



See beyond.

2019 Annual Report



The Maryland School for the Blind

Message from the Superintendent and Board Chair



2019 WAS A YEAR OF EXPANSION FOR THE MARYLAND

School for the Blind with significant programmatic growth and construction as we continued work on the 2020 campus master plan.

The year was marked by the renovation of the historic Newcomer Building (built in 1911). Improvements include not only restoring and updating the building, but also making it fully accessible — exceeding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The facade has been enhanced with well-lit ramps at the main entrance while maintaining its historic integrity. The portico, which was removed for a time, has been fully restored with an ADA

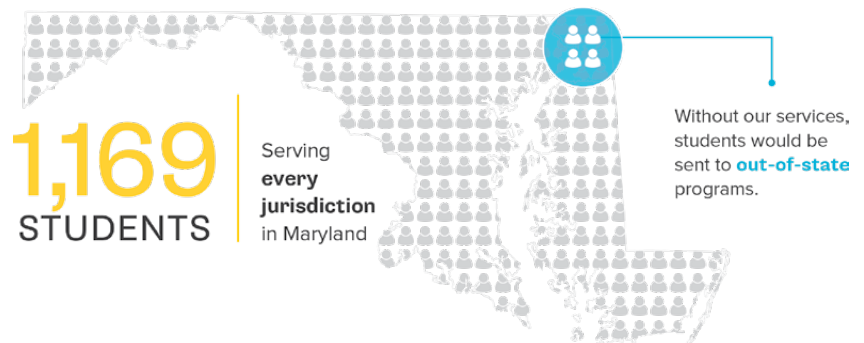
compliant ramp system. Wheelchair users can now access the building from all sides.

In sports, MSB hosted and competed in the first ever Blind Youth Soccer League game in the United States. Read more about this historic game, on page 6. In the spring, several high ranking officials from the Lego Corporation visited MSB for a workshop on accessibility and STEM. Students and coaches from our robotics teams, the “DOT5UDOGS” and “180 Optimum,” advocated for and demonstrated the importance of accessibility in FIRST Lego League robotics competitions, along with Dr. Andreas Stefik, the inventor of Quorum, an accessible programming language used by the teams.

These are just a few examples of our many successes in 2019. We are proud of our 5 graduates of the Class of 2019, who are highlighted in this report, as well as all of the students we serve throughout Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions.

This has also been a year of advocacy with the Maryland Legislature. MSB’s operating revenue from all sources, whether state, federal or through private fundraising, do not match the operational expenses needed to support the operation of the school. With these concerns, the Maryland General Assembly requested a *self-study and an in-depth analysis of MSB. This study explored numerous facets of the schools’ operations, including a comparison to peer schools’ revenues and expenses, and a discussion of MSB’s role statewide in fulfilling its core mission of educating Maryland’s blind and visually impaired students.

Key findings include a shift in the MSB student population. As a result of the



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the on-campus student population has gradually changed over the years to include a large percentage of students with multiple disabilities. With this evolution, MSB has emerged as a leader in specialized educational services for these students; services that often would not be feasible in local school settings or elsewhere within the state of Maryland.

Compared to national peer schools, MSB has a higher enrollment of students with multiple disabilities and a higher level of residential enrollment. These key findings illuminate the cause and the need for a more significant commitment of resources.

MSB also provides a significant economic impact on the state providing 546 jobs, \$37,776,972 in labor revenue, and an output of \$62,852,687.

MSB is thankful for the support of the Maryland legislature and of our generous donors, like you. We are asking for your continued support as we advocate for the funding and resources needed to provide the students and families we serve, as well as future generations, with the education and services they deserve.

