



LITTLE LIGHTS
Annual Report 2018

PROPEL

UPLIFT

DEVELOP

NEW LEVELS OF QUALITY & IMPACT

After more than 23 years of working to **uplift** vulnerable children, youth, and families in our nation's capital, 2018 represented a special year for Little Lights — one marked by maturation.

Across our programs and partnerships we reached new levels of quality and impact.

The year started off as I was named Georgetown University's 2018 John Thompson, Jr. Legacy of a Dream Awardee. What a remarkable and humbling experience it was for me to receive recognition as an inspiring local leader and to join the line of previous awardees such as Rosa Parks and Colin Powell.

We also saw our ministry in Ward 7 deepen as we passed the one year anniversary of our expansion into the Benning Terrace public housing neighborhood. Homework Club and Summer Lights continued strong and at full capacity at our sixth site, the Hilltop Center, plus we started matching our new students with committed mentors.

Across all of our sites we helped **propel** students forward academically. Internal assessments show that 82% of students who regularly attended Little Lights in 2018 increased their reading and math scores.

With our holistic approach we also assist adults in moving out of poverty. Hiring from the community remains an important part of Little Lights' efforts to **develop** economic capacity, and I was thrilled to add Dominique Scruggs, a Little Lights alumnus, to our full time staff. Twenty-four of our staff members reside in the public housing communities we work within.

Lastly, I am personally thankful for all of our incredible staff who carried the load over the summer while Mary and I took a 10-week sabbatical. It was encouraging to see our staff take on more leadership and show that Little Lights is in a stable, mature place.

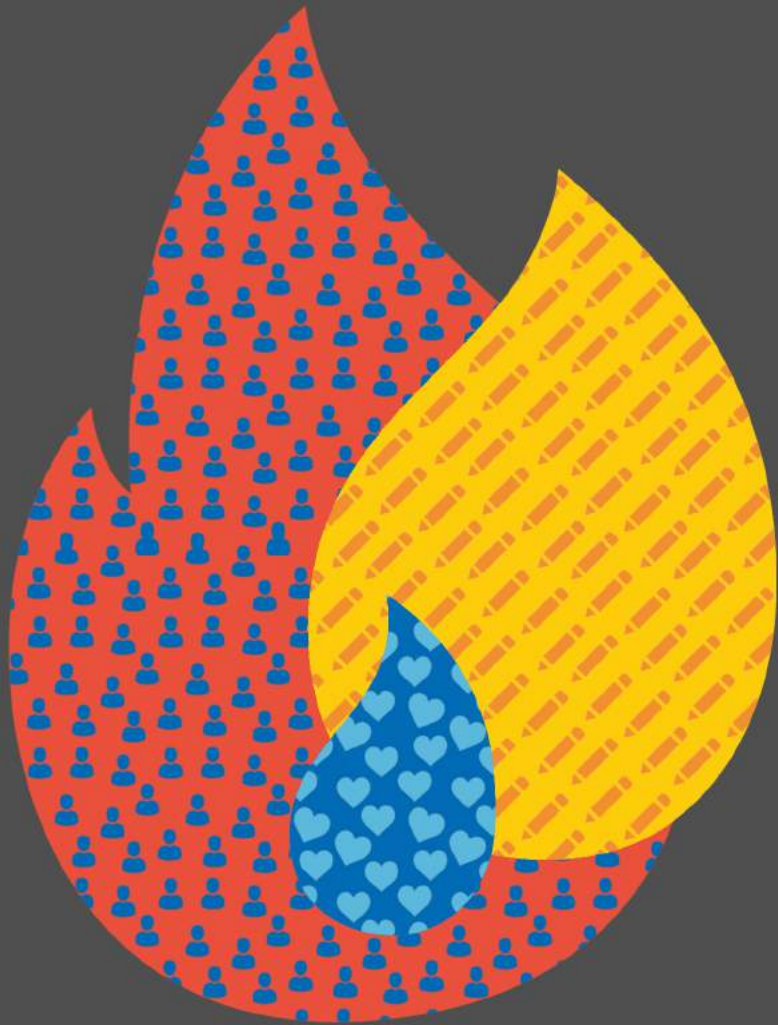
Thank you for partnering with Little Lights in 2018. Together we look forward to propelling, uplifting, and developing our students and families in even bigger ways this upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Steve Park
Executive Director and Founder





MISSION

Little Lights Urban Ministries empowers underserved youth, families, and communities in Washington, DC by sharing the hope of Christ through compassionate action, caring relationships, and racial reconciliation.

