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RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report, 1999 HIGHLIGHTS

The River Park Friends and its Board of Directors are pleased to issue this annual report for 1999. The Friends' mission is to promote, support and supplement community development, and educational and charitable activities in Southwest Washington, D.C. In our first report, covering 1998 and the first nine months of 1999, we described the organization's background, formation, and first neighborhood projects. This report covers activities in calendar year 1999.

Between January and August 1999 the Friends Board made grants to two educational projects:

*\$800 to the Scholarship Committee of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, providing a scholarship to support one student. Given in the name of the River Park Friends during the year 1999-2000, the scholarship assists a long-term Southwest educational project and confirms the Friends' commitment to a traditional neighborhood program.

*\$200 to aid the "Dollars for Scholars" program at the Southwest Community House Association, Inc. "Dollars for Scholars" is an incentive program which pays near-Southwest school students cash rewards for excellence in their school performance.

The following additional awards were made:

*An additional \$325 was provided to the Southwest Community House's general fund to support its activities.

*In the field of community development, Friends helped sponsor a neighborhood directory of services. Since there appeared to be no systematic means of keeping the information in these directories current or consistent, a small grant from the Friends helped develop a new directory and update existing directories.

* To promote public safety, \$125 was provided to the Jack Evans Task Force to improve lighting and reduce thick shrubbery in the vicinity of St. Augustine's church.

*To help support athletic activities for Southwest youth, an award of \$400 was made to the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs for uniforms.

*Friends made a grant of \$100 to Techworld, one of the Southwest Public Charter Schools, to support computer training of students.

*Friends contributed \$150 to the Greenleaf Senior Center to finance 30 pairs of house slippers.

Growth of the Friends Organization

Over the course of its early months the Friends Board grew and changed. One of its founding members, Martin Forrester, who served as vice president of the Board and helped develop the Friends' structure and mission, resigned in May 1999. In September of that year, long-time River Parker Betsy Hobby joined the Board, and has since become its Secretary. C.W. Hargrave, a long-time resident of Southwest Washington, D. C. joined the Board in November and has played an active role since that time.

The Board of River Park Friends aims to seek a variety of viewpoints representing community interests and, for a time, had the assistance of an Advisory Committee composed of nine members of the Southwest D. C. community. This committee has since disbanded, but all residents of the near Southwest D. C. are urged to recommend projects and ideas for funding.

River Park Friends has made numerous efforts to publicize its work, including press releases concerning major grants, articles in the River Park Newsletter and the Southwester, brochures for distribution (prepared with help from the students of Techworld Public Charter School), and mailings to members of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc. as well as homeowners' associations in Southwest Washington, D. C. As the Friends programs and fund raising campaigns expand, a higher level of publicity effort will be needed.

The Year: An Assessment

Looking back over 1999 activities, Friends can observe a solid record of achievement. The organization received more than \$3,000 in contributions and disbursed more than \$2,000 in grants. The Friends began at least one ongoing activity -- support of the Anthony Bowen Elementary School -- that is expected to expand to include additional types of assistance to the school in coming years. Other neighborhood programs and agencies, including the Southwest Scholarship Fund and the Southwest Community House, are also likely to receive additional support.

While Friends has made solid beginnings in the educational field, the organization needs to expand its support of community development and charitable work.

The area of fund raising also requires much attention. Although the River Park Friends has begun to tap a variety of sources of funds, principally residents of River Park Mutual

Homes, little fund raising has taken place in the wider community. The group needs to increase its base of financial support with more individual gifts, and other donations. One of the largest potential resource is that of bequests. At least one member of the Board of Directors has written a will that includes a bequest to the Friends. Bequests are long range assets to the group that should be publicized and encouraged. Additional productive strategies for fund raising are essential. The organization also needs to engage more of its neighbors as officers and members.

Summing up, Friends continues to learn, and to discover the ways in which it can best serve the needs of the neighborhood through offering funds to projects and programs operated by local public service agencies, and not by engaging in projects of its own design. The Friends again expresses its thanks to River Park Mutual Homes, Inc. for offering its facilities and its support of the work. The group owes a powerful debt to Friends members for their contributions and their faith in the Southwest community. Thank you all, so very much.

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Statement of Income and Expenses

(for year ending December 31, 1999)

Income

Contributions	\$2,640.00
Contributions not deposited	50.00

\$2,690.00

Expenses

Administrative:

Advisory Committee	\$ 8.58
River Park Fund Raising	94.29
Letterhead	23.55
Year end mailing	230.22
Bank charges	88.00

\$ 444.64

Grants:

Community Development-

Public Safety	\$ 125.00
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Resource Directory	50.00
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Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club	400.00
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Educational-

SW Scholarship	800.00
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SW Community House	525.00
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("Dollars for Scholars" and general fund)

Techworld Charter School	100.00
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Charitable-

Greenleaf Seniors	150.00
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\$ 2,150.00

\$2594.64

Net

\$ 95.36

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Balance Sheet

December 31, 1999

Assets

Bank Balance	\$1,754.34	
Contributions not cleared	50.00	
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		\$ 1,804.54

Liabilities

December fund raising appeal	\$ 232.25	
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<u>Costs to be paid</u>		232.25
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<u>Net Worth</u>		\$1,572.29
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Members of the Board in 1999:

Coralie Farlee, president
Margaret Feldman, member of the Board
Martin Forrester, vice president, August 1998-May 1999
C. W. Hargrave, member of the Board, beginning November 1999
Betsy Hobby, member of the Board, beginning September 1999
Keith Melder, secretary
Robert Zigler, treasurer

CF 6/12/00

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

AWARDS: 2000

Community Development

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: Supplies and prizes for Easter Monday Egg Hunt [Ref: phone vote 4/?/00]	\$110
Third National Summit on Fatherhood: support for one participant [Ref: phone vote 5/11/00]	145
<u>The Southwester</u> , Feb and June 2000 [Ref: Board meetings January 00 and 5/8/00] 2 @ \$140	280
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: History Group - program, photos, reception 6/30/00 [Ref: 6/12/00 Board meeting]	200

Educational

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: Scholarship Fund [Ref: Board meeting 5/8/00]	1,000
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Charitable

Food and Friends: service to homebound individuals and/or family members who reside in Southwest Washington, D. C. [reference: Board meeting 2/14/00]	500
Southwest House: First Annual Elder Appreciation Day [Ref: phone vote, 5/11/00]	400

\$ 2,635

Available resources

Bank balance of \$2,971.54 (5/25/00) less commitments of \$1200
(scholarship fund; history group) and administrative costs of
approximately \$30.00

CF 6/12/00