



NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2023

WELCOME

This is the 3rd edition of the **harp-weaver LLC** newsletter! We share best practices about philanthropy, how we're involved and supporting the local community, when you can plan on attending the next Night Out With Meaning, and other information about giving.

Have questions? Contact Abby Rolland at abby@harp-weaver.com.

GRANTMAKING

harp-weaver is proud to work regularly with a number of clients – individuals, families, and independent foundations – who are committed to making a difference in their communities through grants and mission-aligned investments.

In 2022, our clients gave more than \$6 million in grants to organizations working in many different subsectors, including music, the arts and humanities in general, homelessness prevention, workforce development, social and human services, youth and mentoring, education, nature and the environment, and community associations.

harp-weaver also collaborates with one client on investing to maximize impact. With harp-weaver's advice, this client invested \$150,000 in social enterprises this year that make a difference while also providing a return on each investment.

Our clients give to and invest in many different causes based on their specific interests. We are delighted to partner with them to help them accomplish their philanthropic goals.

WE'VE MOVED

We're excited to have moved to the Philadelphia neighborhood of Chestnut Hill on February 1.

Office: 8033 Germantown Ave Philadelphia, PA 19118

Mailing:* PO Box 4352 Philadelphia, PA 19118

Telephone: 610.937.0044

Check out our website for updated contact information!

**Please send all mail to the PO Box.*



Want to share news? Contact Abby Rolland at abby@harp-weaver.com

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www.harp-weaver.com

EXPERTISE

Several of harp-weaver's clients are committed to addressing the root causes of homelessness and its dehumanizing effects. In order to understand best practices, provide well-sourced advice to our clients, and have a voice in discussions on homelessness, harp-weaver Principal Teresa Araco Rodgers serves on the board of the **Roadmap to Homes** initiative, on the Office of Homeless Services' HUD Alignment Committee, and on the advisory committee of **Your Way Home**, Montgomery County's coordinated program to address the housing crisis.

In Philadelphia, **approximately 5,700 people are considered homeless**, which includes about 950 people who are unsheltered. According to the city's Office of Homeless Services (OHS), Philadelphia has the lowest number of street homeless per capita of any of the largest cities in the U.S., despite the city's high per capita poverty rate.

In 2009, Congress passed the **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act** and designed the **Continuum of Care (CoC) Program** to:

- promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness and
- quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness, increase their access and utilization of mainstream social supports, and optimize their self-sufficiency.

The CoC Program works to house individuals while "minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness." CoC focuses on finding and providing temporary housing to move individuals off the streets.

In Philadelphia, stakeholders are testing multiple methods to address homelessness, realizing that there is not one "solution" to addressing it. For example, **one of harp-weaver's clients supports Sanctuary Village**, a tiny homes community in Holmesburg that will provide housing to individuals who are experiencing homelessness and are over 65 years of age or have other comorbid conditions putting them at high risk. Sanctuary Village hopes that with the security of a home and the case management services provided, "residents can move on to permanent housing when ready."

That client also gives to several organizations who utilize a **jobs-first approach to ending homelessness**, which builds on the notion that steady paid work provides dignity. These jobs help individuals earn money that can then be used to pay for housing and other necessities. Both First Step Staffing and Good Haul (operated by Pathways to Housing PA) use a jobs-first approach.

Tiny homes and utilizing a jobs-first approach are two methods to combatting homelessness. **Other tools** include providing/building more affordable housing units, offering continued services to the most vulnerable, developing a crisis response to help people quickly exit homelessness, and much more.

To make homelessness **rare, brief and non-recurring**, it will take cross-sector organizations collaborating on multiple strategies in order to provide accessible and safe housing to all members of our community.

Want to stay up-to-date on what's happening at harp-weaver? Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!



CLIENT FEATURE



In 2021, the renowned and well-respected Ralston Center decided that it could best continue its 200+ year service to the community and older adults by selling its historic building and using the proceeds from the sale to set up a permanent endowment, thus eventually becoming a private, charitable foundation.

The Ralston Center staff and board engaged harp-weaver to **provide project support** to assist with the organization's transition from a program-driven nonprofit to a grantmaker. With its knowledge and experience of working with philanthropy, harp-weaver has helped guide Ralston Center to think about and articulate its philanthropic strategy, grantmaking operations and practices, governance, communications, and financial management practices.