VISION

At Little Lights, lives are transformed daily by prayer, compassionate action, and hope.

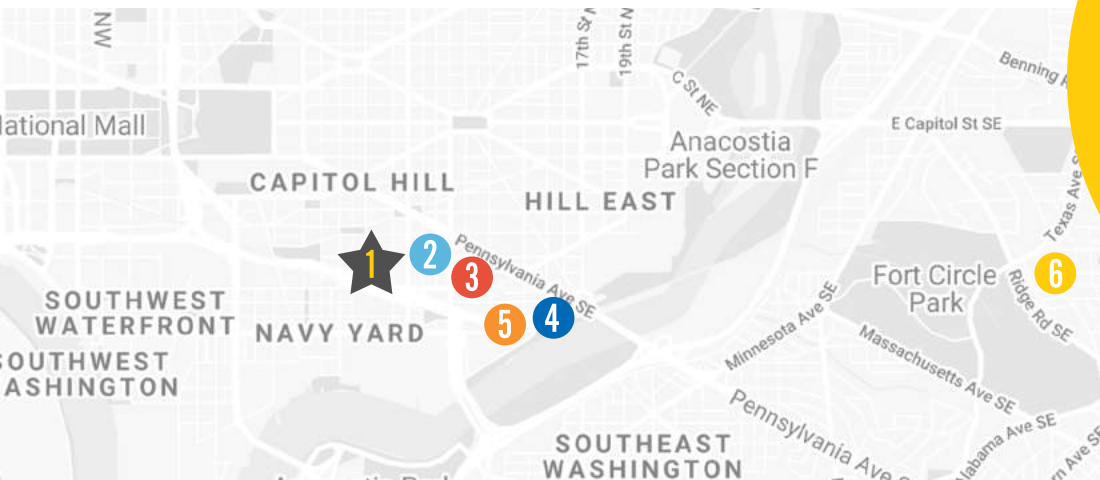
We envision a community of racial and class reconciliation where mutual respect and authentic fellowship provide a place of healing and joy.

We envision all children and youth thriving in every way through academic support, character development, arts, and recreation.

We envision adults engaged in gainful employment and moving out of the cycle of poverty.

We envision families being strengthened, children and youth becoming healthier and safer, and loving relationships flourishing.

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS ACROSS 6 SITES



We focus our holistic community development efforts in three public housing communities in Southeast DC: Potomac Gardens, Hopkins, and Benning Terrace.

PROPEL

ACADEMIC EMPOWERMENT

Students living in public housing often lack essential resources, like internet access and nutritious meals, which makes it difficult for them to excel academically. With the year-round, individualized academic programs Little Lights offers, we empower students to learn and retain their progress. From caring relationships to tailored curriculum, our students have access to resources that propel them towards grade level proficiency and brighter futures.

HOMWORK CLUB

Daily homework help at five program sites, as well as structured fun and a nourishing meal.

READING WARRIORS

A new weekend program providing additional literacy support and practice to help our students reach grade-level.

In November 2018 we added **Reading Warriors**, a Saturday drop-in program, to our academic offerings. This new literacy support program is a response to internal testing that showed our students particularly struggle to read at grade level. We want to do more to change that.

SATURDAY PROGRAM

Weekend drop-in program that combines arts, crafts, and games with an academic focus.

SUMMER LIGHTS

Five-week summer day camp focused on creativity, exploration, and academic retention.

READING & MATH HEROES

Weekly 1-to-1 tutoring with a trained volunteer to increase math and literacy proficiency.

“Mikel impresses me every week with his dedication to learning. ...he set goals for himself that include learning 10 new vocabulary words and getting better grades at school. I have seen him become more comfortable in his reading skills and I'm grateful to have been even a small part of that.”

