

Stewart Trust Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025

2025 marked the 77th year of the Trust's support for the goals of the Stewart family's legacy: 1) cancer research, 2) treatment of cancer and pediatric afflictions of underserved residents of our Nation's Capital. To accomplish these goal, in 2025 the Trust awarded some \$4 million in grants to 45 non-profit organizations. The list of these grantee organizations and their projects can be found through this link to the Trust website: <https://www.stewart-trust.org/what-we-support/>

For 2025 pediatric and cancer treatment programs, many Stewart grantees expended considerable effort reacting to the threat of severe Federal and DC Health Department budget reductions, which would directly affect availability of medical care for the underserved in the District. Stewart collaborated with other D.C health care foundations to track the potential reductions, advocate for the underserved, and prepare to provide additional funding to grantees to partially compensate for the expected budget reductions. This would be in addition to the Trusts on-going grants to very worthy non-profits in health care, many of whom have received Stewart grants for decades. In anticipation of budget reductions, the Trust increased the number of multi-year awards among its current grantees.

In 2025, the Trust funded several successful initiatives, including:

- Eyesight testing/free reading glasses for students in D.C. public and charter elementary schools, most in underserved Wards of the District . Childhood eyesight impairments directly impact educational performance, leading to broader social issues. The Trust supported a trial program by the Prevention of Blindness Society of D.C. (POBS) that resulted in eye examinations for over 24,000 students, with approximately 20% provided free reading glasses. A separate grant was provided in late 2025 to Vision to Learn for its similar program for D.C. public school students in 2026.
- Established a “patient navigator” position at Community of Hope to support cancer care and collect data to help build the case for support of eventual Medicaid funding of such patient navigators for preventive care. The D.C. Health department, with the D.C. Primary Care Association (DCPCA) as contractor, is leading this research effort, which includes navigators at several D.C. health clinics. Stewart also funded administrative support by DCPCA to coordinate data generated by the additional navigator.
- Pilot summer cancer research internship program for talented STEM students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This highly competitive trial program was administered as part of Stewart's Cancer Research Scholars partnership with the Pew Charitable Trusts. Selected rising junior and senior undergraduates were teamed with Pew-Stewart Scholars at universities across the US, with Scholars mentoring the summer interns as they advanced their scientific skills. Reviews by the Scholars and interns were very positive. A full report is being completed, and the Trust is hopeful that

the program will eventually be expanded to inspire more students to pursue careers in cancer research.

The past year also marked completion of the Trust's \$1,000,000 grant to the Children's National Hospital multi-year program to close critical gaps in pediatric access to mental health. This grant enabled the Hospital to establish a coordinated effort that included broadening outreach and support for families; a model suicide-prevention program; placement of mental health specialists in all Hospital clinics; expanded screenings and care coordination; and greater access to trauma-informed mental health care.

For cancer research, the Trust's collaboration with the Pew Charitable Trusts continues its success in selecting and funding outstanding cancer researchers who are establishing their own laboratories at top institutions across the United States. A review of the latest [Pew-Stewart Cancer Scholars' Program Annual Report](#) provides a view of the capabilities, research areas and accomplishments of these remarkable scientists. This year will mark the 14th anniversary of the initiation of the Pew-Stewart collaboration, with the addition of five more Scholars for a total of 70. The success of the program is dependent on the Program Selection Committee - see <https://www.pew.org/en/projects/pew-stewart-scholars-for-cancer-research/program-details> - consisting of some of the most accomplished cancer scientists across the Nation, and led by Committee Chair Dr. Helen Piwnica-Worms of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The Stewart Trust congratulates and thanks the dynamic 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 their continued success in 2026.

Trustees of the Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust