Community Engagement at the AAMC: Highlights from 2020

July 2019 - June 2020
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Washington, D.C.
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The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) leads and serves the academic medicine community to improve the health of people everywhere.

Our vision is for a healthier future through learning, discovery, health care, and community collaborations. Headquartered at 655 K Street NW in the heart of the Mt. Vernon Triangle neighborhood of Washington, D.C., the AAMC is committed to making a greater social impact in the District through its philanthropic efforts, employee volunteerism, and innovative programming.

Through partnerships with community organizations, we advance educational opportunities, promote health equity, and respond to our neighbors’ needs.

From July 2019 through June 2020, the AAMC

• Facilitated 150+ employee volunteer opportunities
• Connected with 600+ K-12 students in person and hundreds more online
• Engaged more than 40 community partner organizations and local government agencies
• Coordinated staff donations of 1,500+ items to local nonprofits and schools

... and more.

Our community engagement focus areas are providing youth education opportunities, addressing homelessness, and building a culture of service. This report highlights some of that work and amplifies the voices of AAMC partners and staff on the influence of community engagement.
Providing Youth Education Opportunities

Being Part of the Solution to the Educational Challenges in the District of Columbia

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019, the AAMC continued our Community Engagement Conversation series with a one-hour lunchtime discussion, during which Elly Yu from WAMU American University Radio interviewed Jessica Sutter, PhD, Ward 6 representative for the D.C. State Board of Education. The interview was followed by questions and answers, moderated by the AAMC’s own chief medical education officer, Alison Whelan, MD. Dr. Sutter praised the AAMC’s continued collaborations, including those with Walker-Jones Education Campus, the NAF (formerly the National Academy Foundation) health science academies, and others. She commended the association for being part of the solution to problems facing schools, students, and parents locally.
Collaborating with the NIH for Its Sixth Annual Science Day Fair

On October 10, 2019, the AAMC participated in the Sixth Annual Science Day at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by engaging more than 400 K-12 students in a day of learning and exploring STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers. Throughout the day, students engaged in hands-on science activities at two AAMC tables while also learning about the AAMC’s role in several health science career pathways.

Exposing African-American Boys to Health and Medical Career Pathways

On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, the AAMC hosted its second My Health, My Community, My Future program, which is designed with the goal of exposing young African-American men to health and medical career pathways. Students were from Eastern High School, Coolidge High School, Friendship Public Charter Schools (Friendship Technology Preparatory High and Friendship Collegiate Academy), Ron Brown College Preparatory High School, and Archbishop Carroll High School. The event highlighted the need to produce a diverse and culturally responsive health care workforce to meet the needs of medically underserved populations and to promote health equity. Diversifying the pipeline of the health workforce is an AAMC priority that closely aligns with the community engagement focus area of youth education opportunities — and is essential to our organization’s mission of improving the health of all.

Community Voice

Because of the AAMC’s support, we’ve been able to have food, books, resources, and volunteers at our Family Literacy and Math Nights. The AAMC also helped us with Teacher Appreciation Week at Walker-Jones. We really appreciate the outreach at the AAMC. We continue to work with the AAMC because they have supported us with so many of our schoolwide initiatives.

— LaCondria Beckwith, Assistant Principal, Walker-Jones Education Campus
Hosting DCPS Professional Development Day
On November 5, 2019, the AAMC’s Office of Community Engagement hosted D.C. Public Schools’ (DCPS) Professional Development Day for health science and biotechnology academies teachers. The program stressed that continued support for pipeline and health professions school programs is necessary for workforce development.

Focusing on Women and Girls in Science with Local Students
On February 11, 2020, the Office of Community Engagement hosted a dinner and panel program that introduced approximately 35 D.C. high school students and their parents to education and career pathways in science, technology, engineering, and math. This event coincided with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, so an emphasis was placed on highlighting African-American women in the health professions. The speakers, all Black women, represented nursing, dentistry, and medicine. The panel was moderated by Dr. Chantel Fuqua, director of faculty and education initiatives at the AAMC. Dr. Fuqua has a PhD in biochemistry and has mentored several underrepresented minority women pursuing careers in STEM.