Natalie, Reading Heroes Volunteer





198

students participated in
Little Lights programs

82%

of students who regularly attended
Little Lights this year increased
their reading and math scores
according to internal assessments

9,957

nutritious meals were served
through our partnership with
the Capital Area Food Bank
and DC Central Kitchen

3:1

Student-to-tutor ratio
at Homework Club

UPLIFT

SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

Deep poverty can be crushing for the human spirit. Families living in public housing often experience despair and hopelessness. Little Lights creates a safety net to mitigate the daily experience of poverty and open up physical and mental space that allows community members to experience the hope of God. Through persistent prayer, compassion, and relationship, we strive to uplift the spirit of our community.

“I learned about the injustices towards the native indigenous population, black Americans, and people of color in the US. This has helped me better understand the systemic injustices that exist in the US. I want all Americans to know the truth and I see where, as the Church, we need to step up and wake up to these injustices.”

Race Literacy 101 Participant



BOYS NIGHT & GIRLS NIGHT

Cultivates character development and community service in middle school students.

RACE LITERACY 101 CLASS

Offers a safe and diverse environment in which to explore the social construct of race and move toward Christ-centered solutions to today's climate of division.

LITTLE LIGHTS CHOIR

Teaches students to sing gospel music and offers them the opportunity to perform throughout DC.

CHRISTIAN MENTORING

Places a caring, mature adult presence in a student's life.

THE GATHERING

Builds spiritual community as youth and adults weekly share dinner and pray together.







2,509

hours mentors spent
cultivating one-to-one
relationships with students

55

prayer and spiritual development
sessions to cultivate the
faith of our staff members

73

children and adults regularly
attended The Gathering

60

people participated in a
Race Literacy 101 cohort

DEVELOP

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Lack of transportation, spotty internet access, inadequate educational resources, and systemic prejudice make the process of finding a job difficult for those living in DC public housing. Little Lights seeks to address these employment barriers by creating jobs for members of the community, offering tangible material assistance, and creating pathways of access that encourage economic opportunity.



DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

Act as one of the Greater DC Diaper Bank's distribution centers, exclusively serving Potomac Gardens and Hopkins public housing residents.

CLEAN GREEN TEAM

A landscaping social enterprise that employs community residents to complete hundreds of private landscaping jobs across Capitol Hill and fulfill an ongoing maintenance contract with the DC Housing Authority.

JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

Offer individual help locating job opportunities, crafting resumes and cover letters, and prepping for interviews.

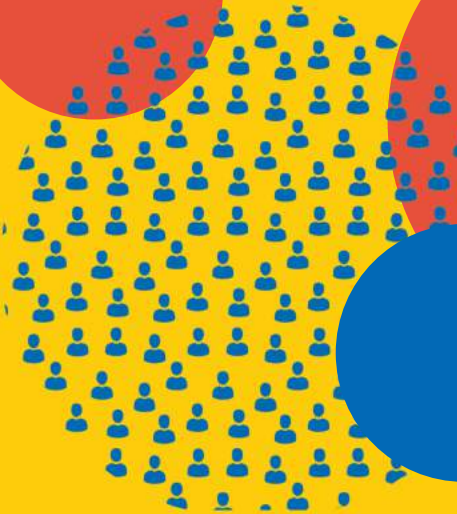
THE CHRISTMAS STORE

Host two Christmas Stores each December, one for parents and one for kids, so that everyone has a gift to open on Christmas morning.



“Because I was able to receive free diapers, food, formula, and clothes, I used the money I saved to go back to school. If I didn't have the help from the Family Center, I would not have been motivated to go back to school to get my diploma.”

Tyanne, Hopkins Public Housing Resident







470

gifts were distributed to adults and children through our Christmas Stores

956

visits to the Family Center by 201 adults

684

jobs completed by the Clean Green Team across Capitol Hill

33,600

diapers distributed through our partnership with the Greater DC Diaper Bank

PARTNERS

& VOLUNTEERS

WE COULD NOT DO THIS WORK ALONE

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

At the start of 2018 President John J. DeGioia of Georgetown presented the John Thompson, Jr. Legacy of A Dream Award to Steve Park for his inspiring local leadership. A year-long partnership between Georgetown and Little Lights ensued, connecting our organization to the university's resources, networks, and expertise. Georgetown's invaluable support — from serving as a benefit sponsor to providing ongoing volunteers — has enhanced and strengthened our efforts within DC's most vulnerable communities.



