

# 2017 Annual Report

## many\*hands

Together we can make a difference.

Our Mission: Many Hands is a women's grantmaking organization committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of Washington, DC area women, children, and families in need and to helping its members become well-informed donors.

When 100 women contribute \$1,000 each to benefit a single cause, our collective grant of \$100,000 to a metro DC area nonprofit has a measurable impact on the lives of local women and children in need.

### 2017 Grantmaking

In 2017, Many Hands awarded a total of \$211,000 in grants. Four organizations received awards: Safe Shores: The DC Children's Advocacy Center (\$100,000), Byte Back (\$37,000), Hope and a Home (\$37,000) and Liberty's Promise (\$37,000).

Since 2004, Many Hands has distributed \$1,183,000 – bettering lives and strengthening worthy nonprofit organizations in the metro DC region.

### Board of Directors 2017

Elizabeth Bausch  
Ana Collins  
Melissa Dennis  
Tracy Ganti  
Wendy Lynn Gray  
Ellen Winer Kay  
Leslie Lawley  
Jill Rosenbaum Meyer  
Anna Gunnarsson Pfeiffer  
Kim Quyen Pham  
Tara Brennan Primis



Liberty's Promise

Want to learn more about  
Many Hands?  
Visit our website: [manyhandsdc.org](http://manyhandsdc.org)

# 2017 Year In Review



Dr. Teach, Dr. Neuman, and Dr. Hughes (l-r) at the April Donor Education Forum

## ***Donor Education Forums***

While Many Hands is primarily a grantmaking organization, we are also committed to the goal of “helping our members become well-informed donors.” To that end, we held two well-attended and very informative Donor Education Forums in 2017. The most recent, held on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Georgetown University, focused on Job Readiness and was titled “Workforce Development: Helping Adults Overcome Employment Barriers.”

“People think job readiness is job placement, but that’s the end of the process, the last step,” said Bob Wittig, Executive Director of the Catalog for Philanthropy. Wittig and fellow panelists Leicester Johnson, Executive Director of the Academy of Hope, and Anne-Marie Bairstow, who manages corporate philanthropy for WC Smith, enumerated the barriers low-income job applicants have to overcome, including: safe and affordable childcare, transportation, literacy and English fluency, and computer skills. More subtle barriers such as access to appropriate clothing, history of substance abuse, a criminal record, or not having experience with workplace culture or etiquette also exist for many job seekers.

The panelists stressed that Many Hands could have a major impact investing in programs that address any of those areas. Mr. Whittig emphasized that Many Hands should not be reluctant to fund small programs, noting that some successful organizations work with just five women a year. “They may be small,” he said, “but the transformations were great. It’s not just about the numbers if it’s a hard-to-serve group.” (*Courtesy Kathy Slobogin*)

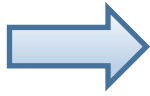
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In April 2017, longtime Many Hands supporter Dr. Tricia Neuman moderated an engaging panel discussion with Dr. Stephen Teach, Chair of Pediatrics at Children’s National Health System, and Dr. Dora Hughes, Senior Health Policy Advisor at Sidley Austin. Dr. Neuman, a Vice President at the Kaiser Family Foundation, asked Drs. Teach and Hughes to present a general picture of the health challenges facing women and children in DC. All agreed that health disparities in DC are striking and that “health and healthcare for both children and women is a tale of two cities.” Dr. Teach, an expert on pediatric asthma, talked about wildly divergent rates of the disease and resultant hospitalizations based solely on ZIP code. Dr. Hughes spoke of poverty as an “independent risk level for disease” and stressed how our healthcare system, which includes vast “healthcare deserts” in the poorest sections of our city, is ill-equipped to handle the many challenges facing families living in poverty. When asked about the organizational characteristics Many Hands should be looking for in health-related programs, Dr. Hughes and Dr. Teach both stressed that strong leadership focusing on holistic treatment is key. They suggested that Many Hands support organizations that work in partnership with other innovative community groups. But they also pointed out that sometimes the most effective grant supports the core mission of a well-led, forward thinking organization, so “don’t shy away from funding core work.”

