

File Copy

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report for 2005

INTRODUCTION

Founders of the River Park Friends had several visions of what their new organization might become and achieve. Some saw the Friends as a means by which residents of Southwest D.C. without families might bequeath financial legacies to the community. They hoped to leave resources to neighborhood institutions that would be valuable in subsequent years. One Founder, the late Robert Zigler, long-time Treasurer of the Friends, had been a Founder of the internationally renowned Heifer Project, and viewed River Park Friends as a kind of renewable investment in the neighborhood. Early Friends members hoped their organization would become embedded in Southwest Washington with sustained commitments to local nonprofit groups -- aiding fulfillment of their dreams in supporting programs to benefit young people and needy in the neighborhood as well as realizing goals of community development.

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 2005

River Park Friends (RPF) began 2005 with the following officers and board members: Coralie Farlee, President; Joyce Bouvier, Secretary; C.W. Hargrave, Treasurer; and Carlos Beaudreau, Margaret Feldman, Keith Melder, and Lenora Moragne, Members.

RPF held its 2005 Annual Meeting on March 30, 2005. Activities and accomplishments in 2004 were reviewed, and representatives from organizations receiving RPF grants made presentations

concerning their programs. An election of board members was held, with Benjamin R. Lemlich being elected and Coralie Farlee and Carlos Beaudreau being elected to new two year terms. During the social time after the meeting, the grantee representatives networked, discussing how they might cooperate for added effectiveness in the community.

Expenditures for Programs vs. Administration

As in previous years, the Board developed a proposed annual budget which was based on the expected funding and requests for grants. RPF has regularly planned to spend no more than 10% of its funds on administrative costs. In 2005 we managed to keep those costs to 4%, an extremely favorable ratio for a tax-exempt organization. Seven percent (7%) of our expenditures were devoted to community development activities, seventy-six percent (76%) to educational projects, and thirteen percent (13%) for charitable-type work.

2005 Awards to Community Projects

Awards were made to eight organizations:

Educational

Arena Stage

A grant was awarded for a scholarship for a Southwest student to participate in Camp Arena Stage, a summer program. Arena Stage's scholarship awardees for the program included four students from Jefferson Junior High. This four-week program allowed participants to choose classes in areas of theater, dance, music and the visual arts. It was held at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School.

Children's Environmental Health Network Inc.

A Southwest student benefitted from our grant to fund a scholarship for the Student Environmental Development Program, a summer program. This was our second grant to this organization, whose 2004 student participant was a "star" speaker at our 2005 annual meeting.

EmmaUS Learning Center

This grant sponsored several children participating in a summer enrichment program. The six-Saturdays program focused primarily on the sciences and drug prevention education and included outings to the Museum of Natural History, Botanic Gardens, Zoo, and a nature walk in Rock Creek Park.

Living Classrooms Foundation, Matthew Henson Center

Our grant was for a three-day science and social studies program at Amidon or another Southwest elementary school. Set up as a "Captain's License Course," the program's goal was to teach skills in fishing, boating, and caring for the river, as well as local history, and included a day on the river on the M/V Half Shell.

South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative

A grant was given to help support their Summer Reading Camp for elementary school children in the community. This camp was held at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church for the second consecutive year.

Southwest Scholarship Fund, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

RPF awards a scholarship annually for a college student from Southwest. This year's recipient was Eugenia Serita Norde, a nursing student at North Carolina A & T in Greensboro.

Community Development

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.

Charitable

Our Place DC

In 2005 we made our first grant award to Our Place DC, earmarked for services to women from Southwest. A DC-wide organization, Our Place DC was established in 1999 with a mission to support women who are or have been in the criminal justice system by providing the resources they need to maintain connections with the community, resettle after incarceration, and reconcile with their families. Our Place helps women remain drug and alcohol free, obtain decent housing and jobs, gain access to education, secure resources for their children, and maintain physical and emotional health.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised \$7430 in 2005 through its fund raising campaign, special donations and matching funds. Grants totalling \$7,710 were awarded. 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 ²⁰⁰⁵~~2004~~

Coralie Farlee, President
Joyce Bouvier, Secretary
C.W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Carlos Beaudreau
Benjamin R. Lemlich
Keith Melder
Lenora Moragne

River Park Friends
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Calendar Year 2005

ASSETS

Bank Balance, January 1, 2005	\$ 4,124.58
Income, January-December, 2005	7,430.00
Total Assets	\$ 11,554.58

GRANTS AWARDED

Community Development Awards

The Southwester newspaper	\$ 560
---------------------------	--------

Educational Awards

SWNA Southwest Scholarship Program	1000
Arena Stage: Camp Arena Stage	1600
Children's Environmental Health Network	1600
EmmaUs Learning Center	450
South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative	500
Living Classrooms Foundation, Matthew Henson Center	1000

Charitable Awards

OurPlaceDC	1000
TOTAL GRANTS	\$7710

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Bank Charges	108
Supplies, printing, etc.	216.29
Total Expenses	324.29

TOTAL OUTLAY, 2005	\$8034.29
--------------------	-----------

Bank Balance, December 31, 2005	\$3520.29
---------------------------------	-----------

CW 1/8/06
CF 3/14/06

CLASSES OF MEMBERS OF RIVER PARK FRIENDS, 2005

Patrons

Coralie Farlee
Thelma Jones
Keith Melder

Sponsor

William T. Vukowich

Booster

Janet S. Hartnett
Gale Dunn Kaufmann
Lois Riley

Supporter

Preston E. Amos and Michael K. Amos
Joyce Bouvier
Rochelle, Shelly, and Gerald R. Elliott
Lonzo A. Gregory
Elizabeth Hobby
Lawrence R. Impett
Micheline M. Krodel
Benjamin R. and Jennie R. Lemlich
Doris Martin and Robert N. Treadway
Ruth W. Miller
Rodney A. and Clara R. Ross
Jean Sammon
Robert G. Sewell

Other

Bessie Lee Athey and Susan Hamrick
Carlos Beaudreau
Robert Charkovsky
Donald B. and Jean D. Clark
Donald Flanders
Elaine Graves
CW Hargrave
Frederick Herbold
David Koons
Michael S. Lucy
Emerson J. Melaven
Sorab K. Modi
Helen Mulkeen
Henry E. Oliver
Ruth E. O'Rourke
Catherine Robbins
Henry S. Shryock, Jr.
Joy R. Simonson
Arthuryne I. Taylor
David N. Vogan