Contents

Chair’s Welcome .................................................. 3
About T6B ........................................................... 4
Oliver ................................................................... 5
Johnston Square ....................................................... 7
Darley Park ............................................................. 8
Special Projects ...................................................... 9
Together We Serve .................................................. 10
2017 Volunteer Information ......................................... 11
2017 Financial Information ........................................... 12
Thank You to Our 2017 Supporters ......................... 13
2018 Preview: Broadway East .................................... 14
Grab a Shovel With Us ............................................. 15
Dear Supporters,

On behalf of T6B’s board of directors I would like to congratulate and thank you all on another highly productive year. Like each year before it, 2017 saw an expansion of T6B community service operations, an increase in volunteer manpower, and a strengthening of strategic partnerships. Moreover, further steps have been taken to ensure long-term organizational sustainability including adding to an already strong board of directors, improving internal administrative processes, and diversifying sources of funding. Most importantly, our mission has improved the quality of life of more Baltimoreans and improved the physical condition of several East Baltimore neighborhoods.

T6B is beginning its ninth year as an organization and eighth year of commitment to East Baltimore revitalization efforts. It is pretty incredible how far we’ve come. The origin of T6B is traced back to a dark and dusty VFW Post in Southwest Baltimore in late 2009. What I remember most about those moments was an unmistakable and intense energy among us – a feeling that something special was about happen. None of us had experience in the nonprofit community and we lacked a clear vision of what we wanted to accomplish. The only thing we were sure of was that we had the skills and leadership qualities to motivate and organize large numbers of people to do something meaningful. We had all done that in some capacity in the military.

I spent my two years as T6B’s first executive director sharing that intense feeling with as many people as I could and trying to convince them to be part of something special. We explored every opportunity and followed every lead. By the end of my tenure that feeling rose to a crescendo and the reality of the task at hand had set in. We had come to realize that it would take decades of attention to overcome decades of neglect in East Baltimore. I turned over the executive directorship to Dave Landymore in April 2012. Dave capitalized on the energy and momentum that was built and channeled it with precision, carving out a niche role for T6B in the rather convoluted process of neighborhood revitalization. We were taking vacant and unmanaged plots of land and transforming them into community assets such as playgrounds, green spaces, or gardens. This process of “Neighborscaping” has become the central part of our mission.

In 2017, T6B began a new chapter as our third executive director Scott Goldman took the helm to start the year. He has already left his imprint on our organization and our mission, adding perspective and leadership resulting in improvements and efficiency in administration and operations. Scott oversees two full-time paid staff members, a few part-timers and interns, volunteer staff, and a massive volunteer base. It was just six years ago that we had an unpaid volunteer director and no funding whatsoever, but our motivation and persistence never wavered. Our volunteers never stopped showing up. Our community partners never stopped believing in us, and they have guided us well.

2018 promises to be another productive year. Consistency is key. Every volunteer is vital. Each service project matters. Every moment counts. And every Baltimorean deserves a chance to have safe places to recreate, a chance to have access to healthy foods, a chance to have a neighborhood they can be proud of, and a chance to serve. Thank you for your service to Baltimore and let’s continue working for a better day rather than complaining about the current one.

Grab a Shovel,

Rich Moore
Chairman & Co-Founder
About The 6th Branch

The 6th Branch utilizes the leadership and organizational skills of military veterans to execute aggressive community service initiatives in Baltimore City.

Rationale

We believe that the military skill set is ideal for the initiation and organization of community projects. Our organization aims to empower veterans by utilizing the characteristics typically strengthened through military service, such as a sense of mission, a dedication to duty, and a love of country. We build community by bringing together service-minded veterans and civilians to serve our community on the home front.

Our Work, Your Work

Founded in 2010, The 6th Branch (T6B) works with neighborhood leaders to transform vacant lots into new and vital community green spaces as well as provide support to Baltimore City Public Schools. In 2017, nearly 2,500 volunteers provided more than 8,000 volunteer hours on 120 project days in four neighborhoods and three schools. Volunteers did everything from clearing debris, to running an urban farm, to painting new walls in schools.

