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RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report for 2003

INTRODUCTION

River Park Friends was organized to enhance, support, and supplement the efforts of locally operated tax-exempt organizations in Southwest Washington, D. C. These efforts are in the areas of community development, educational and charitable activities. River Park Friends does not run programs, but rather aims to link individual donors and neighborhood non-profit groups that provide direct services.

River Park Friends was incorporated in the District of Columbia on August 27, 1998. There were 26 Founding Members. After five years of probationary status, in 2003, River Park Friends received final tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to River Park Friends are, therefore, tax exempt for income tax purposes. River Park Friends is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) independent organization not affiliated with River Park Mutual Homes Inc.

Over the years, the following funding criteria have been developed by the Board: the projects would support activities in one of the three mission categories, for Southwest D. C. non-profit, non-sectarian organizations. Our motto, developed in earlier years, continues to provide guidance: "American generosity in action -- Independent, Timely, Direct."

A REVIEW OF 2003

River Park Friends began 2003 with the following officers and board members: Keith Melder, President; Robert S. Zigler, Vice President; Betsy Hobby, Secretary; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; and Coralie Farlee, Margaret Feldman and Lenora Moragne, Members.

Annual Meeting

The Friends held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, with a twofold agenda: (1) to review the activities and accomplishments of the year 2002, and (2) to discuss goals and plans for the remainder of year 2003. Fourteen Board members, donors, and grant recipients were present. Special attention was given to receiving suggestions for projects to be supported by River Park Friends during the remainder of the 2003 calendar year. Copies of the Annual Report for 2002 were distributed at the meeting. At a meeting subsequent to the termination of the annual meeting, Keith Melder resigned as President, and a slate of new

officers was agreed upon: Coralie Farlee, President, Robert Zigler, Vice President, C.W. Hargrave, Treasurer, and Betsy Hobby, Secretary. The terms of C.W. Hargrave, Betsy Hobby, Keith Melder, and Lenora Moragne were extended for two additional years to 2005.

Expenditures for Programs vs. Administration

As in previous years, the Board developed a proposed annual budget which was based largely on the capabilities for funding and requests for applications. The Board has traditionally allocated 90 per cent or more of its funds to programs, as contrasted to administrative costs. This is an extremely favorable ratio of expenditures for a tax-exempt organization. In 2003, 38 percent of its program funds were devoted to community development activities, with 62 percent devoted to educational projects. We have not had applications for charitable-type funding in recent years.

Efforts to achieve greater visibility

In 2003, the Board continued efforts to achieve greater community recognition by providing regular requests for donations as well as applications in The Southwester.

We have received additional assistance from our new Board member, Lenora Moragne, as well as members of the Fourth Street Group and residents in various home owners' associations in Southwest Washington DC to help in our fund raising activities.

River Park Friends is continuing with various approaches to increasing visibility for the organization in Southwest D.C. As in earlier years, the Board continues to attempt to work with the organizations to which we have given grants to determine the extent to which River Park Friends awards have impacted their program efforts and usefulness in Southwest D. C.

2003 Awards to Community Projects

Ten awards were made to five organizations in the areas of commitment:

Community Development

Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4

Funds were used to fund registration fees for a football squad of 22 members. In addition, River Park Friends provided funds for registration and uniforms to make up a Club basketball team and for a cheer leader program. The Friends urged that funds be available to all young people regardless of gender.

The Southwester Newspaper

Funds were used to support The Southwester by advertising to solicit contributions, in four issues. River Park Friends believes that advertising is a form of program support for this otherwise unsupported community asset with the secondary

benefit of providing information to the community on grant requirements and urging the donation of funds.

Metropolitan Police Department - First District ID
Citizens Advisory Council

Funds were used to purchase a page in the 2003 "Recognition Program Community Book" which thanked the officers of the First District for their service to the Southwest community.

Educational

Southwest Scholarship Fund of the
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Funds were awarded as a scholarship to Southwest student Danielle M. Flythe who entered Syracuse University in the fall of 2003. In her thank you letter to River Park Friends, Danielle wrote:

"It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of thanks for the \$1,000 scholarship I received from you. This has meant so much to me because attending Syracuse University is very expensive. I have taken out loans, but your scholarship means so much to me. When I graduate from college I will definitely donate annually to the SW Scholarship Fund to help some other students in the future."

AppleTree Institute

Funds from this grant enabled the Apple Early Literacy Preschool Program purchase of a multi-purpose climber, two sandboxes, and wood chips. The preschool director was pleased to have the funds, to aid the school and the children in achieving their educational objectives.

EmmaUs Learning Center

Funds were used for their Summer Enrichment Program. The Center was able to provide an opportunity for five students to participate in two Saturday outings: on October 11, 2003 the children went to the 3D movie at the Smithsonian Institution; and on October 18, 2003 they went to the Air and Space Museum 3D movie.

Oye Palaver Hut, Inc.

This program is established to teach children the cultural and nutritional importance of food by shopping, cooking and serving innovative, nutritious meals.

Southwest Child Development Center

Funds were used to provide educational resources toward the proper development of children as they transition to public school, for example, to support field trips for 31 youngsters.

City Gate

Funds were used to rent school buses to take young people on an outing to historic Harper's Ferry, where they enjoyed an outdoor setting away from the city, while learning something about their history. A 40 or 50 passenger bus and driver cost approximately \$400 per trip.

