



## 2014 Annual Report

Graceful Growing Together, Inc., (GGT) is a Maryland Incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to build on its direct and partnership social services to the greater Bethesda community by expanding capacity for sustainable programs. In strong partnership with Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and close collaboration with many other providers and supporters we:

- **Connect** an increasing number of people with the resources offered by GGT;
- **Enrich** people’s lives to facilitate personal growth through deep, caring relationships and meaningful service;
- **Innovate** and lead the way for effective responses to community needs;
- **Impact** the quality of all community life through multi-generational based programs.

Following Board direction, with Church and Community support, 2014 was a very active and productive year on a number of fronts.

Here are brief highlights of key activities and 2014 accomplishments plus 2015 plans.

### **Board Governance**

The full Board held formal bi-monthly meetings and governance, program, communications and finance meetings occurred as required. The Board provided numerous advisories including quarterly Council reports.

### **Class A GGT Directors Approved**

Following GGT Approved Bylaws, Four Class A Directors, Albright, Cuming, Heffernan and Lambert, were elected by the Board and the CELC Congregation for 3 year terms from 2014 to 2016. Don Cuming was then named as the GGT Board’s representative to the CELC Council.

### **Capital Campaign Feasibility Study to Planning and Prospect Cultivation Phase**

GGT managed the Community Counselling Services Company (CCS) contract to assess philanthropic goals based on survey results from the Congregation and community. This report serves as a key guideline for partial but important financial support of the church and community center building (CCCB) development project.

## *Graceful Growing Together, Inc.*

The findings and recommendations provided in this Capital Campaign Feasibility Study (CCFS) are based on 124 confidential, strategic internal and community discussions.

An Executive Overview of the Feasibility Study highlights three points as follows:

1. Graceful Growing Together should allow for a 12-24 month Planning and Prospect Cultivation period prior to initiating and launching a public campaign. This planning period would include deeper engagement with 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. Develop a clear, compelling, and impactful case for financial support.
3. Expand GGT's visibility and impact in Bethesda and the greater Montgomery County area.

Study findings and observations detailed a proven timetable and implementation plan that is now incorporated into future strategies and work-plans. In 2015, these will be implemented in concert with the planned center development.

### **Commitment to Transparency**



The GuideStar Exchange is an initiative designed to connect nonprofits with current and potential supporters. With millions of people coming to GuideStar to learn more about nonprofit organizations, the GuideStar Exchange allows nonprofits to share a wealth of up-to-date information with GuideStar's many audiences. The GuideStar Exchange level logos, acknowledged as symbols of transparency in the nonprofit sector, are displayed on all Exchange participants' nonprofit reports. On November 4, GGT attained the GuideStar Exchange Silver participation level, a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., the premier source of nonprofit information. This level demonstrates GGT's deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability. The GuideStar Silver logo is now prominently displayed on our website and we are set up to receive donations both through GuideStar as well as through Network for Good.

# *Graceful Growing Together, Inc.*

## **Bond Bill, Cost Sharing Contracts, Grants and Donations**

As our project gets ever closer to being “shovel ready”, GGT, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has been encouraged to directly apply for a number of state, county and foundation grants and corporate donations. Applications submitted in 1Q2014 resulted in GGT leadership testimony before the MD State Senate and House for a bond bill. Unfortunately the bond bill was not approved in the State’s FY2015 budget but GGT was encouraged to reapply in FY2016. However, a significant Cost Sharing contract with the Montgomery County Council was approved for FY2015 and a second will be requested in FY2016 county budget.

## **Luther Hall, Kitchen and Glenbrook House Management**

The Council approved GGT proposal to manage, build usage and revenues for the relatively dormant Luther Hall, Kitchen and Glenbrook facilities in 2012. This work led to activating the Luther Hall Kitchen and then the expansion of Guiding Star Child Development Center into the Luther Hall space in 1Q2014. GGT was actively involved in securing Architectural, Use and Occupancy and Fire Marshal permits for the successful Guiding Star consolidation of all students and programs at the current CELC facility.

