



## **Jones Partnership Fund 2019 Grant Recipients**

<b>Total Distribution for 2019:</b>	<b>22 Grants</b> <b>\$ 36,730</b>
<b>Total Disbursements to Date:</b>	<b>160 Grants</b> <b>37 Organizations</b> <b>\$ 262,062</b>

## 2019 JONES PARTERSHIP FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS

### African Cultural Services, Inc.

\$2,500

#### ***African Community Engagement – Phase 2: Diary of a Confused Immigrant***

Project Director: Juliet Najjumba

Sponsor: Susan Weddig

African Cultural Services will continue the work begun in 2018. Plans are to further develop partnerships via gathering and telling immigrants' stories. The Director will expand her role as a community engagement expert and open up more doors to dialog. There will be additional performances of the "Diary of a confused Immigrant", and the Director will visit families' homes to interview and record their stories.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Members of First Parish are invited to visit and enjoy the many cultural events held at the ACS Center. Also, community members will plan an activity to be held at the church.

### The Cat Connection

\$1,500

#### ***Cat Food Pantry***

Project Director: Elisif Brandon

Sponsor: Evelyn LeBlanc

**The Project:** The Cat Connection plans to continue its efforts to support low- income pet owners through the creation of a Cat Food Pantry, to prevent cat abandonment and encourage rehoming. There are multiple food pantries in the area, but they do not generally carry pet food. Creating a food pantry will enable the group to reach out to more cat owners to provide assistance through other ongoing programs, such as CatNAPS spay/neuter assistance and behavioral counseling.

**Partnering Opportunities:** The Cat Connection will coordinate with the Religious Education program to plan a visit/talk at church. Also, children in the RE program will be encouraged to participate in food and pet supply drives.

### Chaplains on the Way

\$1,700

#### ***Women's Spiritual Arts Group***

Project Director: Justi Godoy

Sponsor: Leslie Gildersleeve

**The Project:** The goal of Chaplains on the Way (COTW) Women's Spiritual Arts Group is to bring emotional and spiritual support to women living in homelessness, and to offer a connection to First Parish Waltham (FPW) and other faith communities. These goals are accomplished by providing a weekly opportunity to knit, participate in meditative coloring, or other art practice, introduced through a circle of care and conversation. A staff chaplain organizes and attends each session, offering spiritual companionship and connection to resources in town. FPW members donate supplies, volunteer time, and offer a special welcome to women attending FPW church services or events.

**Partnering Opportunities:** First Parish members are encouraged to continue providing supplies for the program and to attend weekly sessions. Information about other programs addressing homelessness will also be made available.

**Charles Webster Potter Place Clubhouse**

**\$1,000**

***Potter Place Scholarship Fund***

Project Director: Aaron Labonte

Sponsor: Scott Shurr

**The Project:** Potter Place is a non-profit clubhouse model vocational rehabilitation program working with people with mental illness in Waltham. The program serves approximately 150 people annually. Members seeking to improve their lives through education are at a significant disadvantage due to the stigma of the larger population and are often held back by financial constraints. Funding will establish a scholarship fund to help members return to school and further their education. Money will help with tuition costs, books, transportation to and from continuing education sites, testing expenses, and other expenses.

**Partnering Opportunities:** We will encourage recipients to share their successes with the congregation.

**Chesterbrook Community Foundation**

**\$1,500**

***Community Party and Supplies for Children in Low-income Community***

Project Directors: Brian Shea and Laura Stracco

Sponsor: Pam Penton

**The Project:** The Chesterbrook Community Foundation has planned and hosted a fall party for the children of the Chesterbrook Gardens, Dana Court, and Prospect Hill public housing developments for several years and will do so again in the Fall of 2019. The board of the Chesterbrook Community Foundation (CCF), with help from students and alumni of the Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center, will staff the party. In addition, the grant will allocate funds to the Chesterbrook and Dana Court Learning Centers to help pay for snacks and supplies for regular programs.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Members of First Parish and especially the youth groups are invited to participate, as they have in the past.

**Community Day Center of Waltham**

**\$2,300**

***Medical Advocacy***

Project Director: Carolyn Montalto

Sponsor: Roberta Trudeau

**The Project:** As an outgrowth of the 2018 project, Transportation and Advocacy, the proposed project, Medical Advocacy, will enable the Center to continue to provide its guests with transportation to detox and rehabilitation facilities as needed. It will also provide transportation to medical/dental appointments either through the purchase of bus/train transit passes, ride shares, or the reimbursement of mileage costs/expenses to volunteer drivers/advocates. Individuals who struggle with homelessness often ignore medical/dental issues simply because they cannot get to appointments. While some guests require an advocate, others are perfectly fine on their own to use public transportation. This program will support the needs of both.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Several members of First Parish are actively involved with the Day Center, and there will be an initiative to offer training to serve as Medical Advocates.

