

A FORCE FOR GO FOR 25 YEA



Dear Friends,

2020 represents our 25th anniversary year and I feel profound gratitude for God's favor to Little Lights, as well as for the kindness of so many of you, who have sacrificially supported Little Lights with your prayers, time, energy, and financial investment.

When Little Lights started in 1995, I never could have dreamed that we would be in the place of strength and growth where we find ourselves today. Little Lights has become a force for good in our nation's capital. To me, Little Lights has been a miracle — and still is, as we continue to see lives impacted and changed daily.

In 2019 we continued expanding our impact. Thanks to the partnership of National Presbyterian Church, we were able to start holding Boys and Girls Night programs at our new Hilltop Center. And we fully launched a new program called Reading Warriors a few Saturdays each month to add an extra infusion of literacy help for our students, 73% of whom are reading below grade level.

In addition, a new grant from the The New Teachers Project helped Little Lights provide trauma-informed training for our staff and hire a Student Support Specialist to specifically assist with social emotional learning at our Hilltop Center location. We also continued pressing forward with our work of racial repair, as more than 60 participants took part in the Race Literacy 101 course.

2019 was not without heartbreak, however. One of our long term directors, Linda Rice, an anchor in our community, was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer and she continues her battle for health to this day.

Potomac Gardens was also struck with violence as a former student, now 17 years old, was shot multiple times below his waist. Although he survived, he is now trying to recover his ability to walk. Just a couple of weeks later, a maintenance worker for DC Housing was also shot and killed in the neighborhood.

The violence was tragic, and also a reminder that our work is still needed.

Students and families living in public housing often get forgotten by the larger society — thank you for caring and for partnering with us in our mission of compassion and empowerment.

Peace in Christ,



1995

Right after college, Steve met an 8th grader, Darrell, who could not read a Dr. Seuss book. That interaction birthed the vision for Little Lights.











Little Lights got its start in the back room of Steve's parents'
Tae Kwon Do studio in Northwest
DC, before shifting focus to public housing communities in
Southeast DC.

THE EAR













1998
Mary shows up, with only a backpack in hand, planning to volunteer for a day. That day turned into weeks and then years — and she ended

up marrying Steve.

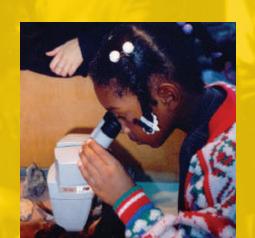


LY YEARS

Little Lights started with one man, Steve Park, fresh out of college and determined to live a life of radical compassion. At its start, Little Lights focused on children and giving them the tools needed to achieve their potential. Over the years, Steve realized that to most effectively fight poverty, Little Lights had to create opportunity for entire families. Today, 25 years later, Little Lights spans 6 sites and holistically empowers hundreds of children and families living in DC public housing each year.



1997
Steve is introduced to Potomac Gardens by a local pastor and decides to focus Little Lights' work there. The next year he showed up with only a huge blue tarp and a boombox — yet he attracted crowds of kids.



1999
Little Lights rents a rowhouse across the street from Potomac Gardens to

the street from Potomac Gardens to hold programs. Steve also lived there and was often woken up by kids knocking on the door.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

196

Students participated in Little Lights programs

Total of 109 employees across 6 sites, 26 of them are from the community

86%

of Little Lights students increased/maintained their internal reading assessment scores

899

landscaping jobs completed by the Clean Green Team

15

<u>new</u> mentors were matched with astudent — a record number of matches in a single year



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, and 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.

"Regardless of how far I go, Little Lights is my family. Whenever I see my family flourishing, it makes me proud. I'm not surprised that Little Lights has been able to sustain this long, to 25 years. God's hand has been on Steve and Mary and the organization from the very beginning."

Dwaine remembers when he met Steve. He was a scrawny 9 year old outside of Watkins Elementary School, signing up for Camp Heaven the summer of 1997. Dwaine and Steve connected quickly and Steve decided to personally mentor Dwaine. "Learning about God and learning how to be a young man, I learned that from Steve," Dwaine recalls. "I learned the most from watching him. I observed humility in Steve. Always saw him putting other people before himself."

Over the years, as Dwaine grew into adolescence, Steve and Dwaine started talking about Dwaine's future. "Steve really talked me down from a lot of stuff. He talked me out of my hoop dreams. It was a very frank conversation. He said 'You don't play basketball every day, you don't play football every day, and you're tiny.' I called him a dream crusher," Dwaine laughs. But he did put aside his sports ambitions, worked hard to graduate high school, and headed to college at Liberty University. He chose a different path than most of his peers.

