

# Annual Report

2021







# ABOUT US

**We empower ordinary civilians to become nonviolent agents of sustainable peace and justice.** We pursue this mission through strategic partnerships and capacity building initiatives that bolster locally driven justice and peacebuilding efforts. Our key activities revolve around the following:

- [Training in nonviolent Skills](#)
- [Unarmed Civilian Protection \(UCP\) and Accompaniment](#)
- [Restorative Justice \(RJ\) Circles](#)
- [Anti-Racism and Equity Initiative](#)
- [Policy Advocacy](#)

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# 2021 IN REVIEW

To all members of the DC Peace Team community:  
The year 2021 was marked by challenges and uncertainty. But even in the midst of these trying times, you stepped up to respond to the urgent call for justice and nonviolence. Thanks to your steadfast support, we sustained and expanded our programs throughout the year and made meaningful connections. While we are deeply proud of the progress we have made in 2021, we remain mindful of the challenges that lie ahead and look forward to continuing to work with you in 2022 and beyond. This report provides a glimpse into what we have accomplished together in 2021. As you read through, you will learn how your contributions made a difference. We can't thank you enough!



**We deployed UCP units during the attack on the U.S Capitol.**

*“Let's slow down. You don't need the knife. It's not going to help anything here.”*

**We provided Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) and Accompaniment to local grassroots groups and individuals at risk of violence in Washington, DC during the January 6th insurrectionary attack on the U.S Capitol.**

Members of our team walked alongside Black and Brown leaders and other vulnerable individuals facing violence around the Black Lives Matter Plaza and used nonviolent de-escalation techniques to prevent violence and reduce its impacts. One of the violent incidents we de-escalated involved the use of a knife.

[Read more about this effort.](#)

**We provided community protection during election-related demonstrations.**

**Our Unarmed Civilian Protection Units successfully de-escalated over 50 aggressive and potentially violent situations in Washington, D.C during election-related demonstrations.** More details can be found [here](#).

**We launched a Community Safety Unit at Plaza Mall.**

**We worked closely with local advocates to launch a Community Safety Unit (CSU) Project** in response to the outcry on the urgency of establishing alternative strategies for addressing the upsurge in violence in Columbia Heights Plaza— an area located in Ward 1 of the District of Columbia. Advocates sought to protect communities most affected by violence and aggressive policing during the crisis, namely people of color, immigrants, members of the Hispanic/Latinx community, and people experiencing homelessness. Learn more about the CSU on page 8.



**We launched an Anti-Racism & Equity Initiative.**

**We launched an Anti-Racism & Equity initiative** to support individuals, communities, and organizations on their racial equity journey through training, strategic partnerships, and capacity building.



**We Partnered with communities across the country to bolster locally-led, diverse and sustainable approaches justice to peacebuilding.**

**We partnered with several communities across the country and provided capacity building to help sustain their peace and justice efforts.** Such meaningful partnerships ranged from facilitating alternative community protection mechanisms training for peacekeepers and community partners in Portsmouth, VA to holding restorative justice circles at Universities and facilitating a training on Active Bystander Intervention (ABI) for the federal judiciary staff.



**We celebrated our 10th Anniversary.**

**We celebrated our 10th Anniversary** with a wide-range of activities, including the launch of our new website, a thought-provoking panel discussion on the future of justice and peacebuilding efforts in the U.S and globally, and a community event featuring our key programs. These activities brought together people from diverse backgrounds and walks of life.