AAMC Staff Member
I continue to volunteer, engage, and participate because of the breadth of opportunities the Community Engagement team facilitates. I am able to volunteer and give back to the community and also be a recipient of the powerful knowledge shared from others. The holistic approach makes me a better AAMC employee, civic leader, and person.

— April Williams, PhD, Manager, Data Governance and Standards
Homelessness

Supporting the National Capital Area’s Project Homeless Connect
On Thursday, October 3, 2019, more than 40 AAMC colleagues supported neighbors who are experiencing housing insecurity at the Fifth Annual Project Homeless Connect. Volunteers from the AAMC served as Project Homeless Connect Buddies, guiding participants through the area’s largest resource fair. This event allows participants to connect in just one day with multiple services and programs that might normally take months to access.

Providing Winter Essentials for Neighbors in Need through AAMC Giving Trees
The AAMC Services and Accommodations teams, with assistance from the Office of Community Engagement, facilitated a building-wide clothing drive to support So Others Might Eat (SOME), an interfaith, community-based service organization that assists D.C. residents experiencing homelessness and poverty. During the clothing drive, 437 winter essentials, such as scarves, socks, and undergarments, were collected.
Hosting a Discussion on the Affordable Housing Crisis

On January 15, 2020, the Office of Community Engagement hosted a thought-provoking discussion on the landscape of the housing crisis in Washington, D.C. Topics included causes of homelessness, its effects on marginalized populations, and policy approaches that can address these challenges. Doni Crawford and Kamolika Das, affordable housing and workforce development analysts from the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute, were interviewed by journalist Andrew Giambrone. The discussion and audience Q&A were moderated by AAMC Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer David A. Acosta, MD.

Doni Crawford asserted that housing insecurity and chronic homelessness are public health issues that can have a devastating impact on patients’ health and well-being. Households experiencing housing insecurity struggle to eat nutritious food, manage chronic health conditions, and get regular preventive care. Kamolika Das emphasized the need for more investment in long-term and supportive housing as one of many solutions to the crisis. Supportive housing programs can help provide housing security, improve access to high-quality health care and other important social services, and reduce the overall cost of health care.
Building a Culture of Service

Celebrating Our People and Our Culture of Service

Celebrating Our People is a special occasion during which the AAMC honors our colleagues’ years of service and announces the recipients of the Kat Turner Spirit of Excellence Award. This year, Length of Service Award winners were given the option of making a charitable donation to a local nonprofit organization of their choice in lieu of selecting a gift from O.C. Tanner. As a result of the recipients’ generosity, more than $1,300 was donated to organizations providing health services and programs for our neighbors. The AAMC is committed to playing a greater social role in Washington, D.C., and to advancing a culture of service within our organization by providing employees opportunities for meaningful engagement.
Partnering with the United Way on Workplace Giving
The AAMC continued its partnership with United Way to offer workplace giving to our full-time employees. Participants chose to make a one-time contribution or pledged to make a series of tax-deductible donations through payroll contributions for the 2020 calendar year to nearly 500 nonprofit organizations that serve residents of Washington, D.C., and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. In 2019, the AAMC increased awareness of the program and saw growth in employee participation, along with a $5,000 rise in donations.

Recognizing Frequent Volunteers with Digital Profile Badges
Each April, National Volunteer Week is observed to celebrate the role of volunteers in helping to build stronger communities and transform the world. In 2020, the Office of Community Engagement partnered with colleagues in Communications to roll out the first set of Pulse digital badges to recognize staff members who have been frequent volunteers and who contributed to AAMC community engagement activities during the fiscal year.

