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Baltimore Community Foundation announces emergency assistance grants to help struggling Marylanders

(Baltimore, MD, 12/21/09) The Baltimore Community Foundation's Ensign C. Markland Kelly Jr. People's Emergency Fund recently awarded \$31,500 in small grants to help hundreds of Marylanders in crisis. The grants were awarded to 15 nonprofit organizations that will redistribute the money as emergency assistance to individuals in need.

"Each year, the Kelly People's Emergency Fund of BCF awards small grants to help individuals in crisis and halt their decline into long-term dependency," said BCF President Tom Wilcox. "Though small, the grants make a big difference in the lives of people at risk of slipping through the cracks." Grants from the fund address an array of needs, from helping to prevent evictions, to providing grocery coupons for HIV-infected individuals, to paying fees for GED exams, to providing transportation to radiation therapy. Often times, this short-term aid can mean the difference between a family's ability to stay afloat financially and a slide into poverty. Here is one story:

Mary and her children understand well the difference that even a small grant can make in the life of a family. While undergoing treatment for a rare form of blood cancer, Mary was abandoned by her husband. Unable to work because of her illness and forced to care for her three young sons by herself, Mary struggled to afford basic necessities and faced mounting utility bills. But a Kelly Fund grant from South Baltimore Emergency Relief to cover utilities and other expenses while she continued treatment provided a crucial bridge that allowed her to keep her lights on and her home warm until she finished treatment and was able to return to work.

The Kelly People's Emergency Fund was created in 1952 to honor the memory of Ensign C. Markland Kelly Jr., a young Navy pilot killed at the Battle of Midway in 1942. With war raging in Europe, the Maryland native and talented lacrosse goalie had abandoned college life at the University of Maryland to enlist in the United States Navy as an aviation cadet. The Fund continues to honor his memory by providing a lifeline to individuals for whom a small change of circumstances can have a profound impact.

This year's Kelly Fund grantees include:

- Ahavas Yisrael Charity Fund - \$1,000**
- Baltimore Medical System - \$1,000**
- Chesapeake Center for Youth Development - \$1,000**
- Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation - \$3,500**
- House of Ruth Maryland, Inc. - \$3,500**
- International Rescue Committee - \$2,500**
- Maryland Society for Sight - \$2,000**
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore, Inc. - \$1,500**
- Paul's Place - \$3,500**
- Penn-Mar Human Services - \$2,500**
- Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Medical Center - \$2,500**
- St. Mary's Outreach Center - \$1,000**
- St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore - \$2,500**
- United Ministries/Earl's Place - \$1,000**
- Women's Housing Coalition - \$2,500**

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Baltimore Community Foundation distributed \$28 million in 2008 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$143 million, BCF comprises more than 600 different charitable funds.

BCF invites donors to **Invest in Baltimore** through its civic agenda, which combines economic development with poverty reduction by making strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth, education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore.

BCF helps individuals, families and organizations carry out their charitable plans, with the common goal of improving the quality of life in the greater Baltimore region, today and for generations to come. To donors, BCF offers a complete toolkit for charitable giving, expert assistance in learning more about the causes they care about, and the opportunity to join others with similar interests to learn and give together. To the community at large, BCF offers a permanent, growing source of grant monies, as well as a common meeting ground and leadership on important issues in our region.

In addition, BCF provides grantmaking oversight for two independent foundations, the William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund and the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation.

More information about **Invest in Baltimore** as well as support for individual donors' philanthropy and more can be found at www.bcf.org.

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