FOUNDATIONS

Agnes R. Chapman Legacy Gifts
for Children and Youth
Anonymous
Greater Washington Community
Foundation
Helping Children Grow, Inc.
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation
Mustard Seed Foundation
New Life Foundation
Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott Foundation
Share Fund
The Capitol Hill Community Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
United Way of the National Capital Area

CORPORATE

B.Lin Catering
City First Bank
D&A Dunlevy Landscapers, Inc.
Deloitte
District Doughnut
Eun Creative
Highlands Hope Foundation
Highlands Residential Mortgage
Language on Demand, Inc.
Occam Solutions, Inc.
Stewardship Partners Investment
Counsel
SuprTEK, Inc.
The Batten Group
The Gaskins Team

COMMUNITY

Anacostia Gracious Arts Program
Banneker High School
Benning Terrace Resident Council
Blyth-Templeton Academy
Capital Area Food Bank
Catalogue for Philanthropy
Christian Community
Development Association
City Service Mission
Coracle
Cornell University Cru
Council for Christian
Colleges & Universities
CT Management
DC Central Kitchen
DC Housing Authority
DC Unity and Justice Fellowship
Department of Employment Services
Fair Chance DC
Food Rescue US
Georgetown University
Gonzaga High School
Gordon College Justice Fellows
Hopkins Resident Council
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Jesse Remington High School
Jubilee Jobs
New York University Navigators
One Kind Act
Potomac Gardens Resident Council
Servant Leaders Fellowship
of East Washington
Servants Ministry
Southern Wesleyan University
The Center for
Nonprofit Advancement
The Center for Public Justice
The Cornelius Corps
The Falls Church Fellows Program
The Hill Center at the
Old Naval Hospital
Tzedek DC
University of Maryland
Terps for Change
Urban Hope Training Center
Virginia Theological Seminary
Wake Washington Center

CHURCHES

All Saints Church, Chevy Chase
Bridgeway Church
Bridgeway Global Church
Britton Christian Church
Chesterbrook United
Methodist Church
Chinese Bible Church of Maryland
Christ Central Presbyterian Church
Christ City Church
Church for All Nations
Church of the Resurrection
Citizen Heights Church
First Baptist Church of Glenarden
First Rock Baptist Church
Grace Christian Church
Grace Community
Church - Centreville
Grace Community Church
Grace DC Presbyterian Church
Grace Midtown Church
Great Commission
Community Church
Korean Central Presbyterian Church
Korean Presbyterian
Church of Washington
Mount Vernon Place United
Methodist Church
National Presbyterian Church
Open Door Presbyterian Church
Passion City Church
Redemption Hill
The District Church
The Falls Church Anglican
United Korean Presbyterian Church
Waterfront Church

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Over the next four years National Presbyterian Church has generously committed \$275,000 to fund programming at our newest site, the Hilltop Center, east of the Anacostia River. We are excited to see more children and families in Ward 7 connect to our range of holistic services because of National Presbyterian's generosity. A special thanks to their senior pastor David Renwick and his wife, Currie, who currently serves as a volunteer tutor at Reading Heroes.



VOLUNTEERS CARRY OUR MISSION FORWARD

Volunteers fill an essential role. Day after day they bring the invaluable qualities of compassion, enthusiasm, and commitment as they partner together with the children and families we serve.

