



2017 Jones Partnership Fund Grant Recipients

African Cultural Services Inc.

\$2,500

Experience Africa 2

Project Director: Juliet Najjumba

Sponsor: Susan Weddig

The Project: *African Culture Services (ACS) produces programs that foster intercultural dialogues through creative expressions, especially African. ACS seeks to expand its presence in Waltham, with a strategic plan to develop more opportunities for a wider audience. Program frameworks include teacher workshops, after school workshops and community-wide events. Juliet Najjumba, the founder of ACS, believes that "Discussions about history and day-to-day life help the students feel comfortable in their bodies, feel proud of who they are, and also through what they get from ACS feel able to create conversations with their parents and others on African beauty rather than African hunger."*

Partnering Opportunities: *ACS provides programs, workshops, and events in which First Parish members may participate and publicize.*

The Cat Connection

\$1,500

Spay/Neuter Assistance Program – SNAP

Project Director: Elisif Brandon

Sponsor: Evelyn LeBlanc

The Project: *The Cat Connection will run a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). This two-phase campaign will integrate education about the benefits of SNAP with the opportunity for low-income cat owners to receive vouchers for subsidized spay/neuter procedures through the Cat Connection's local veterinary partner. Phase One focuses on spreading the word about benefits: controlling feline populations and increasing pets' lifespans. Phase Two focuses on joining forces with local organizations to reach out to the immigrant community.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program will serve the First Parish community as well as the Waltham immigrant community.*

Chaplains on the Way

\$1,625

Women's Spiritual Arts Group

Project Director: Tina Walker-Morin

Sponsor: Shirley Traite

The Project: *The Bristol Lodge Women's Shelter provides a safe, welcoming space for its guests to participate in a Women's Spiritual Arts Group. The goal is to bring emotional and spiritual support to women experiencing the crisis of homelessness, as well as connection to First Parish and other faith communities. The program provides a weekly opportunity to knit, to participate in meditative coloring, and to enjoy other new arts practices to be introduced in 2017, all through a circle of care and conversation. The women choose yarn, patterns, needles, colored pencils, books, etc. from donated supplies. COTW volunteers teach beginners and encourage all participants. A staff chaplain organizes and attends, offering a special welcome to women who attend First Parish Waltham services or events.*

Partnering Opportunities: COTW welcomes First Parish knitters to join the group as knitters and compassionate listeners. They also encourage the women to attend First Parish and participate to the extent they can.

Chesterbrook Community Foundation, Inc.

\$1,500

Community Party for Low-Income Children

Project Director: Joan Atlas

Sponsor: Joan Bone

The Project: The Boards of the Chesterbrook Community Foundation and the Prospect Hill Community Foundation will plan a party with the assistance of the Directors of the Chesterbrook, Prospect Hill and the Dana Court Learning Centers, all low-income housing developments. All students who attend the learning centers are assisted by Bentley University students from the Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center. Jones Partnership Funds will allocate funds for snacks and supplies for the regular study programs as well for the party hosted in the Parish Hall.

Partnering Opportunities: Chesterbrook Community Foundation invites parishioners, in addition to Sponsor Joan Bone, to assist with and attend the party in Whitcomb Hall.

Community Day Center of Waltham

\$1,900

Group Mentoring Project

Project Director: Carolyn Montalto

Sponsor: Roberta Trudeau

The Project: The Community Day Center has designed a Group Mentoring Program to help guests of the Center move out of homelessness into a more stable life. The Program will pair volunteers from the Waltham community with small groups of like-minded guests. The volunteers will lead 6-week workshops on a specific topic (such as housing, job search, health issues, spirituality, meditation, writing, women's issues, etc.) and provide resources, guidance, support, and coaching. The goal is to build on the case management process to create real change within this demographic of the community.

Partnering Opportunities: The Community Day Center welcomes First Parish Members as volunteers and mentors in their project. In addition, the church sponsor will assist in volunteer recruitment through congregants of First Parish.

Diaper Depot

\$1,500

Feminine Hygiene Products at Diaper Depot

Project Director: Maureen Bagge Fowler

Sponsor: Jennifer Patton

The Project: The Diaper Depot distributes diapers to families in need. Presently the program distributes 3,000 diapers per month for 80 to 90 children. The goal of the current project is to expand to include a monthly distribution of feminine hygiene products. This monthly distribution occurs with the pickup of their allotment of diapers. There is no social "safety net" program that provides coverage for diapers or feminine hygiene supplies.

