

2015 – Fifth Round Grant Recipients

Jones Partnership Fund

ACACIA IN KENYA
2015 Sharing Science

\$1,750

Project Director: Danielle Hanson

Sponsor: Joyce Mohr

The Project: Acacia in Kenya is the recipient of two Foldscopes, and members of First Parish will deliver them to St. Elizabeth Lureko Girls School in Kenya this summer. While there, they will share information about how to participate in the worldwide development of the user's manual, as well as present supplementary science supplies. They will also celebrate ten years of partnership with the school.

Partnering Opportunities: Acacia in Kenya will be reaching out to science educators in the wider Waltham and surrounding communities both before and after the trip, which they will document in detail. They will highlight the project in their May fundraiser as well. Members of the congregation and others will have continuing opportunities to engage with and support the school.

THE CAT CONNECTION
The Cat Connection Shelter Projection

\$750

Project Director: Eva Miller

Sponsor: Evelyn LeBlanc

The Project: The volunteer team proposes to transform the former North Branch of the Waltham Public Library into a cat shelter in 2015. The purpose is to control the local feral cat population through Trap-Neuter-Return-Maintain programs and to facilitate the adoption of stray and abandoned cats and kittens into responsible, permanent homes. Many residents can no longer afford to feed their cats or kittens or are abandoning them. The economy has left the Cat Connection with more cats than ever. The grant can help them provide a shelter to improve the feral cat situation in the City.

Partnering Opportunities: The Cat Connection would acknowledge the First Parish Waltham publicly, such as on its website and Facebook page, provide volunteer opportunities, host open houses and/or visits to the church, and possibly name a space within the shelter.

CHAPLAINS ON THE WAY
Women's Knitting Group at Bristol Lodge Women's Shelter

\$1,500 (second year)

Project Director: Rebecca Sheble-Hall

Sponsor: Shirley Traite

The Project: The ultimate goal is to bring connection to women experiencing crisis and isolation, including connection to faith communities, such as First Parish. There will be a weekly opportunity to knit in a circle of care and conversation. Knitters choose yarn and needles from donated supplies while COTW volunteers teach beginners to knit. Staff chaplains organize and attend each week, offering spiritual companionship and helpful resources. (This group plans to become self-sustaining and is in the process of setting up their organization towards that goal.)

Partnering Opportunities: COTW hopes to expand the circle of support in the community. The volunteers will promote the needs of the group in their churches and among friends. At First Parish specifically, they plan a "Ladies' Tea" and a meditative labyrinth walk, co-facilitated by the FPW ministerial intern. Interested women in the knitting group can be part of the planning also.

CHESTERBROOK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.
Youth Group Project for Chesterbrook and Dana Court

\$1,500

Project Director: Joan Atlas

Sponsor: Pam Penton

The Project: The Jones Partnership Fund will provide funds for two events to be held at the church, to which the Youth Group will invite children from the Learning Centers. Funds will also provide school and art supplies and snacks and water for the two learning centers.

Partnering Opportunities: The Parish Youth Group will continue to conduct drives at the church to gather healthy snacks, school and/or art supplies for the learning centers. They will also plan two special events held at the church, which will involve children from both the Learning Centers and from First Parish.

THE COMMUNITY DAY CENTER, INC.
Stabilization Program: Counseling, Case Management and Wellness

\$2,500 (2nd of 3 years)

Project Director: Marilyn Lee-Tom

Sponsor: Dimitry Zarkh

The Project: The project entails hiring and paying a Mental Health Counselor and a Case Manager to provide a stabilization process for the people who utilize the Community Day

Center. The goal is to offer “one stop” services for those individuals who need help with mental health issues and substance abuse issues. The goal for each individual is full recovery with no relapse. (Their plan is to attain funds from larger grant sources to support the counselor and case manager, such as the Clipper Ship Foundation, for the long term.)

Partnering Opportunities: There are volunteer opportunities at the Day Center to deepen the connection that already exists with the FPW. The CDC benefits the Waltham community.

FIRST PARISH BOARD OF MANAGERS
Sanctuary Sound Enhancement

\$2,182

Project Director: Dan DeHainaut

Sponsor: Donna VanderClock

The Project: The project will complete the final stage of a multi-year program of modernization and improvement of the Sanctuary’s installed sound system. New loudspeakers and an amplifier will provide superior sound suitable for a variety of performances: vocal and musical events, as well as panel discussions and lectures. Labor will be provided by members of the church.

Partnering Opportunities: A superior sound system will enable the church to attract a wider variety of guests and renters, thus increasing potential membership and revenues. First Parish has a long musical history in the community, from the Choristers and Coffee House to current performances of the Choir, guest musicians, and artists participating in our Gala Auction event.

GREATER WALTHAM ARC (GWARC)
GWArc Community Service Program

\$1,000

Project Director: Roslynn Rubin

Sponsor: Alice Taylor

The Project: The Community Service Program engages individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in service projects that benefit others in the community. Participation can provide a sense of purpose, pride and accomplishment. GWArc would coordinate opportunities for First Parish members to participate with Community Outreach and Social Justice Commissioner Dimitry Zarkh.

Partnering Opportunities: GWArc will host four community service sessions. Two will be held through their Recreation program and will be open to all. They will work to coordinate schedules so that First Parish members may also participate in intergenerational service events at venues such as the Waltham Community Day Center and the Bristol

Lodge Soup Kitchen.

JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE **\$1,000**
Cooking Without a Kitchen: Cookbook Distribution Project

Project Director: Alison Kaufman

Sponsor: Alan Bone

The Project: The JFCS has created a cookbook in partnership with Project Bread, **Cooking without a Kitchen**, which is designed for homeless families living in hotels without kitchens. Distribution to homeless individuals includes inviting potential users to cooking demonstrations that explain how to use the cookbook and prepare healthy nutritious, delicious meals for those on a very small budget.

Partnering Opportunities: In Waltham 115 families housed in The Home Suites Inn are potential users for the cookbook. To partner with the First Parish, the JFCS could have Hunger and Nutrition staff speak to the parishioners about their work or participate in a "gift card drive" for grocery store gift cards to be distributed with the cookbook at the demonstrations.

THOM/CHARLES RIVER EARLY INTERVENTION **\$1,000**
Trauma Informed Early Intervention

Project Director: Lorraine Sanik

Sponsor: Grace Curtis

The Project: The Trauma Informed Early Intervention approach would enable staff to more effectively engage parents new to the Waltham Home Suites Hotel. The staff would support families of very young children, birth to 3 years old, to move forward from traumatic events. The funds would also support parent discussion groups focused on topics of interest requested by parents.

Partnering Opportunities: The project will bring together family workers from Creative Start and staff from the Home Suites Hotel. Also, Playtime, a program of the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development, with the Hotel staff will provide family activities. Sponsor Grace Curtis attends various functions and donates clothing and shoes for the children. They welcome other parishioners' involvement.

UU MASS ACTION
Immigrant Rights Campaign

\$500

Project Director: Laura Wagner

Sponsor: Dimitry Zarkh

The Project: Immigrant Rights is one of UU Mass Action's four core campaigns, and its focus is to decrease the vulnerability of the state's immigrant community by the passage of two key bills: the Trust Act and the Safe Driving Bill. Jones Partnership Fund support will allow members to work with community leaders on a variety of fronts to ensure passage of these bills.

Partnering Opportunities: UU Mass Action will work in collaboration with the Immigrant Rights team at First Parish by providing campaign updates and calls to action, as well as by supporting community events sponsored by the church. First Parish has collaborated in the past on the campaign: last year the congregation voted to support the Trust Act. Volunteers will also work in the Waltham community to support passage of a Waltham Trust Act Ordinance.

WALTHAM BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
Café for Kids Free Dinner Program

\$2,000

Project Director: Erica Young

Sponsor: Sue Genser

The Project: Since many of Waltham children and teens eat one nutritious meal a day at school, the purpose of the program is to help alleviate out-of-school hunger by providing a healthy meal every evening, educate children about nutrition and healthy eating habits, and motivate the community to respond to the problem of childhood hunger. Café for Kids provides an after-school meal each day that school is in session, during school vacations, and summer break.

Partnering Opportunities: The Girls and Boys Club works with Healthy Waltham, Waltham Fields Community Farm, as well as students from Bentley and Brandeis. The First Parish neighbors are invited to plan, source, and serve meals in the program. The program benefits the Club families and the community as a whole. In the past Sue Genser, sponsor, enlisted several First Parish members to serve meals and contribute groceries to the program.

WALTHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
Senior Citizen Symphony Trip

\$500

Project Director: Marybeth Duffy

Sponsor: Amy Eastwood

The Project: The Waltham Council on Aging provides biennial day trips that many Waltham isolated, low-income seniors cannot afford. This grant would provide funds for 30 seniors to attend a Boston Symphony Orchestra performance and dinner at Maggiano's. The event provides a social and cultural opportunity. During the bus ride the Counsel on Aging provides outreach services.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish member volunteers are invited to be escorts on the trip or volunteer in other ways at the Waltham Council on Aging.

WALTHAM FAMILY SCHOOL
Immigrant Families Learning Together

\$1,500

Project Director: Britta McNemar

Sponsor: Bee Fortin

The Project: The Waltham Family School supports low income, immigrant families by providing educational and social opportunities. This Jones Partnership Fund grant supports transportation for four field trips which are part of the Interactive Literacy component of the program. The trips involve many preparatory and follow-up learning activities, plus the chance to explore different parts of the city and region.

Partnering Opportunities: In addition to involvement with the field trips, First Parish Religious Education team members and Sponsor Bee Fortin are planning an intergenerational event with the Family School at First Parish to celebrate Martin Luther King Day, 2016. Church members have also participated in other events in conjunction with the Family School.

WALTHAM FARMERS' MARKET
Snap Match

\$1500 (2-year grant)

Project Director: Martha Creedon

Sponsor: Martha Creedon

The Project: One in seven Americans uses SNAP, the Federal government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "food stamps." In 2011, a generous Jones Partnership grant was awarded to the Waltham Farmers' Market to allow SNAP customers to use their benefits at all eligible farmers and food vendors at the Market. Funding this year enables the Waltham to continue supporting SNAP customers,

matching SNAP benefits with market tokens to double SNAP dollars up to \$10 per customer per week.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish has many members that volunteer or play lead roles in the market and many others that regularly shop there in the summer.

WALTHAM HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR **\$1,000**
Waltham High School Show Choir Outreach Expansion

Project Director: Alyssa Navarro

Sponsor: Rachel Learned

The Project: The WHS would like to expand its Show Choir by 25 females and up to 25 males. The JP grant would provide funds for the additional dresses needed for female members. In addition, the group requests the use of Whitcomb Hall for a recruiting event, for which the Parish would waive the rental fee.

Partnering Opportunities: Four Parish members are also members of the Waltham Show Choir. The group, and/or a subset of the group, perform special numbers for the Parish at holiday time, such as Christmas. Planned activities include using the Parish as a venue for practicing and performing, therefore, increasing visibility for FPW in the community.

WALTHAM MILLS ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION
Waltham Mills Open Studios: Print and Media Campaign **\$1,000**

Project Director: Liza Bingham

Sponsor: Joel Weddig

The Project: Waltham Mills Artists' Association will hold their Open Studios on November 7 and 8, 2015. The Jones Partnership Grant will help with one of the largest expenditures, the printing and media campaigns. This includes radio ads and the printing of hundreds of handouts for visitors.

Partnering Opportunities: The WMAA will include the FPW on its materials, provide guided tours of member studios, and assist at the annual First Parish Gala Auction in a multi-pronged approach, including the services of an artist-liaison to facilitate communication and coordinate efforts.

WALTHAM PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH
Waltham Youth Leadership Council

\$1,000

Project Director: Beth Toolan

Sponsor: Dimitry Zarkh

The Project: Waltham Partnership for Youth is leading the efforts to create a city-wide leadership council for the purpose of preventing peer to peer substance abuse. Currently the efforts are adult-led. The Waltham Youth Leadership Council will utilize “One Voice Youth Empowerment Model” to develop young people’s leadership and engagement so that young people can make changes needed in the community.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish youth who participate in the program will be encouraged to present their work at First Parish as well as make their work part of their Coming of Age requirements.

WALTHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Community Outreach Program

\$1,000

Project Director: Haig Iskenderian

Sponsor: Michael Levin

The Project: The focus of the Community Outreach Program is to bring classical music listening and performing opportunities to a greater cross-section of the Waltham Community. The goals are to attract student players to the orchestra, host a Student Concerto Competition, offer an exceptional young musician the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the orchestra, and partner with Plympton School in the “Asian Dreamscape” spring concert and produce four free chamber music concerts for the community.

Partnering Opportunities: The Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra will offer a chamber music performance at First Parish Church this year, either as part of a service, in conjunction with another on-going event, or as a separate event for parishioners. The group would welcome the opportunity to strengthen partnership with the FPW.