13,779

hours served by volunteers — the equivalent of 7.8 full-time staff members

10

volunteers taught coding to students

632

volunteers served on a weekly or one-time basis

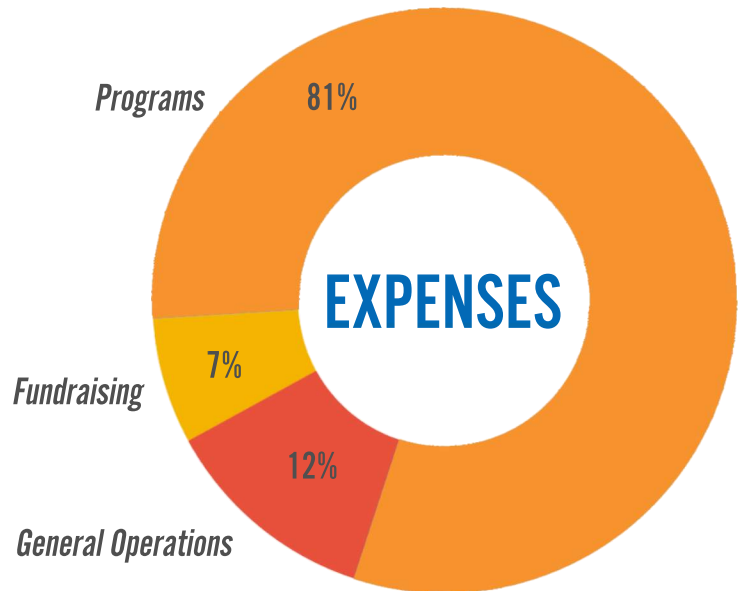
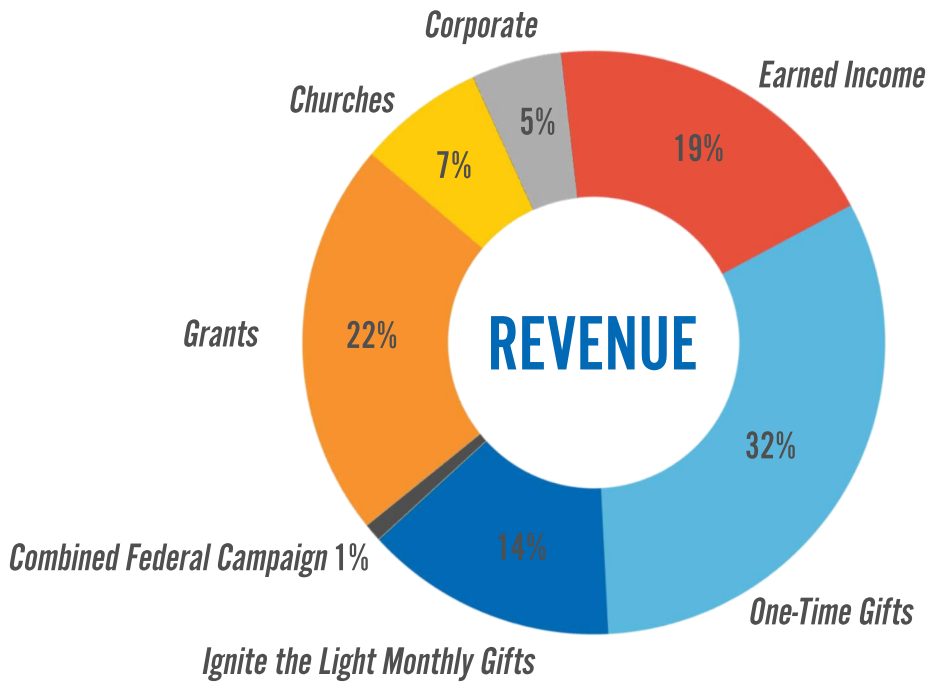


FINANCIAL

OVERVIEW

YEAR OVER YEAR GROWTH

Little Lights embraces a multi-pronged funding strategy. Close to 60% of our yearly revenue comes from committed individuals, businesses, and churches who invest generously in our mission, with another 22% coming from foundations. These varied funding streams provide long-term sustainability and adaptability, ensuring that Little Lights' holistic programs continue and grow, no matter the economic climate.



FOUR YEARS OF REVENUE GROWTH

REVENUE	2015	2016	2017	2018
One-time Gifts	\$379,218	\$457,459	\$507,310	\$521,867
Ignite the Light Monthly Gifts	\$157,687	\$188,692	\$202,285	\$229,931
Combined Federal Campaign	\$12,214	\$12,626	\$11,954	\$10,550
Grants	\$398,300	\$271,000	\$342,284	\$362,600
Churches	\$56,477	\$64,397	\$105,338	\$109,673
Corporate	\$33,663	\$45,431	\$78,979	\$77,152
Earned Income	\$109,008	\$156,788	\$189,648	\$322,295
TOTAL	\$1,146,567	\$1,196,393	\$1,437,798	\$1,634,068

EXPENSES	2015	2016	2017	2018
Programs (staff, facilities, academics, etc.)	\$691,859	\$878,586	\$1,105,621	\$1,236,445
General Operations (staff, supplies, overhead, etc.)	\$117,730	\$126,448	\$134,823	\$177,942
Fundraising (staff, development events, publications, etc.)	\$104,923	\$107,003	\$119,927	\$115,591
TOTAL	\$914,512	\$1,112,037	\$1,360,371	\$1,529,978

A NIGHT OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT

More than 300 people attended the Little Lights Benefit, held at the historic Howard Theatre, and gave \$180,000 - more than any other benefit to date.

