



A LETTER FROM STEVE

"Justice is what love looks like in public."

-Dr. Cornel West

Grief and love are related words. To truly be able to love, we must learn to grieve deeply. 2020 was a year full of loss and a year where love was ever-present. So many sacrificed for one another in the most painful and challenging year, collectively, as a nation (and across the world) in my lifetime.

The pandemic upended all of our plans for marking our 25th anniversary in 2020. Almost overnight, we had to rethink the delivery of our programs, implement new technology, and identify our neighbors' most pressing needs within this new context created by Covid-19.

During all the turmoil and unexpected transition, I also received

some heartbreaking news. Our beloved former Associate Director and very dear friend, Linda Rice, passed away on Good Friday from non-Covid related illnesses. She had been battling breast cancer since 2019. Linda truly spread joy and love like no one else and we miss her daily.

In 2020, our society was also confronted with the stark reality of racial injustice as we saw and read about the killing of George Floyd and others, which resulted in massive protests across the country.

The heightened awareness of racial injustice dramatically increased the popularity of the Race Literacy 101 class, which ran virtually three times in 2020. We had hundreds of

participants, even some from other countries, throughout the summer and fall. The learning and conversations that took place were deep, meaningful, and, for many, life-changing.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Love is the greatest force in the universe. It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos. He who loves is a participant in the being of God." Dr. Cornel West stated that "Justice is what love looks like in public."

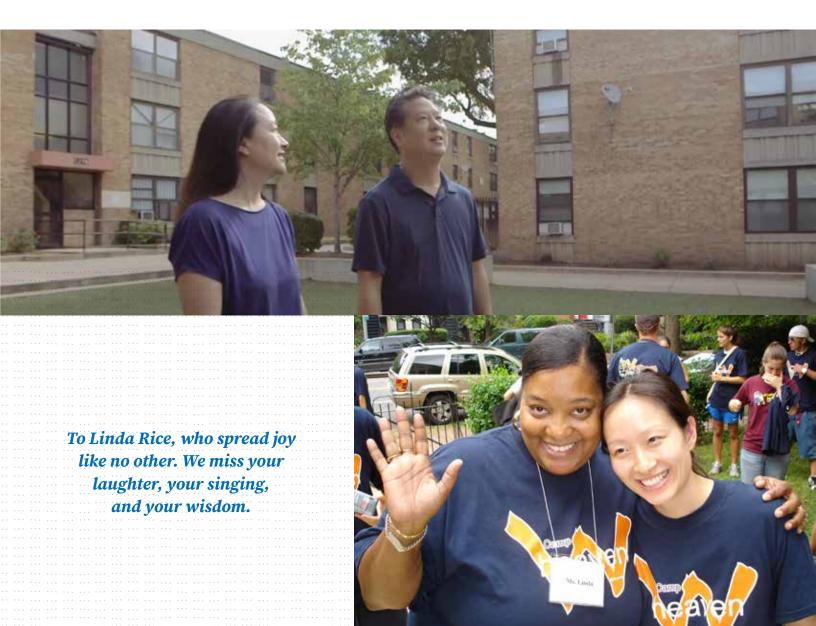
Love and justice are intimately connected and 2020 reminded us of the importance of both. I am thankful

to so many who have supported our mission through both joy and grief and look forward to all God has in store for Little Lights in 2021.

Peace and Blessings,

Steve Park *Executive Director & Founder*







OUR 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.

Our work at Little Lights is two-pronged, aimed at addressing the roots of systemic racism and also combatting the poverty resulting from generations of discrimination. We work to build equity in Southeast Washington, DC by offering holistic community development services to low-income children and families, primarily focusing on the Potomac Gardens, Hopkins, and Benning Terrace public housing communities. To challenge the root of the problem - racist structures and beliefs - we also offer a Race Literacy 101 course to educate our partners on America's ongoing history of systemic racism.

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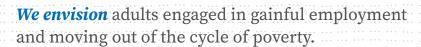
AT LITTLE LIGHTS, LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED DAILY BY PRAYER, COMPASSIONATE ACTION, AND HOPE.

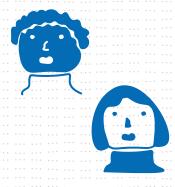
We envision a community of racial and class reconciliation where mutual respect and authentic fellowship provide a place of healing and joy.





