



# THE ALEXANDER AND MARGARET



### October 11, 2023 Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg





Dear Stewart Trust grantees and collaborating Foundations,

Our goal is to reflect on, and express gratitude, for all you have done for so many in need. By establishing the Trust, you are accomplishing the Stewart family vision of pediatric medical care for those physically or mentally ill or disabled; research and prevention of childhood diseases common; and fighting cancer through patient care, research, and prevention. Your many impactful programs, with support of the Trust and fellow Foundations, are listed in this program.

This celebration also offers the opportunity to recognize three of your colleagues for their decades of outstanding leadership: Janelle Geotcheus of Christ House, Maria Gomez of Mary's Center, and Sharon Raimo of St. Colletta. We will also hear a reflection from Peter Howley, M.D., Chair of Pew-Stewart cancer research advisory committee. We hope that this Anniversary will offer an opportunity to foster new collaborations in medical care for the most disadvantaged neighborhoods of our Nation's Capital.

The Stewart Trust deeply appreciates the kind invitation of Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to host this event. Celebrating at the Luxembourg Embassy has special meaning because it once was the home of the Stewart family.

We thank you, Stewart grantees and colleague Foundations, for joining us, and extend our warmest wishes for continued success in your missions!

Sincerely,

Trustees, Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust

# Honoring Exemplary Leaders in Pediatrics and Cancer Care



**Dr. Janelle Geotcheus** co-founded Columbia Road Health Services in 1979 and Christ House, the first 24-hour medical respite facility for people experiencing homelessness, in 1985. That same year, she helped establish Unity Health Care, an organization which operates over 20 health sites in the most underserved areas of the city. She served as the Chief Medical

Officer and Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs for Unity Health Care until 2019. In 1992, Janelle also co-founded Kairos House, a permanent supportive housing facility for patients with chronic illness who decided to make a commitment to their recovery. Since its inception, Kairos House has housed over 220 residents. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her dedication to serving the health needs of low income residents of Washington, DC. Today, Janelle, and her husband Allan Goetcheus, continue to live in Christ House.



Maria S. Gomez is the founder and former President/CEO of Mary's Center, a federally qualified health center providing primary healthcare, social services, and education for families in the DC metropolitan region since 1988. The goal of Mary's Center is to partner with families to help them move up the economic ladder through health, education, and workforce development

opportunities. Under Maria's leadership, Mary's Center grew from serving 200 participants in a small basement with an initial budget of \$250,000 to serving nearly 60,000 participants across seven locations in DC and Maryland with an annual budget of \$80 million and a staff of 800. As a young teen from Colombia, South America, Maria immigrated to the United States with her mother and attended DC Public Schools. She obtained her BS in Nursing from Georgetown University and a MPH from the University of California at Berkeley.



**Sharon Raimo** was the CEO of St. Coletta of Greater Washington for 28 years. Under her leadership, St. Coletta has become one of the top special education providers in the greater Washington area for children and adults who have moderate to severe intellectual disabilities, many with additional physical and behavioral challenges. In addition to being a former special

education teacher, Sharon was also an Assistant Principal for the Capitol Hill Cluster Schools. Sharon was hired by St. Coletta in 1993 and was expected to close the school, which had only 19 students and a budget of \$230, 000. Instead, she saved it. Today, St. Coletta of Greater Washington serves nearly 500 children and adults and has a budget of over \$22 million.

## Pew-Stewart Cancer Research Scholars Program



Peter M. Howley, M.D., Founding Chair of the Pew-Stewart Cancer Scholars National Advisory Committee (2014-2023). Dr. Howley is the Shattuck Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Harvard Medical School where he chaired the Department of Pathology for 19 years. Prior to Harvard, he served as Chief of the Laboratory of Tumor Virus

Biology of the National Cancer Institute. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is currently the President of the Vallee Foundation which focuses on medical education and bio-medical research.

In 2014, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Stewart Trust launched the Pew-Stewart Scholars for Cancer Research Program, which supports assistant professors (recent post doctorate graduates) of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement for a cure for cancer. The Program is modeled on the renowned Pew **Biomedical Scholars Program. Each** scholar receives a total of \$300,000 over a four-year period. Scholars also attend the annual meeting of all Pew scholars, which allows crossconnection of scientists from a wide range of disciplines to stimulate

greater innovation. The Program is overseen by a National Advisory Committee of five outstanding cancer scientists. The selection process is arduous. The Committee selects and sends five awards annually to 70 leading cancer research institutes and universities. The Pew-Stewart Scholars Cancer Research Program has had a foundational impact on the early careers of over 50 scientists to date from some 24 institutions. The Scholars' research areas range from cancer biology and gene regulation to cancer immunology and genomics.

