

Standing With Our Diverse Communities



Healthy Start students make their voices heard at our protest art showcase.

At Martha's Table, a spirit of diversity, inclusion, and equity is at the foundation of everything that we do. For nearly 37 years, what we've learned from our supporters, staff, and neighbors has fueled our growth and deepened our impact year after year. But we aren't resting on our laurels. Only by revisiting our values, and reexamining

ourselves, can we truly stand in partnership with children, families, and communities.

When asked about diversity in our education programs, Assistant Director of Healthy Start, Beatriz Barros, makes no hesitation in calling it "essential." "We have families from all over the world and from various socio-economic levels. Diversity helps to strengthen our students' understanding of the world around them, and helps our parents and children feel comfortable in the skin they're in," she says.

In February, students from our Healthy Start program learned about the continuing struggle for racial justice in observance of Black History Month. After learning about civil rights heroes who fought for equality, our fourth and fifth grade Out-of-School Time students created and displayed their protest art, addressing social issues they care the most about. One student's piece prominently featured the statement, written in pink that read, "We need to stand for something!" Through projects like this art exhibition,

we demonstrate to our students that *their voices matter*.

But we know that many of our students face challenges every day that can limit the volume of their voices. That's why Martha's Table as an organization is embracing our responsibility to reinforce cultural norms and behaviors that foster racial equity and inclusion. That means acknowledging the root causes of systemic and institutionalized racism, confronting our biases head-on, and really taking a hard look at the

work that we do and the way in which we do it— at all levels and in all parts of our organization. We recognize that racism and oppression have created barriers to opportunities that have persisted for generations. Likewise, we recognize those same barriers contribute to the privilege experienced by others. That's why we are intentional in our efforts to minimize the steps our neighbors take to access our programs and services. And it's why our expansion to two new locations has been guided by our commitment to building authentic community partnerships. Through channels like our Ward 8 Youth Advisory Council, we ensure meaningful dialogue, honest input, and mutual accountability as we work toward our shared goals. We are working towards creating a similar group comprised of parents, so that our programming can be informed by all stakeholders.

Our work isn't sustainable unless it is both influenced by and empowering to the children, families and communities with which we work. We look forward to continuing to work with our supporters like you, who come from all walks of life and provide us with the resources and valuable input we need to work together in the pursuit of building a brighter future.

I, Too
by Langston Hughes
I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.
Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—
I, too, am America.

Watch our community members, students, and staff recite "I, Too" online: www.marthastable.org/i-too

ACTION ALERT: Support community engagement at Martha's Table with a monthly donation! Visit www.marthastable.org/donate to learn more.

2016 BY THE NUMBERS

Last year, you made a huge impact in the lives of our neighbors. Check out what we were able to accomplish together:



73,000

Individuals Reached with Healthy Food



1.6 Million

Healthy Meals Distributed



35

Monthly Pop-Up Grocery Markets



200+

Healthy Start Students



18,000+

Volunteers

Partnering for Success in Two Locations: An Interview with Jim Knight



Jim Knight leads Jubilee Housing, a historic D.C. community organization dedicated to building diverse, compassionate communities.

Martha's Table's CEO Patty Stonesifer recently sat down with Jim Knight, Executive Director and President of Jubilee Housing, to discuss how our organizations will work together in the near future. As part of Martha's Table's move to two new locations in 2018, we will partner with Jubilee to remain committed our Ward 1 neighbors, providing education and food supports at the Jubilee-owned Maycroft, just a few blocks from our current 14th Street location.

Patty: Tell me Jubilee's story, not just about how it came to be

involved with the Maycroft, where we'll be co-locating, but how it came to be part of the community in Ward 1.

Jim: Our organization got its start in Ward 1 in the early 1970s, when the neighborhood was in a much different condition. The housing was failing. In many of the apartment buildings, the furnace didn't turn on in the winter and doors didn't stay locked when they were supposed to. Our work began by trying to improve these conditions, but through it, we came to know families and hear about the changes they wanted to see. We got to know these folks, and we saw a need to bring in other kinds of supports beyond housing that could help life be all that it can be.

Patty: How many families live in Jubilee housing today, and what other supports do you offer?

Jim: We have just about 300 households that live in the buildings we own, and they're all located within about four blocks of each other. We provide a continuum of support for our families, starting with where they live, to education for children and teens, to our Family Resource Center that helps parents navigate things like school choice and college financial aid.

Patty: With Jubilee already offering so many great services and supports for neighbors, why does the partnership with Martha's Table make sense?

Jim: We saw Martha's Table as a leader and an expert in early childhood education, which is an area we have been trying to build out. Although we had been offering housing supports and K-12 afterschool programming for years, we were able to connect with families like never before when we stepped into early childhood programming. My daughter was actually in the first early childhood education program we offered, and it allowed me to share a bond with the other families and develop a greater understanding of what opportunities they were looking for. Right now, we have about 50 children enrolled in our programming, but the need is so much greater. When we found Martha's Table as a partner willing and able to help us expand our offerings, we had a hallelujah moment!

Patty: It was certainly a hallelujah moment for us too! To us, this partnership seems like a natural fit not only because of your organization's strengths in housing and community building, but also because of your values. In that sense, how do you see our two organizations aligned?