Partnering Opportunities: First Parish members may contribute supplies to the project and assist with the distribution and/or packaging.

Downtown Waltham Partnership

\$1,500

Ninth Annual Waltham Riverfest

Project Director: Sarah Hankins

Sponsor: Scott Shurr

The Project: Downtown Waltham Partnership will present the Ninth Annual Waltham Riverfest, a family friendly event for all residents of the city that showcases resources and businesses in downtown Waltham. Local merchants, artists, non-profit organizations and volunteers run the events, and one of the

goals of this year's festivities is to encourage more diversity in those who participate and attend.

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 Waltham Board of Managers

2017-18: \$3,000

Chancel Accessibility Project

2018-19: \$3,000

Project Director: Barry Stearns

Sponsor: Dan DeHainaut

The Project: *The Board of Managers proposes to improve the accessibility and safety of the chancel by extending the existing railings down both sides of the broad steps in a way that complements and enhances the aesthetics of our 85-year-old sanctuary. Once completed, the project will give more people the opportunity to navigate the steps and speak from the lectern without undue concern for their safety and dignity.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The church has made strides in improving access to both floors of the building. This improvement will broaden the range of people who can participate fully and comfortably in activities in the sanctuary.*

Greater Waltham Arc (GWArc)

\$1,200

Friends Together: A Memory Café

Project Director: Roslynn Rubin

Sponsor: Alice Taylor

The Project: *GWArc will partner with The Leland Home to hold monthly Memory Café events. A Memory Café is a welcoming place for people with cognitive challenges and their caregivers to socialize, share and support one another. GWArc and The Leland Home have designed a plan for an inclusive Memory Café that will bring together GWArc participants with intellectual and developmental disabilities, accompanied by staff, as well as people with memory loss and caregivers from the Leland Home and the community. Monthly café events will include snacks and coffee, time to socialize and an inclusive art project or group activity, such as music, yoga, games and discussion topics.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The Memory Café will work with Sponsor Alice Taylor to ensure that First Parish congregants are aware of the Memory Café and are invited to attend either as volunteers or participants.*

Healthy Waltham

\$2,000

Healthy Kids Summer Program

Project Director: Maria DiMaggio

Sponsor: Muffy Young

The Project: *Healthy Waltham (HW) will conduct their school garden-to-table youth program focused on healthy eating, gardening, and physical activity, at the Waltham Public Schools' Middle School summer program for special education students. The children will learn about planting, growing and harvesting vegetables and herbs. They then will prepare healthy meals (including pizza with toppings from the garden), thus connecting knowledge of where food comes from to healthy ways to prepare it. HW will also connect the youth to the Waltham Fields Community Farm (WFCF). The Farm will provide summer employment for local youth, "Youth Crew," who assist several hours per week along with the garden educator from the farm to provide expert gardening instruction.*

Partnering Opportunities: *This year Healthy Waltham will offer a healthy cooking workshop to First Parish Youth and/or adults. They will also explore volunteer opportunities for First Parish members, such as assisting in a workshop or handing out food samples at a tasting event.*

UU Mass Action**\$1,500*****Building Our Faith Network for Creating Sanctuary*****Project Director:** Laura Wagner**Sponsor:** Dimitry Zarkh

The Project: *UU Mass Action is partnering with immigrant rights leaders and interfaith community colleagues to develop a network that will both provide and support physical sanctuary to individuals and families who have been issued a deportation order. UU Mass Action will work with First Parish to address its concerns surrounding the status of the immigrant community in Waltham.*

Partnering Opportunities: *UU Mass Action will collaborate with First Parish in the discernment process to determine how the congregation may wish to engage in sanctuary. By providing access to collective knowledge it will also connect those in the congregation who wish to support sanctuary with the present needs of those who are in sanctuary. First Parish members can attend various informational gatherings as well.*

Waltham American Legion Band**\$ 800*****Waltham American Legion Band Concert*****Project Director:** Shelley Drowns**Sponsor:** Scott Tougas

The Project: *The Waltham American Legion Band will perform a benefit concert for The Community Day Center of Waltham on a mutually determined date in 2017. The Band will provide a wind ensemble of 20 to 30 volunteer musicians, from teens to ninety's, inclusive of veterans and civilians. The music will include varied selections of Broadway, The Great American Songbook, and popular military and march tunes. Director John O'Toole, graduate of BU School of Fine and Applied Arts will lead.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The concert will be held at First Parish, where members of several communities can enjoy the festivities.*