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







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









OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This has been a year unlike any other, with challenges and hardships around the world and right here in our nation's capital, where the children and families living in DC public housing have felt this tumultuous year in especially profound ways. The coronavirus crisis has exacerbated the already stressful experience of poverty and highlighted economic and racial inequalities that have long existed. It has also been a year filled with inspiring efforts from our staff, community, volunteers, and donors, as we all came together (virtually) to celebrate Little Lights 25th anniversary and sought out ways to meet our community's needs during two crises: A global pandemic and a historic racial reckoning.

CRISIS ONE THE PANDEMIC

When COVID-19 entered the scene it upended life as we knew it in a matter of weeks. The coronavirus crisis and subsequent lockdowns and social distancing guidelines were especially tough on those already experiencing poverty. The few resources that children and families living in DC public housing could count on - school lunches, jobs, access to spaces with reliable internet — suddenly disappeared or were harder to obtain.









CRISIS TWO RACIAL INJUSTICE

While the pandemic ravaged on, the world watched the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. These tragic injustices and the countless ones before them underscored, for our nation and our community, an urgent need to call out and make right the racism and inequality that has plagued our country for so long.





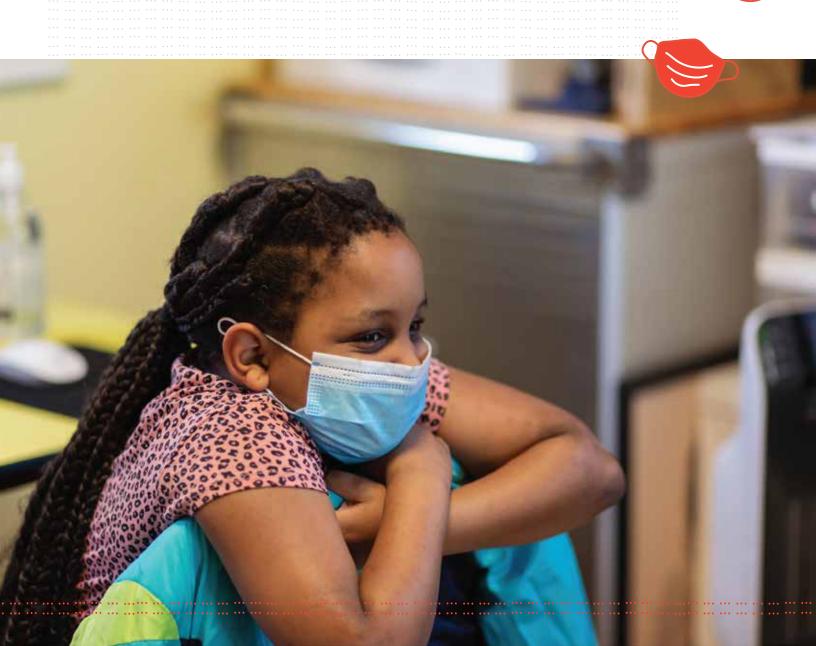


CRISIS ONE

The Pandemic









The city of DC ground to a halt in a matter of days. We knew our neighbors in public housing, with their close proximity to each other, were at high risk of catching COVID-19. And we knew that many critical supports for students and families were pausing indefinitely, putting them at-risk not just of COVID-19 but also of hunger, of increased financial insecurity, and of academic regression.

Immediately, we started brainstorming how we could safely and holistically meet the needs of our community during the prolonged state of emergency.

"I love Little Lights for being so prepared to support us during these times. I don't have to worry [during the pandemic] because Little Lights has made it clear they are here to help anyway they can."

-LITTLE LIGHTS PARENT

Academic Interventions





CREATION OF ZOOM HEROES

SAME 1-TO-1 INSTRUCTION, BUT VIRTUAL

With students receiving little or no instruction from schools this spring, we quickly trained volunteers and students on Zoom and continued offering 1-to-1 tutoring and individually tailored curriculum to students four days each week.