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

Little Lights won 1st place in the United Way's online giving competition Do More 24 for the fourth time in a row, raising a grand total of \$200,000 in donations and prize money.

DONORS KEEP GIVING

Year after year donors prove their commitment by continuing to give to Little Lights. In 2018 we retained 55% of our donor base, higher than the industry average of 48%.

STAFF &

BOARD

*THE BACKBONE
OF LITTLE LIGHTS*





FULL TIME STAFF

Teddi Beschel
Meredith Daniel*
Ashley Hill
Katie Larkins
Amy Leonard
Sara Mason*
Mary Park
Steve Park
LeMara Perry
Cierra Peterson
Linda Rice
Dominique Scruggs
Karmen Taylor
Pearlya Thomas
Sarah Thomas*
Naomi Venerable

PART TIME STAFF

Robert Aderaju
Stacy Apugo*
LaToya Arnold*
HaWa Ba*
Judy Barron*
Ameerah Battle
Kelli Blackmon*
Lavonia Bobo*
Jeral Brown*
Milton Brown
Renee Byers
Devon Byrd
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David Charles*
Isaac Choi*
Ayana Clenace
Juwana Cox*
Jessica Creiglow
Nathaniel Easington
Mariah Ellis*
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Caulah Francis
Mae Gibbs*
Chatoria Gill*
Bonita Guerrero
Shakyra Harris

Charmaine Hart
Christalle Hasabumutina
Keith Hicks
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Serena Hyman
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Sullivan Jackson
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Michelle Jones*
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Sharon Lee*
Brianna Lewis
Samuel Marbury*
Kayla Marshall
Katelyn Mensah*
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Destiny Moss*
Patricia Moten
Kone Nesengani*
Cheryl Nilson
Danielle Nixon
Shawnice Nixon
Tierra Norris*
Dawuan Norwood
Jane Pak
Praycelia Porcher
Shantelle Powell
Alyssa Randall-Rose*
Jessica Reed*
Morgan Rhyne
Thomas Rice
Justin Ricks
Asha Roberston
Heather Ryan*
Asia Shorter
Alexia Singletary
Camille Smith
Erik Spencer*
Jasmine Stanfield*
Justin Strange*
Jason Thomas*
Jade Walters*
Darnell Weekes*
Gianni Whiteside*
Noah Wills*
Antwan Wright

CLEAN GREEN TEAM

Jerald Davis*
Henry Dent
Lawrence Dozier
Kelvin Gordon
Anthony Johnson*
Nathaniel Parks
Michael Reed
Antonio Smith
Anthony Steward*
Bernard Tyree
Joseph Whitley*

* Former employee



Hiring From the Community

24 people employed by Little Lights
reside in the communities we
serve — one way we seek to
create economic opportunity.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Ted Kim
*Deputy Associate
Director, Refugee, Asylum,
and International
Operations, USCIS*

Board Members

Andrew Biggers
*Partner/Realtor at The
Gaskins Team / Keller
Williams Realty*

Angeloyd Fenrick
*Executive Director at
Columbia Learning
International Ministries*

Adam Howard
*Chief of Staff, U.S.
House of Representatives*

Kay Kim
*Senior Director, Practice
Group Business
Development and
Management at
Crowell & Moring, LLP*

Matt Luecke
*Deputy Associate
Director at Board of
Governors of the
Federal Reserve System*

President

Steven Park
*Executive Director &
Founder, Little Lights
Urban Ministries*

Anthony Minter
*Pastor of First Rock
Baptist Church*

Jared Noetzel
*Lead – Faith Strategy
& Engagement,
The ONE Campaign*

Jake Thomsen
*Principal at Sovereign's
Capital Management*

Anne Tomkinson*
*Senior Manager of
Human Resources &
Operations, DC Public
Charter School Board*

**Rolled off in 2018*

Secretary

LaToya Archibald
*Program Administrator,
Environmental
Integrity Project*

Treasurer

Derek Sykes
*Director of Finance, Inova
Alexandria Hospital*





LittleLightsUrbanMinistries



LittleLightsDC



LittleLightsDC

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