ANNUAL REPORT

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON DC

Founded in 1981
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Fierce. Flawless. Fabulous. There truly are no better words to describe the range of emotion, high level of talent, and immense passion of GMCW’s 16–17 season. From our cabaret which featured true confessions of GMCW members to our holiday extravaganza to our showcase of our small ensembles, God Save the Queens, GMCW reached new artistic heights under the uniquely qualified hand of Artistic Director Thea Kano.

This season, our audiences also escaped the hectic outside world with our fully staged, critically-acclaimed musical How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, produced for the first time through an LGBTQ+ lens. In addition, GMCW proudly presented Youth Invasion, the first stand-alone concert featuring GenOUT Chorus, our LGBTQ+ and allied youth chorus. This concert was a testament to the fast-paced growth, both artistically and in number of participants, of this distinctive ensemble. GMCW closed our season with And the Tony Goes To..., a celebration of LGBTQ+ influence on Broadway. This concert went beyond the standard Broadway classics and delved deeply into how the Great White Way has been shaped by those in the LGBTQ+ community and how the LGBTQ+ community has been shaped by Broadway.

One of the most impactful events produced by GMCW this season, and perhaps in our long history, was our Equality Tour to the American South. We traveled on a four-day, six-state journey, giving over a dozen performances involving more than 100 singers. We visited states which have discriminatory laws against the LGBTQ+ community. We brought people together and started conversations while spreading a message of equality through song.

There are thousands of stories from the tour, but one garnered the internet’s attention, further than we could have ever imagined. After singing at Knoxville Pride Fest, we drove past the entrance where protesters were shouting at attendees and holding signs with derogatory messages against the LGBTQ+ community. We stopped the bus, crossed four lanes of traffic on foot, and encircled the protestors, overcoming their hate with music. As they grew louder, so did the Chorus. Eventually, one young person carried a Pride flag into the middle of our circle. They sat down peacefully and then was joined by dozens of others. We posted a video to our social media streams and it was shared over 12 million times and picked up by dozens of news outlets across the globe. We may never know our true total reach, but one thing is certain — the commitment of the Chorus to promoting justice is relentless and forever unfolding.

Everything GMCW does only happens with the immense commitment and generosity of our supporters. We are grateful to each of you as we venture onward, raising our voice for equality, dignity, inclusion, and justice for all.

Thea Kano  Artistic Director  Justin Fyala  Executive Director  William Moran, Jr.  Board Chair

Follow Us:

@GayMensChorusofWashington
@GMCWashington
@gmcwashington
@GMCWashington

Mission
The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.
2016/2017 SEASON

RENDEZVOUS
OCTOBER

Let's Misbehave!

NAUGHTY & NICE
DECEMBER

YOUTH INVASION

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING
MARCH

GOD SAVE THE QUEENS

SPRING AFFAIR A NIGHT IN PARIS
MAY

AND THE TONY GOES TO.
JUNE
GMCW is a collective of singers, dancers, artists, educators, volunteers and staff who come together to create music and art. We have been a part of the DC community for over 35 years, and we continue to be a powerful voice for the LGBTQ movement in our fight for equality and acceptance, plus we remain a symbol of musical excellence in the DC area and beyond. With our outreach programs, we’ve expanded beyond the beltway, including our successful Southern Equality Tour outreach effort. We continue to expand our youth outreach programs. But we couldn’t do it without another vital part of our community: you.

The 2016-2017 Season included five subscription concerts, the first full-length concert by the GenOUT Chorus and two fundraisers.

RENDEZVOUS
The red party fundraiser. We opened the season with a special season-preview Red Party fundraiser featuring select soloists and dancers from the Chorus. Delicious food tastings from local restaurants, sparkling beverages, entertainment, raffles and a little naughty fun — all in support of GMCW!

LET’S MISBEHAVE!
Subtitled “True Confessions of GMCW,” our successful fall cabaret series continued. Select soloists from the Chorus shared their funny and outrageous stories as well as songs of forbidden thoughts, hidden secrets and ribald tales in this bawdy and bold cabaret.

NAUGHTY & NICE
Our holiday extravaganza of festive treats and traditional favorites presented in a brand new way. GMCW rang in the season with tap-dancers, leather men, recycled fruitcakes, and much more!

YOUTH INVASION
Our GenOUT Chorus took the stage in their very own concert to sing out and proud! Joining them were the Arlington Children’s Chorus under the direction of Kevin Carr.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING
Lovable J. Pierrepont Finch makes his way up the corporate ladder in this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning musical, performed for the first time with an LGBTQ cast.

GOD SAVE THE QUEENS
Vocal ensembles Potomac Fever and Rock Creek Singers returned to The Barns at Wolf Trap for a salute to British pop music featuring new and innovative arrangements of music by The Beatles, Queen, Adele, George Michael, and more.

