

Friends of Southwest DC Annual Report 2020

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A Record Year Despite Challenges

Friends of Southwest DC forged ahead with its mandate to assist our Southwest neighbors in 2020, despite the challenges of the pandemic. The year presented a host of difficulties for us—as it did for most of America—with COVID-19 increasing need among Southwest residents while simultaneously making both programming and fundraising more difficult. To help residents through these troubling times, we reached out to the community, supported new programs, and built new partnerships.

As the pandemic forced some of our traditional grantees to postpone or cancel their programs, we reoriented our grant-making to new Southwest priorities, including support for a food pantry, a hot meals program, and a jobs reentry program. At the same time, we made grants for online programs and other activities that could be conducted safely during the pandemic.

Our fundraising suffered in 2020 with the economic downturn. Nonetheless, through judicious use of our limited reserves Friends of Southwest DC made grants totaling \$38,832, our largest yearly total ever and slightly higher than 2019.

We're deeply grateful to all who supported our efforts; we couldn't have done it without you!

An additional challenge was the loss of our founder and longtime president, Coralie Farlee, who passed away on January 12, 2020. We have honored her memory by rededicating ourselves to her ideals of serving our community and giving back to our neighborhood.

Greener Spaces



Grantee photo: Southwest Community Gardens

2020 Grants

*We're proud of our grantees
and all their wonderful work!*

Providing grants to make Southwest a better place is the core mission of Friends of Southwest DC. We provided grantees support to reconfigure activities online and offered flexibility to delay in-person programs when necessary. Our 2020 grants were as follows:

5,000 Food Ministry Southwest food pantry, run by Christ United Methodist Church, received two grants to provide food for Southwest individuals and families in need, including many seniors.

Arena Stage for scholarships for Southwest students to attend its online Camp Arena Stage, which provides impactful arts education opportunities for young people.

"Bread for Life," a program run by St. Augustine Episcopal Church providing hot meals to increasing numbers of Southwest neighbors facing food insecurity.

DC STORM (Students Taught Organization and Respect Through Mentoring) for an educational/cultural trip to Hampton, Virginia. The youth visited colleges and cultural institutions in the area, while adhering to health guidelines during a lull in the pandemic.

EmmaUS for a trip for 12 students and 3 adults to Turkey Hill dairy farm to expose city children to farming and food sources; the trip is pending until conditions permit.

Hal Jackson's Legacy for an online program training youth how to write and produce a play.

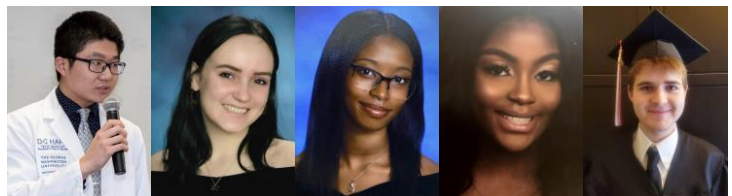
Living Classrooms Foundation for its Southwest Washington Emergency Workforce Reentry Program, and a separate grant for its Thanksgiving Food Drive, both organized by the Dent House community center in Southwest.

Omicron Eta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for distribution of backpacks, school supplies, and hygiene items; implementation delayed by the pandemic is now scheduled for the start of the new school year.

Southwest Comm-Unity Forum for its "Toys for Tots Kids Christmas Celebration," providing toys, long johns, underwear, socks, gloves, hats, and gift cards to Southwest children.

Southwest Community Gardens: for soil, seeds, and tools for its garden and tree-planting event.

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) for design, development, and management of its website, and to the **SWNA Scholarship Fund** for five outstanding and well-deserving college students from Southwest.



Five Friends of Southwest DC scholarship recipients, from left to right: Steven Guo, Eleanor Holt, Sydney King, Anika Richard, and Aiden Smith

Educational experiences & greener spaces

*Making Southwest
a better place*



★ Lansburgh Park – tree planting

Grantee photo: Southwest Community Gardens



★ Hampton University, VA trip

These are just some of the many youth and adults engaged in grants using your generous donations. Enjoy more grantee stories and photos at [FriendsofSWDC.org](https://www.friendsofswdc.org).



