

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



CLEAN WATER, STRONG COMMUNITIES.

*Photo by Lilian Fernandez.  
Taken at Black Yield Institute's  
Cherry Hill Urban Community Garden.*

## **CARING FOR CREATION / PG 2**

Mount Lebanon Baptist Church  
takes action for a lasting impact.

## **RAPID RESPONSE FOR SAFER RECREATION / PG 3**

Bacteria testing in our own lab means  
quick results to inform your decisions.

## **YOUTH MAKING WAVES / PG 3**

Young leaders take charge for the environment.

## **CREATIVE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY / PG 3**

A unique partnership with Howard Bank benefits both  
the environment and their customers.



BLUE  
WATER  
BALTIMORE

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Executive Director

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A fun find during Cheers to Clean Water, a neighborhood trash clean-up

## Dear Friends of Blue Water Baltimore:

In the midst of a global pandemic, local restrictions on daily activities, and ongoing modifications to our work to protect our local waterways, 2019 seems like a distant memory. For me, though, the current COVID-19 crisis has reinforced the clear connections between clean water and the health of our communities.

I am reminded that it was not that long ago that Blue Water Baltimore rolled out new rapid bacteria testing in the Inner Harbor to bolster our long-term water quality monitoring data. Just last year, we helped pass a citywide ban on single-use plastic bags and released a report on obstacles to green stormwater infrastructure in Baltimore City, all helping to reduce pollution.

In 2019, Blue Water Baltimore continued our community-based restoration work with dedicated, energetic partners like Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and expanded our ecoliteracy offerings for students across our watersheds. We closely tracked Baltimore's City Sewer Consent Decree and worked with partners to raise concerns about the impacts on residents who experience sewer backups into their homes when it rains. We planted more trees, prevented a lot of trash from washing into our Harbor, and found creative ways to share information with our growing community of clean water allies, like you!

This report includes just a few of the many stories of success we are celebrating from 2019. I hope you'll be inspired to explore more online and continue to keep in touch as we create more good news together.

Despite the current crisis, Blue Water Baltimore and our partners across the region remain steadfast in our commitment to clean water and strong communities. Thank you for continuing to support our mission and our work. We look forward to brighter days, cleaner water, and stronger communities ahead!

Jenn Aiosa, Executive Director

P.S. Want to do a little more to increase your impact? Here are three great ways to help:

- Become a monthly donor
- See if your employer offers matching gifts at [doublethedonation.com/bluewaterbaltimore](http://doublethedonation.com/bluewaterbaltimore)
- Include Blue Water Baltimore in your legacy plans

## Mission

Blue Water Baltimore's mission is to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities.

## Problem

Baltimore's waterways have long been impacted by polluted stormwater runoff, trash, sewage, and toxic chemicals. This pollution not only harms our environment, it also threatens our citizens' health and the vitality of our local economy.

## Solution

Blue Water Baltimore works with partners, residents, businesses and others to reduce harmful pollution and restore our waterways to health. From arts and education, to stormwater management projects, to legal and legislative advocacy, we bring together citizens and our public and private partners to accomplish more than any of us could do alone.

## 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

**2,416**  
trees planted and  
given away

Volunteers  
contributed  
**5,050**  
hours of work,  
including  
**271**  
volunteers at our  
Herring Run Nursery

**2,637**  
native plants sold by  
Blue Water Baltimore's  
Herring Run Nursery

**7,291** native plants  
grown

Ecoliteracy education  
provided for  
**1,225** people of  
all ages

**18,317**  
measurements of water  
health collected for  
[www.baltimorewaterwatch.org](http://www.baltimorewaterwatch.org)

**14,850**  
pounds of trash  
cleaned up





# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

## Caring for Creation: Mount Lebanon Baptist Church

One of our proudest accomplishments in 2019 was working with Mount Lebanon Baptist Church (MLBC) and their Green Team as part of the One Water Partnership. Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Franklin Lance told the Baltimore Sun, "It's a very simple thing: We need to take care of the Earth. It's our home. It keeps us. It sustains us."

In 2019, the MLBC Green Team organized a full year of programming, culminating in the installation of three stormwater planters and a 500-gallon cistern along the side of the church, treating a combined 2,825 square feet of impervious surface. The vegetation in the planters is entirely native, making it easier to manage and encouraging local pollinators.

In addition to these tangible projects, the Green Team has also been shepherding hearts and minds, and encouraging people in their neighborhood and other congregations to consider their own relationships and responsibilities to our environment.

Blue Water Baltimore partnered with the congregation on a film screening and discussion, guided nature walk, storm drain stenciling workshop, pollution reporting training, and community health fair. We are proud to be supporting this community-led work to bring people closer to their environment.

The MLBC Green Team hopes their work will inspire others.

You can find out how to green your congregation by emailing  
**Jessie Hillman**  
([jhillman@bluewaterbaltimore.org](mailto:jhillman@bluewaterbaltimore.org)).