BLACK STUDENTS COULD REGRESS 10 MONTHS ACADEMICALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC

New York Times







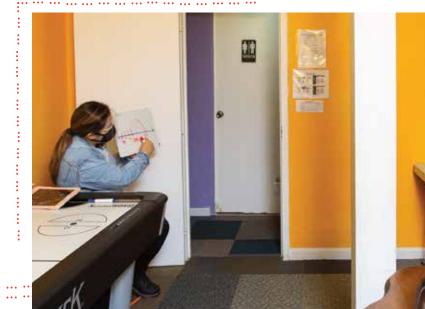


VIRTUAL SUMMER LIGHTS

STRUCTURE, FUN & LEARNING FOR A SHUT-IN SUMMER

We missed sidewalk chalk and swimming pools this year, but still had fun through shared virtual activities — from coding to music lessons to callisthenics. Summer Lights, alongside a daily meal, kept students occupied, healthy, curious, and safe inside their homes.











30% OF DC
STUDENTS DO
NOT HAVE
ACCESS
TO INTERNET
OR DEVICES

LAUNCH OF LEARNING HUBS IN-PERSON ACCESS TO LEARNING TOOLS

Because virtual learning is not effective for most students, we launched an in-person option in the fall: Learning Hubs. Each school day we open three sites to a small number of students. While staying socially distanced, students get a meal and access to

computers, internet, and

homework help.

922ONE-TO-ONE ZOOM
HEROES SESSIONS

130 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN PROGRAMS

40INTERNET-ENABLED
DEVICES PROVIDED

85%
OF STUDENTS
IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED
THEIR READING
& MATH SCORES

DEVICE DISTRIBUTIONBATTLING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The vast majority of our students do not have either a workable device or internet access to participate in virtual learning. Soon after the pandemic hit, our focus turned to supplying internet-enabled tablets so students could log on for Zoom Heroes or for their DCPS classes.









Zoom Heroes allows me to get the same help I would during a normally scheduled Little Lights program day. I like how the tutors... make sure I master the skill.

-LITTLE LIGHTS STUDENT





GRAB-AND-GO LUNCHES

ON-SITE DAILY DISTRIBUTION OF NUTRITIOUS MEALS

The week that schools closed, we worked with the Capital Area Food Bank to immediately start distributing grab-and-go lunches on-site in public housing communities. Every school day students could safely pick up a lunch including milk, a protein, whole grains, and fresh fruit.





*69% OF DC STUDENTS
RELIED ON SCHOOL
FOOD PROGRAMS





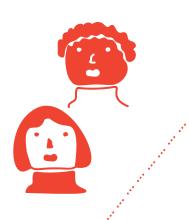




WEEKLY GROCERY BAGS AND DIAPERS

KEEPING OUR FAMILIES AFLOAT

Our incredible partners donated food and supplies for weekly grocery bags. Filled with masks, toilet paper, disinfectant, and non-perishable food, these bags helped sustain families. Our Family Center also continued to act as a distribution site for the Greater DC Diaper Bank.



52% OF LOW-INCOME
ADULTS LOST THEIR
JOB OR EXPERIENCED
A PAY CUT

4





EMPLOYING COMMUNITY MEMBERS PAYCHECKS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Families in our neighborhood exist on about \$14,000/year. To provide needed paychecks, we prioritized employing members of the community during the pandemic to assist with distribution and academic programs or work with our landscaping social enterprise, the Clean Green Team.

15,571MEALS AND
SNACKS SERVED

829CLEAN GREEN TEAM
LANDSCAPING JOBS

46,034DIAPERS
DISTRIBUTED

28 COMMUNITY MEMBERS EMPLOYED









CHRISTMAS GIFTS & THANKSGIVING TURKEYS SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

In the middle of a challenging year, we made sure families had all they needed to celebrate. Donors and churches helped us distribute 357 Thanksgiving baskets and 470 gifts through our Christmas Store



Volunteer & Relational Support

*24% SPIKE IN
MENTAL HEALTH
EMERGENCIES
NATIONWIDE IN
2020 FOR
AGES 5-11





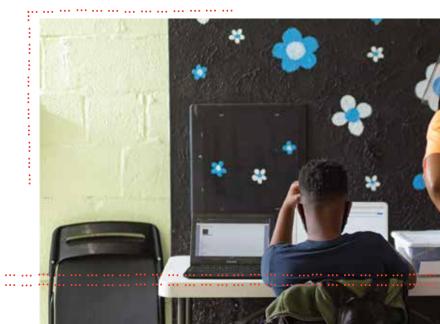


SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) SESSIONS

CULTIVATING EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Growing up in an under-resourced neighborhood is difficult, and especially so during a pandemic. Through weekly SEL sessions, we equipped youth to identify, process, and manage their feelings. With topics on naming emotions, friendship, and how to ground yourself when upset, we gave students tools to get through this challenging year.