Community Voice
Because of the AAMC’s support, both volunteer and financial, we’ve been able to broaden our impact, providing critical health and social services to members of the local Latino immigrant community that need them most. Through the AAMC Community Grant, we are addressing the prevalence of food insecurity and chronic disease among low-income Latinos in the District through peer-led, evidence-based educational opportunities, community outreach, and individualized navigation to services conducive to a healthy lifestyle.

— Laura Lewis, Grants Coordinator, La Clínica del Pueblo
Helping to Create Grand Holidays for Our Neighbors
In collaboration with the AAMC’s Office of Community Engagement, the Information Technology (IT) Department prepared Thanksgiving baskets for grandparents of the Plaza West Grandfamily Community Program. The program provides affordable housing in the Mission First Housing property for grandparents raising school-age children on their own. The AAMC has an ongoing relationship with Mission First Housing and its three developments in the Mt. Vernon area, including providing after-school homework helpers, summer youth programming, and other support. In December, the IT Department coordinated a drive to support the annual “La Posada” event hosted by La Clínica del Pueblo. The department collected nearly 70 books and toys, along with monetary donations, to support the event.

Supporting Feed the Fight
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Communications unit successfully raised $555 for Feed the Fight. The movement crowdsources individual donations, which are used to help drive business to local restaurants that are working to stay operational and to support health care workers who are fighting on the front lines of this unprecedented crisis. Participating health care organizations included several AAMC member institutions, such as Children’s National Hospital, George Washington University Hospital, and Georgetown University Hospital.

AAMC Staff Member
One thing I learned from volunteering on behalf of the AAMC is how endless the possibilities are to give back to the community around us. I continue to volunteer, engage, [and] participate because the impact that each of us has on our community makes all the difference. I have volunteered on several occasions throughout the years on behalf of the AAMC. All these experiences enrich [our] culture and educate me to build an understanding of the world around us and how much more we can do for our community.

— Sophia Milla, Constituent Engagement Administrative Specialist
COVID-19, Responding to the Needs of Our Community

The AAMC responded quickly to the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic on all fronts — meeting with the White House Coronavirus Task Force and other federal officials, coordinating and conveying the needs and experiences of our members, providing guidance to the medical education community, and serving as a credible voice in the national media. Our members, constituents, and the public continue to see the AAMC as a prominent voice and resource during this pandemic.

Locally we remain committed to working with our neighbors and nonprofit partners in D.C. as the pandemic continues to evolve — especially as COVID-19 has laid bare the existing health inequities that cause such disproportionate harm to our community’s racial and ethnic minority communities.

Enhancing Our Philanthropy

When the pandemic hit, the AAMC made a $25,000 donation to the United Way Emergency Assistance Relief Fund to help those disproportionately affected by job loss as the coronavirus shuttered businesses. Funds were distributed to the Capital Area Food Bank and Miriam’s Kitchen to assist in meal and food distribution and to Mary’s Center to support direct health care for clients in need. The AAMC also accelerated United Way employee contribution payments so that nonprofits would get donations sooner.
The Community Grants Committee acted quickly to allow its recent community grantees to reallocate funding to COVID-19-related programs and support for other pressing needs if COVID-19 had disrupted their originally proposed activities. One nonprofit, for example, redistributed its funding to enhance telehealth capabilities to better ensure the safety of its clients and staff. The committee also lifted some of the standard reporting requirements to allow grantees to remain focused on serving the D.C. community.

Out of an abundance of caution, in May 2020, the AAMC did not mount our annual 655 K Street Cares Day. That signature event typically deploys 200 volunteers to every corner of the city to unite in service with our partner organizations. In lieu of volunteer presence, the AAMC donated the budgeted funds to the 19 organizations that had registered to host volunteers.

