



ManyHands

Together we make a difference



August 2020 Newsletter

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MANY HANDS UPDATES

Meet Our New Team

We are pleased to announce that Mary Kwak and Kathryn Zecca will serve as president and vice-president of the Many Hands Board this year, succeeding Tara Primis and Elizabeth Bausch. Melissa Dennis and Wendy Gray will remain in their roles as secretary and treasurer.

In addition, we are delighted that the following Many Hands members have agreed to join the Board. If you would like to learn more about the work of the Board, please email Melissa Dennis at info@manyhandsdc.org.



Robin Berkley served as executive director of Horton's Kids, the 2014 Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grantee, from 2014 to 2019. Earlier she worked at EducationCounsel to develop and drive policies that reduce achievement gaps and improve education outcomes across the country. Robin has been a Many Hands member for two years.



Charis Keitelman was a commercial real estate lawyer for two decades, serving as a partner at Rudnick Wolfe Piper & Marbury (now DLA Piper), before becoming Deputy General Counsel at Quadrangle Development Corp. Charis first joined Many Hands in 2010. She has served on the Health and Housing Committees and co-chaired Health last year.



Frazier Schulman has worked as a management consultant with McKinsey & Co. and in marketing for pharmaceutical and consumer goods companies. She is president of the board of the Parents Council of Washington. Frazier has been a Many Hands member for four years and served on the Health Committee in the 2020 grant cycle.

Margaret Vassilikos has held leadership positions at educational and scientific foundations, a trade association, and a professional society. She serves on the board of Communities in Schools of the Nation's Capital.



Margaret has been a Many Hands member for three years and co-chaired the Job Readiness Committee in 2019-20.

Many Hands Receives College Bound Award

Many Hands was honored to be chosen as the 2020 recipient of [College Bound's](#) Community Leadership Award and excited to join College Bound graduates and families for their virtual End of the Year Celebration in May.



College Bound's mission is to prepare public and public charter school students in the metropolitan DC area to enter college, earn a degree, and achieve their personal and professional goals. With the support of the 2012 Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grant, College Bound launched the Virtual Mentoring Program, which matches program alumni with virtual mentors who provide support throughout their college years. Mentors help students connect to campus resources and support students with their needs and questions, whether academic or personal. To learn more about the program, [click here](#).

REPORTS FROM OUR 2019 GRANTEES: ACCESS YOUTH



With the support of the 2019 Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grant, [Access Youth](#) launched its Peer Mediation Program at Ballou High School. The funding allowed Access Youth to hire a Peer Mediation Coordinator, develop a comprehensive peer mediation curriculum, training schedule, and programming, and provide fifty 11th grade students with four full days of training in February and additional virtual training after schools closed in March.

Once school resumes, Access Youth hopes to have students shadow Program Managers during Truancy/Student Support Team mediations before beginning to work more independently as Peer Mediators and Mentors.

Access Youth training has helped students develop critical listening, problem solving, and leadership skills. Last year, 85% of participating students showed growth in emotional intelligence, maintained regular school attendance, and avoided subsequent school suspensions. From September 2019 to March 2020, the number of suspensions at Ballou was the lowest in over a decade.

However, the pandemic and school closings have created enormous challenges. Many students now find themselves isolated without the support and safety of their peers and school communities. Many are experiencing food insecurity. Many lack access to the technology needed for distance learning and risk becoming academically disengaged and falling further behind. This risk is particularly acute for Access Youth students, who are often referred to the program due to low academic performance, exacerbated by chronic truancy and behavioral challenges.

To learn more about how Access Youth has pivoted to continue serving and supporting the more than 750 students who participated in AY programs at Ballou, Anacostia, and Eastern High Schools during the 2019-20 school year, [click here](#).

[Join Many Hands Today!](#)

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 socioeconomic need and to helping its members become well-informed donors. Many Hands is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