## **Where Do we Go from Here?**

*A conversation on the future of justice and peacebuilding efforts in the US and globally.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH | 6:30PM-8:00PM ET

*With Key Experts*

**Eleni Christidis**  
UCP Practitioner,  
DC Peace Team

**Jamal Jones**  
Restorative Justice  
Expert Facilitator,  
DC Peace Team



**Maria J. Stephan**  
Chief Organizer and co-leader,  
The Horizons Project  
Co-Author:  
Why Civil Resistance Works.



**Tim Chapman**  
Board Chair,  
European Forum for  
Restorative Justice



**Anita "JoJo" Shifflett**  
Author, Indian Law Attorney,  
and activist

*Moderated by Dr. Eli McCarthy, PhD*



**6,000+**

*Leaders Trained*

**22+**

*Countries*





“ I feel such deep emotion: gratitude, joy, and astonishment reflecting on this ten year journey. We have such an amazing community of people offering their care and skills to cultivate more nonviolent practices. This community envisions a radical transformation of community protection mechanisms to build a more sustainable just peace. Many have taken on great risks in the streets to care for their neighbors, to broaden our imagination, and to mainstream such unarmed protection approaches. ”

*Eli McCarthy, Board Member*



# Program Spotlight: CSU at Columbia Heights Plaza

*Creating change at the local level through  
UCP and transformative partnerships*

**The Community Safety Unit Project** (CSU) provides direct protection of civilians from violence. It also aims to create conditions that would enable every member of the Columbia Heights Plaza community to feel free, safe, and welcome, regardless of their race, ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, documentation status, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. The CSU has contributed to significant improvements in the neighborhood in terms of safety, relationships among community members, access to resources, and sense of dignity and belonging.

All CSU activities are designed to best respond to the immediate safety needs of civilians and include the following:

- Proactive engagement of the community at all levels of the process
- Monitoring of conflict and intervention when needed through nonviolent methods, such as dialogue and interposition
- Relationship building with local community members and other stakeholders
- Capacity building to strengthen the community's ability to address its own conflict

**18**

**Trained Unarmed  
Civilians Deployed**

**9**

**Spanish Translators**

**40**

**De-escalations**

**100+**

**Resource Brochures  
Distributed**



**Download the  
Impact Report.**

# Team Member Spotlight: Meet Eleni Christidis!

*Eleni joined the DC Peace Team in the fall of 2021—after an encounter with CSU Volunteers in her community. Since then, she has continued to serve her community as a peacemaker and unarmed civilian protector. She truly embodies the spirit of UCP volunteerism and is as a source of inspiration for fellow volunteers and community members.*

*Like Eleni, UCP volunteers often live in the community they serve. Their experiences and understanding of the local context are great assets with respect to building trust and relationships and developing effective community protection strategies.*

