

2016 Jones Partnership Fund Grant Recipients

THE CAT CONNECTION

\$1,000

Veterinary Care for Feral and Fostered Cats in Waltham

Project Director: Eva Miller

Sponsor: Evelyn LeBlanc

The Project: The Cat Connection grant funds will support veterinary care for cats in the foster home system as well as for feral cats, who are trapped, neutered and released. The goal is to reduce the feral and stray cat population and to provide tame cats with a home.

Partnering Opportunities: The Cat Connection welcomes opportunities to work with the members of First Parish, as evidenced by the recent cooperative project with the Religious Education program. Members could be feeders of cats, provide foster homes, adopt cats, donate goods, or volunteer in other capacities.

CHAPLAINS ON THE WAY

\$1,500

Chaplains on the Way Knitting Group

Project Director: Rebecca Sheble-Hall

Sponsor: Shirley Traite

The Project: The goal of this project is to continue providing emotional and spiritual support to women experiencing the crisis and isolation of homelessness, and to offer a connection to First Parish and other faith communities. It does this by providing a weekly opportunity to knit in a circle of care and conversation. The women choose yarn and needles from donated supplies. COTW volunteers teach beginners and encourage all participants. A staff chaplain organizes and attends, offering spiritual companionship and helpful resources.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish Waltham members may donate supplies, volunteer time as knitters, and offer a special welcome to women who attend church services or events.

CHESTERBROOK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

\$1,500

Youth Group Community Service Project

Project Director: Joan Atlas

Sponsor: Pam Penton

The Project: The church youth group will plan and host a party in the church hall for the children of the Chesterbrook, Dana Court and Prospect Hill low-income housing developments in fall 2016. The Bentley Service-Learning Center will participate in the planning along with Lynne Weygint of First Parish and Joan Atlas of Chesterbrook Community Foundation. In addition, the grant will allocate some funds to the Chesterbrook and Dana Court Learning Centers for snacks and supplies for their regular programs.

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 a special event held at the church, which will involve children from the Learning Centers, their families and volunteers from the Bentley University Service-Learning project. First Parish families are also invited to attend.

THE COMMUNITY DAY CENTER, INC.

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

Stabilization Program: Counseling, Case Management and Wellness Project Director: Marilyn Lee-Tom

Sponsor: Roberta Trudeau

The Project: The project entails supporting 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 First Parish. Members are also invited to attend fund-raising events.

DOWNTOWN WALTHAM PARTNERSHIP

\$2,000

Waltham Riverfest 2016

Project Director: Sarah Hankins

Sponsor: Scott Shurr

The Project: The organization plans to provide a free, family friendly event for all residents of the city to enjoy, as well as to showcase resources and businesses in downtown Waltham. Artists and musicians will demonstrate their talents. Local businesses, private organizations, and volunteers will work together to organize and promote the event to make it inclusive of all people living in Waltham and surrounding areas.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish members are invited to attend festival events, and the Jones Partnership Fund logo will be prominently displayed on publicity and signage. Several members of the congregation are already actively involved in other capacities.

FIRST PARISH BOARD OF MANAGERS

\$2,500

First Parish Web Site and Social Media Upgrade

Project Director: Donna VanderClock

Sponsor: Dan DeHainaut

The Project: The First Parish Board of Managers requests funds to improve effectiveness of outreach efforts through the Parish website and social media. The project will engage a UU Ministry and Media consultant to evaluate the current website and social media programs. Next the consultant will work with the Marketing and Promotion Committee (MAP) and other First Parish Commissions to determine appropriate changes to the design and functions of the current web site in order to support the church’s presence on social media such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. The final goal is to improve outreach and visibility to encourage growth.

Partnering Opportunities: Digital, web and social media are at present the language of outreach and connection, critical as First Parish seeks to connect with the community beyond and to discover the community’s needs. Members can continue to share activities of the congregation on individual media accounts and to refer interested parties to the church web site.

GREATER WALTHAM ARC

\$1,200

GWArc Volunteering and Community Connections

Project Director: Roslynn Rubin

Sponsor: Alice Taylor

The Project: GWArc's patrons are individuals with developmental disabilities. Although this group is usually not asked to give back to the community, this project provides opportunities for the group to volunteer and to help others. This year will build on the success of last year's Jones Partnership Fund supported project. They will expand activities and reach out to new community partners. They expect to host six community service events and to partner, not only with REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, but also with the Downtown Waltham Partnership, and to provide and serve food to a local shelter, among other activities.

Partnering Opportunities: Planned activities such as those mentioned in the application will build connections with First Parish members who also attend. The Sponsor will keep members informed of upcoming charitable and fund-raising events.

HEALTHY WALTHAM

\$2,000

Healthy Kids Summer Program

Project Director: Pam Hess

Sponsor: Muffy Young

The Project: Jones Partnership Grant funds will support an innovative school garden-to-table youth program focused on healthy eating, gardening, and physical activity at the McDevitt Middle School for twenty-five special education students. The pilot program (2 years ago) received positive feedback. As a result, the Healthy Kids Program was invited back to explore ways that other Waltham schools could benefit other Waltham school children. Healthy Kids will partner with the Waltham Fields Community Farm "Youth Crew" as "Healthy Ambassadors" to the younger kids. The program utilizes hands-on, experiential learning that will culminate in a pizza garden with vegetables and herbs for the pizza coming directly from the garden. Jones Partnership Grant funds will help to strengthen the program and build bridges in the community.

