

Graceful Growing Together, Inc (GGT)

2013 Annual Report

A congregation approved part of Christ Lutheran's vision is to build on its spiritual mission and social services to the Bethesda community by expanding services in sustainable new facilities for both the church and greater community. In partnership with Graceful Growing Together, Inc., CELC's Maryland Incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit, these expanded facilities will allow CELC and GGT to:

- **Connect** an increasing numbers of people with the resources offered by CELC and GGT;
- **Enrich** people's lives to facilitate personal growth through deep, caring relationships and meaningful service;
- **Lead** the way to effective and responsive community needs;
- **Impact** the quality of all community life through multi-generational based programs; and
- **Ensure** the continued existence and viability of our pastoral mission.

Following Graceful Growing Together (GGT) Inc. Board direction and CELC Congregation support, and community advisories, 2013 was a very active and productive year on a number of GGT fronts. The full Board held formal meetings every 2nd month and program and finance meetings met as required during 2013. Advisories were publicized and Town Hall meetings were held during the year to keep stakeholders apprised of actives and future goals. Here are brief 2013 highlights of key activities and decisions plus 2014 plans.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study (CCFS)

In late 2012 GGT managed the Community Counselling Services Company (CCS) contract to assess philanthropic goals from the congregation and community. This serves as another key guideline for financial support of the CELC Church and Community Center Building (CCCB) development project. The findings and recommendations provided in this Capital Campaign Feasibility Study (CCFS) for GGT, Inc. and CELC were based on 118 confidential, strategic internal and community discussions.

A study group, made up of 15 CELC and Community leaders, provided direction at 3 meetings held during the same period to approve initial material, suggest midterm correction and receive final findings and recommendations.

An Executive Overview of the Feasibility Study highlights three (3) points repeated here:

1. Graceful Growing Together should allow for a 12-24 month planning and prospective cultivation period prior to initiating and launching a public campaign. This period would include deeper engagement with Christ Lutheran Church members, Bethesda-based businesses and foundations, as well as Maryland State and Montgomery County government officials, to boost awareness of the organization and GGT's philanthropic priority standing among donors.

2. Developing a clear, compelling, and impactful case for financial support will be essential.
3. Expanding GGT's visibility and impact in Bethesda, and the greater Montgomery County area will be important.

18 important study findings & observations detailed a suggested timetable and implementation plan that is now incorporated into GGT and CELC's future strategies and workplans. These will be implemented in concert with the planned Church and Community Center Building development.

Bond Bill and Grants

As our project gets ever closer to being "shovel ready", GGT Inc, as CELC's 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has been encouraged by Congregation, Community and Government leadership to directly apply for a number of state, county and foundation grants. That preliminary work was completed in 4Q13 to prepare for 2014 applications.

Luther Hall, Kitchen and Glenbrook House Management

In December 2011 the CELC Council approved a business plan for GGT Inc to manage and share revenues back to CELC for the relatively dormant Luther Hall, Kitchen and Glenbrook facilities. This includes:

Culinary Arts Initiative

The Christ Lutheran/ GGT Culinary Arts Initiative provided Time-Share Kitchen Rentals to several small and start-up catering businesses owners during 2013. On occasion, the National Restaurant Association ServSafe® class continues to be taught at CELC and GGT, Inc. has a representative on the Montgomery County Food Literacy Working Group. Culinary Arts Initiative updates are published each month in The Connection.

The kitchen is generally idle during the winter months; our only year-round renter is a small food processing plant which has a Maryland state license to operate in our Montgomery County licensed facility. Most renters are seasonal farm market vendors. At least once a month we receive an inquiry about the licensed kitchen. We look forward to at least two new kitchen renters in 2014.

Other GGT Managed Space Use

GGT continued to provide discounted rental community service facilities for a Polling Place, expanded space to Bethesda Cares, and other nonprofits in the Glenbrook House and others such as Inglesia Principe de Paz Assembles Congregation in Luther Hall. At year end 2013 GGT was activity involved in securing Use and Occupancy permits for Guiding Star expansion into Luther Hall.

GGT Anchor Tenant Planning

Building on the limited, but important, tenant experience in the current CELC facilities, GGT Inc. is moving forward to expand that role in the proposed new facility. In 2013 GGT leadership held facility planning meetings with a number of congregation and community groups that included of course CELC needs as well as Guiding Star, Bethesda Cares, Panera Cares, Montgomery County Food Council, Department of Recreation, YMCA, Regional Service Center, Bethesda Urban Partnership, Nonprofit Village, Live and Learn Bethesda, Imagination Stage, local congregations, concert groups and many others who expressed keen interest in future space. Their input was included as appropriate in the Schematic Design process by the Development Steering Committee (DSC) of CELC. In 2014 as the congregation looks to approve the facility size and space and the timetable is firmed up, additional levels of leasing details will be held.

2013 Year End GGT End Financials

- GGT Inc Income \$54,029
- GGT Inc Expenses \$52,995
- GGT Inc Net Income \$ 1,034

2014 GGT Plans

Looking ahead into 2014, GGT has established a number of goals and objectives of which the Congregation should be aware. They include:

- Class A Directors Albright, Cuming, Heffernan and Lambert vote to be approved by Congregation vote at the CELC annual meeting.
- Formally add a GGT Board Director to the CELC Council
- MD State Bond Bill and County Grant application being pursued
- Anchor Tenant Lease discussions increased
- Formalize 25 Year Lease between CELC and GGT for GGT management of certain facility spaces
- Council approval planned for GGT Inc. Facility Operating Principles
- Launch Capital Campaign in concert with development

Submitted by the Graceful Growing Together Inc (GGT) Board of Directors

Ray Albright, Don Cuming, Rev. Tony Carpenter, Melanie Folstad, Dave Heffernan, Paul Hephlethwaite, Rev. Kasey Kaseman, Barry Lemley, Paula Mathis, Andy Masetti, Mark Miller and Reverend Tim Warner