Raising Our Voice
Early during the pandemic, the AAMC recognized that we needed to be part of both the local and the national dialogues about the health of people experiencing homelessness and of other vulnerable populations. David Acosta, MD, our chief diversity officer, and Scott Schenkelberg, president and CEO of Miriam’s Kitchen, co-authored “Housing Is Healthcare,” an op-ed published in Street Sense. Miriam’s Kitchen is one of our nonprofit partners that works to end chronic homelessness in Washington, D.C. It has been an AAMC volunteer site for many years and is a recipient of our community grants.
Speaking out about important issues in our community has been a big step for the AAMC — one that has expanded how we work with our partners. Street Sense, a nonprofit media organization that amplifies the voices of people experiencing homelessness, has also been an AAMC grant recipient and program participant in the past, making this op-ed even more meaningful.

Providing Learning Opportunities for Youth and Their Families
As a result of the pandemic, our school partners shifted to delivering online learning. The AAMC partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Physician Assistant Education Association to provide online resources focused on science and health investigation (for example, STEM career exploration websites, workbooks, activities, and research projects that can be done using a computer) to 13 teachers at five public, charter, and parochial high schools.
The Office of Community Engagement created five videos showcasing various health professionals (two pediatricians, an obstetrician-gynecologist, a dermatologist, and a nurse) and made them freely available to the 282 students in the District’s three high school health science academies.

As part of the KIPP DC Northeast Academy “Ask the Expert” segment, Malika Fair, MD, MPH, FACEP, was virtually interviewed by an elementary student about COVID-19. Dr. Fair is the AAMC’s senior director for health equity partnerships and programs. The recording garnered 1,204 views on the KIPP DC IGTV channel. It also received 50 additional views through a student’s reposting. It is one of the most watched items on the KIPP DC platform.

Community Voice

When the pandemic became our new reality, we needed to urgently address the increased needs of our guests experiencing homelessness — those who are in crisis, within a crisis. The AAMC understood the dire health situation our guests experiencing homelessness faced and immediately took action — allowing us to use their designated grant funding to flexibly address the increased needs of our guests on an individual basis.

— Elizabeth Truffa, Corporate Partnerships Officer, Miriam’s Kitchen

After the AAMC made the difficult decision that it would not be able to host D.C. Public School students through the On-Ramps to Careers high school summer internship program, the association instead donated to the On-Ramps program to cover the cost of online professional development workshops for 10 students. On-Ramps to Careers is a DCPS-aligned nonprofit that makes the educational on-ramps to technology jobs more attainable to youth in the nation’s capital.

Engaging Our Staff

The Office of Community Engagement collaborated with the AAMC’s Professional Development Series to have representatives from the nonprofit Miriam’s Kitchen and a local AAMC member, Children’s National Hospital, share their experiences of providing direct services on the front lines of the COVID pandemic with more than 90 AAMC staff members.
The Office of Community Engagement curated a daily roundup of local news clips related to the COVID pandemic with an emphasis on vulnerable populations and philanthropic efforts and made these clips available to all employees through our weekly online newsletter and internal website.

**Disseminating Resources for Sustenance and Sustainability**

Many nonprofit partners faced financial, operations, and program challenges as a result of the COVID pandemic. To help our partners better meet some of those challenges, the Office of Community Engagement collected and disseminated information on emergency funding opportunities, governance articles, webinars, and toolkits for 30 nonprofit partners to help navigate the difficult time and provide promising practices for nonprofits doing their mission work.

The AAMC donated to our neighbors living in Mission First Housing apartments. The donation helped procure food items and grocery store gift cards for tenants experiencing financial burdens, including participants in the Plaza West Grandfamily Community, which supports grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

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**Community Voice**

One specific client of mine (housed in the winter) is severely medically vulnerable and elderly and told me how he couldn’t imagine still living at [the Community for Creative Non-Violence] shelter during this pandemic. Now he’s able to have his wife over to help him refill his medications, has the support of his family, and even has upcoming virtual doctors’ appointments scheduled. He lives in a really nice apartment at 2M Street and always jokingly says, “I have no problem with staying inside this nice apartment!”

