



Greater Promise

the Campaign for CATHOLIC CHARITIES

A CASE FOR AN
INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER



BACKGROUND:

Believing in the God-Given Dignity of Every Family's Journey

Catholic Charities is called to walk with those we serve throughout their journey, supporting them along the way from childhood through old age. Historically, we offered services separately – Head Start in one location, behavioral health in another – even as we worked to ensure clients connected to all the supports they needed. Over time, however, many of our sites have intentionally evolved to provide a wider range of services.

The design of Our Daily Bread Employment Center, for example, resembles a train station, a physical manifestation of the idea that a person's journey to stability may require many stops along the way. At My Brother's Keeper, we partnered with Saint Agnes Hospital to launch an on-site primary care clinic, adding to the one-stop nature of the West Baltimore site. In each place, we aim to make it easy to access supports, whether those include a hot meal, workforce development, case management or education.

The Intergenerational Center takes that concept a step farther, considering not only our clients' evolving needs, but those of their families and neighbors as well. We aim to create a thriving community hub of resources that supports multiple generations of a family.

Head Start – the pre-school program for low-income families – is a grounding force in this project. The program has long supported both children and their parents or caregivers, recognizing the importance of a family's overall well-being. It bolsters the child's long-term trajectory through comprehensive child development activities and by offering parents and caregivers supports that can help them reach their own goals,

such as housing stability and financial security. It leverages an approach that recognizes the intergenerational nature of poverty and the interconnected nature of families' needs.

Long-term data show that Head Start participants are 12% less likely to live in poverty, and parents who start their children in Head Start at 3 years old saw steeper increases in their own educational attainment by the time their children were 6.¹ While Head Start itself is a relatively short intervention, only available to families with children between the ages of 3 and 5, the impact may stretch far beyond a child's participation. We have the opportunity to learn from and expand the interconnected approach of this powerful program.

Other organizations are also actively exploring how to broaden intergenerational services. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, for example, recently invested in a multi-year effort to support young parents and their children in four cities,² building on the philanthropy's research and investment in two-generation approaches.³ The federal Administration for Children & Families has also promoted and supported such approaches "to help break the cycle of poverty,"⁴ and sponsored research to build the evidence around these models and share lessons learned.⁵

Our moral compass, our practical experience and the needs of our community all point clearly in this direction.



- 1 <https://nhsa.app.box.com/s/ln2yxypq1ux2v5hw8bpn6l7auzstrmir/file/604096401323>
- 2 <https://www.aecf.org/blog/casey-invests-in-multiyear-effort-to-support-young-parents-and-their-kids>
- 3 <https://www.aecf.org/resources/strengthening-the-foundation#findings-and-stats>
- 4 <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/two-generation-approach/acf-two-generation-approaches>
- 5 <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/project/next-steps-rigorous-research-two-generation-approaches-ns2g-2019-2023>

WHERE WE ARE:

Seeing the Greater Promise of Intergenerational Facilities

The Intergenerational Center provides a platform to provide a range of services for the entire family that are delivered in one central, state-of-the-art facility. We envision it as a community hub that provides a continuum of support for children, adults, families and seniors. When a need exists but Catholic Charities does not have expertise – launching a rec center for youth, for example – we will welcome high-quality partners into the space. We have already begun conversations with a host of organizations who are interested in serving alongside us to offer a spectrum of continuous support that touches the entire community.

High-quality Head Start programming will provide a foundation for the effort, building from our Head Start experience across Baltimore City. From 15 Head Start sites that serve more than 660 children and their parents, Catholic Charities already connects Head Start families to a range of programming, including parent trainings, workforce development program, community resources and volunteer opportunities. At some programs, we've tried co-locating additional services, but our facilities have rarely been able to accommodate a full spectrum of activity. Our sites, largely clustered in south and south-

west parts of the city, include public schools, churches, former Catholic schools and community centers. Many of these facilities require extensive and costly upkeep, and don't allow for state-of-the-art amenities that we envision for the Intergenerational Center.