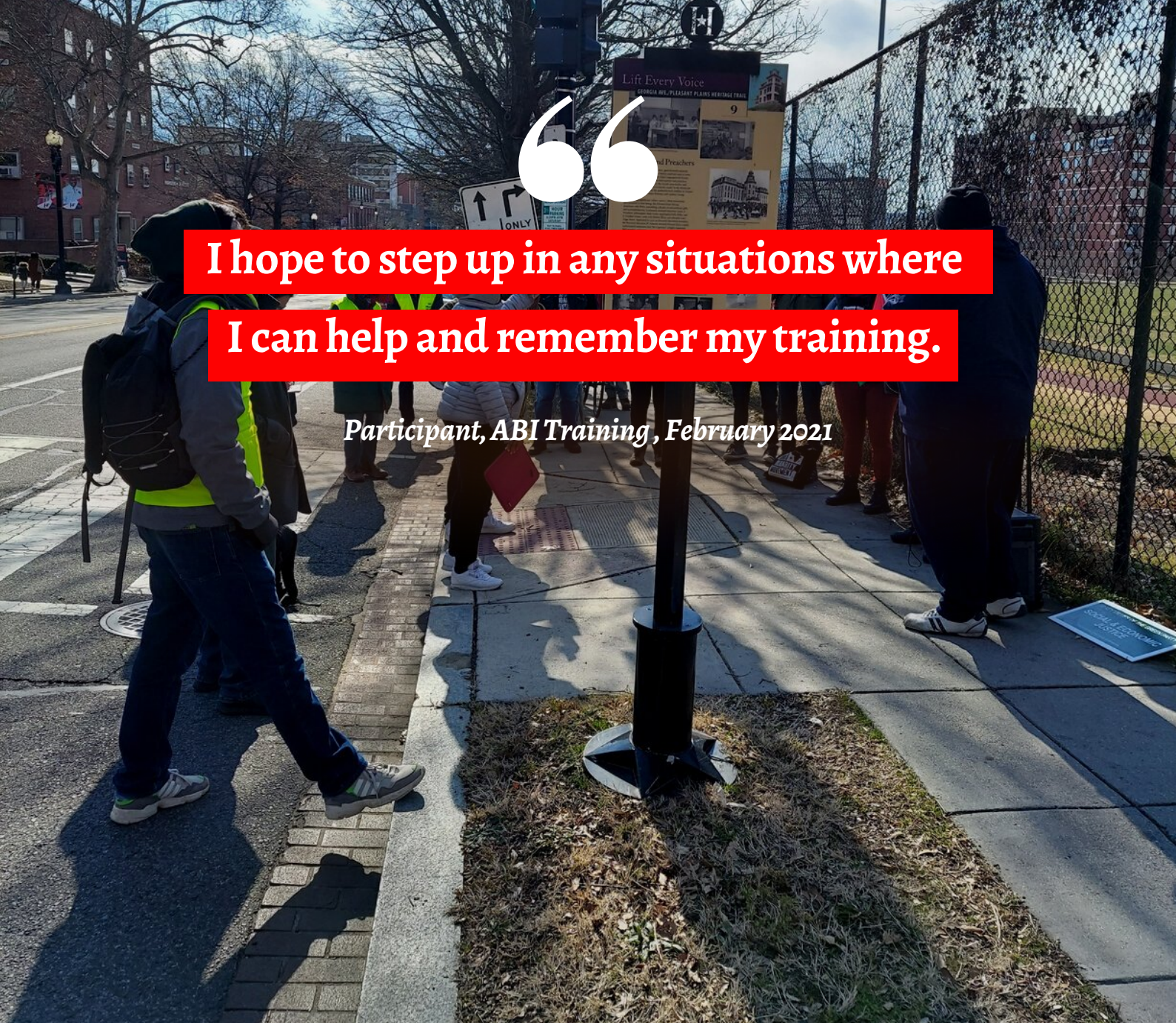
*We are grateful for Eleni and other outstanding members of the DC Peace Team who went above and beyond in 2021 to protect the most vulnerable members of their community. Learn more about Eleni's involvement with the team on page 16.*



***I really enjoy talking to members of my community, learning more about their stories, and building empathy between and among the people we interact with on our UCP deployments.***

**—Eleni Christidis**





**I hope to step up in any situations where  
I can help and remember my training.**

*Participant, ABI Training, February 2021*

# IMPACT





## Training in Nonviolent Skills

In 2021, we continued to facilitate basic and advanced [training in nonviolent skills](#) with the goals of supporting individuals, organizations, and local communities in their peacebuilding journey—and contributing to the achievement of sustainable peace and justice.

# 3,000

*People Trained*



## UCP Deployments

We believe that justice and peace cannot be achieved and sustained without local ownership, and we are committed to amplifying local voices. In 2021, we continued to center the agency of local actors in conflict-affected communities and worked closely with them to protect civilians and improve access to live-saving resources.

# 380

*Hours of Deployment*



## Restorative Circles

We engaged and actively listened to individuals and communities impacted by harms, including historical racial harms and other social injustices and created safe spaces for healing and reconciliation.

# 500

*People impacted*



“I'm excited about the idea of using circles as a way of dealing with issues in community.”

*Participant, Online Restorative Justice Circle, March 2021*



*People from diverse backgrounds engaged through presentations*



# VOICES FROM THE TEAM



Being a part of the DCPT's Restorative Justice family has been a North Star of light and hope, especially during difficult and dark times of the pandemic and violent conflicts. This beloved family consistently shares teachings of non-violence and offers the precious gift of opportunities to practice them in community.

