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RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report 2000

The River Park Friends and its Board of Directors are pleased to provide this review of the Friends' activities in 2000. We are gratified to report that during the past year our enterprise has continued to prosper and fulfill its mission of promoting, supporting, and supplementing projects that enhance community development, educational programs, and charitable activities in Southwest Washington, D. C.

Two years ago, River Park Friends set out on an experiment -- to discover whether a community-based non-profit organization could succeed in answering neighborhood needs without, itself, conducting programs or projects that aim at specific goals. After two years' experience, we believe the experimental period is over. Having raised and distributed more than \$6,500 to serve the neighborhood, the Friends Board can state with assurance that its original mission has been sustained. We now hope to expand our fund raising and broaden the Friends' reach to serve more of our neighbors in Southwest Washington.

A Review of the Year

During the year 2000, the Friends Board developed administrative procedures, gaining stability and increased confidence from its acceptance by the community. The Board's membership and its officers continued from the preceding year: Dr. Coralie Farlee, President; Dr. Keith Melder, Vice President; Betsy Hobby, Secretary; Robert S. Zigler, Treasurer; Dr. Margaret Feldman and C.W. Hargrave, Board members. In 1999, the Board approved formation of an Advisory Committee to aid its decision-making about neighborhood needs and advise on fund raising. After working for a year with this Committee and its chairman, Rick Bardach, and receiving advice and many helpful services, the Board accepted with regret Mr. Bardach's decision to suspend the Committee's work.

Aiming to improve the Friends functioning, the Board agreed on several criteria for awarding grants, asking that: (1) projects should be located geographically in Southwest Washington (zip code 20024), (2) the project should serve one or more of the Friends' three missions (community development goals, educational support, charitable needs), (3) activities should be nonsectarian, and (4) applicants should be nonprofit (501(c)(3) organizations). The Friends Board decided on a motto for promotional and informational purposes: "American generosity in action -- Independent, Timely, Direct."

Hoping to give its financial decisions a rational perspective and some predictability, the Board made plans to operate with an annual projected budget. This proposed budget is based largely on application and funding experience for the two previous years (1999

and 2000). Accordingly, it is proposed to allocate approximately 50 percent of the Friends funds to community development projects, 30 percent to educational activities, and 12 to 15 percent to charitable goals. Administrative costs are estimated at 5 to 8 percent of the budget.

The Board also sought to achieve greater community understanding of the Friends through improved publicity. It instituted a regular schedule of communication in the Southwester monthly newspaper, inserting both requests for applications and requests for funding in that paper every three months. These attractive displays offered information about the Friends and gave needed financial support to the neighborhood newspaper.

Several articles and photographs were published in the Southwester carrying news and promotional messages about the Friends. In addition to utilizing traditional print media, the Board began the design of a Website which should enable users of the Internet to access information about our organization and its activities.

The Friends organization has taken a vigorous role in fund raising to aid nonprofit neighborhood organizations in Southwest Washington, D. C. A summer fund raising campaign brought out contributions of more than \$4,000. An effort was begun to attract financial aid from former members of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc., and plans were made to increase contributions resulting from bequests. In 2000, the Board used a great deal of energy in fund raising and hopes to expand and diversify its efforts. The Friends should be able to enlist more neighborhood residents in its important activities.

Concerns for the Future

As noted earlier in this report, the Advisory Committee to the River Park Friends Board has been inactive. The Friends Board needs to develop a mechanism for community input for increased outreach in Southwest, D. C. One approach that could be initiated would be joint meetings with other community organizations such as the Cavaliers Athletic Club.

In grants, the Friends Board is hoping that its funds are having a positive impact in Southwest, but has not been able to measure this impact. How can the expenditures of funds be compared to results? Perhaps each grantee could be asked to assess the net increase in program effectiveness and usefulness from funding received from River Park Friends.

Finally, River Park Friends must increase its visibility in Southwest, D. C. through an improved use of the media, e.g., homeowners' association newsletters, through an expanded interface with community organizations, e.g., Southwest Community House, and

through increased alliances with neighborhood schools, e.g., Jefferson Junior High School, and, as a result, demonstrate to the Southwest community that River Park Friends is an integral component of the community and is here to stay.

Grants to Community Projects in 2000

Community Development

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: provided supplies and prizes for Easter Monday egg hunt

Third National Summit on Fatherhood: support for one participant

The Southwester: paid announcement/description in 4 issues

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: History Group - support for (June) program, photos, reception

Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4: sponsorship of one team in the fall football league; sponsorship of one team in spring basketball league

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: support for writer for Southwest History Trail brochure

Educational

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly: Scholarship Fund

Charitable

Food and Friends: service to homebound individuals and/or family members who reside in Southwest Washington, D. C.

