

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report for 2007

INTRODUCTION

Southwest in Transition

And the walls came tumbling down. River Park Friends completed its work for 2007 amid scenes of transformation in Southwest Washington. Old walls and buildings have tumbled down and disappeared. The Waterside Mall, for more than thirty years a landmark and the retail heart of Southwest, has been largely demolished and removed. In the coming year we hope to see construction begin in a new and vibrant street of shops and community facilities along a reconstructed Fourth Street, Southwest. Meanwhile, the Safeway store survives, along with the CVS pharmacy and the Bank of America, both housed in temporary structures.

Across the neighborhood other signs of reconstruction abound. Along Maine Avenue a dramatic new structure is being built to surround and preserve the Arena Stage. Not far way, along South Capitol Street, a new baseball stadium nears completion, celebrating the long-awaited return of professional baseball to the National Capital. Also nearby, new office towers, hotels, commercial and condominium buildings, and upscale housing comprise a luxurious complex of facilities serving the new headquarters of the Department of Transportation and other federal offices.

Despite such massive changes, neighbors continue to live in Southwest and require services from the many social agencies and programs receiving support from River Park Friends. As developers and government officials reconstruct our neighborhood, River Park Friends is delighted and honored to aid the many private voluntary groups constituting the community's social fabric.

BACKGROUND

Since its founding in 1998 by several members of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc., River Park Friends (RPF) has been independent of River Park Mutual Homes. Its founders planned that RPF would manage and combine small gifts of funds to offer grants for community development, educational, and charitable programs in Southwest Washington. RPF does not conduct programs of its own but instead aims to enhance, support, and supplement efforts in these fields through grants to locally operated tax-exempt, nonsectarian organizations.

Incorporated in the District of Columbia in August 1998, RPF received final tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2003. Donations are tax-deductible. .

A REVIEW OF 2007

River Park Friends began 2007 with the following officers and board members: Coralie Farlee, President; Joyce Bouvier, Secretary; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; Thelma Jones, and Keith Melder, members.

RPF held its Annual Meeting on March 29, 2007. President Farlee gave a brief history of the organization and an overview of grants given during 2007.

Expenditures for Programs vs. Administration

With no paid staff, RPF has kept administrative costs low. Advertising in the Southwester promotes donations and invites applications from community organizations for funds. Other costs such as printing and postage have risen in recent years. Nevertheless, 2007 administrative expenses were just under 11% of total spending.

2007 Awards to Community Projects

Awards were made to seven organizations:

Educational

EmmaUS Learning Center

An award was made to help support the annual summer enrichment program for students in the SW community. The focus was on social studies, science and math, and the program was designed to give the children an opportunity to explore the many educational opportunities in our city.

Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region

A grant was made to help support a project, to be held in spring 2008, for students of a S.W. elementary school, entitled "Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience. First there will be classroom session introducing watershed concepts through the hands-on exploration of runoff and wetlands models. Such topics as the effects of point and non-point pollution in urban and rural areas on waterways will be covered. Later there will be a day-long trip on the Potomac and Anacostia onboard the Half Shell. Activities will include fishing, collecting plankton, dissecting clams, and performing water quality tests. A followup session in the classroom will help the students apply what they have learned and will include discussion of how they can be better stewards of their environment.

Children's Environmental Health Network

Our grant is in support of CEHN's program entitled "Reducing Health Disparities among Pre-School Children in the District of Columbia." The goal of the project is to prevent

and reduce adverse health effects from environmental health hazards (e.g. lead exposure) in licensed day care centers in DC. The goal will be achieved by educating and increasing awareness among child care providers and key administrative staff on eliminating potential risks in their child care centers. This grant will supplement support from the Centers for Disease Control to begin some training in Southwest DC. CEHN was the first network of its kind in the world and has, for the past 15 years, been one of the chief architects of the children's environmental health movement.

Southwest Scholarship Fund, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

RPF annual scholarship, presented through the SWNA, in 2007 went to Natasha A. Rodriguez, a graduate of DC's School Without Walls Senior High School. She is now a freshman at the University of Maryland and plans to major in foreign languages. She has already studied Fresh, Spanish, and Mandarin, and she thinks she would like to be a translator or interpreter for the State Department or the United Nations.

