

RIVER PARK FRIENDS of Southwest Washington, D.C.

Annual Report for 2006

INTRODUCTION

Residents of and visitors to Southwest Washington sense an atmosphere of change in the neighborhood. Demolition and rebuilding, huge construction projects, massive cranes and machinery are evident in the area. Citizens look forward to the new buildings with excitement and some anxiety. What will the changes bring to our corner of the nation's capital? In the midst of all this reconstruction, River Park Friends continues faithfully to serve the public, to assist children growing up among the new buildings, to raise funds for countless community needs that persist and increase along with physical development.

The importance of River Park Friends in the local social fabric can only become more crucial as changes continue. Supporters of River Park Friends take heart – your help is needed and appreciated more than ever!

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). However, River Park Friends is an independent organization and is not affiliated with River Park Mutual Homes, Inc. The founders' 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, RPF received final tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2003. Donations are tax-deductible.

A REVIEW OF 2006

River Park Friends began 2006 with the following officers and board members: Coralie Farlee, President; Joyce Bouvier, Secretary; C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer; and Carlos Beaudreau, Benjamin R. Lemlich, Keith Melder, and Lenora Moragne.

RPF held its Annual Meeting on March 29, 2006. President Farlee gave a brief history of the organization and an overview of grants given during 2005. Representatives of the grantee organizations made presentations about their programs and use of grant funds.

An election of board members was held, with Thelma Jones being elected to a first term and Keith Melder and C. W. Hargrave to new terms.

Expenditures for Programs vs. Administration

With no paid staff, RPF has always managed to keep administrative costs to a minimum. In 2006, in an attempt to expand awareness of the organization, the board decided to try an advertisement in the Hill Rag. We hope that new people learned about us, although we are unable to trace any new donors to that ad. We also placed an ad in Fagon, the Capitol Hill business and organization directory. In the past, much of our printing was donated; that was not the case in 2006. These items raised our administrative expenses to just under 16% of our spending.

2006 Awards to Community Projects

Awards were made to nine organizations:

Educational

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation

AppleTree Early Learning PCS, a full-day early childhood literacy program located at Riverside Baptist Church, was given a grant to be applied towards improving its after-school enrichment program through the purchase of puzzles, arts materials, and physical and motor skills supplies.

Arena Stage

For the second year, RPF awarded a grant for the participation of a Southwest student in Arena Stage's summer program, Camp Arena Stage. This four-week program is held at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School. Students choose from over 70 different activities, with options from playwriting to jazz dance. Our scholarship funded Marvin Higgenbotham's experience in 2006.

EmmaUS Learning Center

This grant was in support of a summer enrichment program, emphasizing science, math, and drug prevention. The six-Saturdays schedule included discussions and outings to museums and parks.

Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region

A grant was made in support of a program to be held at an elementary school in Southwest, entitled "Blast from the Past," focusing on the history of the DC Waterfront,

from native people to the ecology of the river. The program includes two classroom lessons, on local Native American tribes and African-American maritime history, and a five-hour boat trip on board the historic Chesapeake Bay boat, M/V Half Shell, with hands-on activities allowing the students to imagine working on an oyster boat in the 1940s as well as to compare the quality of the water then and now.

South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative

A grant was made to the Collaborative to help support its summer camp for youths 5 to 14. The usual literacy and math curriculum of the camp added an etiquette component in 2006, the goal of which was to instill a sense of politeness and respect for their elders in the children.

Southwest Scholarship Fund, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

RPF funds a scholarship annually for a college student from Southwest. The recipient of the 2006 scholarship was Shakira Thomas, a student at Trinity University in DC, majoring in communications.

Charitable

OurPlace DC

A grant was made to help support OurPlace DC's work with residents of Southwest. This organization supports women who are or have been in the criminal justice system by providing the resources they need to maintain connections with the community and reconcile with their families. It 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.

Community Development

Metropolitan Police Department – First District ID Citizens Advisory Council

We purchased an ad in the program booklet for the annual Awards Banquet, which recognized officers who worked to reduce crime and improve neighborhood safety.

The Southwester, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

RPF's support of The Southwester takes the form of advertisements in which we solicit donations. This serves the dual purpose of supporting this valuable community asset while increasing RPF's visibility. We are grateful that Rob Gabany, a good friend of RPF, paid for one of our usual 2006 placements.

FUND RAISING

River Park Friends raised \$8,538 in 2006 through its fund-raising campaign, special donations and matching funds. Grants totaling \$8,085 were awarded. While RPF 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 RPF has had a favorable impact on the quality of life in Southwest Washington, DC.

RPF 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 2006

Coralie Farlee, President
C. W. Hargrave, Treasurer
Joyce Bouvier, Secretary
Carlos Beaudreau
Thelma D. Jones
Benjamin R. Lemlich
Keith Melder

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Financial Statement

Calendar Year 2006

ASSETS

Bank Balance, January 1, 2006	\$ 4,520.29
Income (January – December 2006)	<u>8,538.00</u>
	\$ 13,058.29

GRANTS AWARDED

AppleTree	\$ 750.00
Arena Stage	1,600.00
EmmaUS Learning Center	420.00
Living Classrooms Foundation	2,000.00*
South Washington . . . Collaborative	1,000.00
Scholarship Fund, SWNA	1,000.00
OurPlace DC	1,000.00
Metropolitan Police ID CAC	175.00
The Southwester	<u>140.00</u>
Total Grants	\$ 8,085.00

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Bank charges	\$ 87.00
Advertising	810.00
Supplies, printing, etc.	<u>576.62</u>
	\$ 1,473.62

TOTAL OUTLAY \$ 9,558.62

Bank Balance (December 31, 2006) \$ 3,499.67

* \$1,000 reflects an award made in 2005, with the check processed in 2006. This is a correction to the 2005 annual report and financial statement which should have reflected \$1,000 less disbursement in 2005.

RIVER PARK FRIENDS

Member Classes 2006

Patrons

Coralie Farlee
Thelma Jones
Keith Melder

Booster

Priscilla Dever
Melba (Chris) Gulick
Gale Kaufmann
Micheline Krodel
Benjamin Lemlich
Andrea Nicolls

Supporter

Preston Amos
Gerald and Rochelle Elliott
Jayne Foy
Robert Gabany
Lonzo Gregory
C. W. Hargrave
Janet Hartnett
Frederick Herbold
Elizabeth Hobby
Martha Hunter
Lawrence Impett
Perry Klein
Ruth Miller
Margaret Oliver
Ray Olson
Ruth O'Rourke
Lois Riley
Rodney Ross
Jean Sammon
Jo Ann Scott
Robert Sewell
Omega C. and Logan Silva

Others

Joyce Bouvier
John Capozzi
Robert Charkovsky
Cary Church
Jean and Don Clark
Donald Flanders
Joan King
David Koons
Dale MacIver
Emerson Melaven
David Moye
Kathryn Mulligan
Barbara Murray
Ann Rensberger
Catherine Robbins
Lorelle Wise