Partnering Opportunities: Healthy Waltham will provide First Parish signage near the garden and will publicize the church through the Healthy Waltham web site and the News Tribune. Potential partnerships would be during the fall harvest. Students could come to the church to meet parishioners and share their stories.

UU MASS ACTION

\$800

Immigrant Rights Campaign, Year 2

Project Director: Laura Wagner

Sponsor: Dimitry Zarkh

The Project: Immigrant Rights is one of UU Mass Action's four core campaigns. UU's as a faith organization deepened its commitment to immigrant rights during the Phoenix Justice GA in 2012. This project is the manifestation of Massachusetts' UU's commitment to justice. We are currently half way through the 189th general legislative session. The Jones Partnership helped fund the first half of the project during which the immigrant rights coalition, of which UU Mass Action is a member, filed the Trust Act, Safe Driving and Education Equity Bills. We increased the number of co-sponsors (doubled for Safe Driving!) and are now working to move the bills through their respective committees. We are working to bring them to the floor for a vote by growing the immigrant rights movement in Massachusetts.

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. In 2016 members of the UUMassAction team participated in a lay-lead service as well.

WALTHAM AMERICAN LEGION BAND

\$500

Waltham American Legion Band Concert

Project Director: Wendy Baisley

Sponsor: Scott Tougas

The Project: The Waltham American Legion Band will provide a concert to First Parish in Waltham at a mutually beneficial time. The band will consist of thirty musicians playing selections from Broadway, popular military compositions and marches, and music from the Great American Songbook. The purpose is to assist First Parish in fundraising and outreach programs.

Partnering Opportunities: The Band hopes to build bridges with members of Waltham and First Parish by providing enjoyable music for all people of all ages, races and economic backgrounds. Members can attend musical performances at the church and at other performance venues.

WALTHAM BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

\$2,500

Club Café – Free Meal Program

Project Director: Erica Young

Sponsor: Sue Genser

The Project: Since many 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, to educate children about nutrition and healthy eating habits, and to motivate the community to respond to the problem of childhood hunger. Club Café provides an after-school meal each day that school is in session, during school vacations, and over the summer break.

Partnering Opportunities: The Girls and Boys Club works with Healthy Waltham, Waltham Fields Community Farm, and with students from Bentley and Brandeis Universities. First Parish neighbors are invited to plan, source, and serve meals in the program. Last year church Sponsor Sue Genser enlisted several First Parish members to serve meals and contribute groceries to the program. Parishioners can also attend the annual fund raising event.

WALTHAM FARMERS' MARKET

\$1,500 (2nd of 2 years)

Snap Match

Project Director: Martha Creedon

Sponsor: Elisse Ghitelman

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 PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

\$1,000

Community Outreach Program

Project Director: Haig Iskenderian

Sponsor: Michael Levin

The Project: The Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra will continue to develop its Community Outreach Program 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, partner with the Plympton School chorus, and produce free chamber music performances for the community in partnership with other local organizations, including First Parish Church. The goal for 2016 is to reach out to a greater cross-section of the Waltham Community than before, both for adding new orchestra members and places to perform.

Partnering Opportunities: The Waltham Philharmonic will plan with Sponsor Michael Levin to perform chamber music as part of a church service, in conjunction with another Parish activity, or as a separate activity. In March of 2016 they performed as part of a lay-led service.

WALTHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

\$500

Waltham Symphony/First Parish Chamber Music

Project Director: Joan Garniss

Sponsor: Daniel Taylor

The Project: The Waltham Symphony proposes to create a Chamber Music Performance Series at the First Parish in Waltham, to bring high quality chamber music to the First Parish congregation and the citizens of Waltham. The concerts will occur in the Fall and Spring of 2016-17 and will consist of four to eight Waltham Symphony players performing the best in chamber music in a series of two concerts to be presented free, with an opportunity for donations at the door, to be shared with First Parish.

Partnering Opportunities: Members of the congregation can support the activities by attending concerts at First Parish and other venues in the community.

WATCH CITY BIKE LAB

\$2,000

Creating a Community Bike Workshop in Waltham

Project Director: Martha Creedon

Sponsor: Martha Creedon

The Project: The Watch City Bike Lab is a community bike workshop that will provide space, tools, equipment and knowledge to empower people of all backgrounds and circumstances to repair and maintain their own bicycles for free or at nominal cost. The new community resource will promote bicycling and support personal empowerment through knowledge sharing in a safe, supportive environment. The Lab plans to open in the spring 2016 in a space at the Charles River Museum.

Partnering Opportunities: The Community Bike Workshop expects to develop a presence in Waltham through social media, flyers, and other means. Jones Partnership Fund support would be recognized on all materials. Partnering with First Parish would also include encouraging bike riding in general, participating in group rides, and using the Bike Lab as needed.

WATCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

\$2,000

The Immigrant Experience

Project Director: Daria Gere

Sponsor: Deb Jose

The Project: *The Immigrant Experience* project is designed to increase understanding of, appreciation for, and integration of the immigrant population of Waltham. The project builds on events held in 2013 and 2014 at First Parish, where church and WATCH members partnered in planning and carrying out the event: cooking, sharing food and conversation, facilitating and participating in small group discussions and conversations, and learning about the lives of immigrants in Waltham. A similar event is proposed for 2016 at the church. This project is especially relevant now, as ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement) raids have escalated and presidential candidates debate immigration reform.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish members can partner by donating materials and time, and of course by attending the event.