★ Camp Arena Stage – Virtual

Grantee photo: Arena Stage

Financial Report: 2020 Calendar Year

ASSETS

Account balance (December 31, 2019)	\$28,802.46
Income (January-December 2020)	\$33,685.16

GRANTS

"5000 Food Ministry" SW food pantry	\$3,000
Arena Stage - virtual camp	3,400
DC STORM	4,200
"Bread for Life" hot meals program	1,000
EmmaUS Learning Center	1,009
Hal Jackson's Legacy Foundation	1,200
Living Classrooms – workforce program	5,000
Living Classrooms – Thanksgiving food drive	2,000
Omicron Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha	3,000
Southwest Comm-Unity Forum	1,000
SWNA new website development	5,000
SWNA Scholarships	7,500
Southwest Community Gardens	923
<i>The Southwester</i> ¹	<u>600</u>
	\$38,832

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Donor database, 1st year with support	\$588.00
Supplies, mailings, volunteer appreciation	697.10
Online donation processing fees, bank fees, new checks	<u>131.27</u>
	1,416.37

TOTAL OUTLAY \$40,248.37

ACCOUNT BALANCE (December 31, 2020) **\$22,239.25**

¹Friends of Southwest DC supports *The Southwester* through regular advertisements.

Thanks to Our 2020 Donors –

You made our work possible!

PATRONS – Donors of \$500 and more

Anonymous	Audrey H Hatry	Cheryl Parham
Rick Bardach	Dimitria D A Hubbard	Rodney A Ross
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Janet S Hartnett	OHL Education Foundation	

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Michael and Katherine Debartolo	Jimmy Ortiz	

Board Members & Volunteers

Following the death in January of Coralie Farlee, our founder and long-time president, Peter Eicher was elected as president of Friends of Southwest DC and Noreen Lyne as vice president. Sadly, another member of our Board, Gladys Hall, passed away in March of 2020; we remember her with love and gratitude for her service. Noreen Lyne left the board at the end of 2020; we will miss her and thank her for her service. In the course of 2020 three new members were elected to our Board: Russell McIntyre, Cheryl Parham, and Ellen Spencer.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, especially to Stacy Baker, who spent countless hours establishing our first database, designing a much improved format for our annual report, and offering guidance on our operations. Perry Klein provided valuable help in distributing brochures through The Southwester, while Bob Craycraft printed our 2019 annual report. Since all our work is done by Board members and volunteers, our overhead expenses were just 3.5%.

Fundraising

Despite business shutdowns, unemployment, and financial hardship in our area, Friends of Southwest DC was able to raise more than \$33,000 in donations. The generosity of an anonymous donor allowed us to match up to \$5,000 in contributions. We also were successful in attracting new donations through our online platform. Although we have many faithful individual donors, we also gratefully recognize a substantial contribution from the Wharf Development Corporation. Together we were able to serve our neighbors in need.

Unfortunately, our fundraising was down 12% from 2019, while grant requests were up. Although we were able to fill the gap through our limited reserves, we will need to redouble our fundraising efforts in 2021. We anticipate even greater need in 2021 as schools reopen and as new or long-delayed programs are launched. We're therefore counting on generous friends to enable us to continue our program of "neighbors helping neighbors." Thank you.

Get Involved

Spread the word. Know a worthy neighborhood cause? Let them know about Friends of Southwest DC. We accept applications year-round for educational, charitable, and community development grants.

[FriendsofSWDC.org/apply-for-a-grant](https://www.friendsofswdc.org/apply-for-a-grant)

Donate. Your tax-deductible gift is welcome throughout the year.

Donate online at
[FriendsofSWDC.org/donate](https://www.friendsofswdc.org/donate)

or mail your check to:
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