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RIVER PARK FRIENDS
Annual Report for 2001

Introduction

The River Park Friends dates its founding to 1998 when several members of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc. formed a non-profit group to aid the many valuable voluntary service agencies that help residents of Southwest Washington. From its beginnings, the Friends differed from other non-profit groups in taking as its purpose the goal to raise funds that can be used by established neighborhood organizations, but not to conduct programs or provide direct services. River Park Friends seeks to combine bequests and substantial donations as well as numerous small gifts into larger sums of money that can be offered to local private agencies. It is entirely non-sectarian in raising and distributing funds, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

The River Park Friends operates in three major areas of concern: promoting community development -- the physical and social environment, beauty, and public safety in our neighborhood; assisting education through scholarships and support of educational programs; and aiding charitable agencies that offer direct help to people in need.

The Year in Review

The River Park Friends and its Board of Directors are proud to provide this account of the Friends' activities in 2001. Entering its fourth year of work in Southwest Washington, D.C., the Friends organization continues to serve as a link between individual donors and neighborhood non-profit groups that help people directly. Friends fund-raising and support helps to provide essential equipment and serve

the needs of neighborhood non-profit groups in our community.

As noted earlier, the River Park Friends began as an experiment to test the value of a community-based, non-profit fund-raising group that does not conduct or administer specific projects. The Friends Board continues to feel that its experience has shown the value of this approach, and we have embarked on a period of constructive growth. Following the September 11th, 2001 tragedy and diminishing financial support for many local human services, the Board observes a growing need in our neighborhood for the kinds of voluntary services we assist.

During the year 2001 the Friends Board continued to refine its administrative practices to better aid 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 Zigler, Treasurer, Dr. Margaret Feldman and C.W. Hargrave Board members. The Board found that its criteria for awarding grants met the test of experience. Instituting annual budget goals to clarify its financial operations helped the Board to view its distribution of grant funds in a total community perspective. Based on previous years' experience, we aimed to budget 50% of the Friends' grants to community development projects, 30% to educational purposes, 15% to charitable activities, reserving 5% for administrative costs. Actual distribution of funds in 2001 reflected applications received from neighborhood agencies: 65% to community development, 23% to education, 8% to charitable work, and 4% for administrative needs. Nevertheless, the Friends Board is confident that its grants to local groups responded well to community needs. In coming years we will aim to expand educational and charitable grants.

their importance, especially for younger children. Scholarships for the neighborhood's college-bound young people are a proven benefit to the community. Such projects are always in need of funds.

Southwest Washington's growing population of senior residents needs a wide variety of social and subsistence services to enable the older generation to continue productive and comfortable lives. The neighborhood has seen marvelous recent improvements in its cultural life, such as the Millenium Arts Center, with other grand changes in the offing. New cultural groups, as well as established ones, need increased support from the neighborhood.

Public planning agencies offer exciting visions and new dimensions of community development. Yet services to people lag behind the visions of physical change. To take just one example, the neighborhood's small business community appears to be threatened by the physical growth proposed for the Waterfront and Waterside Mall areas. Large-scale innovations and small-scale experiments are needed of the kind that River Park Friends is pledged to support.

The Friends organization stands ready to support and assist with the changes occurring in Southwest Washington. Yet to succeed in its objectives, the Friends will need to develop a larger presence and a substantially greater financial commitment than ever before. With backing from its members and supporters, the Friends Board looks forward to a prosperous and productive future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Year 2001

ASSETS

Bank Balance, January 1, 2001.....	\$3,422.66
Income, January-December, 2001.....	<u>7,110.00</u>
Total.....	10,532.66

GRANTS

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, sound system....	\$1,200.00
<u>Southwester</u> newspaper, advertising.....	420.00
Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club, Number 4	
Football Registration.....	350.00
Football Players and Cheerleaders.....	1,000.00
Basketball Equipment.....	1,400.00
Southwest Scholarship Fund.....	1,000.00
AppleTree Institute for Educational Innovation.....	500.00
Project Wonder.....	500.00
Youth Activities Task Force.....	<u>50.00</u>
Total Grants.....	\$6,420.00

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

D.C. Treasurer, operating fee.....	\$50.00
Bank service fees.....	30.00
Operating costs, postage, photocopies, etc.....	270.79
Monthly bank fees.....	<u>55.00</u>
Total Expenses.....	405.88

TOTAL OUTLAY..... \$6,825.88

Bank Balance, December 31, 2001..... \$3,706.78

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Judy and Eugene Bellin
Joyce Bouvier
Vyola and Robert Davis
Rochelle and Gerald 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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN 2001

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