

## new frame: regionalism



**Taking a cross-sector and cross-jurisdictional look at philanthropy and affordable housing** - WRAG convened members and key housing leaders to identify what role organized philanthropy might take in the area of affordable housing. The group analyzed housing needs throughout the region, considered opportunities for investment, and explored strategies employed in other metropolitan areas.

To educate the funding community about the relationships between stable affordable housing and education, health, crime, and other outcomes, the Task Force convened three sold-out community tours, which brought funders to areas in the region with some of the most pressing housing needs and greatest anticipated growth, including Anacostia, sites in northern Virginia, and Langley Park, MD.

The Task Force's work culminated in a set of recommendations on how WRAG should move forward in 2013. Stay tuned!

**Incubating innovation** - Over the past 18 months WRAG incubated the Evergreen Initiative, a community-based program that links worker-owned businesses with anchor organizations. WRAG helped to build interest in the initiative and in the larger concept of community wealth building among philanthropy, and ensured that the feasibility study took a regional perspective in developing recommendations for a potential wealth-building project in our area.

**Premiering a new logo** - At the Annual Meeting WRAG unveiled a sleek new logo that incorporates our ongoing commitment to promoting regionalism and to being a regional organization. The graphic that flows under our name is meant to evoke the waters of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers.

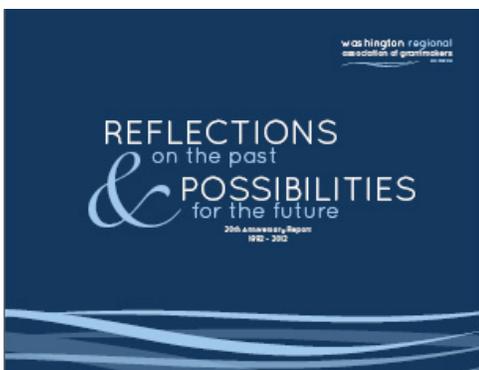
### Positive Pathways continues in Year 2

In 2011, the Washington AIDS Partnership received a Social Innovation Fund grant from AIDS United to support Positive Pathways, a multi-year initiative aimed at addressing barriers to accessing life-saving medical care for African Americans living with HIV/AIDS in D.C.

Over the last two years, over 500 out-of-care individuals have enrolled in Positive Pathways, gaining access to an extensive support system to help them address their health care needs. The program's success was highlighted on the White House blog in July. [Read it here.](#)



## solid foundation



**Celebrating 20 years** - The Annual Meeting marked the release of [\*Reflections on the Past & Possibilities for the Future\*](#), a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary report featuring essays from former WRAG Board chairs, academics from area universities, and national thought leaders in philanthropy on the value of WRAG to the community over the last 20 years, and the role of philanthropy over the next 20.





# lasting value

**Leadership Matters** - The 2012 Annual Meeting at Nationals Park was a huge success. Dr. Stephen Fuller informed us about the economic and demographic changes coming to our region, and Board members Terri Freeman and Pat Mathews motivated the philanthropic community to take a leadership role in ensuring that future needs are met. Public Allies' Paul Schmitz reminded us that leadership has many definitions and forms, and that everyone has assets and weaknesses. He inspired us to create real, lasting change in our community by engaging all people as leaders. And, as always, there were memorable surprises throughout the day.

**Launching a popular speaker series** - This year marked the launch of *Brightest Minds*, a colloquium series that featured three high profile speakers. Jim Johnson, a demographer from the University of North Carolina, informed us of the demographic trends that will critically affect our region in the years to come. Google's Cole Nussbaumer taught us how to tell our stories visually with data, and Susan Raymond, economist from Changing Our World, explained how new innovations in the social sector are reshaping philanthropy. Look for the 2013 Brightest Minds lineup coming soon!



**Keeping funders ahead of the curve** - WRAG launched a new publication series, *What Funders Need to Know*, to capture the learnings from member convenings and share them with the entire membership. The first installment, [How Do Teachers Become Great?](#), flowed from the Public Education Working Group's knowledge about effective professional development strategies for teachers and their impact on student performance. Keep an eye out for future installments in 2013.

**Lessons learned from the EduTours** - The popular EduTours series, a partnership between WRAG, the Banyan Tree and CityBridge foundations, and the DC Public Education Fund, sunset after three years of exploring critical issues in public education in D.C. The EduTours took funders to traditional public and charter schools throughout the city, introducing them to experts and practitioners at both the school and systems levels, in order to deepen the collective understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing public education.

### The Working Group on Aging measures its impact

**\$1.54 million**  
increased funding  
to aging issues

With the end of the Grantmakers In Aging's EngAGEment Initiative, the Working Group on Aging (WGA) decided to conclude its work as a formal working group on a high note with the completion of the Quality Jobs/Quality Care program series. This four-part series brought together funders, nonprofits, and local government representatives for an in-depth look at the region's direct care workforce and how we can strengthen that workforce to better serve our region's aging population. The WGA celebrated another milestone this year with the finding that, between the grantmaking of core working group members and additional money leveraged as a result of the WGA's programs and advocacy, funding for aging issues in the region increased \$1,543,000 during the life of this group.

### Collaborating to preserve a community service



For the past 16 years, the Washington AIDS Partnership (WAP) has been a site of the AIDS United AmeriCorps program, a national program that operates in cities across the country. Each year, the Partnership recruits, trains, and mentors a team of 12 young people who provide volunteer service at D.C. HIV/AIDS and health care service providers. Sadly, this high-impact program was federally de-funded weeks before the 2012-2013 team began their service. But, WRAG members rallied, raising more than \$200,000 to fund the Partnership's team as the WAP Service Corps.

*All  
Boats  
Rise*

At our Annual Meeting, we presented you with an artistic interpretation of our work in 2012 from spoken word artist Regie Cabico. As we look forward to 2013, Regie's refrain still resonates - "All Boats Rise." Next year, WRAG will continue its efforts to promote a united region. We will continue to champion the opportunity for all of our region's residents to live the American dream. And, we will continue to work with the knowledge and awareness that our challenge is to improve the lives of every one of the region's residents.