"The conversations I had with Steve helped me make that decision. Hard core conversations, about what I wanted my future to look like. My desire to be a husband and a father, to have stability, things like that." That sort of concern and guidance, "It made me feel loved, really," Dwaine reminisced. "Graduating from high school, I had not just Steve there but a bunch of the Little Lights staff. Steve was at my college graduation, too. He drove three and a half hours. To this day, he still hasn't missed any milestone in my life. He came to my housewarming, he came to my ordination, he came to the hospital when my son, Gabriel, was born. That says a lot about who Little Lights is."

Dwaine is 32 now, married to Erica. They have a beautiful three-year-old son, Gabriel. Late in 2019, Dwaine and Erica bought their first home and they were both ordained as ministers in their church. For the majority of his career,

LEARING HOW TO



Every day when school ends, Darriyah meets up with Little Lights staff member, Mr. Bernard, and together they walk the few blocks to the Hopkins Center. As soon as she walks through the door, Darriyah says she feels "ready to work" — because she knows people at Little Lights care about her and will help her do her best. Now 9 years old and in 4th grade, Darriyah has been at Little Lights since she was three years old. And her mother, Crystal, attended Little Lights before her.

As Darriyah walks through the Hopkins Center, she excitedly points out the photo tree with all the students' photos, including hers, and says "it makes me feel like I belong here." She points to the carpet circle she sits on during community time and shares how she loves that Ms.

Cierra always uses that time to ask her how her day went. She pats the foosball machine and boasts that she beats everyone, even the adults. Finally, she gets to the homework room and starts sharing about her tutors and how they help her understand the things that do not make sense right away. They are the reason she feels "ready to work" — and the reason she has consistently made honor roll.

Years before Darriyah was born, her mom, Crystal, came to Little Lights almost every day. To her, "Little Lights is like the family I never had." It was through Little Lights that Crystal learned about God, and learned that the cycle she saw repeating itself in her community was not one she had to fall into. "I've seen people get killed. I've seen drug addicts do drugs and not care that there are kids present. Growing up in that environment your whole life, it seems normal. But then to think about it as you're older, and seeing it done to the kids around you, it's sad."

She decided, "I don't want to be a statistic, like every other female that comes out of here." And she did not want that for her daughter, either.

NOT ANOTHER STAI



"I see the difference the programs have made in Jaylyn and Jerry's lives. Jaylyn has been on the honor roll every quarter since going to Little Lights," Camille shares. "And if it wasn't for Little Lights my son wouldn't be on track to get his GED."

Camille needed a job. After two years living in DC General homeless shelter with her two children, Jaylyn and Jerry, she had finally received a rental voucher and had moved into an apartment in Potomac Gardens public housing. She was starting to get her feet under her, and the next step was to find employment.

Less than a month after moving to the neighborhood, Camille found the Little Lights Family Center, an onsite resource center for adults offering a computer lab and job search assistance. When she entered the Family Center she was warmly greeted by Ms. Linda who pointed her in the direction of the computer lab. Ms. Linda mentioned Camille's ongoing job search to Mary, Little Lights' Deputy

Director. Mary interviewed Camille and brought her on to work as a part-time employee at Little Lights. "To this day," Camille shares, "I know that I can always call on Ms. Linda and Mary."

After coming on staff, Camille learned about the holistic scope of programs Little Lights offered and quickly enrolled Jaylyn and Jerry into Homework Club and Reading and Math Heroes.

Not too long after enrolling her children in Little Lights afterschool programs, Camille put each of them on the waiting list to be matched with a mentor in Little Lights Christian Mentoring Program.

Jerry was matched with his mentor, Kyle, in 2014. Their personal talks about faith, family, and education have spurred Jerry on, encouraging him to prioritize the most important things in his life, like graduating from high school. At Jerry's graduation this past year, Kyle stood next to Camille, cheering Jerry on. "That meant alot to Jerry," Camille reminisced, "because several of his family members were unable to make it."

THEY'RE ALWAYST



ACADEMIC EMPOY

Children living in public housing face serious challenges that threaten their ability to succeed in school — from poorly funded schools to inadequate access to nutritious foods. Little Lights offers a comprehensive approach in response to these challenges, offering resources like daily homework help, targeted one-to-one tutoring, and individualized curriculum plans. Through our year-round programming, Little Lights aims to equip students with all the resources they need to excel academically and become bright, well-rounded scholars.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Daily homework help and a nourished dinner across five program sites.