Waltham Boys and Girls Club**\$2,375*****Club Café*****Project Director:** Nick Cacciolfi**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: *First Parish neighbors are invited to plan, source, and serve meals in the program both during the school year and summer vacation. Parishioners can also attend the annual fund raising event.*

Waltham Farmers' Market**\$1,900*****SNAP Match: Building Community through Healthy Food Access*****Project Director:** Martha Creedon**Sponsor:** Elisse Ghitelman

The Project: *The goal of the program is to promote health, nutrition and personal dignity in the community by offering matching funds to SNAP/EBT recipients at the Waltham Farmers' Market. In addition, the market provides access to healthy foods and a venue for local farmers, small businesses, artists and artisans.*

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 Coffee House Student Performance Series

\$1,900

Coffee House Infrastructure Purchase

Project Director: Brad Ellenberg

Sponsor: Rachel Learned

The Project: *The WHS Coffee House performance series is composed of a diverse membership of students, some of whom are members of First Parish. The one-time purchase of high quality portable sound equipment will greatly facilitate their goal of showcasing their talents in various venues throughout the community.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The Coffee House will hold at least one session at First Parish church. Their music is drawn from many genres and decades, reflective of the Waltham community.*

Waltham High School Show Choirs Music Unlimited and Music Express

\$1,500

WHS Youth Outreach Show Choir Competition Set Piece

Project Director: Alyssa Navarro

Sponsor: Dawn Marie Costorf

The Project: *Funding will purchase materials for a set piece to be used during competitions; lighting, drapes and trussing will be assembled by members and volunteers. The portable unit will be comparable to sets used by other groups in competitions and will help showcase the diversity and talents of the WHS group.*

Partnering Opportunities: *Several First Parish members perform with the Show Choirs, and they along with other singers will provide talent for a gala event at First Parish.*

Waltham Mills Artists' Association

\$2,800

Waltham Mills Open Studios: Print and Media Campaigns

Project Director: Meg Turner

Sponsor: Joel Weddig

The Project: *Funding for the Waltham Mills Artists Association (WMAA) will cover partial costs of the most effective attractor for their annual Open Studios event - radio ads, and the printing of the hundreds of handouts for visitors providing maps, safety, artist, and sponsor information. WMAA has an over 40-year tradition as a hub for local arts and culture in Waltham.*

Partnering Opportunities: *WMAA will partner with First Parish by encouraging volunteer opportunities over the weekend-long event and by providing and a two-session collage and/or print-making workshop. In the past artists have participated in our gala auction events, by both presenting their work and offering it for purchase.*

Waltham Partnership for Youth, Inc.

\$2,500

Language Access for Civic Engagement (LACE)

Project Director: Kathleen Dowcett

Sponsor: Deborah Wild

The Project: *Language Access for Civic Engagement (LACE) will increase access to information and civic participation among the linguistically diverse Waltham community. By investing in interpretation technology and training local residents to become interpreters, the Partnership will create capacity within the community to ensure that public hearings, government meetings, and other important events are interpreted in real time so that all residents are able to access important information, exchange ideas and concerns, and actively participate.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The Partnership and First Parish will co-host a Waltham Connect event on linguistic diversity in Waltham. Partnership members will provide interpretation support for relevant church events and will assist in outreach.*

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 a variety of other local organizations, including First Parish.*

Partnering Opportunities: *The Waltham Philharmonic will perform chamber music as part of a church service, in conjunction with another Parish activity, or as a separate activity. In March of 2017 they performed for a service at the church.*

WATCH Community Development Corporation**\$2,500****The Immigrant Experience****Project Director:** Daria Gere**Sponsor:** Deb Jose

The Project: *The Immigrant Experience project is aimed at increasing understanding of, appreciation for, and integration of the immigrant population in Waltham with the community at large. The proposed project for 2017 will build on the 2016 event, when church and WATCH members partnered in planning and carrying out the celebration: cooking, sharing food and conversation, facilitating and participating in small group discussions and conversations, and learning about the lives of immigrants in Waltham.*

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

Total Distribution

20 Grants

\$ 37,000 (2017-18)

\$ 3,000 (2018-19)