CRISIS ONE The Pandemic



91SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
LEARNING SESSIONS

329 VOLUNTEERS

39 MENTORS



** 4,405 VOLUNTEER HOURS INVESTED AT LITTLE LIGHTS

VIRTUAL TUTORS THE BACKBONE OF ZOOM HEROES

1-to-1 instruction is key to the success of our academic programs. When we went virtual, we were still able to provide individual attention to our students thanks to the volunteer tutors who logged onto Zoom and figured out how to keep students engaged and learning through a screen.



This year tested our mentoring relationships, but mentors stepped up to the plate and got creative, from playing pictionary with their mentees over Zoom to masked get-togethers in parks over the summer. Mentors helped students (and their families) process and handle this year.













We work with

HERE IS HOW LITTLE LIGHTS TOUCHED MIKAYLA*,



A STEADY PAYCHECK

CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT WITH LITTLE LIGHTS

Mikayla continued working with Little Lights during the pandemic, helping distribute food to families.



NUTRITIOUS

MEALS DAILY DISTRIBUTED DOWN THE STAIRS FROM THEIR APARTMENT

Each day Mikayla's three kids and her granddaughter walked down the stairs to safely pick up a complete and healthy meal from Little Lights.







entire families.

HER CHILDREN, AND HER GRANDCHILDREN IN 2020.





A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY

HELP FROM STAFF AT LEARNING HUBS

Mikayla's daughter and granddaughter regularly attend Learning Hubs, where they get help with their homework, access the internet, and have a safe place to focus.







A SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE SUMMER

VIRTUAL SUMMER LIGHTS

During the summer, Mikayla's children stayed busy with our virtual summer camp, from crafts to reading exercises to push-ups.







A MENTOR ACROSS THE STREET

CONSISTENCY DURING AN UNCERTAIN TIME

Throughout the pandemic, Mikayla's son has stayed in close contact with his mentor, who lives down the street.



Mikayla picked out gifts for her children at our Christmas Store, plus she received a Thanksgiving basket to ensure her family enjoyed a celebratory meal.







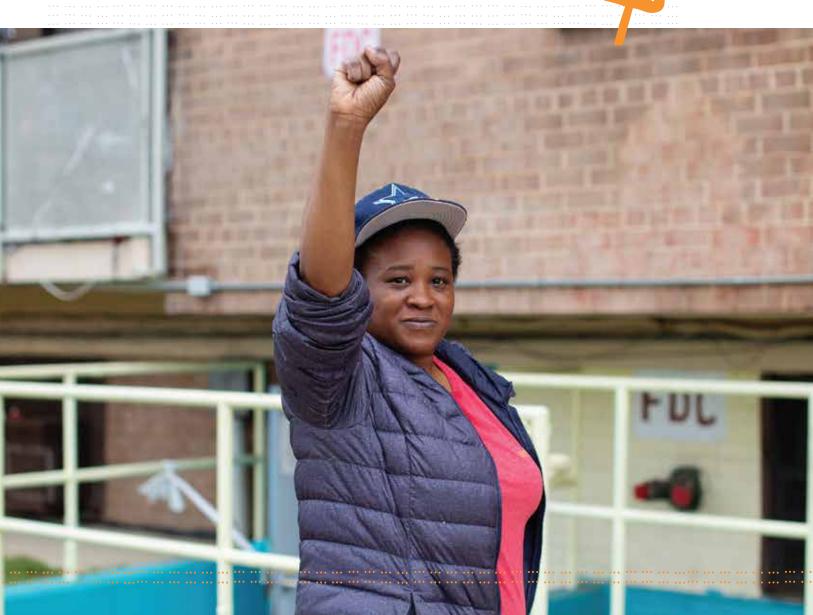


2 CRISIS TWO

Racial Injustice

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE









ON JUNE 17TH WE OFFERED OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL RACE LITERACY 101 CLASS.





