ManyHands

Together we make a difference

2026 IMPACT REPORT

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As the largest giving circle in the DC area, Many Hands has mobilized more than $3.8 million since 2004 to support local nonprofits serving and empowering women, children, and families in socioeconomic need.

manyhandsdc

MAKING A COLLECTIVE IMPACT

24 YEARS OF IMPACT

$3.8 MILLION GRANTED

56 ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED

950+ WOMEN INVOLVED

Many Hands, Inc.
P.O. Box 15048
Chevy Chase, MD 20825

info@manyhandsdc.org
manyhandsdc.org

A Message from the Board

Dear Friends of Many Hands,

Every year, this letter is an opportunity to reflect on what our community has built together. This year, that reflection carries a little more weight.

Across the DC region, the nonprofits we partner with are seeing growing demand for their services while navigating a funding landscape that has grown tighter and less predictable. Needs are expanding, in some cases faster than resources can keep pace. It would be easy, in a moment like this, to feel discouraged.

Many Hands represents a counterforce to that uncertainty: a model of what becomes possible when people come together with intention, generosity, and trust. Research on collective giving bears this out — when individuals pool their resources and make decisions together, they give more thoughtfully, more strategically, and with deeper connection to the communities they serve. That spirit sits at the heart of everything we do.

This year, we have much to celebrate. With our 2026 grants, Many Hands has granted more than $3.8 million to 56 organizations across our region since our founding. We welcomed nearly 50 new donors into our community. Our Grants Committee, together with the 70 members who served on our focus area committees and the 10 members who conducted in-depth financial review of our finalists, worked tirelessly to narrow 124 applications down to the four extraordinary grantees you will read about in this report. Our Communications Committee launched "Holes in the Safety Net," a new series helping our members understand the systemic challenges facing our neighbors and the organizations working every day to meet them. And our Membership Committee hosted more than half a dozen small-group gatherings this year, creating new spaces for connection and learning among our members.

These numbers matter because of what they represent — not just generosity, but engagement. Because of this community, ideas become action, and action becomes impact for organizations doing vital, often under-recognized, work in our region.

We are also proud to share something new: for the first time, Many Hands provided a $1,000 stipend to every organization that hosted a site visit as part of our review process. Participating in our process takes real time and effort. We want to show our nonprofit partners our gratitude for that investment in more than words.

As Dr. Jane Goodall reminds us, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." We choose to make a difference rooted in dignity, opportunity, and action, especially when it is hard.

That choice is what this report celebrates. Thank you for making it possible.

With gratitude,

The Many Hands Board of Directors
Together we make a difference

2026 GRANTEES

School Justice Project (SJP) is a DC-based legal services and advocacy organization working to ensure that court-involved students with disabilities receive a quality education. SJP uses special education law to: increase students' access to quality education; reduce incarceration through less-restrictive alternatives; improve reentry services and policies; and empower students to transition to post-secondary education and employment. In 2024, SJP served 450 young people: 100% of clients released from incarceration re-enrolled in school within 30 days. SJP's education advocacy in court hearings helped mitigate the outcome in 87% of cases. Also, 88% of clients reported increased empowerment, and 95% demonstrated increased understanding of education rights. The Many Hands grant supports existing work and a partnership with Howard University to create a social work internship.

"The Many Hands Impact Grant has been transformative for School Justice Project (SJP). The funds from this award support the core goals of SJP's programming, increasing access to special education legal services for court-involved students with disabilities in DC. Additionally, this grant has enabled us to focus on two key priorities: building out our social work program to give our clients the services and supports they need and expanding our training and student empowerment initiatives. We are so grateful for this funding and the incredible community of support that comes with it."

Claire Nilsen Blumenson, Esq.
Executive Director & Co-Founder, School Justice Project
2026 Impact Grantee

AfriThrive began in 2019 distributing culturally familiar food to African immigrant families in Montgomery County. Since then, they have distributed more than 2.5 million pounds of food, helping stabilize food access for families experiencing food insecurity. AfriThrive recently expanded their mobile food distributions and school-based food access, providing families improved access to produce and culturally familiar foods—reducing the stress of food insecurity, and improving students' attendance and attention at school. Also, their investment in cold-chain infrastructure has improved food safety, reduced spoilage, and increased the volume and variety of food distributed, resulting in more families served. AfriThrive's priority is to build their organizational resilience to meet growing food demand amid continued economic uncertainty.

