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RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Annual Report for 2008

INTRODUCTION

Yes We Can

This simple yet inspiring phrase helped propel President Barack Obama to become the first African American elected to this nation's highest office. More than just a slogan, Yes We Can expresses the beliefs and aspirations of Americans from every background. As we begin 2009, we all face tough economic times – members of River Park Friends (RPF) along with other Americans, but Yes We Can all help RPF survive the downturn in the economy and continue to serve our near Southwest community.

After a decade of raising funds in response to neighborhood needs, the RPF Board of Directors has been encouraged by the commitment of its donors and pleased that each year we add a few contributors. However, a total year's contributions have always fluctuated between only \$6,100 and \$9,000 (except in 2003, when we raised just over \$10,000), and our revenues depend largely on a few donors. We seek suggestions from our members as to how to attract more interest in the organization – from both prospective donors and grantee organizations.

BACKGROUND

River Park Friends (RPF) was organized in 1998 by Coralie Farlee, Martin Forrester, Keith Melder, and Robert S. Zigler, members of River Park (thus the organization's name) and incorporated in the District of Columbia. From its founding, it has been totally independent of River Park Mutual Homes. The vision was to combine the contributions of individual donors to support community development, educational, and charitable work of other organizations on behalf of Southwest residents. RPF does not conduct programs itself but, through grants to other tax-exempt organizations, aims to supplement their efforts. RPF received its final tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2003, and donations are tax-deductible.

A REVIEW OF 2008

River Park Friends began 2008 with the following officers and board members: Coralie Farlee, President; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; Joyce Bouvier, Secretary; Thelma Jones and Keith Melder. The Annual Meeting was held on March 25, 2008. At this meeting, the following people were elected as new members of the board of directors: Priscilla Dever and Emerson Melaven for two-year terms and Preston Amos and Donald H. Flanders for one-year terms. Board members Joyce Bouvier, C. W. Hargrave, Thelma Jones, and Keith Melder were elected to new two-year terms.

Expenditures for Programs vs. Administration

RPF has no paid staff and always keeps administrative costs low. In 2008, administrative expenses were only 7% of total spending.

2008 Awards to Community Projects

Awards were made to six organizations:

Educational

EmmaUS Learning Center

An award was made to support the attendance of 15 children of the Southwest community at the annual summer enrichment program. Participants enjoyed a variety of educational and fun activities such as museum visits, cultural festivals, and ballgames.

Southwest Scholarship Fund, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Our scholarship for 2008, presented through the SWNA, went to Shakira A. Thomas, a student at Howard University majoring in communications. She is currently a junior.

Youth Activities Task Force, Southwest Neighbordod Assembly, Inc.

A grant was made to help support the Computer-for-Kids training program, held at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center. These classes are taught by highly trained volunteers, and the children are given refurbished computers. Since these computers were donated, our grant was used to cover shipping costs, software, and supplies.

Arena Stage

RPF awarded a grant for the participation of a Southwest student in Camp Arena Stage, a summer program held at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School. Professional artists and highly trained staff encourage the spirited pursuit of knowledge, self discovery and joy through the arts and empower young people to express themselves artistically. Our scholarship winner was Joel Joseph, who graduated in June from Jefferson and has been accepted into the theater program at Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Community Development

The Southwester, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

Our advertisement in our community newspaper, The Southwester, helps support its operation. Our ads increase our visibility in the community, as well as that of our grantees, as we solicit donations and grant applications. Our ad in the January issue

thanked Dale MacIver, longtime editor, for his many years of service and commitment to our neighborhood.

Metropolitan Police Department – First District 1D Citizens Advisory Council

We purchased an ad to appear in the program booklet for the annual Awards Banquet, recognizing officers working to reduce crime and improve neighborhood safety. The banquet was not held in 2008, nor the program published, and we assume the ad will appear in a 2009 program.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised \$8,695.00 through its fund-raising campaign, special donations and matching funds. Grants totaling \$5,420.00 were awarded. While RPF has just one yearly fund-raising campaign, donations of any size are welcome at any time. Tax-deductible contributions should be made out to River Park Friends and sent to River Park Friends, 389 O Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The RPF Board of Directors has considered trying to merge with another community organization or even “going out of business,” but we believe we can continue to serve the community and be certain that our funds aid the worthiest and most urgent needs of Southwest Washington. We are willing to continue to try to expand our donor base, and we call on our current members to help us achieve that goal. Yes We Can do it together.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT THE END OF 2008

Coralie Farlee, President
C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Joyce Bouvier, Secretary
Preston Amos
Priscilla Dever
Donald H. Flanders
Thelma D. Jones
Emerson Melaven
Keith Melder

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Member classes 2008

Patrons

Coralie Farlee
Keith Melder

Boosters

Janet Hartnett
Thelma D. Jones
Dale MacIver
Emerson Melaven
Lois Riley

Supporters

Anonymous
Preston and Michael Amos
Joyce Bouvier
Rochelle Shelly and Gerald Elliott
Donald Flanders
Lonzo Gregory
CW Hargrave
Elizabeth Hobby
Martha and William Hunter
Gale Dunn Kaufmann
Laree Martin
Ray Olson
Ruth E. O'Rourke
Catherine Robbins
Rodney A. and Clara R. Ross
Jean Sammon
Robert G. Sewell
Omega C. Logan Silva
Arthuryne J. Taylor
Hans J. Crump Wiesner and
Katherine R. C. Wiesner

Contributors

Carlos Beaudreau
Mae Simms Boggs
M. Betty Brown
Robert Charkovsky
Jennifer and Joe Druliner
Irv Gamza
Frederick Herbold
Janis M. Hoffman
Fred and Carmel Jordan
Emily C. Martin
Heidi Kristin McComb
Mark T. Miller and Allison J. Miller
Helen Mulkeen
Kathryn L. Mulligan
Barbara Murray
Andrea J. Nicholls
Margaret Oliver
Margarita L. Ortiz
Anne M. Rennsberger
JoAnn Scott
Charles Sutton
Lorella M. Wise
Sheila Wood

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Calendar Year 2008

ASSETS

Bank Balance (December 31, 2007)	\$ 2586.82
Income (January – December 2008)	8695.00
Bank Refunds	57.00
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	\$ 11338.82

GRANTS


The Southwester	\$ 510.00
EmmaUS	900.00
First District CAC	175.00
Southwest Assembly	2235.00
Arena Stage	1600.00
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Total Grants	\$ 5420.00

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Supplies, Printing, Etc.	310.83
Bank Fees	81.00
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Total Adm. Expenses	\$ 391.83

TOTAL OUTLAY \$ 5811.83

BANK BALANCE (December 31, 2008) \$ 5526.99


C. W. Hargrave
Treasurer
January 11, 2009