[Read the full story on the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church Green Team online.](#)



## Rapid Response for Safer Recreation

For years, Blue Water Baltimore has relied on an outside lab to test water samples for bacteria, which can take up to two weeks. In 2019, we launched rapid bacterial analyses in our own lab. This means we can sample our local waterways and post results within 24 hours—and you can make informed decisions about how you enjoy the water.

[Read more about our water monitoring program \(and see the data\) online.](#)



## Creative Approach to Corporate Responsibility

As a local business, Howard Bank understands the importance of investing in where you live, and they've done just that through our innovative partnership. During two annual campaigns, Howard Bank encouraged its customers to switch from paper statements to electronic statements. For each customer who made the switch, Howard Bank pledged a donation to Blue Water Baltimore. They ended up with 6,459 new enrollments, saving roughly 42,000 pounds of paper and 29,000 gallons of gasoline per year.

[Read more about this creative partnership online.](#)

## Youth Making Waves

2019 was a big year for youth activism in climate policy. Inspired by Greta Thunberg and others, young people from Baltimore have been thinking globally while taking action locally.

Instead of selling candy for school funds like his classmates, Joe (10) asked his friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor him as he collected trash in his harborside neighborhood, then donated half the proceeds to our mission.

For their tenth annual donut sale fundraiser, Jaclyn (13) and Chris (14) decided to partner with Blue Water Baltimore. An avid swimmer, Jaclyn worries about the future of our environment; she would love to one day swim in local waterways.

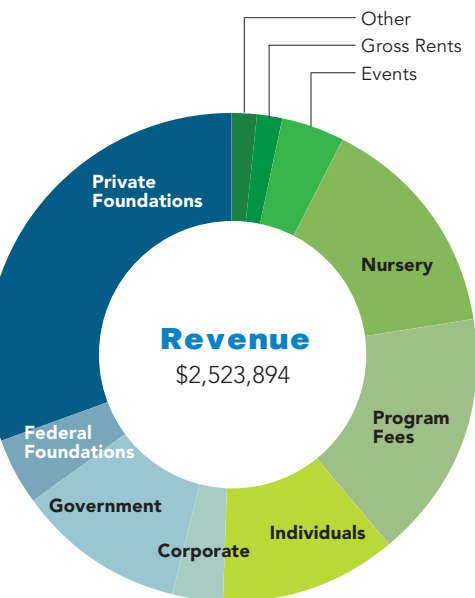
Bryn Mawr School junior Eva (pictured) responded to our city's recent ban on plastic bags through a project to provide reusable bags, a letter to the editor in the Baltimore Sun about the bag ban, and an outreach event to get public input on the issue.

[Read more about this creative partnership online.](#)



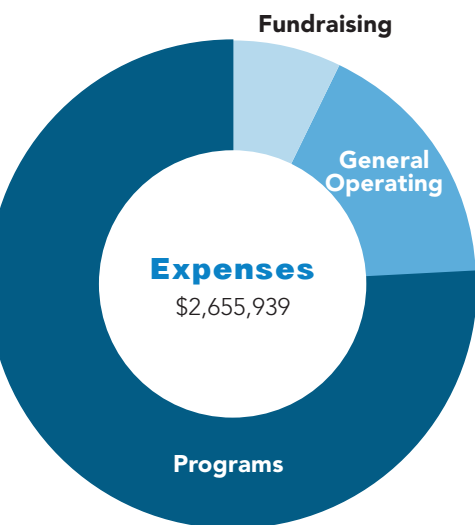
# 2019 FINANCIALS & OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Blue Water Baltimore's work is not possible without the financial support of our community. We celebrate our donors for their contributions in 2019, including those who wish to remain anonymous. [Please find a full list of our 2019 donor community online.](#)



## Revenue

Private Foundations	772,208
Federal Foundations	116,064
Government	278,586
Corporate	86,340
Individuals	289,967
Program Fees	418,039
Nursery	376,951
Events	104,463
Gross Rents	39,978
Other	41,298
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,523,894</b>



## Expenses

Programs	2,018,514
General Operating	451,510
Fundraising	185,916
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,655,939</b>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2019 audit has been delayed. These numbers represent unaudited financials.

A complete audited financial report is available by writing to:

Director of Finance,  
Blue Water Baltimore,  
2631 Sisson St,  
Baltimore, MD 21211

### \$100,000+

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Rauch Foundation

### \$20,000-\$99,999

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Baltimore City Department of Planning  
Baltimore Community Foundation  
Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection and Sustainability  
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE)  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
Brown Advisory  
Bunting Family Foundation  
Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Domino Foods, Inc.  
Goldseker Foundation  
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Mary Catherine Bunting  
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### \$1,001-\$19,999

1 North Wealth Services  
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**Increase Your Impact:**

- \* Become a monthly donor
- \* See if your employer offers matching gifts at [doublethedonation.com/bluewaterbaltimore](http://doublethedonation.com/bluewaterbaltimore)
- \* Include Blue Water Baltimore in your will

**Thank you for your support!**

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**[www.bluewaterbaltimore.org](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org)**

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