This, our first annual report, celebrates and reviews a great year that The 6th Branch owes to its amazing community partners, volunteers, and financial supporters.
T6B began its first projects in Oliver in 2010, and we continue to dedicate every #SemperFriday to service work there. In 2017, we continued to expand the Oliver Community Farm, maintain the Bethel Street Playscape, and sponsor the youth mentorship and athletics league OC 250 in Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr., Elementary School. Additional highlights to the year include forming a new partnership with Meraki Community Uplift to distribute produce from the farm and providing the logistics to build a new KaBOOM! playground.

Oliver Community Farm

The fourth season at the farm saw additional growth and a new partnership with Meraki Community Uplift, an Oliver-based 501(c)(3). Meraki volunteers sold and distributed produce at a summer farm stand, raising $148.50 for youth programming in Oliver.
Oliver (continued)

Bethel Street Playscape

T6B continues to maintain the Bethel Street Playscape as a community green space. In 2017, we formed a partnership with the Oliver Beautification Alliance to bring new improvements to it with the support of Home Depot. Stay tuned in 2018 for new improvements and summer movie nights!

OC 250 at Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr., Elementary

T6B was proud to work with Mr. Keyon Johnson, a Public Allies fellow, who created and led OC 250 at Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. Elementary. OC 250 combines youth athletics and mentorship to provide after school programming and guidance to Oliver community youth. Upon completing his fellowship, Mr. Johnson formed OC 250 into an independent company, through which T6B continues to sponsor basketball leagues.
This was a year of exciting developments in Johnston Square. T6B kicked things off with our 2017 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, clearing debris and overgrowth at the site of the forthcoming St. Frances Academy sports complex and community park. T6B also grew our partnership with Johnston Square Elementary School, painting bathrooms, hallways, and the auditorium, as well as setting up a new volunteer advisory board in partnership with Business Volunteers Maryland. T6B was excited to see groundbreaking on a new Ambrose Kennedy Park, capping four years of investment with our partner Re-Build Johnston Square.

Ambrose Kennedy Park

The weeds were up to our program manager’s chest when we started working with Re-Build Johnston Square to improve Ambrose Kennedy Park in 2013. This year, we got to watch the City of Baltimore, Re-Build, and the Parks & People Foundation break ground on a massive renovation. T6B will continue its special maintenance support to the park when work is done in Spring 2018.

Johnston Square Elementary School

T6B volunteers did amazing work this year in Johnston Square Elementary School, from a new paint job to a board of advisors to support the principal and staff.
Significant transformations began in Darley Park in 2017. T6B added new play, greening, and safety features to Gateway Park. We also celebrated the creation of the Darley Park Steering Committee with neighborhood leaders, BUILD, Neighborhood Design Center, MICA, Parks and People Foundation, Waterfront Partnership, and T6B. This partnership resulted in T6B securing a $50,000 bond bill from the State of Maryland for capital improvements to the park. Finally, T6B was launched a new partnership with Harford Heights Elementary School, working to paint the school cafeteria and set up a new advisory board of volunteers.

**Gateway Park**

Thank you to the Johns Hopkins Urban Life Institute, Abell Foundation, and donors who made a new swing-set and traffic control boulders possible. And come visit to see the beautiful mural and alley art our MICA and Waterfront Partnership friends created!

**Harford Heights Elementary School**

T6B volunteers painted the Harford Heights Elementary School cafeteria (left) and set up a new advisory board to the school (right).
Every project is special, but some projects stand out when hundreds of volunteers join us! It was a great year of major events, from an amazing Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January); to the KaBOOM! Playground build (April); Keller Williams RED Day (May); Semper Fidelis All American Program (July); to the Together We Serve 9/11 Day of Service (September, see next page). We got a lot done on each of these projects -- and had fun.
The Together We Serve initiative celebrated its sixth year in 2017 with an amazing 9/11 Day of Service in Johnston Square and Oliver. More than 300 volunteers from 14 corporate and community partners contributed 1,130 hours of service. Volunteers took down and recycled 6,000 pounds of fencing, removed 11,640 pounds of dumped debris from Ambrose Kennedy Park, repainted the auditorium and brought new backpacks to Johnston Square Elementary School students, and improved Charm City Farm and the Oliver Community Farm. More than metrics, Together We Serve continued to strengthen communities and partnerships.
At T6B, we pride ourselves on offering a unique, fun, and meaningful volunteer experience that volunteers of all abilities can enjoy. We are proud that 2017 was a year of significant growth, more than doubling the total number of volunteers who joined us over the previous year. Most importantly, those volunteers did high-quality work alongside community members and partners, creating and maintaining community green spaces and improving Baltimore City Public Schools.