Southwest House: First Annual Elder Appreciation Day at Southwest waterfront

Attachments: photographs of publicity of grants by River Park Friends

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2000

Assets

Bank Balance	\$ 3,476.83
Contributions not cleared	<u>725.00</u>
	\$ 4,201.83

Liabilities

Check Outstanding to DC Treasurer	<u>50.00</u>
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Net worth

\$ 4,151.83

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Judy and Eugene Bellin
Joyce Bouvier
Vyola and Robert Davis
Rochelle and Gerald R. Elliott
David Esch
Coralie Farlee
Margaret Feldman
Donald Flanders
Martin Forrester
C. W. Hargrave
Janet S. Hartnett
James Hoxeng
John F. Jones

Gale Dunn Kaufmann
Phoebe Layton
Emerson J. Melaven
Keith Melder
Nations Bank
L. Pruett Pemberton
H. James Rhodes
Rodney and Clara Ross
Idie Rudney
Arthuryne Taylor
Julia F. Vavra
Robert S. Zigler

CONTRIBUTORS TO RIVER PARK FRIENDS IN 2000

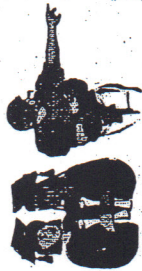
River Park Activities Committee
Preston Amos
Dorothy Barnes
Joyce Bouvier
Anthony Bowman
Rochelle and Gerald R. Elliott
Coralie Farlee
Margaret Feldman
Donald Flanders
Robert Gabany
C. W. Hargrave
Janet S. Hartnett
Betsy and Walter Hobby
John F. Jones
Gale Dunn Kaufmann
Joan King
David Koons
Phoebe Layton
Charles Lewis

Emerson J. Melaven
Keith Melder
Margaret Oliver
James Patton
Jack and Matilda Riley
Rodney and Clara Ross
Idie Rudney
Daniel Schoeps
Eva Stewart
C. W. Taylor
Arthuryne I. Taylor
Goldie Trbojevich
Gerri B. Turnbull
Waterside Mall Management
Corporation
Colin Willett
William T. Vukowich

2 anonymous

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN 2000

Coralie Farlee, president
Margaret Feldman
C. W. Hargrave
Betsy Hobby, secretary
Keith Melder, vice president
Robert S. Zigler, treasurer



River Park Friends, Inc., has completed its first year of helping others in Southwest, D.C.

1999 was the first year of action by Southwest's newest assistance group, River Park Friends, Inc. A tax-exempt 501(c)(3) foundation, it has made financial contributions to these Southwest neighborhood organizations:

- Anthony Bowen Elementary School
- Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club #4
- Greenleaf Senior Center
- Southwest Community House
- Southwest Scholarship Committee of SWNA
- Arts & Culture Action Group of Jack Evans' SW Task Force
- Techworld Public Charter School

River Park Friends, Inc., is looking for others to fund in 2000. Projects should benefit Southwest Washington and be related to community development, educational needs, and charitable activities.



Contributions have come from residents of River Park, from others in Southwest, and even from California and Ghana.

River Park Friends was founded by members of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc., who realized that River Park residents and others might want to make bequests or donate funds to benefit the Southwest, D.C., area.

YOU can be a part of this effort by making a donation to River Park Friends, c/o Coralie Farlee, President, 389 O St. S.W., D.C. 20024 (Phone 554-4407). Join your neighbors and interested persons in helping meet the Southwest community's needs. It is American generosity in action:

> Independent, > Timely, > Direct.

All are invited to attend an informational meeting in the River Park meeting room, 1311 Delaware Ave. S.W., Thursday, March 16, 7:30 PM

**River Park Friends, Inc.
Southwesters Helping Southwesters**



Tiffany Halburton, a student at Cornell University, poses with Coralle Farlee and Keith Melder of River Park Friends, Inc., which awarded Ms. Halburton a 1999 college grant.

SW Scholarship Recipients at Jennys

Earlier in December, the recipients of the them was recommended. Also discussed were better ways to advertise the availability of the scholarships. Any parents of present or potential recipients, there was an informational dinner at Jenny's Restaurant for the awardees, their mothers and members of the Scholarship Committee. A delicious dinner was had by all.

Graduating student, Candace Wyder addressed the group. She advised "hanging in there" and that it would get easier. The program, which allows DC residents to attend MD and VA schools while paying in-state tuition, was discussed. The students made suggestions on ways of increasing the amount of applicants. Getting the word out to 9th grade students by having one of the recipients speak to



SWNA officials and scholarship committee members attended the scholarship dinner at Jennys. Left to right are: Dale Maciver, Ellen Winship, Barbara Murray, Carole Early, Herbert Holmes and Rev. George Holmes.

ents or interested parties are invited to call the SWNA office at (202) 554-8560. ■

The Southerner February 2000

River Park Friends, Inc. Helps Club #4



*River Park Friends, Inc., president **Coralée Farlee** talks with Southwest youth who have benefited from grants given by the Friends. Viking football players are (left to right) **Rodney Lawrence, Antonio Bird** and **Nelson Long**. MPB&G Club #4 director **Alvin Hudgens** is with the boys.*

Help from River Park Friends, Inc., makes it possible for many S.W. youth to take part in after school sports. The cost of individual registration fees and uniforms would limit the number of youth that S.W.'s Club #4 Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Clubs could enroll.