ON JUNE 30TH WE HELD A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL ON RACIAL JUSTICE.

As the world watched the murder of George Floyd on national telelvision, people began to clearly see that our country's issues around race are not resolved. News of Floyd's death came on the heels of the killings of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Civil unrest erupted across U.S. cities and a new sense of urgency for racial justice emerged.

We saw this as an opportunity to intensify our efforts to educate people about race and encourage them to lean more deeply into their faith while confronting our country's ongoing reckoning with systemic racism and ideas of white supremacy.



[In the Race Literacy Class] I learned things that I never knew were true, like race isn't a thing. It's not a scientific thing, it's just a social construct that was created to justify various political, economic, and social decisions.

-RACE LITERACY 101 PARTICIPANT

Confronting Our History











RACE LITERACY 101 A VIRTUAL

ANTI-RACISM COURSE

Due to the pandemic we began offering our Race Literacy 101 course virtually. Instead of our usual 60 participants, we saw our numbers jump to close to 400 people registered. The 11-week course provides a framework for understanding the concept of race and offers pathways towards healing the racial divide in society and within the church.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR NEED FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

In response to increased discussion of racism in the U.S., we wanted to offer our community a time to discuss and process recent events. Featuring a panel discussion with several staff and board members and a live Q & A, the town hall fostered an open conversation on how our faith in Christ informs our work for racial justice.





EXPLORE "RACE ON OUR MIND" EXHIBIT Open phone camera and hold over QR code. A link

Il appear, click the link to open video.

398

PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED IN
RACE LITERACY 101

180

PEOPLE ATTENDED LITTLE LIGHTS RACIAL JUSTICE TOWN HALL

We have a duty, as Christians, to speak out against racism and to call it out for what it is - it's a sin problem.

LITTLE LIGHTS TOWN HALL PANELIST



What do we teach in Race Literacy 101?

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN OUR CURRICULUM...

THE ORIGINS & HISTORY OF RACE SCIENCE

Participants explore the development of race science in the 19th & 20th centuries through viewing the three-part PBS documentary series, Race: Power of An Illusion. Race science laid the foundation for the dehumanization of Blacks, which paved the way for slavery and colonialism.



THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S PERPETUATION OF RACIAL INJUSTICE



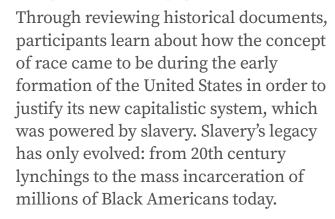
Throughout the course participants are often formed into small breakout groups, where they are invited to confront their faith tradition's legacy of racism and unpack the documented history of the White American Church's protection of white supremacy.

CONCILIATION, JUSTICE, UNITY

Through scripture study and personal sharing, participants explore what the roadmap to unity within the Body of Christ looks like, a process that starts with the White Church acknowledging and repenting from the racial harms its committed and seeking to repair that harm with intentionality.



THE EVOLUTION OF **RACE AND RACISM**





WHAT IT MEANS TO **BE ANTI-RACIST**

Anti-racism is more than not being racist. Anti-racism is an ongoing journey that requires a conscious effort to make decisions that identify, confront, and put an end to the racial inequities in our daily lives, like voting for school board or city council candidates who want to address educational disparities.







OUR PARTNERS

tothe Occasion

Despite the challenging year, our partners were more committed than ever to our mission. When we decided to pivot our programming to focus on offering pandemic relief, our partners found ways to support us by making generous financial donations, stocking our program spaces with new technology, and regularly donating bags of groceries and essential supplies like masks. Our work to care for our neighbors during these tough times would not have been possible without the critical support of our committed partners.





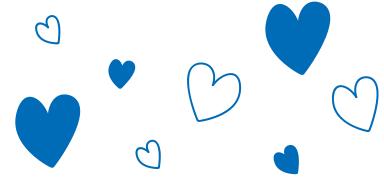












Partners

COMMUNITY

Capital Area Food Bank

Crossfit Ballston + Route 7 Crossfit

DC Central Kitchen

DC Housing Authority

Dress Lab

EcoMax Lighting

Greater DC Diaper Bank

Hill Havurah

Life Preservation Initiative

Little Lights Junior Service Council

One Kind Act

SHARE Food Network

Urban Beet

CORPORATE

B.Lin Catering

The Gaskins Team

Highlands Residential Mortgage

INCAtech

The Nellis Group

Neuma Consulting

SuprTEK, Inc.