## **Culinary Arts Initiative**

The GGT Culinary Arts Initiative provided Time-Share Kitchen Rentals to several small and start-up catering business owners during 2014. On occasion, the National Restaurant Association ServSafe® class continues to be taught and GGT has a representative on the Montgomery County Food Literacy Working Group and the Religious Land Use Working Group. One long-time renter has dropped out and now has her own store-front in Chevy Chase. Last year, we looked forward to at least two new kitchen renters in 2014. A food truck vendor joined us in September for a few months and will resume operations in the Spring of 2015. Another new person is currently enrolled in the ServSafe® course and will begin operations in our GGT licensed kitchen as soon as his Certified Food Service Manager credentials are obtained. Occasionally, Culinary Arts Initiative updates are published 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 2015.

*ServSafe® is a registered trademark of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation*

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## **Other GGT Managed Space Use**

GGT continued to provide discounted rental community service space use of our facilities to Bethesda Cares, Mental Health Counselors and over 20 other nonprofits in the Glenbrook House and others, such as Inglesia Principe de Paz Assembles Congregation in the Sanctuary.

## **GGT 25 Year Lease from CELC**

On January 15, 2014 the CELC Council approved a 25 Year Lease for GGT to manage most facility spaces and related operations in the planned new center. This lease, as required by most grant makers, will include a legal contract between both parties and a set of GGT Operating Principles to guide management of the new center.

## **GGT Anchor Tenant Planning**

Building on the limited, but important, tenant experience in the current facilities, together with the NonProfitCenters Network Market Assessment, GGT is moving to expand that role in the planned new facility. In 2014, GGT leadership continued to hold facility planning meetings with a number of community groups that included CELC worship and administrative needs as well as Bethesda Arts and Entertainment Board, Bethesda Cares, Bethesda Urban Partnership, Guiding Star Child Development Center, Imagination Stage, Live and Learn Bethesda, Lutheran Social Services, Montgomery County Food Council, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, The Western Montgomery Regional Service Center, The Nonprofit Village, Panera Cares, YMCA, local congregations, concert groups and many others who have expressed a keen interest in future space. Their potential space needs were all included in the approved Schematic Design for the new center building led by MTFA Architecture and the Development Steering Committee (DSC).

## **2014 Year End GGT End Preliminary Financials Subject to Audit**

GGT Inc Revenues	\$95,124
GGT Inc Expenses	<u>\$82,341</u>
GGT Inc Net Income	\$12,783

## **2015 GGT Plans**

Looking ahead into 2015, GGT has approved a number of key objectives. They include:

- Election Motion to elect GGT Class B Directors (term ending 12/31/2017) Paula Bobb-Semple, Rev. Mansfield “Kasey” Kaseman, Mark Miller and Ann Posner to be approved by the Congregation vote at the CELC annual meeting. Founding GGT Board member and Treasurer Andy Masetti will be retiring from the Board after two 3-year terms and is thanked for his service;

## *Graceful Growing Together, Inc.*

- Increase overall awareness of GGT's mission, goals and objectives with a revamped communication plan;
- File State Bond Bill, County Cost Sharing Contract and Operational Grant applications;
- As the new center size, scope and space and the timetable is confirmed, pursue additional anchor tenant leasing details;
- Provide revenue & expense input into the DSC 10 year CCCB Operating Proforma
- Approval for planned GGT Facility Operating Principles to support 25-year lease;
- Launch Capital Campaign Planning and Prospect Cultivation project in concert with development schedule and grants.

Continued comments, questions and support for GGT's mission are much appreciated.

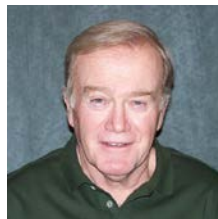
Approved by the 2014 Graceful Growing Together, Inc. Board of Directors on 1/22/2015.



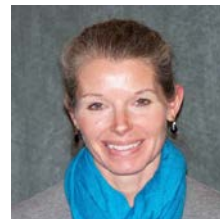
Dr. Raymond Albright



Paula Bobb-Semple



Don Cuming



Melanie Folstad



Dave Heffernan



Rev. Mansfield Kaseman



Dave Lambert



Barry Lemley



Andy Masetti



Mark Miller, Esq.

Respectfully submitted by the 2014 GGT Board of Directors