



# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

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.



[manyhandsdc.org](http://manyhandsdc.org)  
[info@manyhandsdc.org](mailto:info@manyhandsdc.org)

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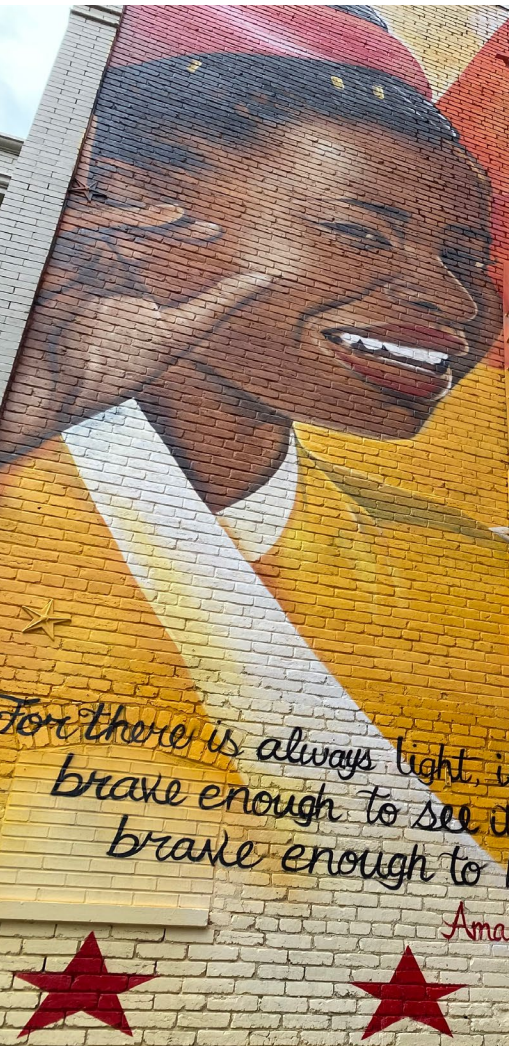
**M**any Hands granted a record total of \$317,500 in 2021. Amid widespread economic uncertainty, the grant fund grew by nearly 20% over 2020. We are deeply thankful for the generosity of our community and the commitment of our volunteers. Together they made possible four large-scale, high-impact grants to organizations serving communities disproportionately affected by the crises of the past 18 months.

Many Hands also hosted a record number of events this year. Spurred by the ban on in-person gatherings, we redoubled our efforts to help members connect with one other and with grantees and to learn about pressing issues in philanthropy and the region.

In addition, the Board took important steps to ensure that Many Hands remains a vital force in local philanthropy in the years ahead. These initiatives are detailed below.

## GRANTMAKING

Nearly 100 Many Hands members helped select four grantees from among 100 applicants (29 in Economic Empowerment, 27 in Education, 23 in Health, and 21 in Housing), meeting online to discuss applications, conduct site visits, and review semifinalist financials. In May, all 285 members were invited to hear presentations from the four grantees before voting to select the recipient of the 2021 Impact Grant.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

- › To strengthen Many Hands' commitment to racial equity, we began working with a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) consultant who will help plan an organizational equity assessment and racial equity discussion series to take place in fall 2021. Members of the Board and Racial Equity Working Group also participated in racial equity training, and members were offered access to workshops and resources for learning more about racial equity, particularly in connection with grantmaking.
- › To enhance financial sustainability, we developed a new monthly giving program and launched the Fund for the Future, a Board-designated fund that will function essentially as an endowment.
- › To guide future growth, we initiated Many Hands' first strategic planning process since 2015. This process will be an opportunity to reconsider Many Hands' mission and values and identify goals and develop work plans for the next three to five years.