CHURCH

All Saints Church

Bridgeway Church

Capitol Hill Baptist Church

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church

Christ Central Presbyterian

Christ City Church

Christ Church Washington Parish

Christ Our Shepherd Church

Church of the Advent

Citizen Heights Church

District Church



Willing Workers Ministry

Great Commission Community Church

Grace DC

Gracepoint DC

Grace Capital City Church

Grace Community Church of Arlington

Grace Community Church of Howard County

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian

Roman Catholic Church

Incarnation Anglican

Korean Presbyterian Church of Washington

Lutheran Church of the Reformation

National Presbyterian Church

Open Door Presbyterian Church

Passion City Church

Redemption Hill Church

Refuge Baptist Assembly

Restoration Anglican

Triumph DC

Veritas City

Washington Community Fellowship

FOUNDATION

The Capitol Hill Community Foundation

Clark-Winchcole Foundation

Crowell & Moring Foundation

Diverse City Fund

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

Heinz and Liselotte Nehring Stiftung

Herb Block Foundation

Highlands Hope Foundation

IKBae Foundation

John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Mustard Seed Foundation

The New Teacher Project

Office of Out of School Time Grants

and Youth Outcomes

Phillip L. Graham Fund

Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott

Foundation, Inc.

United Planning Organization

United Way of the National Capital Area







All Kinds of Support

HOW OUR PARTNERS PITCHED IN DURING THE PANDEMIC

HUNDREDS OF GROCERY BAGS

FILLED WITH CRITICAL SUPPLIES

Bags included masks, Lysol wipes, non-perishable foods, toilet paper, and sometimes even frozen turkeys.











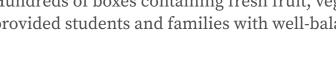


Equipping students with tech devices for virtual learning helped to address the digital divide right in our community.





Hundreds of boxes containing fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat provided students and families with well-balanced meals.









CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN BRINGING JOY OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Students and their families were gifted Christmas presents - ranging from brand new toys to cookware sets.



AN EXTRAORDINARY **UPTICK IN GENEROSITY**

AYear Of Rapid Orowth

In March, as the closures and job losses began to roll in, we felt nervous about how fundraising would go the rest of the year. We braced for the worst, but instead we experienced an incredible and unprecedented outpouring of financial support. In 2020 we exceeded every goal we set, saw lapsed donors renew their support, and welcomed more than 1,000 new donors to our community. These additional funds allowed us to expand services to our community during a year when our neighbors needed us more than ever. Our faith in humankind was strengthened this year by the generosity of our partners.



**T8% PROGRAMS (staff, facilites, academics, etc.) \$1,153,665 **13% GENERAL OPERATIONS (staff, supplies, overhead, etc.) \$188,396 **EXPENSES \$1,483,687 **9% FUNDRAISING (staff, development events, publications, etc.) \$141,625