**Downtown Waltham Partnership – Waltham Riverfest**

**\$500**

***Eleventh Annual Riverfest***

Project Director: Sarah Hankins

Sponsor: Daria Gere

**The Project:** The Partnership again 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:** Members are invited to volunteer with the event, as well as to attend the festivities.

**Healthy Waltham**

**\$2,000**

***Healthy Kids Summer Program***

Project Director: Stacey Tully

Sponsor: Muffy Young

**The Project:** Healthy Waltham proposes to conduct an innovative youth program focused on healthy eating, nutrition, and physical activity at the Waltham Middle School summer program for special education students. The students will learn about healthy eating, growing and harvesting local food, where our food comes from, and how to prepare healthy snacks. Locally sourced vegetables will be used, and the Director will lead lessons on healthy physical activity and movement.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Healthy Waltham hopes to collaborate with congregation members interested in making healthy, environmentally just food choices in a program similar to the UUA “DOVE” program (Demonstrating Our Values through Eating). Members are also encouraged to volunteer at the monthly Watch City Market mobile food pantry, as well as to participate in, or lead, a special Waltham Walk.

**In Good Company**

**\$1,500**

***The Golden Door***

Project Director: Arthur Fox

Sponsor: Barry Stearns

**The Project:** *The Golden Door* is a fully developed and audience-tested musical about immigrants past and present. It explores the struggles and challenges faced by immigrants, and it promotes the values of tolerance and understanding. The play helps audiences see past skin color, appearance, language and customs and to see the universality of our common humanity. Funding will support performances of this musical on a Waltham community stage and at four Waltham elementary schools.

**Partnering Opportunities:** The group continues to hold performances at the church and will encourage the participation of members from every generation.

**Meadowscaping for Biodiversity (MS4B)**

**\$1,000**

***Intentional Gardening: Planting Native Plants for Community Resilience***

Project Directors: Barbara Passero and Jean Devine

Sponsor: Candace Holman

**The Project:** Proposes to provide a workshop at First Parish to show the importance of intentional gardening—landscaping with native plants—with the intention of restoring lost wildlife habitat and essential biodiversity. MS4B staff, Brandeis, and Waltham High students will demonstrate how every garden can serve as a source of food and habitat for stressed populations of beneficial insects, pollinators, and birds. The students will explain the roles native plants play in supporting the environment and will demonstrate how to select and plant native perennials.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Members of MS4B will lead a session in the religious education youth program focused on biodiversity; will conduct a workshop for the First Parish community involving the landscaping of the church; and will continue to educate the community by maintaining the plantings on the church triangle.

**Neighbors Who Care**

**\$1,100**

***Friendship Silver Line***

Project Director: Nancy Mulvihill

Sponsor: Sue Adams

**The Project:** This organization's mission is to reduce loneliness and isolation and to improve the lives of Waltham's older population. NWC provides volunteer companionship to underserved older adults. Statistics show that loneliness among elders is a major physical and emotional risk factor. To address this, NWC will match "telephone friends" with older Waltham adults who can benefit from a weekly connection. This new program builds on NWC's ability to pair companions with older adults for in person relationships.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Members of First Parish are encouraged to volunteer as phone friends, and/or to become clients themselves.

**Opportunities for Inclusion**

**\$1,200**

***Community Service and Connections***

Project Director: Joanne Raymond

Sponsor: Alice Taylor

**The Project:** Opportunities for Inclusion will continue to expand opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to volunteer in the Waltham community with organizations such as the Diaper Depot or Community Day Center. This project builds on their "Volunteering and Community Connections" project of the previous year. They plan to run community service activities through the Day Habilitation and Community Based Day Support adult day programs and Recreation Program.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Opportunities for Inclusion will partner with First Parish by inviting the congregation to join them on volunteer service trips and to attend a celebratory dance event.

**UU Mass Action**

**\$1,500**

***Immigrant Solidarity and Justice***

Project Director: Laura Wagner

Sponsor: Dimitry Zarkh

**The Project:** UUMA will continue to grow their accompaniment networks and to recruit and train new volunteers. Its networks provide accompaniment to federal and district court hearings and to Burlington ICE, raise funds for bail and legal fees, post bond and get people released from detention, connect people to legal support, assist finding housing and support families, and organize public actions. UUMA is a member of the Safe Communities Coalition which is launching a campaign to pass legislation to protect immigrants statewide.

**Partnering Opportunities:** UU Mass Action will provide a range of opportunities, materials and training so that members can take action and engage in the shared work of improving lives.