### **Stewart Trust Grantees**

AppleTree Institute for **Education Innovation Bright Beginnings, Inc.** Capital Hospice (Capital Caring Kids) Children's National Medical Center Christ House **Community of Hope DC Campaign to Prevent** Teen Pregnancy Easterseals DC MD VA Educare DC Food & Friends House of Ruth Joseph's House **Kids First** La Clinica Del Pueblo Mary's Center Medstar National Rehabilitation Hospital

#### MedStar Washington Hospital Center

Nueva Vida

**Pew-Stewart Cancer Research Scholars** - More than 50 University and Institutions supported

Potomac River Clinic

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

#### Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children

#### **Rosemount Center**

Sibley Hospital in partnership with Unity Health Care and John's Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center

#### Special Love St. Coletta of Greater Washington

Wendt Center for Loss and Healing

Bolded organizations denote grantees of more than 10 years.



Bright Beginnings

### Collaborative Programs with Fellow Foundations and Charities

The Trust thanks fellow foundations and partners for collaborations with our grantees that have helped transform medical care and research in the District of Columbia and beyond. These include:

**Children's National Medical Center & Foundation:** One of the first Stewart grantees in 1948, Children's National Medical Center & Foundation became an annual grantee as it grew into a nationally recognized Center of Excellence. The Trust's support of Children's has become more strategic, seeding new initiatives and leveraging significant resources in collaboration with fellow foundations. This was possible due to hospital President Kurt Newman's vision for collaborative initiatives that have assured the highest standard of medical care for children in the District of Columbia, including:

**Community Pediatric Mental Health:** In 2018, the Trust supported Children's efforts to increase collaboration among organizations and institutions addressing the growing mental health crises facing children and adolescents in the DC metro region. This investment helped launch or expand these initiatives:

- Collaboration, Outreach, Research, Equity (CORE) The hospital's community mental health CORE improves the quality and accessibility of mental healthcare in the pediatric primary care setting in the District through advocacy and policy recommendations.
- Autism in Primary Care Program (APC) The APC program breaks down barriers to screening and care for children in under-resourced communities and increases access to autism services, resulting in comprehensive evaluations and diagnosis of autism.

**Proton Therapy/ Joint Pediatric Oncology Program:** In collaboration with Children's National, Sibley Memorial, and Johns Hopkins hospitals a dedicated pediatric proton beam facility was created at Sibley. The Trust's funding for research capability leveraged significant government and foundation funding for the pediatric gantry/"vault" to provide precise radiation therapy beneficial to children with tumors near vital organs. **Health Care in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods:** In collaboration with D.C. foundations and non-profits, Stewart served as lead partner to obtain two \$1M matching grant funding under the nationally competitive Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Local Initiatives Funding Partners Program" for:

- New Providence Hospital health clinic at Perry School in Ward 5. Collaborators: Meyer Foundation, Cafritz Foundation, and Graham Fund
- Children's Healthy Generations program in Wards 7 & 8 to provide primary care, mental health services and home visitations. Collaborators: Summit Fund and Graham Fund

**Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy:** Starting in 2000, the Trust participated with other foundations and partners in a broad community effort to reduce teen pregnancy in the District by identifying and implementing evidence-based programs recommended by grantee Child Trends. Brenda Rhodes Miller galvanized D.C. foundations to support the highly effective community advocacy of the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. This community-wide effort over two decades resulted in the DC teen pregnancy rate falling to a remarkable 75 percent. Collaborators: Summit Fund, Meyer Foundation, Cafritz Foundation, and Graham Fund.



Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian



**Margaret Stewart** 



**Alexander Stewart** 

The Stewart Trust deeply appreciates the kind invitation of Nicole Bintner-Bakshian, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to host this event at the Luxembourg Embassy, which was the original home of the Stewart family.

The home was constructed in 1909 using timber from the Stewart properties near Wausau, Wisconsin, the location of the family's extensive lumber businesses. Mr. Stewart was elected a U.S. representative from Wisconsin for three terms (1895-1901), then settled in the District with his wife, Margaret, and their daughters. After Mr. Stewart's passing in 1912, Mrs. Stewart lived in the home until her death in 1931.

In 1940, the Luxembourg Royal Family escaped the Nazi invasion and occupation of their country, many settling in Washington, DC. In 1941, Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg purchased the Stewart family home from The Stewarts' daughters. In 1962, the home became the Luxembourg Ambassador's residence and, later, the country's Embassy.

The Stewart Trust was created in 1948 through the generosity of Helen (Stewart) Devore and Mary Stewart in honor of their parents.



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