*Debra Budiani-Saberi, RJ Team Member*





***What makes your experience with the DC Peace Team a meaningful use of your time?***



***Heather Thompson, RJ  
and UCP Team Member***

”

Being able to give back to the community and help people heal from harms they have experienced and in turn training those in the community, allowing them to help others heal. Every participant is special to me and I enjoy getting to know them and their stories. I am always honored when I can share space with others and learn from them.

”

I know I am making a positive impact on the lives of others in an effort to make this chaotic world a better place to live—where we can all live together peacefully, even when we disagree.



***Jeri Fields, Volunteer Coordinator  
and RJ Team Member***



***What makes your internship with the DC Peace Team a meaningful use of your time and what are your plans for the future ?***



***Rose Dallimore,  
Advocacy Coordinator  
and Support Intern***

**”**

**I decided to intern with DC Peace Team because I wanted to be a part of a community that is optimistic and passionate about peacemaking! It is clear that many of the approaches to safety and justice that are baked into our society and legal system are actually violent and unsustainable, and DCPT's work in peace education, restorative justice, and unarmed civilian protection work towards imaginative and community-oriented solutions to violence. I have especially loved getting trained as a de-escalator and getting to know the folks in and around the community safety units in Columbia Heights and DuPont Circle. The communication and de-escalation skills I have learned in trainings and deployments have benefitted me in my personal relationships and given me another lens through which to view and manage conflict. I hope to eventually work in international humanitarian relief or peacebuilding, and my experience with DCPT affirmed and strengthened my ability to connect with strangers to work towards conflict transformation. After I graduate from Georgetown, I plan to stay in my favorite city and work as a teacher through Teach for America while continuing to volunteer with the DC Peace Team and find community in peacemakers!**



# Q & A with Eleni Christidis

**Q: When did you join the DC Peace Team?**

**A:** Fall 2021

**Q: What motivated you to get involved?**

**A:** I saw the DC Peace Team working in the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza and was very intrigued by their bright vests and their slogan, "Lighting up Human Dignity." I learned more about the DC Peace Team, attended a training on UCP, and joined the UCP Committee.

**Q: What does your involvement entail?**

**A:** I have done UCP work in the Columbia Heights Civic Plaza and the Dupont Circle Farmers Market.

**Q: What makes this experience a meaningful use of your time?**

**A:** I really enjoy talking to members of my community, learning more about their stories, and building empathy between and among the people we interact with on our UCP deployments.

**Q: What is the most memorable accomplishment of your volunteer experience?**

**A:** The relationships I built with specific individuals I regularly see during deployments mean a lot to me. Sometimes when people open up about the best and worst things they've experienced, it can be very powerful.

**Q: What challenges did you/do you face?**

When it comes to our work in the Plaza, consistency is key to building relationships and understanding the dynamics of the space, so showing up consistently is something I want to work on in 2022.

**Q: In your opinion, what is the most important work that the DC Peace Team does?**

**A:** Humanizing our unhoused neighbors through our words and our actions, especially when in dialogue with individuals who hold a lot of economic and political power in our community.

**Q: What are your hopes for 2022?**

**A:** I hope we can recruit new members so that we can have a consistent presence in the Plaza and expand to new projects and other parts of DC.

Our supporters fuel our mission. To the generous donors who responded to our call, thank you! We couldn't have made strides in the initiatives we undertook in 2021 without your support.