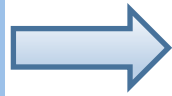
**Is there a topic you would like to see discussed at our next Donor Education Forum?  
Please let us know - [manyhandsdc@gmail.com](mailto:manyhandsdc@gmail.com)**

# By The Numbers: 2017

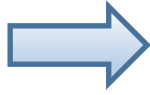
150 Letters of Intent received



89 members served on focus area committees



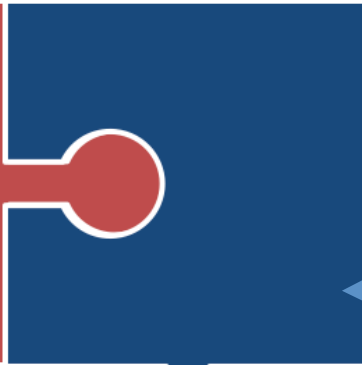
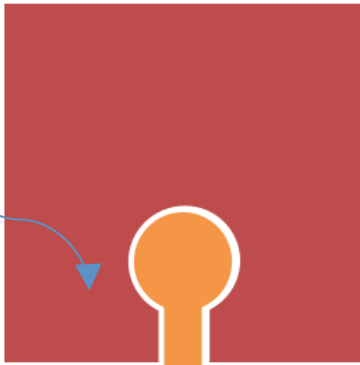
36 site visits conducted



118 members voted at the Annual Meeting

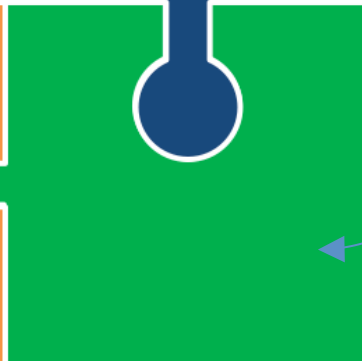
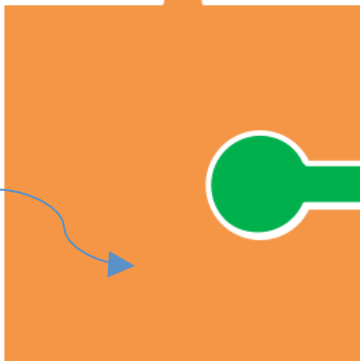
# Our Cumulative Effect: 2004-2017

\$1,183,000 granted



15 years supporting metro DC organizations

27 nonprofits supported



469 donors

## 2017 Grant Recipients

### *Safe Shores The DC Children's Advocacy Center.* (\$100,000 Grantee)

"I believe you." Michelle Booth Cole, Executive Director of Safe Shores, told Many Hands donors gathered for the Fall Kick Off Event in October, that those three words are often the first step toward healing for a victim of childhood sexual abuse. Safe Shores provides intervention, hope and healing for children and families affected by sexual abuse, trauma and violence, and works to prevent abuse through outreach, education and training. Since receiving their grant in May, Safe Shores has been able to hire additional staff to provide important prevention and outreach services, reaching hundreds of DC children and families through trainings in schools and other youth-serving institutions. Ms. Booth Cole acknowledges that this topic is a difficult one to discuss, and credits Many Hands' donors "bold and courageous" decision to "help confront and elevate the issue of childhood sexual abuse in our community."

*Byte Back:* (\$37,000 grant) Byte Back has used their Many Hands grant to help women enter the IT and business administrative fields with free training. One Byte Back client, who is a young mother, says "having a job means a lot for me, because I'm not dependent on anyone." Another client, who had worked at a law firm since she was 18, knew she needed a change. She "didn't feel confident in the workplace" until she made a leap of faith and followed her passion for technology to Byte Back. She completed three certification courses and now is "making more than before" because she "took a chance on herself." The future is wide open for this client as she plans to use her tech skills to pursue further education as an environmentalist. In the last year, 60 adults, including 40 women, gained employment earning on average \$24,000 a year more than before their Byte Back training.