We will determine the specific programs offered in conversation with community and program partners, ensuring the center leverages community strengths while responding to locally expressed interests, opportunities and needs. After all, the center must be a place where all members of a family feel welcome and supported to reach their greater promise.





From this site, we connect families to a range of programming, including parent trainings, workforce development program, community resources and volunteer opportunities.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHERE WE ARE GOING:

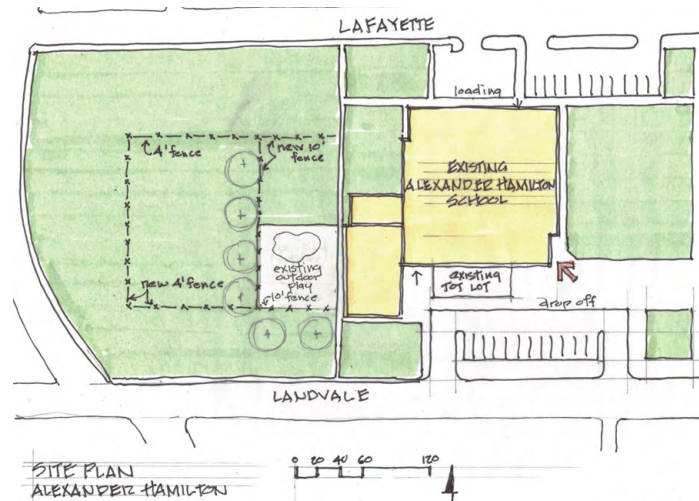
Delivering on the Greater Promise of Intergenerational Programming

The Intergenerational Center is a big dream that requires a visionary commitment. But it will take a step-by-step, on-the-ground approach to bring it to life. Our next steps:

- **Identify and acquire a site for the center.** We have been in talks with the city and will be submitting an RFP for the former Alexander Hamilton Elementary School. Constructed in 1982 in the Franklinton Road neighborhood, this building sits on approximately 4 acres, with a building area of 53,304 square feet. The property is a one building unit, with three stories and includes 29 parking spaces in an open lot, playground space, classrooms, offices, a cafeteria, kitchen, stage, elevator, loading dock, and a concrete hardscape area. Our success depends on our ability to deepen relationships and forge new collaborations with current and prospective partners who understand our aims and want to join the journey.

- **Plan with partners.** The specific design of the Intergenerational Center will depend on what needs the community expresses. The Franklinton Road neighborhood is located south of the Winchester neighborhood, north of Fayette Street Outreach and west of Mosher. This property is conveniently located along the corridor of U.S. Route 40 and Leakin Park in West Baltimore and minutes from the West

Baltimore MARC Penn Line train station. Catholic Charities will anchor the site with a Head Start program and offer appropriate workforce development services, but our conversations about the design will be open and inclusive. Consider the range of options: a partnership with a neighborhood rec center, broadening opportunities for older children; a focus on local entrepreneurship and community-based businesses; a health clinic that provides close-to-home care for vulnerable populations; or a tie-in with programming for seniors.



Initial plans for Alexander Hamilton proposed sites - as of 7/31/21

- **Develop a state-of-the-art facility** that includes technology, furniture, equipment and supplies. These resources will serve families and open new opportunities for workforce development, behavioral health, outdoor recreation and education, and flexible engagement with community partners who can help us respond to local needs and opportunities.
- **Hire and train staff** to respond to needs identified by the community. As we expand workforce development, behavioral health and other services in this location, we will need staff who can respond to immediate needs and understand the

interconnected nature of family and community supports.

- **Refine, constantly.** Because communities are not static – needs change, partnerships evolve, opportunities arise – the Intergenerational Center must be designed as a place that can respond to priorities as they arise.

Over time, we envision this center as the start of something bigger – a place for intergenerational programming that upends the traditional approach to programs serving children and families, and that brings together our participants, volunteers and community to give every journey the support it needs.



Initial plans for Alexander Hamilton proposed sites - as of 7/31/21



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL
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