— Jerod Lee, Miriam’s Kitchen Permanent Supportive Housing Case Manager, as told to Elizabeth Truffa, Corporate Partnerships Officer, Miriam’s Kitchen
AAMC Community Grants

The AAMC invites more than 100 nonprofits serving the D.C. community whose efforts directly or indirectly align with the AAMC’s mission to “improve the health of people everywhere” to participate in a competitive grant process. The call for applications garners proposals from a broad array of programs and services ranging from organizations that support K-12 education initiatives to organizations that provide direct medical services. The awarded community grants have reflected the diversity of the applicant pool in size, scope, scale, age, funded activities, and locations of the population served.

This year, the AAMC awarded $300,000 to 20 nonprofit organizations. Over the past 14 years, the AAMC has invested more than $2.5 million in the D.C. nonprofit community. The grants help organizations continue to advance educational opportunities, promote health equity, and respond to the demonstrated needs of our neighbors.
Each year, the volunteer AAMC Community Grants Committee, led by co-conveners Adrianne Fielding and Amy Beers, solicits applications from area nonprofits, reviews them, and recommends awards on the basis of merit and potential impact on the applicants. In addition to Adrianne Fielding and Amy Beers, the 2019-20 Community Grants Committee members were Adrien Barrios, Diana Bourke, Asinia Crawford, James Green, Sarah Hampton, Laura Pincus, Abigail Sakyi, Michelle Shader, Karey Sutton, Hannah Turner, Lauren Vergara, Chris Wagner, and Tasha Wood. Clarence J. Fluker, director of community engagement, served as counsel to the group. With support from executive sponsors Jennifer Schlener and Bernard Jarvis, the AAMC has awarded grants for more than a decade.
Project summaries for the 2020 grant recipients are as follows:

**Bright Beginnings, Inc.**
Bright Beginnings, a child and family learning center for families with young children experiencing homelessness, was awarded support for its Fatherhood Initiative. Through weekly sessions, the initiative offers tools related to parenting young children and works to break down barriers to family reconciliation.

**Calvary Women’s Services**
Calvary Women’s Services empowers homeless women in Washington, D.C., to transform their lives through housing, health, education, and employment programs. The AAMC’s funding supported Step Up DC, the organization’s job placement program, which helps women secure a stable income at a living wage.

**Capital Partners for Education**
Capital Partners for Education is one of D.C.’s premier high school and college mentoring programs for low-income students. The program serves more than 400 students annually with one-to-one mentoring, academic advising, test prep, college access, individualized case management, career exposure, and job-readiness programs. The AAMC grant funds supported monthly school visits, workshops, and events; Student Leadership Council engagement; and mentor recruitment.

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc.**
Catholic Charities has provided comprehensive, culturally competent, and linguistically appropriate human services to Latino and immigrant communities in the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Located in Ward 1, the organization’s D.C. Medical Clinic provides access to a full array of affordable, integrated health care services. Funding from the AAMC enabled the D.C. Medical Clinic to provide critical vaccines to help safeguard the health of adult patients and their families.

**College Success Foundation–District of Columbia**
Given its mission to support low-income students of color through college completion and into well-paying careers, the College Success Foundation–District of Columbia (CSF-DC) is focused on integrating expanded STEM learning into yearlong academic supports. Since 2015, CSF-DC has identified and fostered STEM competencies to help high school students build strong academic profiles to support their college and career aspirations. AAMC funding was used to support the addition of chemistry into CSF-DC’s STEM Learning Ecosystem.
**Common Good City Farm**  
AAMC funding supported the expansion of the highly successful LEAF (Learning for the Environment, Agriculture, and Food) afternoon youth program. LEAF focuses on offering a safe and secure environment to children and youth, fostering a sense of belonging and membership, and improving physical health through healthy eating. Each class ends with students cooking a healthy snack together as a team.

**Coolidge High School, D.C. Public Schools**  
The Coolidge High School Academy of Health Sciences program is dedicated to transforming the students’ high school experience. The AAMC grant supported health-related summer internships for 11th graders; the annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Fair, which allows students to showcase the learning and skills acquired in middle school; and the school chapter of HOSA—Future Health Professionals, a national career organization for students.