SINCERELY,

W. Robert Hair
W. ROBERT HAIR, M.ED.
 SUPERINTENDENT / CEO

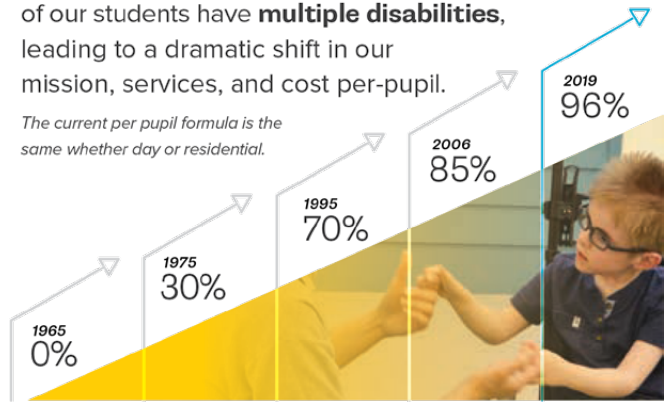
Marion L. Mullauer
MARION MULLAUER
 BOARD CHAIR

* Self Study conducted by Dr. Richard Clinch, University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute, and Pamela W. Gray, SB & Company LLC.

96%

of our students have **multiple disabilities**, leading to a dramatic shift in our mission, services, and cost per-pupil.

The current per pupil formula is the same whether day or residential.



INCREASE IN STUDENTS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES SINCE FOUNDING



The MSB Class of 2019



SHI-NIYUA GOODMAN • Baltimore, MD

MSB Memories: At MSB for 19 years, her favorite jobs included delivering Meals on Wheels in the community, working in the dining room and helping recycle on campus. Here she learned to use assistive technology, specifically her voice recorder, to access music and retrieve her daily schedule.

SHI-NUYA WAS VOTED SENIOR CLASS SECRETARY



WAYNE GOPSHES, JR. • Glen Burnie, MD

MSB Memories: At MSB for 10 years, his mechanical and technical skills helped him excel in workshop class and intern at a local hobby shop. Through MSB's Career Education program, he learned valuable job skills.

WAYNE WAS VOTED PROM KING AND SERVED AS SENIOR CLASS TREASURER



LISA LIN • Germantown, MD

MSB Memories: At MSB for 11 years, she enjoyed dancing and listening to music. Her favorite jobs included working in the Clothes Pole store and delivering Meals on Wheels off-campus. Here she learned daily living skills, how to travel independently, and improved her independence in the kitchen.

LISA RECEIVED THE STAFF COMMENDATION AWARD AT GRADUATION



CALLIE SMITH • Lusby, MD

MSB Memories: At MSB for only 2 years, she was a member of the Blue Duffs Jazz Ensemble, the debate club, and worked on the student-published literary magazine. She attended classes on campus and at Parkville High School where she educated students there, and at Towson University, on blindness and visual impairments.

CALLIE WAS VOTED SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT AND RECEIVED THE STAFF COMMENDATION AWARD AT GRADUATION



GRACIA ZUZARTE • Rosedale, MD

MSB Memories: At MSB for 12 years, she was on the wrestling, cheerleading, track and field, and goalball teams, and was a member of the Blue Duffs Jazz Ensemble. Here she acquired everyday living and career skills such as braille, money management, and customer service. In the community, she taught braille to blind and low-vision adults.

GRACIA WAS VOTED PROM QUEEN AND SENIOR CLASS V.P. AND RECEIVED THE B. FRANKLIN NEWCOMER AWARD AT GRADUATION



Staff Awards



LORI ADAMO. Paraeducator in the Early Learning Program, was named the Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB) 2019 Outstanding Paraprofessional for Students with Visual Impairments. Annually the organization recognizes the contributions of remarkable individuals nationally who work with students who are blind or visually impaired. The winners are chosen by Principals of Schools for the Blind from across the country.



GINA FUGATE. Technology and Engineering teacher and Robotics Coach. Was named one of the 2019 Northeastern Maryland Technology Council's Visionary Award recipients. She received the Rising Star Award for "demonstrating, in a bold way, the potential to be an excellent, long-term contributor to building our STEM-educated workforce and advancing technology and innovation."

Gina also received the 2019 Experiencing Programming in Quorum (EPIQ) award at the 10th annual EPIQ conference. She was nominated for the award for her advocacy efforts in ensuring accessibility for her students through the use of Quorum, an accessible programming language, in STEM competitions such as the FIRST Lego League (FLL) robotics tournaments.



HEATHER JOHNSON. MSB Braille teacher, was named the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities 2019 Teacher of the Year. The annual award is presented to a public or private, preschool to postsecondary school teacher, who through exceptional effort, both in and outside of the classroom, instills in others a positive attitude and acceptance of persons with disabilities and promotes inclusive education best practices.