READING HEROES & MATH HEROES

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

READING WARRIORS

A Saturday drop-in program providing additional literacy support to help our students read at grade-level.

SATURDAY PROGRAM

Drop-in program that combines arts, crafts, and recreation with relationship-building.

SUMMER LIGHTS

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

VERMENT



196
students participated in Little Lights programs

81% of Little Lights students increased/maintained their math test scores



86% of Little Lights students increased/maintained their reading test scores





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





ECONOMIC EMPOW

In Washington, DC, the net worth of white households is 81 times the net worth of black households. This alarming gap in resources highlights the limited economic opportunity experienced by many adults living in public housing, due to issues like transportation struggles, childcare costs, and educational constraints. At Little Lights we seek to address these issues by connecting adults to gainful employment or readiness programs, as well as providing tangible resources to help families meet their most pressing needs.

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

Act as one of the Greater DC Diaper Bank's distribution centers, targeting Potomac Gardens, Hopkins, and Benning Terrace residents.

JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

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

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.

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 DC Housing Authority.

HIRING FROM THE COMMUNITY

Employ residents of public housing in order to create economic opportunity in our neighborhoods.

/ERMENT



29,700
diapers distributed through our partnership with the Greater DC Diaper Bank

899 jobs completed by the Clean Green Team across Capitol Hill



354
gifts were distributed at the Christmas Stores





183
people visited the Family
Center a total of 949 times





SPIRITUAL EMPOW

The daily reality of poverty can create a sense of despair among families living in public housing, a feeling of being trapped with no hope of getting out and a sense that no one cares. Where despair is prevalent we see the opportunity for God to be seen and known. We care for the spiritual health of our communities. Little Lights has created a network of spiritual support for families to experience the hope of God through prayer, persistent compassion, and caring relationships.

BOYS NIGHT & GIRLS NIGHT

Cultivates character development and community service in middle school students.

LITTLE LIGHTS CHOIR

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

THE GATHERING

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

CHRISTIAN MENTORING

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

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.

ERMENT



62
people participated in a
Race Literacy 101 cohort

1,419
hours mentors spent cultivating one-to-one relationships with students



84
individuals at three churches heard from Steve Park on the topic of race literacy





46
adults regularly
attended the Gathering





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Little Lights has successfully navigated many economic climates over the last 25 years due to our varied funding sources, the largest being committed individuals. 60% of our revenue in 2019 came from more than 1,000 individuals, churches, and businesses, with another 22% coming from our foundation partners. In the past 5 years, Little Lights' budget has grown by 49% — all growth that we have funnelled directly back into programs. Our fundraising budget has grown by less than \$50,000, while our program budget has increased by almost \$500,000.



60%
donor retention rate,
showing our donors believe
enthusiastically in our
mission and impact.



1st place

for the 5th year in a row in the United Way's Do More 24 competition, raising more than \$100,00 in 24 hours — more than any other DC-area nonprofit.

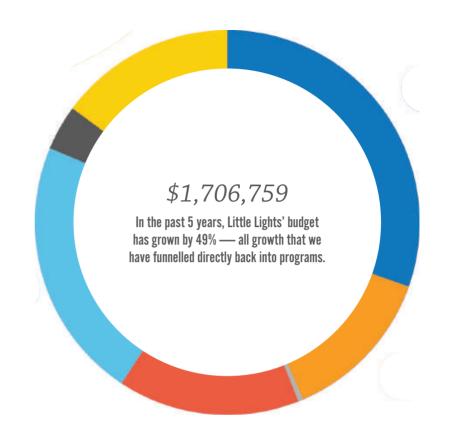
3 ACTS OF GENEROSITY THAT SHIFTED LITTLE LIGHTS' TRAJECTORY

After years of renting an office in a repurposed home in Capitol Hill, in **2005 Christian Fellowship Church decided to gift the entire building to Little Lights for just \$10.** Owning the Little Lights Center, which sits on prime real estate and acts as our main headquarters, has brought financial security and stability, allowing for more robust growth.

In 2003, Nancy Chan, a former Little Lights intern, donated the funds to make a down payment on the Little Lights Ministry House. The building allowed us to house staff and made it possible for us to host Americorps Vista employees — the first time Little Lights had fundraising staff! Their efforts primed Little Lights for many future years of growth.

