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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area Women Join Forces to Support Nonprofits Serving Communities Affected by COVID-19

Chevy Chase, MD, May 15, 2020 - Nearly 300 women from DC, Maryland, and Virginia have come together to provide over a quarter of a million dollars in grants to four local nonprofits serving community members who have suffered disproportionately from the social and economic impact of COVID-19. The grants are being made by **Many Hands**, a leading Washington, DC-area collective giving organization.

- **Nourish Now** (Rockville, MD) will receive the 2020 Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grant. Nourish Now fights hunger and food waste by recovering and distributing food to families and the elderly in Montgomery County. Before COVID-19, Nourish Now distributed food from its Rockville warehouse and 12 satellite locations and provided snacks for high-need Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and summer programs. Today--nine years after executive director Brett Meyers started Nourish Now from his car--the organization distributes boxes of non-perishable items and prepared meals to 1,000 families weekly at five MCPS locations.

"All of us at Nourish Now are deeply honored to be chosen for the Many Hands 2020 Impact Grant. I look forward to immediately expanding the number of families we donate food to weekly in these unprecedented times."

--Brett Meyers, founder and executive director, Nourish Now

- **Calvary Women's Services** (Washington, DC) will receive a 2020 Many Hands Partner Grant of \$55,500. Calvary empowers homeless women in Wards 7 and 8 to transform their lives through housing, health, education, and employment programs.

- **Generation Hope** (Washington, DC) will receive a 2020 Many Hands Partner Grant of \$55,500. Generation Hope provides mentoring, services, and financial resources to help DC area teen parents become college graduates and help their children enter kindergarten at higher levels of school readiness.
- **Homestretch** (Falls Church, VA) will receive a 2020 Many Hands Partner Grant of \$55,500. Homestretch empowers homeless parents with children to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge, and hope they need to become productive participants in the community.

Since 2004, Many Hands has granted more than \$1.9 million to 38 local nonprofits. As a collective giving organization, Many Hands represents a growing force in philanthropy. By pooling member contributions, Many Hands makes grants much larger than any individual's resources allow. These grants can be transformative for small nonprofits.

"Reach simply wouldn't be where it is today without the extraordinarily generous support we received from the Many Hands community."--Mark Hecker, executive director, Reach Inc., former Impact Grantee

An all-volunteer organization Many Hands relies on its members to select each year's grantees. Through this democratic process, members deepen their understanding of local challenges and become highly engaged members of the community.

"Many Hands' investment in our work means we have a small army of committed, connected, and caring women who are rooting for us, helping us, and sharing our work far and wide." --Corinne Cannon, executive director, Greater DC Diaper Bank, two-time Partner Grantee

This year, COVID-19 forced Many Hands to pivot halfway through the grantmaking process. Meetings, site visits, presentations, and voting all moved online. As the crisis deepened, the Many Hands Board considered a range of options adopted by collective giving groups across the country, such as halting the review process and dividing the grant fund among a large number of applicants or reallocating funds for emergency relief. Ultimately, Many Hands decided it could best serve those most severely impacted by COVID-19 by remaining true to its strategy of making large-scale investments in organizations serving women, children, and families in need in four core areas--education, health, housing, and job readiness.

"All of the organizations that apply to us are serving women and families who are on the margins of our society in a good economy, and who are going to be in even more need now that CV19 has hit us. And all of the nonprofits in

our communities will need significant ongoing support to continue their work -- even those that are not on the 'front lines' as currently defined -- for years to come. Many Hands is not an emergency funder, but the funding we provide during this emergency will provide critical support to those in our communities who are most vulnerable to this crisis." --Tara Primis, president, Many Hands Board

About Many Hands: Many Hands is a women's grantmaking organization committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of Washington, DC area women, children, and families in need and to helping its members become well-informed donors. Since 2004, Many Hands has granted more than \$1.9 million to 38 nonprofit organizations.

In the 2020 grant cycle (fall 2019-spring 2020), Many Hands had 277 members, reviewed 131 grant applications, and granted a total of \$266,500.

Many Hands grants must be used to serve primarily women, children, and families in need in one or more of the following areas: District of Columbia; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Fairfax County, VA; Alexandria City (VA); Fairfax City (VA); Falls Church City (VA).

For more information, go to manyhandsdc.org.

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