

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2024 - Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust

This past year marked the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Stewart Trust. The Trust continues to implement the goals established by the Stewart family: support pioneering cancer research, and cancer care and pediatric care for disadvantaged residents in the Nation's Capital.

A highlight of the past year was the Trust's welcoming of [Dr. Kurt Newman](#) to serve as the Stewart Trust's Medical Advisor. Dr. Newman is the former President and CEO of Children's National Medical Center's. Dr. Newman is the first to serve in this Stewart Trust position since the renowned Dr. Judson Randolph, former Chief of Surgery at Children's.

2024 program highlights included:

- Support for a new initiative to provide annual eyesight testing/free reading glasses for students in 44 D.C. public elementary schools, most in underserved Wards 5, 7 and 8. The Prevention of Blindness Society of D.C. (POBS) proposed the project, and with Stewart funding and organizational support will conduct eye examinations for over 6000 students, with approximately 15% expected to receive reading glasses. Childhood eyesight impairments directly impact educational performance, leading to broader social issues. Several D.C. Charters schools are also included in a related POBS initiative. Congratulations to POBS for its creativity and diligent efforts to implement this unique, impactful program.
- Provision of cancer "patient navigator" grants for researching the benefits of navigator support for cancer testing and related initiatives. A goal is provision of data that could support eventual Medicaid funding of such patient navigators. The D.C. Health department, with the D.C. Primary Care Association (DCPCA) as contractor, is leading the research effort, which includes navigators at several D.C. health clinics. Stewart is funding an additional navigator at Community of Hope, and administrative support by DCPCS.
- The launch of a pilot summer cancer research internship program for talented STEM students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This highly competitive program will be administered as part of Stewart's Cancer Research Scholars partnership with the Pew Charitable Trusts. Selected rising junior and senior undergraduates will be teamed with Pew-Stewart Scholars at universities across the US. The Scholars will mentor the summer interns as they advance their scientific skills in the Scholars' cancer research laboratories. If the pilot is successful, the Trust hopes to expand the program, in partnership with other donors, and inspire more students to pursue careers in cancer research.

During the year, the Trust awarded grants to over 50 outstanding non-profits. The list of these grantee organizations and their projects can be found on the Trust website [for pediatric and](#)

[cancer care](#) and b)for cancer research, in the [Pew-Stewart Scholars' Program Annual Report](#) (Scholar classes 2021-2024).

Grants for pediatric and cancer care included:

- Five D.C. Community health clinics - all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) - focusing on primary care and other youth health services.
- Therapeutic intervention programs (physical, occupational, and speech therapies, and nurse services) for children in six D.C. early childhood education centers.
- Early cancer diagnosis programs for the Latina community (Nueva Vida).
- A long-term support program, including summer camp, for children afflicted with or recovering from cancer (Special Love).
- Continued implementation of Children's National Medical Center's Mental health policy lab within its Child Health Advocacy Institute to advance public policies that improve pediatric mental health care across the District of Columbia; and Children's Innovations to Improve Autism Care Project to further work that comprehensively improves care for children with autism.
- An Infant Adoption Program with comprehensive services to pregnant women who are considering adoption. (Barker Foundation)

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 2025.

Trustees of the Alexander and Margaret Stewart Trust