"Many Hands' investment is helping AfriThrive turn healthy, culturally meaningful food into better health, greater dignity, and stronger communities. Their partnership is creating lasting change for immigrant and refugee families across Montgomery County."

Dr. Truphena Choti
Founder & CEO, AfriThrive
Partner Grantee 2026

2026 GRANTEES

COMMUNITY LODGINGS
Opening Doors to Independence

Community Lodgings' (CL) mission is to lift families in the Arlandria-Chirilagua area of Alexandria from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency. Their transitional housing program provides housing to eight families and services to help them obtain skills and resources needed to achieve self-sufficiency within two years. CL's permanent housing program provides housing at below-market rents to 40 families who earn 60% or less of the Alexandria median income. Their wrap-around services enhance children's academic achievement and adults' leadership skills. CL's youth education program gives academic support to students in grades 1-12, mostly first-generation US-born children in immigrant families. They partner with Alexandria City Public Schools, offering after-school activities that correspond to the school curriculum, and address the children's social-emotional and developmental needs.

"The Many Hands grant represents an investment in Community Lodgings. The grant also gives us the flexibility to sustain and expand these opportunities while connecting youth to broader pathways for economic mobility."

Lynn Thomas
Executive Director, Community Lodgings
Partner Grantee 2026

dcgreens

DC Greens addresses persistent food access and nutrition challenges in Washington, especially Wards 7 and 8. They offer three programs: 1) a community farm and wellness space for seasonal crop production, produce distribution at no cost to the community, and classes, events, and volunteer opportunities for residents; 2) Produce Rx, an award winning food-is-medicine program that provides preventive produce benefits to DC Medicaid patients with chronic conditions; and 3) paid roles for community members with lived experience to help in program development, strategic planning, partnerships, and outreach. In 2025, DC Greens distributed over 7,000 pounds of produce at no cost to residents, engaged directly with about 4,000 individuals, and reached thousands more through programs and area partnerships.

"DC Greens is deeply appreciative of the Many Hands grant. This support will enable us to sustain our life-changing, and at times lifesaving, Food Is Medicine work for DC Medicaid patients. The funding will also allow us to continue our innovative work at The Well at Oxon Run, our urban farm and wellness space in Ward 8. This grant will be leveraged alongside hundreds of volunteer hours and community-driven investments to create meaningful and lasting impact for our neighbors."

Eric Angel
Executive Director, DC Greens
Partner Grantee 2026

MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS

Our Members

Our members are the beating heart of Many Hands. We can't thank you enough for your continued membership, your enthusiasm for our mission, and your ongoing efforts to recruit fellow philanthropists to join us. Our membership remains strong, but the needs in our communities continue to grow each year. Together, we can grow our membership and meet those needs with even greater impact. Together, we make a difference.

Our Membership Committee works year-round to recruit new members and keep current ones engaged, listening closely to what members value and need. An anonymous survey of 2025 grant cycle members (conducted at the start of the 2026 grant cycle), with a 31% response rate, shows a membership that is committed and aligned with our mission. Of those who responded, 88% voted for the 2025 Impact Grantee, and about two-thirds served on a Focus Area Committee or volunteered in another way. Most tellingly, 90% said membership has made them better informed about the needs of women and children in the greater Washington area.

48 NEW MEMBERS

269 MEMBERS STRONG

60% MEMBERS FOR 4+ YEARS

A Year of Learning & Connection

From our October kickoff to our informative December education event, *Shifting Sands: Challenges for Nonprofits in Uncertain Times* (featuring experts in the field Jane Wales of the Aspen Institute and Mary Thomas of CF Leads), to a June welcome for our newest Women of Color affinity group, GY2026 brought members together 18 times over the year — to learn from nonprofit leaders, sharpen their grantmaking skills, and build community with each other and with our grantees.

18 EVENTS

300+ MEMBERS & FRIENDS ATTENDED

4 EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

11 SOCIAL & INFORMATIONAL EVENTS

FINANCIALS

Fundraising for grants was strong in Grant Year 2026, remaining in line with Grant Year 2025. Investment income totaled $19,000 for the Board-designated Fund for the Future and the Grant Fund, consistent with the Board-approved Investment Policy which calls for funds to be held in Treasuries. Strong fundraising combined with the investment income allowed us to award a total of $319,000; the Impact Grant of $100,000 and three Partner Grants of $73,000 each.