*Hope and a Home:* (\$37,000 grant) Hope and a Home, whose mission is to empower low-income families with children in Washington, DC to create stable homes of their own by providing housing and wraparound services, is proud to report that the Many Hands grant of \$37,000 provided critical funding for their office renovation project. The new office will open in January 2018 and will place Hope and a Home staff within walking distance of most of their clients. In addition, the funds that were previously allocated to rent (over \$35,000 a year) will now be used to support programs and client services. Hope and a Home considers the Many Hands grant to be a "great affirmation" of their work with DC's children and families.

*Liberty's Promise:* (\$37,000) Dedicated to supporting low-income immigrant youth, while encouraging them to be active and conscientious American citizens, Liberty's Promise has been very busy this year providing civics and citizenship education classes along with a variety of other programs in 18 high schools in the Washington, DC area. Over the summer, 70 youth from across the region participated in internships which exposed them to a host of different experiences, people, and opportunities. The fall civics programs are in full swing with over 500 youth participating in 16 different locations. Liberty's Promise believes that their programs can give immigrant youth, some who have fled from violence in their home countries and others who are children of immigrants working night and day to provide for their families, the opportunity to engage in the civic life of their communities and become the leaders of tomorrow.



## 2016 Grantees

*Reach Incorporated:* (\$100,000 grant) Reach Incorporated is an innovative program that develops grade-level readers and capable leaders by preparing teens to serve as tutors and role models for younger students, resulting in improved literacy outcomes for both. The Many Hands \$100,000 grant enabled Reach to expand into three new schools (locations that are now self-sustaining), publish and distribute four new teen-authored books, and provide critical college scholarships to five program participants. Reach now operates in Wards 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and has teen-authored books in all of DC's public school libraries.

*DC Diaper Bank:* (\$28,000 grant) The Greater DC Diaper Bank has continued to expand the services it offers to women and families in need in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area, where one of five families lives under the Federal Poverty Level. "We believe changing babies changes lives" is their founding premise. Their mission is to empower families and individuals by providing a reliable and adequate source of basic baby needs and personal hygiene products. In July 2017, they distributed the 5,000,000th diaper and in October 2017 they rebranded the organization to the Greater DC Diaper Bank. Their efforts are now focused in four primary areas - The Greater DC Diaper Bank, The Baby Pantry, The Nursery Project and The Monthly. The DC Diaper Bank has continued to improve its data measurement and evaluation practices and is now able to provide the necessary information required to secure additional grants and to continue to expand their services and outreach.

*Homestretch:* (\$28,000 grant) The mission of Homestretch is to empower homeless parents with children in Virginia to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge and hope they need to become productive participants in their community. Since its inception in 1990, Homestretch has helped over 1,500 families achieve permanent housing and self-sufficiency. The average rise in income for a graduating family is 147% and 92% of graduates remain employed a year after completing the program. Graduates of Homestretch have become nurses, pharmacy technicians, commercial drivers, accountants, real estate agents, bank tellers and plumbers. With the support of Many Hands, Homestretch has reached additional families in need and has been recognized for their successful programs and received the 2017 McLean Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year Award.

*Joe's Movement Emporium:* (\$28,000 grant) Joe's Movement Emporium, also known as World Arts Focus, Inc., is a cultural hub and performing arts center in Mount Rainier, Maryland that acts as catalyst for creativity and economic opportunity for all through programs and productions in education, the performing arts and work readiness. Founded in 1992, Joe's Movement Emporium is now the largest independent performing arts center in Prince George's County and provides exceptional educational and artistic experiences that expose up to 70,000 individuals each year to arts traditions from around the world. Through the grant they received from Many Hands, Joe's Movement Emporium has continued to expand the number of programs and internships offered to area students in areas such as computer and media management and theater technology.