# \$100,000 Impact Grantee



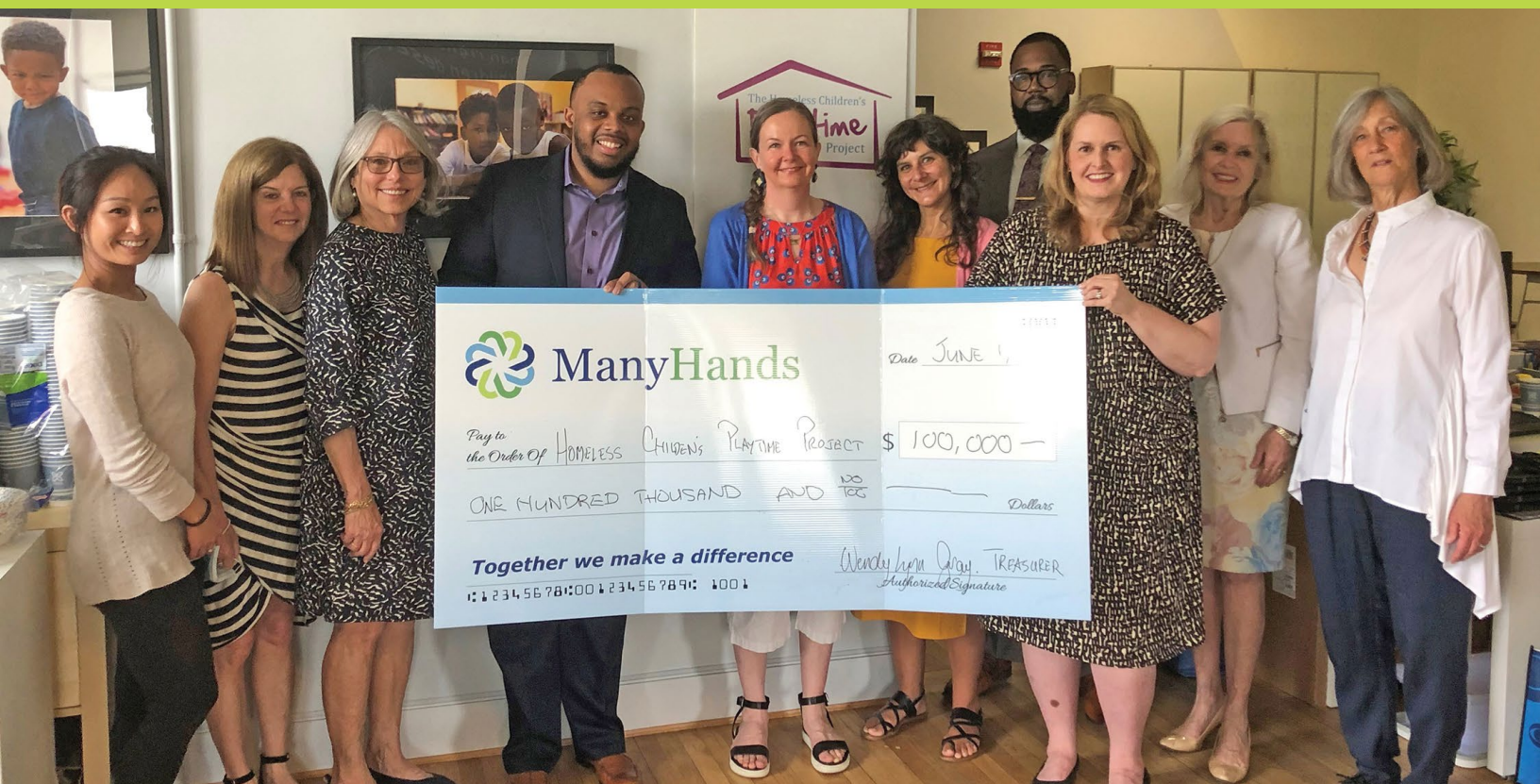
## **The Homeless Children's Playtime Project**, Washington, DC – Health

Playtime cultivates resilience in DC-area children experiencing family homelessness by providing access to transformative play experiences that support their cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being. Playtime also challenges systemic injustice by advocating for policies and practices that reduce the risks of chronic homelessness.

Many Hands funding provides general operating support for Playtime programs, including two new partnerships to broaden their services across the region. Playtime recently launched programming at Shepherd's Cove Shelter for Women and Children in Prince George's County and at their first ever non-shelter, community-based center, the Rita Bright Family and Youth Center in DC's Ward 1.

*"We are thrilled and honored by this award. This past year has challenged Playtime to find new ways to provide healthy play activities for children experiencing homelessness. Our agility was tested, and we successfully found ways to stay connected to and support our Playtime families. This grant will allow us to continue on this path of change and growth by developing bold new initiatives to reach even more children across the Washington metropolitan region! Thank you so much, Many Hands!"*

– Jamila Larson, founder and executive director,  
**The Homeless Children's Playtime Project**



# \$72,500 Partner Grants



**CAFY (Community Advocates for Family & Youth)**, Capitol Heights, MD – Housing  
CAFY embraces, educates, and empowers victims of crime and their families in Prince George’s County by providing trauma-informed case management, counseling, housing and job readiness assistance, and other supports. CAFY is using Many Hands funding to provide emergency and permanent housing for Begin Again and Thrive program participants, many of whom are survivors of domestic violence. Begin Again and Thrive, which includes holistic wraparound services, is “a game changer for us and the women and families we serve,” according to CAFY founder and CEO Arleen Joell.



