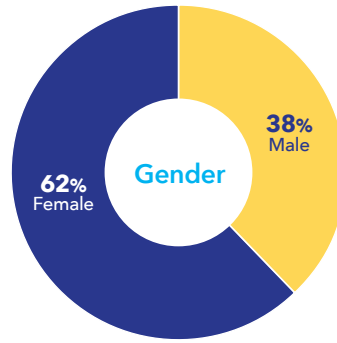
Now he feels like a brand-new man. "I feel like I have another chance. I am so happy and so thankful to Mary's Center."



LIVES TOUCHED IN 2020

In 2020, we served nearly 60,000 participants.

The data we are required to report to the federal government includes 52,039 individual participants, which translates to 278,545 visits. This does not include social services, education, and other programs.



OUTCOMES



Medical

Despite the pandemic, we maintained relatively high immunization rates for our young children.

- 77%** Child immunizations for 2-year-olds
- 94%** Healthy birth weight (>5.5lbs)
- 57%** Pap smear in last 3-5 years
- 58%** Prenatal care entry – 1st trimester



Social Services

- 100%** Teen pregnancy prevention in After-School Program
- 90%** College entry success in After-School Program
- 90%** No cases of child abuse and neglect in Home Visiting Program
- 75%** Home Visiting participants who attended their postpartum care appointment



Education

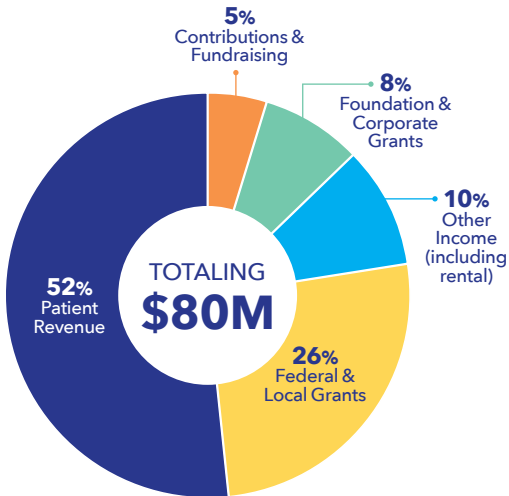
(from Briya Public Charter School, our partner in education)

- 86%** Parents reading with children at home
- 83%** Increased books in the home
- 78%** Community and civic involvement
- 96%** Parents participating in parent-teacher conferences
- 89%** Preschoolers met or exceeded literacy domain for their age (as of winter assessment)
- 100%** Adult students in Child Development Associate and Medical Assistant program who passed the exam to earn their credential

FUNDING

For the past 33 years, Mary's Center has benefited from the caring support of individuals, foundations, and corporate partners whose philanthropic investments have made a difference in thousands of lives.

Sources of Funding in 2020



Caring for Our Most Under-Resourced Neighbors

We are extremely grateful for your generosity and commitment, which helped us cover the cost of over \$7.7 million in free medical, dental, and behavioral health care for our most under-resourced participants. In the past five years, this generosity has enabled us to provide \$37 million in free care. Because of your kindness, our community members benefit from the latest effective treatments, resulting in high-quality patient care outcomes for our most under-resourced patients.

To learn more about how you can join us in building stronger communities, contact Heather Morgan at hmorgan@maryscenter.org or visit www.maryscenter.org/donate.



In a year of unprecedented need, our coat and toy drives brought warmth and joy to our families.

Legacy Giving

There are many ways to leave a legacy. Individuals that include Mary's Center in their estate plans demonstrate a commitment to our mission and help ensure that we remain nimble and able to provide our community with quality services when they need them. Speak to your financial or legal advisor about the many options to leave a legacy, including:

- Wills or Living Revocable Trusts
- Gifts of Retirement Plans
- Gifts of Appreciated Securities
- Gifts of Life Insurance

With thoughtful planning, your planned gift will help families in need now and for years to come. For more information about Legacy Giving, please contact Heather Morgan, Chief Development Officer, at hmorgan@maryscenter.org or visit www.maryscenter.org/legacy.



“Mary's Center's philanthropic community equipped us to continue working and lifted our spirits in our darkest times. Thank you, on behalf of the entire medical team, for the outpouring of support that allowed us to keep our neighbors safe and healthy.”

DR. TOLLIE ELLIOTT
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



To view our financials, visit our website: maryscenter.org/annual-report
www.maryscenter.org // 202.483.8196 // United Way # 8263 // CFC # 66350