**Waltham American Legion Band**

**\$800**

***Waltham American Legion Band Concert***

Project Director: Shelley Drowns

Sponsor: Scott Tougas

**The Project:** The Band will perform a concert at First Parish Church showcasing its repertoire of show, military, pop, and other music. John O'Toole will conduct 25-35 musicians. This concert would be a benefit for the group's scholarship fund, which is awarded to a Waltham High School senior who is planning to major in music in college.

**Partnering Opportunities:** First Parish members are encouraged to attend the concert at the church, as well as the many other performances throughout the community.

**Waltham Boys and Girls Club**

**\$2,500**

***Club Café – Free Youth Meal Program***

Project Director: Marshall Bradstreet

Sponsor: Sue Genser

**The Project:** Club Café will provide nutritious snacks and meals to local youth throughout the year. The meals will be prepared in the Club's own commercial grade kitchen. Evening dinners will be served throughout the school year and lunches will be served during school vacations and summer break. In addition to serving food, Club Café will educate and inspire members to make healthy eating choices. Workshops and cooking lessons will provide a safe hands-on experience for participants to learn about nutrition, explore the benefits of locally grown food, try foods of different cultures, and consider how their food choices contribute to their overall health and wellbeing. Teen leaders will conduct a year long outreach campaign to facilitate the process.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Church members can participate in food service at the Café and/or with the summer distribution program. For the past two years Club members have helped unload the truck for the church Pumpkin Patch initiative.

**Waltham Farmers' Market**

**\$2,500**

***SNAP Match: Building Community Through Healthy Food Access***

Project Director: Martha Creedon

Sponsor: Dan Taylor

**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. Since 2011, volunteer organizers at the market have dedicated countless hours in support of its program to provide dollar-for-dollar matching of up to \$10 per customer per week to spend at the market. In this time, the market has seen steady growth in the program both in terms of dollars spent and in the number of people who come to the market specifically to use their SNAP dollars on fresh, local food.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Parishioners can patronize the market. Several current church members are involved in running the operation as well.

**Waltham Fields Community Farm**

**\$2,350**

***Mobile Outreach Market: Marketing and Structural Improvements***

Project Director: Stacey Daley

Sponsor: Donna VanderClock

**The Project:** Funds will help to upgrade outreach materials and the physical infrastructure of the Farm's Mobile Outreach Market (MOM), a once-a-week open air subsidized farm stand at the former Fitch School in Waltham, to provide fresh produce to customers at reduced rates.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Potential on-farm volunteer project for church members, a church picnic on the farm site with music, and/or a Crop/Mob experience – all are invited to help with weeding.

**Waltham High School Show Choirs**

**\$1,980**

***Show Choirs Competition Musical Scores for 2019-2020 Season***

Project Director: Alyssa Navarro

Sponsor: Rachel Learned

**The Project:** The grant allows the Waltham High School Show Choirs to purchase copyrights to competition show music. This will boost their performance level and increase the variety of music pieces they can select.

**Partnering Opportunities:** The Show Choir will host an open mike night in Whitcomb Hall to provide an opportunity for students to perform in a friendly low-risk atmosphere.

**Waltham Mills Artists' Association**

**\$2,500**

***Waltham Mills Open Studios: Print and Media Campaigns***

Project Director: Ann Miller

Sponsor: Joel Weddig

**The Project:** Funds will support covering partial costs of publicizing the annual event through various media. This event has attracted large numbers of attendees during its over forty-year tenure in the city.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Volunteering at the event is encouraged, and artists will conduct print making workshops at Spirit Spark events at the church.

**Waltham Partnership for Youth**

**\$2,000**

***Youth Service Providers Network of Waltham***

Project Director: Kathleen Dowcett

Sponsor: Martha Creedon

**The Project:** The Youth Service Providers Network has established a coordinated system of supports for students by providing regular, structured opportunities for providers to communicate and collaborate. This project will continue to allow WPY to strengthen critically important partnerships between several youth-serving organizations so that all students have access to a continuum of support in and out of school designed to help them thrive.

**Partnering Opportunities:** The group welcomes an opportunity to visit First Parish in order to engage in discussion around the strengths, needs, and opportunities for youth in Waltham.

**Waltham Philharmonic**

**\$800**

***Community Outreach Project***

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 Elementary School chorus, and produce free chamber music performances for the community in partnership with a variety of other local organizations, including First Parish Church.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Members of the orchestra will perform at a church service.

**WATCH CDC**

**\$2,000**

***Immigrant Appreciation Event***

Project Director: Daria Gere

Sponsor: Deborah 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. This project will build on those of previous years, in which church and WATCH members partner in planning and carrying out a multi-cultural dinner, conversations and discussion of the status of immigrants in our community.

**Partnering Opportunities:** Parishioners can volunteer for and attend the event, as well as participate in other WATCH initiatives.