In addition, the Board voted to award stipends of $1,000 to each of the eleven organizations that received site visits but did not receive grants, totalling $11,000 in stipends granted. This change puts Many Hands at the leading edge of grant-making best practices.

Operating expenses for the year totaled $38,000. This represents approximately 10% of the total budget of $368,000, which is in line with prior years expenses and includes:

Credit Card & Bank Fees.....$5,000
Software & Technology.....$12,000
Events and Education.....$6,000
Professional Accounting Fees.....$8,000
Other Business Expenses.....$7,000

The Board-designated Fund for the Future had a balance of $282,000 as of June 30, 2026, reflecting contributions to the Fund, investment income earned, and eligible expenses. Under the Board-approved Investment Policy, up to 4% of the Fund may be used each year to support eligible expenses. In 2026, we used $6,000 from the Fund for those expenses, well below the amount permitted under the policy.

Fiscal Year 2026

Statement of Financial Position (6/20/26)

Assets

Cash.....$31,000
Investments.....$309,000
Prepaid Expenses.....$6,000
Total Assets.....$346,000

Liabilities & Net Assets

Board Designated $282,000
Undesignated.....$64,000
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....$346,000

Statement of Activities (7/1/25–6/30/26)

Revenue & Support
Contributions
Grants & Operations.....$364,000
Fund for the Future.....$10,000
Investment Income.....$19,000
Total $393,000

Expenses
Programs
Grants & Stipends Awarded.....$330,000
Other Program Expenses.....$10,000
Fundraising.....$6,000
Management & General.....$22,000
Total $368,000

Change in Net Assets.....$25,000

THANK YOU
to our donors and volunteers

2025-26

Board of Directors

Deborah Arrindell
Claudette Christian
Ann Gouldin Kay
Charis Keitelman
Susan Liss
Ellen Oshinsky
Katie Rosenthal
Frazier Schulman
Rita Shapiro
Nasim Shojaei
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2025-26

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Nancy Chockley *
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Sharron Cochran
Susan Cohen
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Susan Cole
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Christine Connelly
Sarah Cormier
Marjorie Corwin
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Miriam Daniel
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Florence Hart
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Rachel Keitelman
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Alycia Kiley
Beth Kirksey
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Phillip Schaefer
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Anette Schoch
Frazier Schulman
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Nasim Shojaei
Patience Singleton *
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Caroline Wolverton *
Michelle Yang *
Joan Yood
Kathryn Zecca

New Member

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Frazier Schulman
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Elizabeth Whitmore

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Joy Bates Boyle
Catherine De Peuter
Amy Graham
Joanne Howes
Ann Gouldin Kay

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Laura London
Mimi Mager
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Marsha Shaines
Lori Sostowski

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Cindy van den Beemt
Elizabeth Whitmore

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Laura Adams
Lynne Battle
Allison Beck
Karen Beiley
Rosanah Bennett
Karin Bolte
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Lauryn Guttenplan
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Lynn Hoffman
Joanne Howes
Stephanie Jackson (Chair)
Elizabeth Jerome
Ann Gouldin Kay (Chair)
Charis Keitelman
Gail Kelleher
Rita Kirshstein
Betty Kotcher
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Isabelle Thabault
Karen Thomson
Gail Weinmann
Kathy Whatley
Caroline Wolverton
Rebecca Zumeta Edmonds
Cindy van den Beemt (Chair)

WHAT WE BELIEVE

MISSION

Many Hands leverages the power of collective giving to support nonprofits serving and empowering Washington, DC area women, children, and families in socioeconomic need.

VISION

To provide philanthropists with meaningful opportunities to give, learn, and serve together in ways that best fit their interests and goals.

VALUES

Many Hands believes in **the power of collective giving**.

Many Hands believes that **diversity, equity, and inclusion** are central to our work.

Many Hands believes in **trust-based philanthropy**.

Many Hands believes in **voluntarism**.

JOIN US!

Maximize the impact of your giving by joining hundreds of donors to make large grants to outstanding local nonprofits.

Review grant applications, vote for the Impact Grantee, attend events, or simply support our grantees with your gift.

We welcome all members to participate in ways that fit their interests and needs.

Learn more at: manyhandsdc.org/membership

READY TO GIVE?

Go to: manyhandsdc.org/donate-and-join (or scan the QR code)

Many Hands, Inc.
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info@manyhandsdc.org
manyhandsdc.org

manyhandsdc

Platinum Transparency 2026

Candid.

Many Hands is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to Many Hands are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
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