MATTHEW MESCALL. Adapted Physical Education and Health Instructor, was named a 2019 Baltimore Orioles' Birdland Community Hero which recognizes community heroes who inspire others through their spirited commitment to extend a hand in charity, service, hope, and harmony. He was nominated for the award for his tireless commitment and dedication to youth with disabilities at MSB and in the community at large.

MSB Makes History!

MSB IS VERY PROUD TO HAVE HOSTED THE FIRST official competitive blind youth soccer match in the United States on the only official blind soccer field in the country! The match between the MSB Bees and the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind Chiefs took place on September 24 and resulted in a victory by the Bees as they overcame the Chiefs by a score of 2-1.

MSB is playing an integral role in creating awareness of the sport both nationally and internationally. The school has hosted several instructional training camps for players and coaches and is planning another in the spring of 2020.

Several other schools for the blind across the country have followed MSB's lead and are now fielding soccer teams for competitive play. The goal is to grow the sport in the United States and ultimately field a national blind soccer team that can compete at the Paralympic level in the 2028 Paralympic games in Los Angeles.



Some of these athletes (who played in this game today) may very well be on the Paralympic soccer team eight years from now.

— TIM TAYLOR, MSB SOCCER COACH



STUDENT PROFILE

Tyler Hoppe

TYLER HOPPE WAS A THRIVING 11-YEAR-OLD MIDDLE school student when his life suddenly changed. He contracted strep-throat, which morphed into a rare condition called PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) disease. He suffered brain swelling, severe headaches, light sensitivity, and vision loss.

As a result of this diagnosis, and the medical complications and treatments that followed, Tyler had to stop attending his local public school. From his darkened bedroom, he participated in lessons but did not have any social interaction outside of his immediate family. He lost contact with his friends and could not participate in activities enjoyed by the typical teenage boy. He developed anxiety and behavioral issues.



Tyler loves learning so he never gave up on his studies, though he did lose hope of leading a normal life. "I didn't think I would ever be able to do the things I used to enjoy, like playing sports or even reading a book," says Tyler. Four years into his seclusion, his home teacher recommended The Maryland School for the Blind. After a visit to the school, he and his family knew it was the best place for him, and once he arrived it didn't take long for Tyler to feel at home.

"The staff and students were so welcoming, accommodating and helpful. I could relate to my classmates, so I made friends quickly," said Tyler. Over the past three years, Tyler has excelled both academically and socially. He has a 3.92 GPA, learned braille and became fluent within a year, and is a computer coding wiz. He now confidently travels the MSB campus as well as the halls of Parkville High School, our partner school, where he is taking a German language and a Civil Rights class.

Tyler is a popular student and a competitive athlete on MSB's soccer and track and field teams. In September, he traveled to Alabama with classmates to attend Space Camp for students with visual impairments. They participated in anti-gravity simulation activities like scuba diving and zip-lining.

"MSB has changed my life," says Tyler. "Before I came to this school, I had no hope of living a normal life, but now I know I can do anything I set my mind to. MSB has taught me the skills I need to succeed and has given me the confidence to reach my goals. I am grateful to MSB, but I am ready to move on now because the school has prepared me for a promising future. Mission accomplished."

Tyler will graduate from MSB in June 2020 and is currently applying to colleges. His career goal is to become a lawyer.

Planned Giving: A Legacy



THE LEGACY OF DENNIS AND CLAIRE LODER-MCGOUGH WILL LIVE on at The Maryland School for the Blind for years to come. They were a couple who had strong ties to MSB. Dennis was a beloved staff member at the school for 30 years, (1978 – 2008) who served in several capacities and was instrumental in establishing the residential program model that is used at MSB and in many schools for the blind throughout the country. He also held the position of Human Resources Director, restructuring departments, staff positions and implementing

a professional development program for employees. Claire was an esteemed social worker at the Maryland Department of Corrections, with a passion for helping others and making a difference in the community and in the world.

Early on in their marriage, they decided to establish a planned giving fund at The Maryland School for the Blind that would live on long after one or both passed on. Unfortunately, Claire died in 1998 after an eight year battle with breast cancer. The Claire Loder-McGough Memorial Fund was established that same year with a four member Board of Directors consisting of a family member, MSB staff representative, MSB board member and a statewide vision professional.