In 1997, **Joan Kim delayed medical school for two years in order to help Steve launch Little Lights.** Her efforts helped create a sustainable organizational structure, plus she connected Little Lights to several members of Global Mission Church, who assisted Little Lights in acquiring the 501c3 status and becoming a legal nonprofit in 1998.

REVENUE



30%One Time Gifts\$518,531

22% Grants \$376,850

• 15% Churches \$260,900

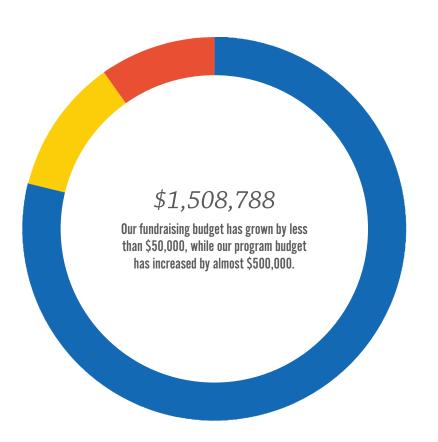
• 15% Earned Income \$253,923 13%Ignite the LightMonthly Gifts\$224,759

■ 4%Corporate \$64,771

● 1% Combined Federal Campaign \$7,021

5 Years of Revenue Growth

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
\$1,146,567	\$1,196,393	\$1,437,798	\$1,634,068	\$1,706,759





9 79%

Programs

(staff, facilities, academics, etc.) \$1,189,257 11%

General Operations

(staff, supplies, overhead, etc.) \$171,682

10%

Fundraising

(staff, development events, publications, etc.) \$147,847

5 Years of Program Growth

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
\$691,859	\$878,586	\$1,105,621	\$1,236,445	\$1,189,257

ONE KIND ACT

One Kind Act is a volunteer group co-led by Kimberly Blough and our beloved board member, Kay Kim. For 7 consecutive years, One Kind Act has hosted an annual backpack drive and organized the annual Kids' Christmas Store — which strengthens familial ties within our community. In 2019, One Kind Act donated 145 backpacks filled with school supplies and 180 Christmas gifts.

THE NEW TEACHER'S PROJECT

Early in 2019, The The New Teacher's Project performed an in-depth analysis of Ward 7, where our Hilltop Center is located. They uncovered that the community's greatest expressed need was trauma-informed supportive services — and that Little Lights was among the trusted organizations already working within Ward 7. As a result, The New Teacher's Project awarded Little Lights with a significant grant that allowed us to pilot a trauma-informed approach in our student programs, focused on social-emotional learning and restorative justice practices.

FOUNDATIONS

 $Agnes\ R.\ Chapman\ Legacy\ Gifts\ for\ Children\ \&\ Youth$ Anonymous

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

Greater Washington Community Foundation

John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation

New Life Foundation

Richard E. & Nancy P. Marriott Foundation

Share Fund

The Capitol Hill Community Foundation

The Clark-Winchcole Foundation

The Junior League of Washington

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

United Way of the National Capital Area

The New Teachers Project

CORPORATE

B.Lin Catering

City First Bank

D&A Dunlevy Landscapers, Inc.

Deloitte

District Doughnut

Eun Creative

Highlands Hope Foundation

Highlands Residential Mortgage

Neuma Consulting

Stewardship Partners Investment Counsel

SuprTEK, Inc.

The Gaskins Team

The JLC Team

Total Source Fitness

COMMUNITY

Anacostia Gracious Arts Program

Banneker High School

Benning Terrace Resident Council

Blyth-Templeton Academy

Capital Area Food Bank

OUR PART VOLUN

Little Lights' far-reaching impact is made possible together to move our mission forward. Our work to invaluably strengthened by the critical support table — whether through tutoring our students

Catalogue for Philanthropy

Christian Community Development Association

City Service Mission

Coracle

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

CT Management

DC Central Kitchen

DC Housing Authority

DC Unity & Justice Fellowship

Department of Employment Services

Fair Chance DC

Food Rescue US

Food for Life

Georgetown University

Gonzaga High School

Gordon College Justice Fellows

Hopkins Resident Council

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Louisiana State University Wesley Foundation

NERS AND TERS

by the many volunteers and partners who work foster equity and hope in Washington, DC is our volunteers and partners bring to the one-to-one or making a financial contribution.