From many hours of thoughtful conversations and hard work, **The Sarah Ralston Foundation** excitingly announced its grantmaking in January 2023. The Foundation will give to organizations that support and enhance the quality of life of vulnerable and underserved older adults residing in Philadelphia County

harp-weaver has been proud to work alongside the Foundation's staff and board, and looks forward to continuing to provide advice this year as The Sarah Ralston Foundation sparks transformative impact in our local community.

NIGHT OUT WITH MEANING



Don't miss the next Night Out With Meaning on Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 6:30-9pm at The Philadelphia Cricket Club! We will welcome Christine Smith, co-founder and director emerita of **The Center for Loss & Bereavement**. The Center provides professional counseling, support services and education for families, individuals, and organizations dealing with loss and bereavement. Located in Skippack Village in Montgomery County, the Center offers a warm and safe atmosphere that allows for the expression and exploration of those thoughts and emotions associated with the grief process.

Christine will share her journey with grief and how she used her experiences to shape the Center's mission. **Register here** to join us to hear her inspiring story.

Night Out With Meaning is a series of evenings for women held three times per year. Each Night Out focuses on a topic and features an inspirational storyteller. Night Out is for women to connect, learn and find meaning in personal giving.

If you missed the last Night Out with Holocaust survivor and hidden child Ruth Kapp Hartz, **check out the reflection** we wrote about her powerful message and vital reminder of how kindness saves lives.

BLOG POST

Transparency is a much-discussed topic in philanthropy. While independent foundations have previously limited their exposure in a number of ways to the outside world and potential grantee partners, they have begun to open their doors and share information about their work as well as connecting with partners in a variety of ways.

harp-weaver **penned a piece** for Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia (PNGP) about our client The Presser Foundation's efforts to embrace transparency in order to build stronger relationships with its partners and with the community.

GIVING BACK

At harp-weaver, we believe that service and giving goes beyond our time at work; in fact, philanthropy is embedded into our daily lives. This mentality is illustrated in the organizations that staff care about. We are active participants in serving on boards and committees, volunteering in other ways, and giving to charitable causes.

Teresa Araco Rodgers

Teresa, harp-weaver's Principal and Founder, is a Philadelphia native and passionate about contributing to causes related to housing and homelessness, education, local impact investing, and health and families. She uses her knowledge and experience to inform her board work while lessons from each board and committee positively inform her guidance of harp-weaver and its clients.

She serves on the board/committee of AIM Academy, Gwynedd Mercy High School, the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund, Roadmap to Homes, the HUD Alignment Committee, the Montgomery County Your Way Home Advisory Council, and is actively involved with Investors Circle Philadelphia and Impact PHL.

"A strong sense of giving and service are tenets of the charism of the Sisters of Mercy, who, through their teaching, deeply influenced my values and calling. Service is a sincere gift of yourself to others. Through my board service and work in philanthropy, I meet so many people who have devoted themselves to the issues they hold dear. It is why I started Night Out With Meaning, a place where women can come together to learn, to inform themselves, and to be inspired by women who have made a difference in the issues they care about."

Abby Rolland

Having moved to Philadelphia in the fall of 2021, Abby began looking for ways to become embedded into the community as soon as she arrived. She's most interested in youth development and empowering youth leaders, which has informed the volunteer work thus far.

She has volunteered as a coach with Girls on the Run Philadelphia and currently serves on its Associate Board. She's also on the Philadelphia AmeriCorps Alumni Board, as her AmeriCorps VISTA service year profoundly shaped who she is and what she does, and she wants to give back. She attends her family foundation's board meetings as they begin to incorporate her generation into its work as well.

"Service has been embedded into my DNA since I was a child. My family and my environment both influenced my desire to give back. As they say, 'to whom much is given, much is expected.'"

Jill Greenfield Feldman

While new to the harp-weaver team, Jill is not new to philanthropy and giving back. She's been involved with her family's foundation since 1999, serving as a Trustee and eventually an administrator. She also drives for MANNA delivering food to people with serious illnesses, and helps out at Greater Goods, a free grocery store in Kensington run by the Sunday Love Project.

"I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in helping with either of these organizations to reach out and consider joining me! It can be very difficult seeing the condition in which others live and struggle. Growing up and living in a world where there has always been plenty of food and I always saw my parents and grandparents helping others, it is so fulfilling and comforting to know that we are helping our community, even (or especially) when it brings us out of our comfort zone."