

Stewart Trust Annual Report – January 2023

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Stewart Trust. During the past year, the Trust continued support for the two goals established by the Stewart family: research and treatment of cancer, and medical treatment of pediatric afflictions. This support occurred during the third year of the on-going COVID pandemic, an unprecedented time for Stewart Trust grantees and those they serve. Though the pandemic appears to be fading, Stewart grantee organizations are still feeling its effects. As a result of the pandemic - and its economic impact - Stewart grantee organizations have faced staffing shortages, reduced availability of funding, and ever-increasing prices for the products that they purchase in support of those that they serve. In 2022, the Trust sought to continue its efforts to provide funding stability during an uncertain time for these outstanding non-profit organizations.

During 2022, operationally, the Trust, like many other organizations, re-opened its office after operating mostly-remotely during the pandemic. For funding, the Trust awarded some \$4.8M in grants to 52 non-profits, the largest amount of Stewart grant funding in the past decade. The list of these grantee organizations, including the home institutions of Pew-Stewart Cancer Research Scholars, can be found here: <https://www.stewart-trust.org/our-impact/#grantees>

In addition to its traditional long-term support of excellent non-profit organizations in the Nation's Capital, the Trust established new initiatives and expanded existing programs:

- Formally instituted a multiyear grant program for the most qualified, experienced Stewart grantees, following a multiyear trial program.
- Increased support for:
 - D.C. Community health clinics - all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) - focusing on primary care services and other youth health services; and for therapeutic intervention programs for children in seven D.C early childhood education centers;
 - Early cancer diagnosis programs for the Latina community (Nueva Vida), and
 - A unique camp for children recovering from cancer (Special Love).
- Facilitated and funded a new Cancer Peer Support Pilot Program focusing on underserved patients in Wards 7 and 8 in the District, to foster patients' mutual support, and increase treatment adherence and community cancer screening. This effort was fostered in close collaboration with the Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation, as an adjunct part of the Kovler Community Cancer Corps program at the Unity Health Care Clinic in Ward 7, administered and support by Johns Hopkins Cancer Care Clinic and Sibley Hospital Foundation.
- As part of its continued partnership with Children's National Hospital to improve pediatric mental health care in the District (Community Mental Health CORE), the Trust invested \$500,000 in two additional, related projects:

- ***Mental health policy lab within the Child Health Advocacy Institute at Children's National Hospital.*** Support from the Trust will build staff capacity to identify and promote evidence-based solutions and advance public policies that improve pediatric mental health care across the District of Columbia.
 - ***Innovations to Improve Autism Care Project at Children's National Hospital*** to further work that comprehensively improves care for children with autism through: 1) initiatives to support coalition-building, city-wide coordination, policy, advocacy and systems work; 2) address workforce shortages and build clinical capacity through initiatives like ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Autism Clinics that provide education/consultation to health providers and educators; 3) Direct services that integrate autism evaluations into primary care to address clinical gaps and reduce wait times for services.
- Added a new class of Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research – increasing the total number of scholars to 48- marking the ninth year of this collaboration with The Pew Charitable Trusts:
- In 2014, the Stewart Trust and the Pew Charitable Trusts launched the Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research program to support fundamental research to better understand the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Since that time, the annual competitions have helped launch the careers of the most talented scientists from some-70 nominating US cancer research institutions. In 2022, six individuals, as opposed to the standard five, were chosen for funding for the ninth class of Scholars: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/pew-stewart-scholars-for-cancer-research>. Projects selected include researching why a small subset of pre-cancerous cells drive the development of blood cancers; investigating the underlying T cell responses from a new immunotherapy to develop safer and more effective treatments for melanoma; and determining how cancer cells adapt their metabolic processes to resist therapy.
 - For the first time since the onset of the COVID pandemic, the program resumed its in-person annual convening in March 2022. The research efforts of the Pew-Stewart Scholars continue to be recognized by leaders in their fields and renowned scientific organizations.

The Stewart Trust congratulates and thanks the dynamic, highly capable organizations, collaborators and researchers supported by the Trust for their ongoing dedication and excellence in addressing cancer and childhood medical afflictions for those most in need. We look forward to celebrating the Trust's 75th Anniversary of supporting the goals of the Stewart family legacy with a gathering of Stewart Trust grantees, partners, and friends at the end of this year.