Jim: There are a lot of people in the world trying to do good, but many of us go about it in different ways. We both come at our work from an asset-based perspective, which means we see people for all the promise and potential that they embody. And I think we have similar visions for what a healthy D.C. looks like: inclusive, and not divided by race, geography, or economics. Martha's Table has such a great reach into the volunteer and business communities, and I think engaging with those stakeholders is an opportunity to break down barriers and develop the kind of community that values everyone.

Patty: We couldn't agree more. Not only does your organization's mission complement ours, but it's so great to see the leaders from both of our organizations work together. I think we're both growing as a result—and that's what a great partnership is all about.

Jim: Absolutely. You bring so much our neighborhood, and it's going to be fun to see what our partnership really looks like next year.

Supporters Spearhead Massive SmarTrip Card Donation Campaign



Assistant Director of Facilities Tony Washington poses with thousands of SmarTrip cards donated via mail.

Over the weekend of January 20th, hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the country descended on Washington, D.C. for a historic weekend. Whether they were here to witness the inauguration of our 45th president or take to the streets for the Women's March, many of them had one thing in common: they used Metro, Washington's public transportation utility, to get around. This left a team of creative Martha's Table supporters with an idea: collect visitors' leftover metro cards and distribute them to Washingtonians in need. What started as a campaign on social media led to an outpouring of support, with donated SmarTrip cards coming in by the thousand from places as far away as Hawaii and Maine! All told, our supporters donated over 10,000 cards—an amazing gesture of support for our community.

We have immediately begun distribution of the cards to our lobby market and Martha's Outfitters shoppers, with plans to offer them alongside our emergency assistance and healthy food access programming on a large scale. These little cards can make a big difference in people's lives. A no-cost Metro ride can ensure that one of our neighbors makes it to a job interview, a parent-teacher conference, or the grocery store. Hilary Moore Hebert, who spearheaded the effort, remarked that she collected leftover cards from "people all over the country, from all walks of life" who wanted to contribute to "something larger than themselves." Thank you to everyone who played a role in this campaign!

ACTION ALERT: Have gently used clothing or housewares? Donate to Martha's Outfitters to support neighbors in need. Visit www.marthastable.org/donate/clothing-and-housewares to learn more!



How Far Does Your Dollar Stretch on McKenna's Wagon?

McKenna's Wagon, our mobile food truck, rolls out 7 days a week, 365 days a year to feed hundreds of homeless and hungry neighbors at three established downtown locations. Thanks to our hardworking volunteers and our relationships with suppliers, we're able to stretch every dollar you donate. Check out the savings below:

\$100 Gift = 230 Meals!



Food

65% Savings!

We maximize every dollar donated by leveraging our relationships with food suppliers, saving up to 65% compared to your local grocery store. While 100 lb. of onions might cost \$200 at the market, we can purchase the same amount for less than half the price! We're also grateful to receive food donations from local grocers and the Capital Area Food Bank.

Other Costs:



Chef

Dedicated professional expert in healthy cooking



Van

Gas and maintenance for our vans



Supplies

Utensils, plates, cups, and napkins



Labor

\$1,884 Savings!

McKenna's Wagon runs as efficiently as possible thanks to our amazing volunteers. From chopping vegetables and baking muffins in our prep kitchen, to driving the Wagon and distributing hot meals at its three locations, volunteers pour 80 hours of time into each McKenna's run. Their dedicated labor saves us \$1,884 each time the Wagon goes out to support homeless and hungry neighbors.

ACTION ALERT: Give today to have your gift stretched! Donate to support vital programs like McKenna's Wagon: www.marthastable.org/donate

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About Martha's Table

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity for their brightest future, and a deeply engaged family and community committed to their success.

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Thank you for supporting Sips & Suppers 2017!

We're so grateful to the more than 1500 guests who joined us for the ninth annual Sips and Suppers! Thank you for helping DC Central Kitchen and Martha's Table's work supporting children, families, and neighbors. A big shout out to our participating chefs, restaurants, sponsors, volunteers, and—of course—attendees for making this year's Sips & Suppers a huge success! See you next year!



Photo by Ezra Gregg

Guests mingle at the Newseum while raising money to support neighbors.

#MixTheLove With Us!



We greatly appreciate every single food donation that comes through our doors—no matter how big or small. This year, we want to encourage you to donate homemade trail mix in addition to sandwiches. Why trail mix? It keeps longer, has a ton of tasty variety, and our neighbors have the option to save it for later!

ACTION ALERT: Check out our trail mix recipe list posted online (www.marthastable.org/mixthelove) to make a delicious mix of healthy ingredients for donation. Better yet, get together with friends and family to host a #MixTheLove party!

Welcome Chris Niemczewski to our Board of Directors!

We are excited to announce the addition of Chris Niemczewski to our Board, who brings a wealth of experience and a valued perspective to our leadership team. Chris currently leads Marshfield Associates, a D.C.-based investment management firm, and serves of on the Board of Managers of Swarthmore College. He joins the Martha's Table Board as a long-time supporter of our programs.