5 YEARS OF PROGRAM GROWTH

2016 \$878,586 **2017**

\$1,105,621

2018

\$1,236,445

2019

\$1,189,257

2020

\$1,153,665

5 YEARS OF REVENUE GROWTH

2016

\$1,196,393

2017

\$1,437,798

2018

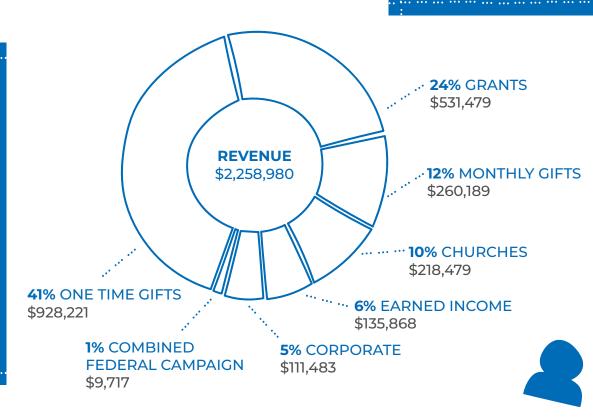
\$1,634,068

2019

\$1,706,759

2020

\$2,258,980



63% DONOR RETENTION RATE

357 MONTHLY PARTNERS







*
\$183,196 RAISED
BY OUR BOARD
OF DIRECTORS











STAFF AND BOARD

ItTakes a eam

Our team of dedicated staff and board members committed their time, energy, and resources to meet every challenge thrown our way in 2020. We are so grateful for our engaged Board of Directors who proactively supported our efforts to offer pandemic relief and intensify our work around racial justice. We are equally grateful for Little Lights staff, who worked tirelessly on the frontlines to address the needs of our students and families head on. Together their relentless efforts made it possible for us to continue serving our community without pause.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted Kim, Chairman

Deputy Associate Director, Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations, USCIS

Steve Park, President

Executive Director at Little Lights Urban Ministries

LaToya Archibald, Secretary

Doula & Birth Justice Advocate

Derek Sykes, Treasurer

Vice President of Finance and Operations at Community of Hope

Matt Luecke, Member

Deputy Associate Director at Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Andrew Biggers, Member

Partner/Realtor at The Gaskins Team / Keller Williams Realty

Jake Thomsen, Member

Principal at Sovereign's Capital Management

Anthony Minter, Member

Pastor of First Rock Baptist Church

Kay Kim, Member

Senior Director, Practice Innovation, Crowell & Moring, LLP

David King, Member

President & Founder, Neuma Consulting, LLC

Jared Noetzel, Member

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Stand Together

Cherie Bellamy, Member

President, LaVie Medical

Alex Knight, Member

Vice President of Business Development, Cooley LLP

Andrew Ho, Member

Development Director, U.S. and Asia, Salzburg Global Seminar

Michael Oh, Member

Director, FINRA, Office of Financial Innovation

Phillip Lee, Member

Associate, DLA Piper LLP









FULL TIME

Linda An
Theodora Beschel
Ashley Hill
Kathryn Larkins
Amy Leonard
Mary Park
Steve Park
LeMara Perry*
Cierra Peterson
Dominique Scruggs
Karmen Taylor
Naomi Venerable

CLEAN GREEN TEAM

Sheldon Clark
Kelvin Gordon
Gary Sams, Jr
Antonio Smith
Henry Dent*
Lawrence Dozier
Bernard Tyree
Antwan Wright

Jalone Kent*





PART TIME

Kristy Wallace

Vanessa Akwada (GW)* Melissa Cairo (GW)* Daria Craddock (DOES)* Milton Brown* Anna Byrd (GW)* Hannah Fickett (GW)* Alexandra Fraioli Caulah Francis **Dorothy Francis** Bonita Guerrero Anna Laura Grant Grace Hallam (GW)* **Iasmine Hall*** Charmaine Hart* Keith Hicks* Charles Hill* Anna Huggett (GW)* Kristen Jackson Sullivan Jackson*

Hope Ledford (GW)* Abigail Maraya Kayla Marshall* Naima Martin* Teresa Matthews* Nia Mays* Kennedi McDowell (DOES)* Kenneth McDowell (DOES)* Tymisha Merkerson* **Kourtney Mills*** Jacy Moore* Jovoney Morton* Annette Mubang (GW)* Cheryl Nilson* Nicole Noyes Iane Pak Dylan Park (DOES)* Kayla Park (DOES)* Kiana Powell*

Shantelle Powell

Toluwani Roberts*
Asha Robertson*
Richlan Rowland*
Langston Shellist (GW)*
Amber Shorter (DOES)*
Asia Shorter
Camille Smith
Jerry Smith*
Justin Strange*
Deniesha Tyree (DOES)*
Sophia Uriburu-Wilder (GW)*
Samuel Ward (GW)*
Bryant Wheeler*
Sandra Wilfong*
Maryam Zahid*

*Former Employee

Staff From Communities Served

(DOES) Department of Employment Services Summer Youth Program Participant

(GW) Employed in partnership with George Washington University

Juanita Jenkins*

<u>Deborah Jovner</u>

*

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HIRING FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

At Little Lights, one of the ways we seek to create economic opportunity in our neighborhoods is by employing residents who live in public housing to work in our programs