Living Classrooms Foundation, Matthew Henson Center

Funds were used to conduct two outreach programs for 60 students at Anthony Bowen Elementary School in Southwest Washington, DC. Students participating in this program were given the opportunity to learn the skill of caulking boats and to find out how many African Americans used maritime skills to pursue their dream of freedom. Students had an opportunity to dissect oysters and discover the importance of the oyster to the Chesapeake Bay and the African American workers. Funds also provided two educational programs for 60 youngsters per program for a total of 120 youth served.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised over \$10,000 in 2003 in its annual fund raising campaign, special donations and matching funds. Donations of any size are welcome and necessary to fulfill the mission of River Park Friends, namely to support and supplement community development, educational and charitable activities in the Southwest Washington DC community. Small donations are combined into larger amounts to make a real difference for neighborhood voluntary organizations. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to:
River Park Friends, 389 O Street, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20024

ROBERT S. ZIGLER

River Park Friends lost one of its founders and most loyal advocates with the death on September 13, 2003, of Robert S. Zigler. A board member since he helped incorporate the Friends in 1998, Treasurer (1998-2003), and Vice President (2003), Bob aided in developing all Friends policies and programs. Beyond guiding all our activities, Bob Zigler inspired us with his generosity, cheered us with his wry humor, and animated the hard work that led to our success.

Besides the River Park Friends, Bob had abundant and varied interests. He enjoyed cheering for The Washington Redskins; he played tennis avidly; he loved music, musical artists and performances; he was a connoisseur and collector of African Art and a volunteer at the National Museum of African Art; he loved films and live stage performances. Above all, he was a connoisseur of people -- as many of us who appreciated his joyous company can testify. His professional career encompassed service to others -- first through the Heifer Project (ca. 1946-1960); the Church World

Service activities, culminating in the U.S. Agency for International Development (1961-1985), and his many voluntary community activities.

In Bob Zigler's memory, donations of over \$2,500 were contributed to River Park Friends. This money will be devoted to goals that were dear to Bob's heart. The Friends Board hopes to identify one or more recipients or projects in the near future.

SUMMARY

The River Park Friends began its operations to test the value of a community-based nonprofit fund-raising group that does not conduct or administer specific projects. Rather, the Friends organization raises money to distribute to existing voluntary service groups that aid our neighborhood. To date, the experiment has been successful, and River Park Friends continues to have a favorable impact on the quality of life in Southwest Washington, DC.

The River Park Friends organization is extremely grateful for continuing support from its loyal members and supporters both donors and the many neighborhood groups that receive Friends' grants.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT THE END OF 2003

Coralie Farlee, President
Margaret Feldman
C.W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Betsy Hobby, Secretary
Keith Melder
Lenora Moragne

River Park Friends Annual Report

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year 2003

ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Bank Balance, January 1, 2003 | \$ 1,736.78 |
| Income, January-December, 2003 | <u>10,061.00</u> |
| Total Assets | \$ 11,797.78 |

GRANTS AWARDED

Community Development Awards

| | |
|--|--------|
| 1-D-4 Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4 | \$1400 |
| The Southwester newspaper | 560 |
| Metropolitan Police Department - First District ID | 175 |
| Citizens Advisory Council | |

Educational Awards

| | |
|---|------|
| The Southwest Scholarship Fund of the Southwest Neighborhood assembly, Inc. | 1000 |
| AppleTree Institute/Apple Early Literacy Preschool | 517 |
| EmmaUs Learning Center | 300 |
| Oye Palaver Hut, Inc. | 300 |
| Southwest Child Development Center | 500 |
| City Gate | 400 |
| Living Classrooms Foundation, Matthew Henson Center | 500 |

TOTAL GRANTS \$5692

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| D.C. Treasurer, licenses and fees | \$ 125 |
| Bank Charges | 123 |
| Supplies, printing, etc. | 751.44 |

Total Expenses 999.44

TOTAL OUTLAY, 2003 \$6691.44

Bank Balance, December 31, 2003 5106.34

CF 3/24/04

RESPONSES FROM RIVER PARK FRIENDS GRANT RECIPIENTS

We are most appreciative to you and all of the River Park Friends for the generous check to be awarded as a scholarship to a Southwest DC college freshman this fall semester.

(Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Program September 2003)

We want to thank you for the support that your organization contributed for our summer enrichment program. We extended our program to specific students in the neighborhood who had to attend summer school and were not able to participate in any neighborhood trip; and we set aside two Saturdays for them to participate and use the funds that you provided.

(EmmaUs Learning Center September 2003)

On behalf of the children, parents and staff here at the Southwest Child Development Center we would like to extend our gratitude to you for your generous donation to support the Daycare trips. Some of the field trips that the children take during the year are the Pet a Pet Farm, the Children's Museum, and the Pumpkin Patch.

(Southwest Child Development Center August 2003)

I want to thank River Park Friends for your grant to City Gate to help us take the children and youth we are working with this summer on field trips out of the city. Today we rented a school bus and took the camp to historic Harper's Ferry. Your grant also will help us underwrite the bus rental for a specific field trip next week to Baltimore. We will be attending the Baltimore Orioles' game against the Minnesota Twins, and providing an opportunity for the children to look around the Inner Harbor

(City Gate August 2003)

We are more than grateful to you and your organization for assisting us with our Summer Enrichment Program. The funds received from your organization will be used to expand our program for science books, prizes, food, bus/car fare and 3D movies tickets at the Museum of Natural History

(EmmaUs Learning Center July 2003)

River Park Friends received a Certificate from the Metropolitan Police Department -- in grateful appreciation for the organization's contribution to the First District and its community activities.

(Metropolitan Police Department July 2003)

River Park Friends received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4 -- for outstanding Service and Monetary Contribution to the youth of SW Washington, DC.

(Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4 October 2002)