**Dreaming Out Loud, Inc.**  
Dreaming Out Loud is a nonprofit social enterprise that creates economic opportunity within D.C.’s marginalized communities through its healthy, equitable food system. It implements its mission using a community asset–based approach that leverages strategic partnerships to increase revenue for Black and Brown farmers, residents, and entrepreneurs in the Washington area. Funding from the AAMC supported the Farm and Food Hub at Kelly Miller, a joint project between Dreaming Out Loud and the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation to turn a two-acre vacant parcel into a farm and food hub.

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**AAMC Staff Member**

One thing I’ll take away from volunteering with the AAMC is the significance of community-informed, needs-based engagement with local partners and community members. The experience is so much more meaningful and impactful when taking the time to listen to the needs of the community first.

— Adrien Barrios, Program Specialist
Horton’s Kids, Inc.
Horton’s Kids empowers children growing up in one of Washington, D.C.’s most underresourced communities and prepares them to graduate from high school with the capacity to succeed in college, career, and life. The organization’s wraparound academic, youth development, and health and basic needs services lead to meaningful outcomes: children in Horton’s Kids are twice as likely to graduate from high school. Most children enter the Horton’s Kids program significantly behind in literacy. AAMC funding supported the organization’s academic program, which uses research-based, personalized interventions to provide educational support and promote literacy recovery for children.

Community Voice
Because of the AAMC’s support, Horton’s Kids [has] been able to drive meaningful academic progress among children growing up in one of D.C.’s most underresourced communities. Thanks to the AAMC, children in our program are twice as likely to graduate from high school.

— Billy Fettweis, Director of Development and Communications, Horton’s Kids

House of Ruth
For 43 years, House of Ruth has provided housing and supportive services to more than 12,000 women and children recovering from homelessness and abuse in D.C. The organization serves 1,000 individuals annually. Funding supported Kidspace, which provides free child care, an enriching learning environment, and on-site speech and occupational therapy for children overcoming the trauma of homelessness.

Joseph’s House, Inc.
Joseph’s House welcomes and provides healing care for homeless men and women who have terminal illnesses or are living with HIV/AIDS, as well as providing support services for former residents. Joseph’s House accomplishes its mission through physical nurturing, spiritual companionship, and the restoration of dignity. Each year, Joseph’s House serves 20 to 25 formerly homeless residents with a continuum of care and provides medical case management and support for former residents. AAMC funding was used to update and upgrade the house’s electrical system.
La Clínica del Pueblo, Inc.
La Clínica del Pueblo is a federally qualified health center and community-based nonprofit committed to providing high-quality health services with a holistic approach to prevention and care. AAMC funding was used to support the organization’s culturally and linguistically appropriate Diabetes and Obesity Prevention program for low-income Latino families in the District of Columbia.

Latin American Youth Center
Latin American Youth Center is a nationally recognized, community-based, multicultural, and multilingual youth development center with the mission of empowering a diverse population of young people to achieve a successful transition to adulthood. Counseling, Testing, Referral, and Linkages is a preventive care outreach program that provides free confidential health services by offering HIV, sexually transmitted infection, and pregnancy testing; risk reduction education; and resource and referral links. Funds from the AAMC were used to enhance ongoing outreach and education efforts, serving an additional 200 youth.

Martha’s Table
Martha’s Table is a community-based organization supporting strong children, strong families, and strong communities by increasing access to quality education, healthy food, and family supports in the District of Columbia. The organization’s out-of-school Scholars Enrichment Program supports elementary schoolchildren in Southeast D.C. With the support of the AAMC, Martha’s Table was able to continue and strengthen its important education enrichment work.

Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc.
Founded in 1988, Mary’s Center is an award-winning community health center that annually provides services to more than 54,000 participants from all parts of the D.C. metropolitan region. Participants in

AAMC Staff Member
I continue to volunteer because I love to feel connected to the community by helping those in need. It is my reason to serve others, and I believe we are all in this together.
— Tasha Wood, Executive Assistant to the Chief Legal Officer
Mary’s Center represent nearly 50 countries. Since 1991, Mary’s Center’s Teen After School Program has provided a safe haven for first-generation immigrant youth and has helped them navigate the transition from high school to college. AAMC funding helped build on the success of the program by providing teen participants the tools and resources they needed to set them on the path to a brighter future.

**Mentoring in Medicine, Inc.**
Mentoring in Medicine, Inc. (MIM) inspires, educates, and empowers low-income and minority students to pursue biomedical careers through culturally relevant, interactive programs in Washington, D.C. Since 2014, MIM has hosted programs (in-school field trips) and events (Health Day at the AAMC, Science Day at the National Institutes of Health, AAMC Cares Day at Howard University Middle School, AMA Doctors Back to School). These programs and events have reached nearly 5,500 students. AAMC funding was awarded to support a new school-based MIM Health and Science Day at six schools during the spring of 2020, reaching 1,200 students.

**Community Voice**

Across the years, the AAMC has been a great partner to Miriam’s Kitchen. We have collaborated to support our street outreach programs and our housing programs — and their support makes our mission, ending chronic and veteran homelessness, possible.

— Elizabeth Truffa, Corporate Partnerships Officer, Miriam’s Kitchen

**Miriam’s Kitchen**
Miriam’s Kitchen’s mission is to end chronic homelessness in Washington, D.C. Funding was awarded to assist the Permanent Supportive Housing program, which creates better outcomes for the organization’s clients and the city by enhancing housing stability.

**Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington**
Since 1936, the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington has been dedicated to the improvement and preservation of sight and quality of life. The organization’s School-Age Children’s Vision Screening and Mobile Clinic program supports its mission by providing free vision screenings, eye exams,
and prescription eyeglasses for more than 800 children since February 2019. AAMC funding was awarded to support critical personnel costs associated with delivering this program, as well as costs of eyeglasses, lenses, and frames. By giving children the opportunity to see clearly, the Prevention of Blindness Society better positions children for success inside and outside of the classroom.

**So Others Might Eat**
So Others Might Eat (SOME) is a community-based organization that provides services to individuals experiencing homelessness. SOME’s Medical Clinic offers comprehensive health care to homeless and very low-income individuals as a part of the organization’s comprehensive continuum of services. AAMC funding was awarded to support an integrated Liver Care Clinic and Opioid Treatment Program. In particular, funding was used to purchase supplies and a robust patient care registry that allowed SOME to collect data and establish care plans for patients with hepatitis or HIV, as well as those with co-occurring substance use disorders.

**Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless**
Found in 1987 to overcome barriers that stood between homeless residents and access to justice, the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless maintains a low-barrier, community-based approach to meeting the legal needs of our most marginalized neighbors. The organization sends lawyers into places where clients are comfortable, providing the legal representation they need to overcome obstacles to regaining stability. It also provides access to other services (such as health clinics and day centers). AAMC funding was awarded to support the volunteer coordinator for the Legal Assistance Project. Through the project, the Washington Legal Clinic trains and mentors 150 volunteer attorneys who staff seven intake sites and a mobile unit, assisting more than 800 clients yearly.

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**AAMC Staff Member**

I continue to volunteer, engage, [and] participate because the AAMC really cares about the community surrounding us. We go out of our way to actually make an impact, being sure to not just check a societal contribution box for reputation sake.

— *Kim Barnes, Executive Assistant to the Chief Information Officer*
What Types of Projects Received AAMC Community Grants in 2020?

- Youth education: 41%
- Homelessness and housing: 23%
- Support services: 29%
- Health services and programs: 7%

Which D.C. Communities Benefit from AAMC Community Grants?

- Ward 8: 25%
- Ward 7: 18%
- Ward 6: 6%
- Ward 5: 17%
- Ward 4: 9%
- Ward 3: 4%
- Ward 2: 5%
- Ward 1: 16%