**Community Youth Advance (CYA)**, Hyattsville, MD – Education  
CYA provides year-round academic enrichment, mentoring, and college and career readiness activities to students in Prince George’s County Public Schools to help them excel in school and in life. Many Hands funding helped CYA launch their Train the Trainer program, which prepares high schoolers to tutor younger students. As Executive Director Danielle Middlebrooks explains, “[Train the Trainer] will expand our capacity to provide tutoring for students in need, while institutionalizing an internship-style program that provides our high schoolers with training and entrepreneurial skills they can use in their future!”



**La Cocina VA**, Arlington, VA – Economic Empowerment  
La Cocina VA uses the power of food as an agent for social and economic change by generating workforce and entrepreneurship development and providing healthy food assistance. La Cocina VA is using Many Hands funding to expand their Culinary Training and Food Assistance Programs and support their new Small Business Incubator. The grant will have a large impact, according to founder and CEO Paty Funegra, “by helping low-income people of color, especially women, gain employment, start or expand small food businesses, improve food security, and recover from the pandemic.”

“The art of life is a constant readjustment to our surroundings.”

– Okakura Kakuzo

One theme stands out among our 2021 grantees – the ability to adapt, to be resilient, and to evolve as they seek to empower area women, children, and families.

## EVENTS

Two public education forums addressed **challenges created by racial injustice**. In November, Andria Cornell (AMCHP) and Ebony Marcelle (Community of Hope) analyzed the roots of **DC's maternal mortality crisis** in a conversation moderated by Jill Rosenbaum Meyer. In December, Kathy Kretman (Georgetown University) and Tamara Copeland Lucas (former president, WRAG), joined Katy Moore for a frank discussion of **philanthropy, power, and impact** that centered the urgency of confronting racism.

Four events showcased the **2020 grantees**. Kris Thompson, CEO of **Calvary Women's Services**, spoke at the October kickoff, along with Kenneth Ward, executive director of College Bound (2012 Impact Grant). **Nourish Now** and **Homestretch** staff joined Many Hands members for coffee and conversation in the fall and winter. In April, Nicole Lynn Lewis spoke about her work as founder and CEO of **Generation Hope** and her new book, *Pregnant Girl*.

Smaller gatherings included a January member coffee and the first meeting of the Many Hands Book Club in March. In addition, members had opportunities to deepen their knowledge of giving through **workshops on bias in grantmaking, trust-based philanthropy, and participatory grantmaking** sponsored by the DMV Collective Giving Network.

## FINANCIALS

2021 was Many Hands' most successful grant cycle financially to date. Membership grew by 3% over 2020, while the number of Sustaining Members--who fund both grants and operating expenses--was up 42%. As a result, Many Hands recorded an operating surplus, which the Board swept into the grant fund.

Ordinary operating expenses for the year totaled \$33,500. Grantmaking expenses were \$11,500, due to the cost of licensing grant management software for two years. Expenses related to Member Education/Events were \$1,300. Fundraising expenses of \$10,400 included \$5,800 in credit card fees, as well as the cost of donor management software and mailings. General Operating Expenses of \$10,300 included \$7,500 in Legal & Financial, \$900 for Communications, and \$1,900 in Miscellaneous.

In addition, the Board approved funding for DEI work. This special project spans two grant years, with \$8,800 spent in 2020-21 and another \$9,300 to be expended in 2021-22.

The Board seeks to maintain reserves equivalent to roughly a year's worth of ordinary operating expenses, both to fund special projects and to safeguard our ability to cover operating costs, which are largely fixed in the short term.

**702** Many Hands members have granted more than **\$2.2** million to **40** nonprofits in **18** years.





# Join Us!

As a Many Hands member, you can maximize the impact of your giving by joining forces with hundreds of other donors. There is no application to become a member and no volunteer requirement. All members are eligible to vote for the \$100,000 Impact Grantee and to participate in application review and education events.

Learn more at [manyhandsdc.org/membership](https://manyhandsdc.org/membership).

Ready to give? Go to [manyhandsdc.org/donate-and-join](https://manyhandsdc.org/donate-and-join)



I joined Many Hands so I can belong to a community of like-minded individuals working together to have large-scale impacts in helping to support women and families.

– Suzanna Kang



Each year with Many Hands has brought me new insights, new friendships, and increased gratitude for the chance to make life better for so many.

– Judy Bacon



I have rarely encountered a single funder or a funding group as dedicated and educated as Many Hands. You will not find a more committed, passionate, and driven group of women.

– Corinne Cannon, founder and executive director, Greater DC Diaper Bank

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# 2020-21