**\$94,970**


Raised in 2021

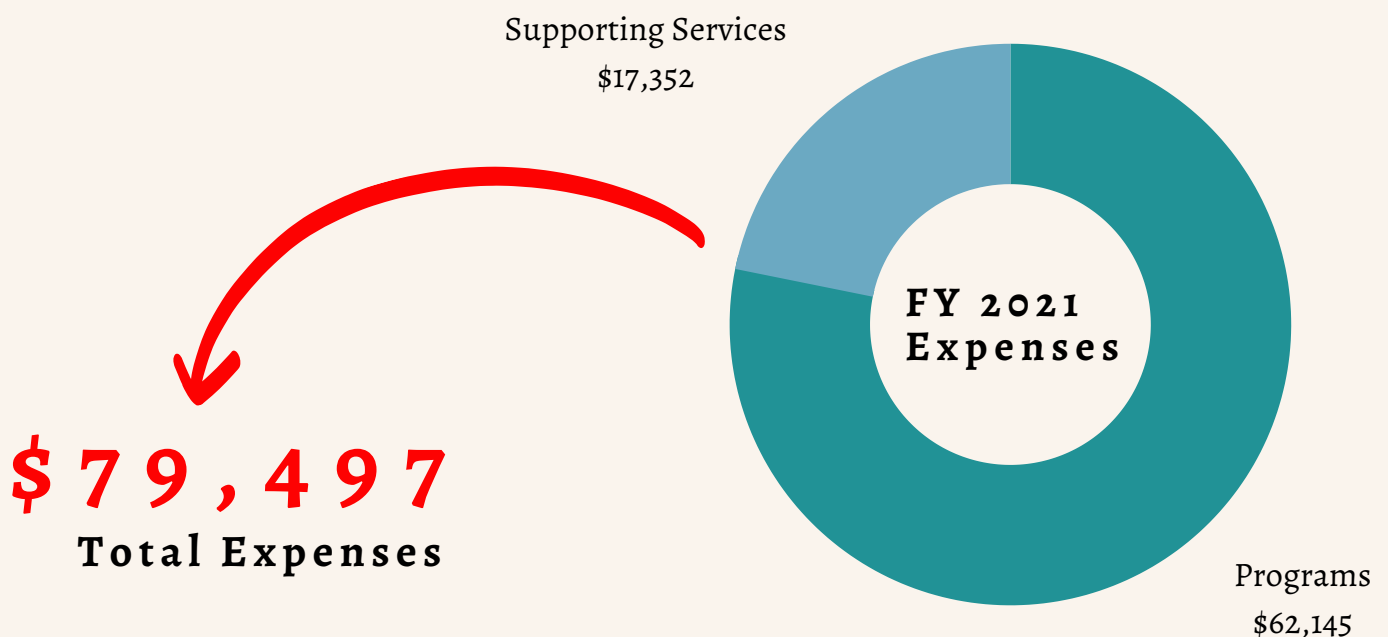
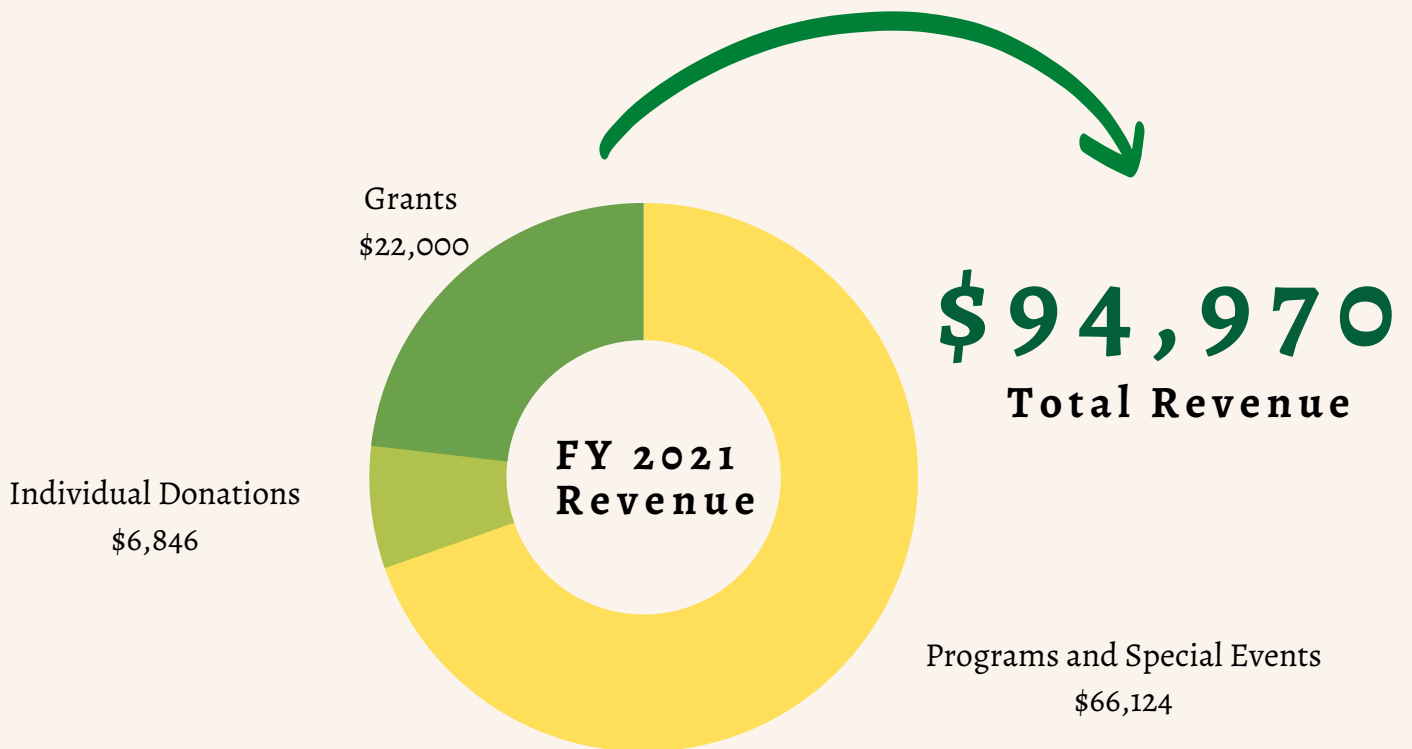
## **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**



