

Stewart Trust Annual Report – January 2022

2021 marked the Trust's 73rd year of support for the two goals of the Stewart legacy: research and treatment of cancer, and medical treatment of pediatric afflictions. The COVID pandemic of the past two+ years has been an unprecedented time for Stewart Trust grantees and those they serve. During the pandemic, the Stewart Trust recognized the need for additional support as non-profits ceased normal operations and suspended services. Stewart grantee organizations were initially unsure about how to move forward, but managed to rapidly adjust to the new circumstances. During calendar year 2021, the Trust awarded \$4.215 million in grants to 45 non-profit organizations. The list of these organizations, including the home institutions of Pew-Stewart Cancer Research Scholars, can be found on the Stewart Trust website. In addition to its traditional long-term support of excellent non-profit organizations in the Nation's Capital, the Trust:

- Expanded support for the sole pediatric hospice program serving the District of Columbia (Capital Caring Kids, a collaboration between Capital Caring and Children's Hospital).
- Continued a major collaboration with Children's National Medical Center to support DC pediatric mental health services.
- Expanded its footprint in early childhood and therapeutic intervention programs, awarding funding to two additional non-profit organizations, Appletree Institute for Education Innovation and St. Coletta of Greater Washington.
- Added a new class of Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research – increasing the total number of scholars to 49 - marking the eighth year of this collaboration with The Pew Charitable Trusts.
- Conducted numerous site visits to current and prospective grantees, in-person and by videoconference.
- Continued support for cancer care programs for underserved children and adults in D.C.
- Supported D.C. Community health clinics - all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) - focusing on primary care services and other youth health services.
- Supported therapeutic intervention programs for children in seven D.C early childhood education centers.

Grantees included – for pediatric care - Appletree Institute for Education Innovation, Bright Beginnings, Easter Seals, Educare, House of Ruth, Rosemount Center, and St. Coletta of Greater Washington - all organizations providing high quality services to the most vulnerable children in the District. For cancer care, the efforts of these organization ranged from hospital care (Washington Hospital Center) to early diagnosis programs for the Latina community (Nueva Vida), to end-of life care for the homeless (Christ House and Joseph's House), to a unique camp for children recovering from cancer (Special Love) and home food service provided to cancer patients by volunteers (Food & Friends).

Eight years ago, the Stewart Trust and the Pew Charitable Trusts launched the Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research program to support groundbreaking research to better understand the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Since that time, the program has helped launch the careers of 42 promising early-career scientists from 23 unique nominating institutions. In 2021, the eighth class of [Pew-Stewart Scholars](#) included scholars from the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania, the first year that nominees from these institutions were selected as scholars. In 2021, due to COVID-19, The Pew Biomedical Programs Annual Meeting pivoted to a virtual format. The meeting took place in two parts during March 2021. The first portion of the meeting highlighted the new classes of Scholars and 2019 and 2020 Pew-Stewart scholars submitted short introductory videos that were streamed during the meeting, followed by live virtual poster presentations.

The second part of the meeting profiled program graduates, including those who would have graduated at the 2020 meeting. The 2016 and 2017 Pew-Stewart scholars presented live and delivered engaging scientific talks on their Pew-Stewart projects. Pew-Stewart scholars, along with advisory members and Stewart trustees, attended a breakout session where individuals networked and discussed challenges of working during the pandemic. As a part of the larger Pew biomedical Scholars network, the Scholars will continue to participate in formal and informal gatherings where they can share insights and discoveries and build new projects. The research efforts of the Pew-Stewart Scholars continue to be recognized by leaders in their fields and renowned scientific organizations.

As part of its focus on pediatric mental health, as noted above, the Trust invested \$1,000,000 in Children's National Hospital. In 2021, the Trust continued the support that has played a pivotal role in making recommendations about how to close critical gaps in access to mental health. It has also enabled Children's National Hospital to:

- Broaden outreach and support for families;
- Create a model suicide-prevention program;
- Embed mental health specialists in all clinics;
- Engage the community on mental health needs and concerns;
- Expand screenings and care coordination; and
- Increase access to trauma-informed mental health care.

Additionally, the Stewart Trust added Appletree Institute for Education Innovation and St. Coletta of Greater Washington to its exemplary non-profit grantees. The Trust is funding Appletree Institute for Education Innovation Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC). The ECMHC is an intervention that supports student, family, and teacher wellbeing. Appletree partners with the Early Childhood Innovation Network and the Medstar Georgetown Center for Well Being in School Environments to build teacher and school capacity to understand, prevent and respond to the behavioral health needs of students. The Trust is funding St. Coletta of Greater Washington for an additional speech and language therapists to address learning loss during the pandemic.

Operationally, in 2021, the Trust hired a new operations manager and, like many other organizations, continued to operate virtually due to the pandemic. The Stewart Trust

congratulates and thanks the dynamic, highly capable organizations and researchers supported by the Trust for their ongoing dedication and excellence in addressing cancer and childhood medical afflictions for those most in need.