Charitable

OurPlace DC

A grant was made to help support OurPlace DC's work with residents of Southwest. This organization supports women who are or have been in the criminal justice system by providing the resources they need to maintain connections with the community and reconcile with their families. It helps women remain drug and alcohol free, obtain decent housing and jobs, gain access to education, secure resources for their children, and maintain physical and emotional health.

Community Development

South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative

Our grant will support the Collaborative's Parent Strengthening Program, which is held at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. The fund will help purchase arts and crafts supplies for the children, incentive awards for the parents, and nutritious meals during group sessions. The Collaborative is a neighborhood-based organization which partners with community-based organizations, churches, schools, public housing communities, businesses, civic groups, and residents in an innovative and non-traditional approach to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the area and to eradicate the social ills that affect families and communities.

The Southwester, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

RPF supports our community newspaper, The Southwester, by its advertising, which solicits funds and grant applications. We also feel our ads increase our visibility in the community as well as that of our grantees. Our first ad in 2007 was a salute to our 2006

grantees. RPF very much appreciates The Southwester, which we regard as a valuable community resource.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised \$6,163 in 2007 through its fund-raising campaign, special donations and matching funds. Grants totaling \$6,320 were awarded. While RPF has just one yearly fund-raising campaign, donations of any size are welcome at any time. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to River Park Friends, 389 O Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

SUMMARY

River Park Friends began its operations to test the value of a community-based non-profit fund-raising group that does not conduct or administer projects itself. We feel that the experiment is a success and that RPF has had a favorable impact on the quality of life in Southwest Washington, DC.

RPF is grateful for the loyal support of its members, and we applaud the work of the neighborhood groups that receive our grants.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT THE END OF 2007

Coralie Farlee, President
C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Joyce Bouvier, Secretary
Thelma D. Jones
Keith Melder

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Financial Statement

Calendar Year 2007

ASSETS

Bank Balance, January 1, 2007	\$ 3,499.67
Income (January – December 2007)	<u>6,163.00</u>
Bank Refund	<u>13.00</u>
	\$ 9,675.67

GRANTS AWARDED

EmmaUS Learning Center	\$ 500.00
Living Classrooms Foundation	1,000.00*
South Washington . . . Collaborative	1,000.00
Scholarship Fund, SWNA	1,200.00
Children's Environmental Health Network	1,000.00
OurPlace DC	1,000.00
The Southwester	<u>620.00</u>
Total Grants	\$ 6,320.00

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Supplies, printing, etc.	\$ 680.85
Bank charges (refunded, see above)	\$ 13.00
	\$ 768.85

TOTAL OUTLAY \$ 7,088.85

Bank Balance (December 31, 2007) \$ 2,586.82

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Member Classes 2007

Patrons

Coralie Farlee
Thelma Jones
Keith Melder

Boosters

Thelma Jones
Gale Kaufmann
Ruth O'Rourke

Supporters

Preston Amos
Joyce Bouvier
Richard Brawn
Priscilla Dever
Elizabeth Dunham
Robert Gabany
Lonzo Gregory
Janet Hartnett
Frederick Herbold
Elizabeth Hobby
Martha & William Hunter
Micheline Krodel
Dale MacIver
Emerson Melaven
Ezra Naughton
Ray Olson
Lois Riley
Rodney Ross
Jean Sammon
Robert Sewell
Arthuryne Taylor

Contributors

Carlos Beaudreau
Betty Brown
Robert Charkovsky
Donald & Jean Clark
Peter Eicher
Judith Farley
Donald Flanders
Jayne Foy
Irv Gamza
Elaine Graves
C.W. Hargrave
Fred Jordan
Emily Martin
Ruth Miller
Sorab Modi
David Moye
Barbara Murray
Helen Mulkeen
Andrea Nicolls
Margaret Oliver
Margaret Ortiz
Ann Rensberger
Catherine Robbins
Jo Ann Scott
Jeanmarie Simpson
Anne Stanski
Douglas Swan
Marian Tignor
Ellen Winship
Sheila Wood