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RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report for 2004

A DROP IN THE BUCKET

As we look back on the past year, our thoughts return to the Great Tsunami and its horrible results. One of the most terrible challenges ever to voluntary relief and assistance organizations, the Asian disaster makes the efforts of River Park Friends seem small by comparison. "A drop in the bucket," one might say.

Yet, as we look again at this awful event, we may better understand the importance of our own efforts to improve the lives of our neighbors. Like so many humanitarian projects, the River Park Friends organization begins with a drop in the bucket -- a few hundred here, or a thousand dollars there -- to assist projects that respond to needs at the local level. The drops in the bucket add up and, as we have seen in the year just over, they answer more - and more diverse - goals in our neighborhood.

BACKGROUND

River Park Friends was organized in 1998 by several residents of River Park Mutual Homes, Inc., a residential cooperative (thus the organization's name). The vision was to enable individual donors in the neighborhood to combine tax-exempt donations and, jointly, support community development, educational, and charitable activities in Southwest DC. River Park Friends (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, non-sectarian organizations.

Incorporated in the District of Columbia in August 1998, River Park Friends received final tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2003. Donations are tax-deductible. River Park Friends is an independent organization not affiliated with River Park Mutual Homes, Inc.

A REVIEW OF 2004

River Park Friends (RPF) began 2004 with the following officers and board members: Coralie Farlee, President; Betsy Hobby, Secretary; C.W. Hargrave, Treasurer; and Margaret Feldman, Keith Melder, and Lenora Moragne, Members.

RPF held its 2004 Annual Meeting on March 29, 2004. Activities and accomplishments in 2003 were reviewed, and representatives from organizations receiving RPF grants presented overviews of their various programs and told how they had used their grants. There was discussion concerning suggested uses of funds donated

in memory of Robert Zigler, one of the founders and an officer, who died in 2003, and there was general brainstorming for ideas for the future.

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 percent 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 2004, thirty-six percent (36%) of its program funds were devoted to community development activities, with sixty-four (64%) percent devoted to educational projects. No applications for charitable-type funding were received.

2004 Awards to Community Projects

Twelve awards were made to 11 organizations:

Community Development

Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4

Funds were used to fund registration fees for football teams and for equipment. The club reported the addition of an educational component to help increase the level of academic success among the boys playing football in Clubhouse #4.

The Southwester Newspaper, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

We advertised in The Southwester, soliciting contributions and grant applications. Such advertising serves the dual purpose of supporting this community asset while at the same time benefitting RPF by providing increased visibility in the community.

Metropolitan Police Department - First District ID Citizens Advisory Council

Funds were used to purchase an ad in the program booklet for the annual Awards Banquet which recognized officers who worked to reduce crime and improve neighborhood safety.

South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative

A grant was given to support the S.M.A.R.T. (Summer Math and Reading Time) Camp Landscape and Building Beautification Project,

called "Project Open Doors." Funds were for supplies to be used in a community service project, the enhancement of the property at 600 M Street (St. Augustine's Episcopal Church), where the summer camp took place. The camp children as well as volunteers needing community service hours participated.

Educational

Southwest Scholarship Fund of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

A scholarship was awarded in memory of Robert S. Zigler to Southwest student Dontria Brawner. Ms. Brawner is a junior at Penn State University and is studying Political Science

AppleTree Institute

This grant supported the purchase of supplies for the Apple Early Literacy Preschool, which operates at Riverside Baptist Church. The preschool's goal is to close the "achievement gap" of children from disadvantaged families in Southwest. The project teaches young children critical literacy, mathematics, and other skills before they enter first grade.

EmmaUS Learning Center

Our grant to EmmaUS sponsored five children of near Southwest D.C. for their summer enrichment program. Focusing on science and math, the program is designed to give the children in the neighborhood an opportunity to explore the many educational opportunities here in the city.

Living Classrooms Foundation, Matthew Henson Center

Our grant supported a "Meaningful Bay Experience" for an elementary school class. The project was a three-day in-depth science and social studies program which included in-classroom study of local Native American tribes, of aquatic life in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and of how our behavior on land affects our waterways. A day on board the M/V Half Shell was included.

Children's Environmental Health Network

This grant funded Southwest student Erika Wilkes' attendance in the Student Environment Development Program. This is a summer program which strives to educate students on environmental and cultural issues, while improving their academic skills and developing their sense of social and civic responsibility.

Safe Sitter Program, Youth Activities Task Force, Southwest
Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

This grant was for the cost of materials for a Saturday baby sitting program for several Southwest young people. Safe Sitter is a medically accurate baby sitting preparation program designed for 11-13 year olds. The interactive curriculum was written by a pediatrician and teaches safe and nurturing child care techniques. Southwesterners Thelma Jones and Anita Sands-Nunez are certified by Safe Sitter, Inc., a 501(c)(3) national organization devoted exclusively to preparing adolescents to be safe baby sitters.

Southwest Community Programs, Arena Stage

Our grant to Arena Stage helped fund "Voices of Now," an after-school drama program for teens. It was a twice-weekly workshop that gave the participants the opportunity to write and star in their own play at Arena Stage. The young people spent over three months studying the crafts of writing and performing and showcased their talent on May 15 and 16 in the Old Vat.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised almost \$8,000 in 2004 through its fund raising campaign, special donations and matching funds. While River Park Friends 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 River Park Friends has had a favorable impact on the quality of life in Southwest Washington, DC.

River Park Friends 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 2004

Coralie Farlee, President
Joyce Bouvier, Secretary
C.W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Carlos Beaudreau
Margaret Feldman
Keith Melder
Lenora Moragne

River Park Friends
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Calendar Year 2004

ASSETS

Bank Balance, January 1, 2004	\$ 5,106.34
Income, January-December, 2004	7,570.00
Total Assets	\$ 12,676.34

GRANTS AWARDED

Community Development Awards

Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club #4	\$ 700
<u>The Southwester</u> newspaper	700
MPD-1D Citizens Advisory Council	175
South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative	1000

Educational Awards

Children's Environmental Health Network	1400
SWNA/YATF Safe Sitter Program	200
SWNA Southwest Scholarship Program	1000
AppleTree Institute/Apple Early Literacy Preschool	750
Arena Stage: "Voices of Now"	500
EmmaUs Learning Center	300
Living Classrooms Foundation, Matthew Henson Center	1000

TOTAL GRANTS	\$7725
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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

D.C. Treasurer, licenses and fees	\$ 75
Bank Charges	90
Supplies, printing, etc.	661.76
Total Expenses	826.76

TOTAL OUTLAY, 2004	\$8551.76
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Bank Balance, December 31, 2004	\$4124.58
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corrected 4/1/05