Volunteer Details

In 2017, 2,440 volunteers contributed 8,742.5 volunteer hours at 120 service projects at a value of $205,973.30 based on the Independent Sector’s proposed $23.56/hour calculation for volunteer labor.

- 120 service projects at 12 project sites in 4 neighborhoods and in 4 elementary schools.
- Volunteer groups included those from peer nonprofits (33 groups); corporate groups (28 groups); the education field (20 groups); faith-based organizations (10 groups); veterans/military organizations (8 groups); and the government sector (6 groups).
- Veterans (99 volunteers) and active duty personnel (56 volunteers) accounted for 6.4% of total volunteers, and community residents (77 volunteers) accounted for 3.2% of total volunteers.
When we get started on something, we make a lasting commitment. Thanks to our funders and supporters, we kept that commitment in 2017 by more than doubling our fundraising and operations. The support of our philanthropic donors, corporate partners, government supporters, social enterprise programs, and individual donors will continue to allow us to sustain this effort.

### Financial Details

T6B made major advances in ensuring our revenue streams are diverse and sustainable. Major highlights for 2017:

- T6B continued to dedicate 85% of funds directly to service projects and operations.
- T6B completed the year with $94,213.07 cash on hand and entered 2018 with more than $215,000, following the winter grant award cycle.
- 2017 fundraising grew 92% over 2016.
- T6B’s largest institutional funders in 2017 were the the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation ($60,000); R.W. Deutsch Foundation ($50,000); Got Your Six ($50,000); the Goldseker Foundation ($50,000); and Johns Hopkins University ($7,552.64).
- Capital grants from corporate partners included CareFirst – Blue Cross Blue Shield ($6,000); BGE ($7,000); and the Starbucks Foundation ($6,149.12).
- Corporate partnership contributions to the Together We Serve initiative totaled $18,000. Corporate strategic partners donated an additional $3,000 to operating costs.
- T6B received government funding for the first time, with capital support of $7,000 from the Maryland Department of Health and Community Development and a $50,000 bond bill award for capital improvements to Darley Park.
- Individual donations totaled $57,652.36 (with recurring donors contributing nearly $500 per month as a baseline we expect to grow over time).
- Social enterprise funds for fee-for-service program logistics, metal recycling, and consulting generated $4,946.84.
Every project we advanced and every neighborhood we served was made possible by our incredible donors and sponsors. We want to take this opportunity to thank those who made 2017 such an amazing year with their financial support.

Contributing $50,000 or more:

Contributing $5,000 or more:

Contributing $2,000 or more:

Special thanks to our amazing individual donors and supporters who contributed or raised more than $1,000 in 2017:

- Anonymous
- Mr. Alex Baglione
- Ms. Cathy Curran
- The Brown Family
- The Gaybrick Family
- The Goldman Family
- The Moore Family
- The Trussell Family
Since we began, T6B has grown organically, following the invitations of community leaders in each new neighborhood we have served. We were excited in 2017 to begin a new partnership with the New Broadway East Community Association and American Communities Trust, Inc., developer of the Baltimore Food Hub, to begin Neighborscape programming in Broadway East. We held our first service project there in December 2017 and really got things kicked off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We are looking forward to working together to improve green spaces around Broadway East and supporting its dynamic growth.

MLK Jr. Day of Service 2018

MLK Day 2018 was just us and our closest 500 friends, getting things done and clearing the way for new Neighborscape projects in Broadway East. This great day of service kicked off a whole new set of projects and new neighborhood partners for us. Get excited about what is coming next!
Grab A Shovel
with us in 2018

Times to Volunteer (10am-1pm):

**Wednesday**
Darley Park
2325 Harford Rd,
Baltimore MD 21213
w/ Parking on 1600 Block of Normal Ave

**Thursday**
Broadway East
1417 N Wolfe St,
Baltimore MD 21213
w/ Parking on 1800 Block of Oliver St

**Semper Friday**
Oliver Community Farm
1600 Ellsworth St,
Baltimore MD 21213

**2nd Saturday of the Month**
Johnston Square Ambrose Kennedy Park
923 E Chase Street
Baltimore MD 21202

Please contact us for group project inquiries. We can accommodate special group projects during the business week or on weekends, with advanced planning. School support projects are planned in advance and on an as-needed basis.