



ManyHands

Together we make a difference



March 2020 Newsletter

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MANY HANDS UPDATES

Spring Panel on Maternal Mortality - Wednesday, April 22

The rate of maternal mortality among African American women in the District of Columbia is twice the average for the United States, which already has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world. What is causing this crisis and how can policy and community action support vulnerable women? Join Many Hands on Wednesday, April 22 for an in-depth look at maternal mortality in the greater Washington region with Andria Cornell ([Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs](#)) and Abayea Pelt ([Community of Hope](#), a 2004 Many Hands Partner Grantee). This evening event will take place in NW DC and is open to all. Look out for an invitation with more details toward the end of the month.



Many Hands Featured at Clove & Cedar Coffeebar



Many Hands is delighted to be [Clove & Cedar Coffeebar's](#) nonprofit partner for the month of March. For every bag of coffee beans purchased this month, Clove & Cedar will donate \$1 to Many Hands. A woman-owned business in the Woodmont Triangle neighborhood, Clove & Cedar was recently named Bethesda's best independent coffee shop by *Bethesda Magazine*.

Ways to Give - Young Member Program Expands



Introduced in 2018, the Young Member program makes collective philanthropy accessible to women at an earlier stage of their careers. Young Members enjoy all the benefits of Many Hands membership at a reduced rate. Initially capped at three years, participation as a Young Member is now open to any woman under the age of 35. For more information, please visit [our website](#).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Captain Goes to School

Many Hands member Lucy Ordoobadi was recently featured in an [NBC4 report](#) highlighting her work with emerging readers. Over the past four years, Lucy and her 160-pound Newfoundland have become regular fixtures at Wheatley Education Campus in NE DC, where students look forward to their weekly chance to read to (and about) Captain. While sounding out words before an audience of classmates can cause anxiety, "reading to a dog is only a positive experience," explains Lucy, who has also created a [website](#) and a series of picture books starring her big black dog.



A lawyer who has worked both in the United States and abroad, Lucy joined Many Hands in 2015. Since then she has served on the Education, Housing, and Job Readiness Committees and co-chaired Housing in 2018-19. Her Many Hands experience has been a valuable complement to her independent volunteer work. "Many Hands has given me first-hand insight into issues I feel very strongly about," Lucy notes. "I love being part of this group of engaged and dynamic women."

NEWS FROM OUR GRANTEES

Greater DC Diaper Bank Adds New Warehouse Space



[Greater DC Diaper Bank](#) is putting the finishing touches on a warehouse expansion that increases its footprint by more than 50%. Funded in part by a 2019 Many Hands Partner Grant, the new space will allow Diaper Bank to serve 25% more families and welcome 1,000+ volunteers each year to support the organization's operations and continue the conversation about the importance of the work they do. Since 2010, Diaper Bank has distributed 9.5 million diapers,

225,000 bottles of formula, 62,470 packs of wipes, 11,125 pounds of baby food, 681,000 period products, and 103,000 incontinence products. Even more important, it has helped connect tens of thousands of families across the region to organizations providing vital services.

In February, Executive Director Corinne Cannon (pictured above) welcomed Many Hands for a sneak peek at the new space. Members and friends gathered together to tour the expanded warehouse and bundle diapers for Diaper Bank partners. [Click here](#) to see more pictures from the event.

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