The mission and purpose of the fund is to advance knowledge and innovation in the education of blind and visually impaired children. An annual award is associated with the fund and is available to any professional in the vision field who is nominated by the board and receives a unanimous vote. For many years, Dennis took great pride in presenting the award, which is formally presented at a professional workshop sponsored by the fund.

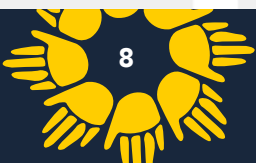


ROB HAIR, MAUREEN BISESI & TIM MCGOUGH

the family is committed to the mission of MSB and the education of children who are blind or visually impaired.

There are many ways to leave a legacy like Dennis and Claire. It just takes a simple designation in your will and won't affect your cash flow during your lifetime. It's easy to revoke if your situation changes.

For more information on planned giving, contact the Development Department at MSB at 410-444-5000 x1728



Claire Loder-McGough Professional Achievement Award Recipients

1999	KARIN NORD
2000	MEREDITH MCARDLE
2001	LORRAINE ROCISSANO & THERESA PAWLETCO
2002	SHARON WHITED
2002	KAREN FRANK
2003	CAROL SECKINGTON
2004	DAREEN BARRIOS
2005	DAREEN BARRIOS
2005	JANA GOSHEN MCGEACHY MEMORIAL FUND
2005	MAUREEN BISESI
2007	ANTHONY M. MICUCCI
2008	JAMES KEIM
2008	COLLEEN CALHOON
2010	JENNIER KEENAN
2014	ADAM STONE, COLLEEN SHOVESTULL
2015	KATHLEEN JOHNSTON
2017	JOSH IRZYK



What is a named fund?

AT MSB SOME OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL FUNDING COMES THROUGH UNUSUAL PATHS.

We receive incredible support from parents and extended family of students and alumni. We are often named as beneficiaries in wills and trusts, and we receive many donations in honor or memory of a loved one. Some of our donors choose to create a named fund and through it they are able to decide where the money will go for generations to come. These type of funds provide essential direct needs for our students, such as Assistive Technology, Low Vision Aids, and even vehicles for transporting students.



Tricia and Gary Lay have spent the past decade raising money for MSB and they do it with love. In 2010 they established The Carman Lay Foundation to honor the memory of their daughter, Carman

JoAnn Lay. Carman, was born with Aicardi Syndrome, a rare genetic disease. Carman was a student at The Maryland School for the Blind until she passed away at the age of eight.

“Carman absolutely blossomed at MSB,” said Tricia Lay. “Doctors told us that she would never communicate, walk, or interact with others, but MSB helped Carman live a full life. She learned to walk unassisted, reach out and hug others, and communicate with an assistive device. Carman loved music and swimming, which is why we established the foundation and have raised money to fund these types of programs at MSB. We want to help other children, like Carman, achieve what is possible and what sometimes seems impossible.”

To keep Carman’s spirit alive on campus funds raised by the foundation are directed towards swimming and music programming. Over the years, the Lays have hosted several fundraising events in concert with MSB including the “Swirl for a Girl” Gala and the CLF Bull Roast. The foundation has established an endowment at the school and continues to give back to the school both financially and through their time and talent. Gary Lay has served on the Board of Directors since 2013.

MSB Restricted Named Funds

B.F. NEWCOMER *
EMPTY STOCKING / RECREATION *
GASKINS MEMORIAL *
HARVEY FUND *
LATIMER FUND *
LIBRARY FUND *
PURCELL-TANNER *
ANDREWS FUND *

EZRA DAVIS *
HECHT FUND *
HOOVER LOW VISION *
150TH ANNIVERSARY *
MICHAEL MADDOX MEMORIAL
WOLFE MEMORIAL
MILDRED KLUTER
JULIETTE CAMPITELLO FUND

