

**First Parish Waltham
Jones Partnership Fund
Grants for 2021**

African Cultural Services Inc.

\$2,378

Sponsor: Susan Weddig

This year they will continue with The Dialogue Project. One overarching aim is to provide immigrant youth from African countries with a comfortable space, in particular regarding racial equity and mental health issues, to change their views and stigmas. Approximately 30 students will participate. With 10 years of experience, the Africano staff has built a trust with these youth, so they are more likely to open up and discuss these important issues.

The Cat Connection

\$1,878

Sponsor: Martha Gallagher

This organization educates the community about the importance of spay/neuter of cats in order to keep the population of cats under control. This year they plan to provide veterinary services to 15 low-income families. The Cat Connection will cover the cost of spay/neuter and vaccines, all necessary for the health of the cat and the safety of the family. Cat ownership can teach children from low-income families' respect for and an appreciation of animals.

Chaplains on the Way

\$3,878

Sponsor: Leslie Gildersleeve

The emergence of COVID has caused a shift in the role of Chaplains in the Waltham community. The achievement most closely connected to First Parish has been the creation of a breakfast program, five days a week, providing a warm place and a hot meal of casseroles, juice, fruit and breads or bagels for 20-30 participants. Under the leadership of Chaplains Rebecca Sheble-Hall and Justi Godroy, the First Parish community has truly formed a partnership with the program: members make casseroles, work in the kitchen, or volunteer their time on site. Volunteers from the larger community also contribute with food donations and the all-important task of cleaning the facilities.

Chesterbrook Community Foundation

\$878

Sponsor: Pam Penton

The Chesterbrook Community Foundation seeks funds to provide snacks and supplies to the students who attend the learning centers at the Chesterbrook Gardens and Dana Court public housing developments. Additionally, the Foundation anticipates a possible virtual opportunity to engage members of the church in a virtual fall Halloween costume party.

Community Day Center of Waltham

\$2,178

Sponsor: Roberta Trudeau

The "Case Managers Helping Hands Fund", will provide financial support to those guests, currently unhoused, and serious about moving ahead, but lack the money to do so. The funds will be used at the discretion of the case manager for transportation to job interviews, to order a new birth certificate so that a person can have an ID that will allow one to get food stamps, or for funding the realtor's fee to help secure housing.

Downtown Waltham Partnership

\$878

Sponsor: Alice B. Taylor

The Watch City Steampunk Festival, a Victorian-era style H.G. Wells and Jules Verne version of a science fiction world, is a one-day free public event held on the Saturday of Mother's Day Weekend. The festival explores music, art, fashion, and technology. It is suspected, that it will not be able to hold a live event in 2021 due to the pandemic; therefore, the festival will create a virtual event on YouTube. A major event in Waltham.

Food Link **\$2,378**

Sponsor: Donna Vanderclock

Food Link partners with other organizations to help solve the food insecurity question. They ‘rescue’ high quality excess food from donors and a team of dedicated volunteers help deliver this food to places where its most need. They are hitting two birds with one stone; reducing food waste and feeding over 600 families each month - benefiting many Waltham based organization.

Healthy Waltham **\$4,878**

Sponsor: Muffy Young

As the COVID-19 pandemic roars on, Heathy Waltham is providing a twice monthly FREE food/groceries distribution program - benefiting many seniors and other members of the Waltham community. Another major aspect of the program is providing home delivery twice/month to home-bound individuals in the community.

Meadowscaping for Biodiversity **\$1,228**

Sponsor: Amy Eastwood and Nancy Lawrence

Meadowscaping is seeking funding to host an educational project, and is run by Waltham High School students who are enrolled in a new pilot of our proven YEEP program called ‘Empowering BIPOC’. (Youth to Act on Climate Change and Environmental Injustice) In this program diverse youth learn how to restore biodiversity, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and develop their voices for achieving environmental justice through stewardship, advocacy and entrepreneurial thinking. Meadowscaping helps design and maintain the Church flower garden.

Opportunities for Inclusion **\$880**

Sponsor: Jon Taylor

Opportunities for Inclusion plans to run a combined community service project, where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities volunteer in the Waltham community, and to stage a social dance event in the late summer or fall, which is open to program participants as well as community members.

Waltham Black Future Fund **\$2,378**

Sponsor: Candace Holman

In partnership with First Parish, WBFF proposes to sponsor a socially distanced community clean up - tentatively scheduled for May, June, and July 2021 centered around our Southside and Riverbanks areas. Promotional materials will allow interaction through our base network and new community members, allowing us to build and foster relationships across the community.

Waltham Boys and Girls Club **\$2,378**

Sponsor: Sue Genser

Free “Grab and Go” dinners provided 4 days each week to Waltham families, running until June 15, coordinated with the Waltham Public Schools where 54% of all students qualify for free or reduced cost meals.

Waltham Farmers Market **\$2,878**

Sponsor: Dan Taylor

Providing SNAP funds which are matched up to \$10.00 per week per customer to allow low income families access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Vendors are promptly reimbursed.

Waltham Fields **\$2,378**

Sponsor: Bill VanderClock

The Mobile Outreach Market (MOM) is a weekly subsidized market selling or giving for free, local organically grown vegetables. Due to COVID-19, we will pre-box shares of a variety of vegetables and bring them to locations closer to residential areas. We expect to collaborate with the Waltham Housing Authority, the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, and WATCH to help us select the more accessible sites. All produce available to all recipients will be free.

Waltham Land Trust**\$550**

Sponsor: Scott Shurr

A one-hour workshop features a live and interactive reptile program - all about Snakes! - for children and family members at First Parish Waltham Church in Whitcomb Hall. Snakes native to Massachusetts will be presented in this fun and educational program. If COVID-19 prevents the program from being in Whitcomb Hall, it will be held in the Church Green Triangle.

Waltham Mills Artists Association**\$1,628**

Sponsor: Joel Weddig

November 21st is the expected date for the 45th opening of the Open Studios. A proposed walk along Moody Street to view art in the store fronts is also anticipated. YouTube classes are also being offered.

Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra**\$1,378**

Sponsor: Marianne Cutter

The Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra will continue to develop its Community Outreach Project to attract student players to the orchestra, host a Student Concerto Competition, offer an exceptional young musician (or musicians) the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the orchestra, partner with the Plympton Elementary School, and produce free chamber music performances for the community.

Number of Grants: 17**Total Awarded: \$35,000**