ONE Campaign

One Kind Act

Potomac Gardens Resident Council

Servant Leaders Fellowship of East

Washington

Servants Ministry

Southern Wesleyan University

The Center for Nonprofit Advancement

The Cornelius Corps

The Falls Church Fellows Program

The Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital

Tzedek DC

University of Florida Navigators

University of Maryland Terps for Change

University of Virginia Grace

Christian Fellowship

Urban Hope Training Center

Virginia Commonwealth University

One in Christ Fellowship

Virginia Theological Seminary Wake Washington Center

CHURCH

All Saints Church, Chevy Chase Bridgeway Church Bridgeway Global Church

Britton Christian Church

Chantilly Bible Church

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church

Chinese Bible Church of Maryland

Christ Central Presbyterian Church

Christ City Church

Church for All Nations

Church of the Advent

Church of the Resurrection

Citizen Heights Church

DC Christian Reformed 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

Refuge Baptist Assembly

The District Church

The Falls Church Anglican

United Korean Presbyterian Church

PASSION CITY CHURCH

Passion City Church, one of our newer partners, has sent more than 100 volunteers to us over the past year — some even becoming mentors! In 2019 we awarded them with the 'Partner of the Year' award at our Volunteer Appreciation Party for their faithful partnership and significant financial contributions.

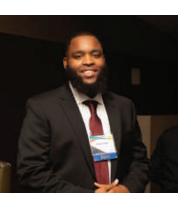
VOLUNTEER IMPACT

 $11,9\overline{14}$ total hours served by volunteers

652 volunteer hours were served by high school students

803 volunteers served on a weekly or one-time basis

 $15\,$ new mentor matches were made in 2019







STAFF AN

FULL-TIME

Linda An Theodora Beschel Meredith Daniel* Ashley Hill Annika Holkeboer* Katie Larkins Amy Leonard Mary Park Steve Park LeMara Perry Cierra Peterson Linda Rice (On Leave) Dominique Scruggs Karmen Taylor Pearilya Thomas* Naomi Venerable

PART-TIME

Ameerah Battle* Lavonia Bobo* Amy Boland* Devon Bradley* Colbi Branch* Milton Brown Renee Byers* Anna Byrd* Devon Byrd* Melissa Cairo* Misha Caleb* Ayana Clenance* Brittany Convers* Jessica Creiglow* Nathaniel Easington* Hannah Fickett Alexandra Fraioli Caulah Francis **Dorothy Francis** Bonita Guerrero Jasmine Hall Grace Hallam Shakyra Harris* Charmaine Hart Christalle Hasabumutina* Keith Hicks Charles Hill Anna Huggett

Serena Hyman*

Kaitlyn Hyun* Kristen Jackson Sullivan Jackson Crystal Jenkins Angel Johnson* Felany Jomarron* Deborah Joyner Jalone Kent Josh Larkins Sharon Lee* Hope Ledford Brianna Lewis* Jamie Liu* Kayla Marshall Naima Martin Teresa Matthews Nia Mays Kourtney Mills Patricia Moten* Nwerebuaku Mpi* Annette Mubang Moriah Nailing* Cheryl Nilson Danielle Nixon*

Nicole Noves* Jane Pak Praycelia Porcher* Shantelle Powell J'Nya Reese* Toluwani Roberts Asha Robertson Alexandria Robinson* Richlan Rowland Langston Shellist Asia Shorter Alexia Singletary* Jamerius Slack* Camille Smith Jordan Stanton* Juanzel Staton Jr* Justin Strange Sarah Thomas* Deniesha Tyree* Sophia Uriburu-Wilder Kristy Wallace Ashunti Ware Samuel Ward Skye Washington*

Amarah Webb* Antwan Wright

CLEAN GREEN TEAM

Orlando Boyd*

<u>Henry Dent</u>

<u>Lawrence Dozier</u>

<u>Kelvin Gordon</u>

Calvin Gorham*

<u>Marcel Green*</u>

John Grimes*

<u>Nathaniel Parks*</u>

Thomas Rice (On Leave)

<u>Gary Sams, Jr.</u>

<u>Antonio Smith</u>

<u>Bernard Tyree</u>

* Former Employee Staff from Communities Served

D BOARD







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

Angeloyd Fenrick, Member

Executive Director at Columbia Learning International Ministries

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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









HIRING FROM THE COMMUNITY

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

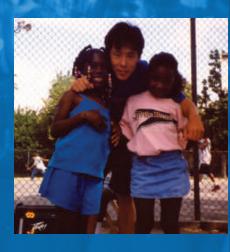


















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