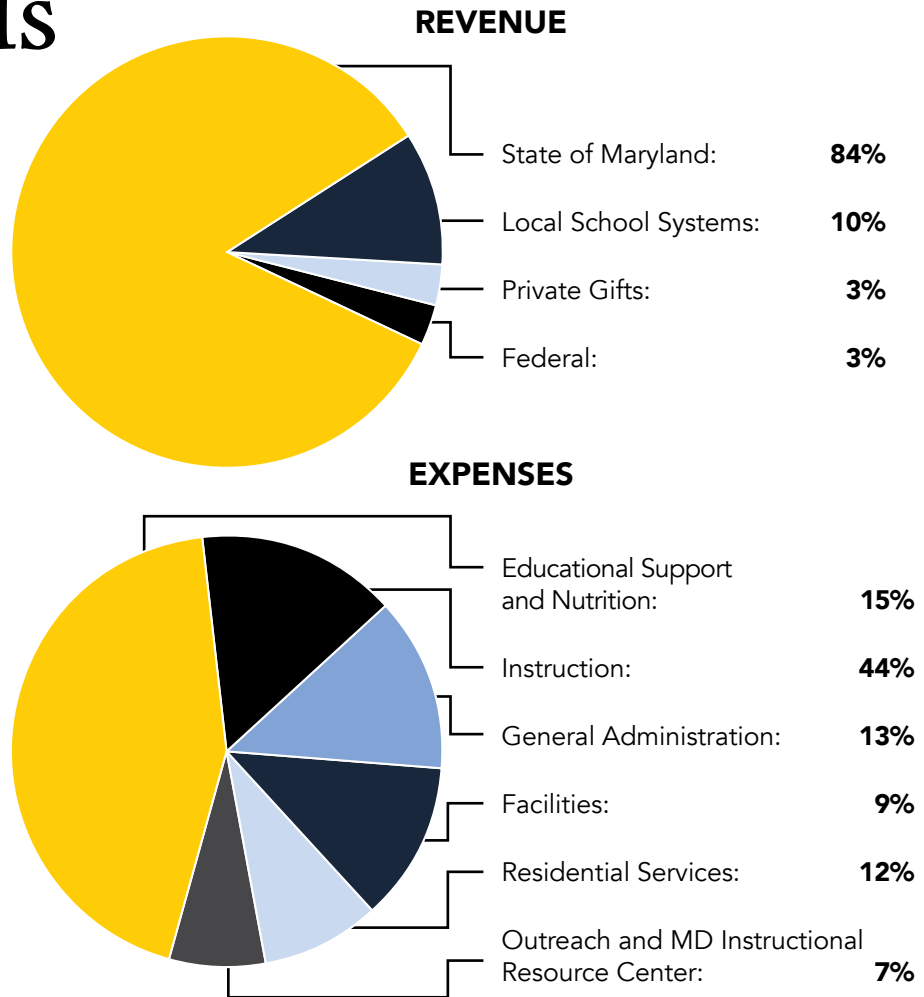
LACAROL HARRIS MEMORIAL
JANA GOSHEN MCGEACHY
MEMORIAL *
BLANTON MEMORIAL *
FRIEDMAN TRUST *
MISS NANCY’S CORNER *
MCGOUGH MEMORIAL *
CARMAN LAY FOUNDATION *

*Endowed gifts in which the principle amount remains intact and interest accrued annually is used for restricted purpose.



Financials

THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND is a private, 501(c)(3) school under Internal Revenue Service regulations. The school's fiscal year ends on June 30th. Funding is provided primarily through grants from the Maryland State Department of Education and payments from local school districts. Contributions are received from individuals, corporations, foundations, and community groups. Total expenses approximated \$33.9 million.



MSB ECONOMIC IMPACT

	DIRECT	INDIRECT	INDUCED	TOTAL
Output	\$34,173,659	\$4,927,919	\$23,751,109	\$62,852,687
Employment	359	34	153	546
Labor Income	\$27,890,360	\$1,821,365	\$8,065,247	\$37,776,972
State and Local Government Revenues	\$2,644,302	\$264,589	\$1,573,271	\$4,482,162
State Government Revenues	\$1,450,391	\$145,536	\$850,410	\$2,446,337
Local Government Revenues	\$1,193,911	\$119,053	\$722,861	\$2,035,825

Source: The JFI and IMPLAN



Board of Directors, Fiscal Year 2019

(July 1, 2018 — June 30, 2019)

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See beyond.



The Maryland School for the Blind

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