 **\$22,000**  
Grants

 **\$66,124**  
Programs & Special events

 **\$6,846**  
Individual Donations



# Grants

At the heart of this community of supporters is a group of visionary philanthropists who believe in our mission. We are so grateful for their support and generosity and look forward to continuing to work together to advance sustainable justice and peace through nonviolent strategies. Please join us in thanking the following grantors.

Bethesda Friends (\$10,000)

Diverse City Fund (\$5,000)

Building Blocks DC, Progressive Life Center (\$5,000)

Beckner Advancement Fund of All Souls Church, Unitarian (\$1,000)

Gandy Family Fund (\$500)

Anonymous (\$500)





# Donor's Spotlight: Bethesda Friends

In early 2021, Bethesda Friends Meeting was challenged by an anonymous donor to make grants to organizations and programs that support racial justice. After much research and deliberation, DC Peace Team was chosen to receive a \$10,000 grant for your work addressing racism and social violence with pacifist ingenuity and grace. We are pleased that this grant allows you to expand your ability to meet the explosive and global demand for your on-line training created by the pandemic.

## Bethesda Friends

Bethesda Friends' generous gift has enabled us to sustain and expand our programming amid a global pandemic. Thanks to their support, we launched a race equity initiative and provided unarmed protection for civilians at risk of or impacted by violence in Washington, D.C. Ward 1. More information about these efforts and their impacts can be found on pages 5 and 8. We are appreciative of Bethesda Friends' significant contribution to our mission.



# IN GRATITUDE

We salute the resilience and dedication of our volunteers, interns, board members, and support staff. You are the roots of this movement! Thank you for finding ways to nourish communities and stepping up to promote a culture of nonviolence.

**45**

*Volunteers*

**5**

*Staff Members*

**8**

*Interns*

**5**

*Board Members*



# Board of Directors

**Lauren Brownlee**  
Carolina Friends School

**Sal Corbin**  
Behavioral Health System of Baltimore,  
Harm Reduction Institute

**Alicia Gellar**  
Operations and Management Expert

**Dr. Eli McCarthy**  
Georgetown University

**Angie Whitehurst**  
DC Community Leader and Organizer



**THANK YOU!**



## **DC Peace Team**

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Visit [dcpeaceteam.org](https://dcpeaceteam.org) to support our efforts.