AND THE TONY GOES TO...
Subtitled “A musical history of gay Broadway,” GMCW celebrated gay on the Great White Way. Through stories, songs, videos and narration, GMCW traced the gay rights movement from Stonewall to the present as seen through the lens of the Broadway. Moments from A Chorus Line to La Cage aux Folles to Fun Home were included in one of our biggest shows.
Less than one week after the National Equality March for Pride and Unity, 100 members of GMCW and our staff boarded buses and headed out on our first Southern Equality Tour. In the four days we were on the road, we traveled through six states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia), singing at churches and LGBTQ Centers.

Among our many tour venues, we sang at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, a congregation still reeling from a shooting there several years ago when a man opened fire because of the church’s social liberalism. In Birmingham, Alabama, the Steel City Men’s Chorus joined us at the UUC Birmingham, which has a deep Civil Rights struggle connection—its congregation was deeply involved in and effected by the Civil Rights movement, and they continue to be social justice leaders. We collaborated with the Midlands Men’s Chorus at Reformation Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina to benefit the Harriet Hancock LGBT Center, and we raised our voices with the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus at the Georgia State Capitol at the invitation of the office of Representative Karla Drenner, the first ever openly gay member of the Georgia General Assembly. We appeared at Knoxville Pride, side by side with the Knoxville Gay Men’s Chorus, and gave a benefit concert at the Diversity Center of Roanoke, Virginia.

We went to these locations to give our support, and to encourage and thank folks for their social justice work. There were also opportunities to sing in public parks and plazas. This is where we could have faced opposition, perhaps even hearing hateful words. But we carried our GMCW banner proudly, wearing the GMCW logo on our shirts, and raised our voices for equality with confidence.

The tour is incredibly timely and relevant, particularly considering the religious freedom executive order recently signed by the President. We took this tour because the news of our being in town can make the difference for that bullied queer kid, or the student who is afraid to come out to his family. We are took this tour to stand up to those who are trying to move the clock back on the equality movement. We hope the news of our being in the South gets out, not just to those who need and want to hear us, but to those who don’t think they need or want to hear us. Maybe we’ll get the attention of a pastor at a conservative church, or maybe that one lyric will resonate in someone’s heart the way no other words have been able to thus far.

Our members were excited about the tour and have expressed that the mere idea of a tour such as this—particularly for those who grew up in the South—was extremely cathartic. One singer who joined GMCW this year auditioned with tears in his eyes as he explained how important it is that he has the opportunity to participate in this historic tour. Other members have reached out to family who live in the cities through which we are touring, saying “this will be the first time my mother will hear me sing with GMCW.”
SOUTHERN EQUALITY TOUR

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

Cher
Audra McDonald
Debra Messing

USA Today
Attitude (UK)
Männer (Germany)
Knoxville News Sentinel
NewNowNext (Logo)
The New Civil Rights Movement
On June 17, 2017, while in Knoxville, TN to perform at Knoxville Pride as part of the Southern Equality Tour, GMCW encountered a group of anti-LGBTQ protesters outside the Knoxville Coliseum where the Knoxville Pride events were taking place. GMCW had finished performing and was on the tour buses about to head back to the hotel. Artistic Director Thea Kano and Executive Director Justin Fyala made a split-second decision. They stopped the buses, got the members to cross four lanes of traffic, and then did what they do best: they raised their voices in song, effectively drowning out the protesters.

The footage from the protest has been viewed over 10 million times on various news outlets and social media platforms, and the story has been picked up all over the US and even overseas with German, UK, and Irish news outlets writing about the story. The news was tweeted by celebrities like Cher, Audra McDonald, and Debra Messing. “GMCW never backs down when an opportunity to share our mission of equality and justice for all presents itself,” Justin said.

“In my mind, we had no choice... We also did it to empower the people attending Knoxville Pride to raise their voices and as a way of thanking them for the powerful work they are doing on the front lines,” says Justin. As GMCW sang The Star Spangled Banner, a young woman named Tessa entered our circle, proudly carrying a Pride flag. She held it up high against the protestor’s sign, covering its hateful words. Other young people followed her in and began to make a circle of love. Our singing literally drowned out hate that afternoon.

To the left is a sample of media postings and articles about the Knoxville protest: Huffington Post, Towleroad, NewNowNext (Logo), USA Today, Fox 5 News, Pink News (UK), The Irish Times (Dublin), and The Guardian (Australia).

That same evening GMCW performed a concert at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, a venue recommended to us by a pastor at a Unitarian church in the Washington, DC area. She said we should sing there because “they could use your love.” She explained that a few years prior a man entered the church during a youth ministries program and shot nine attendees, killing two, while shouting hateful and disparaging words against the LGBTQ community. This congregation is still reeling from having been violently shrouded in hate that night. Our coming to town and singing for the church members gave this congregation an opportunity to heal. One of its members later said that she wept all the way home following our concert, as our being there helped her to feel the hope and love that was ripped away so violently years ago. Also in our audience that night was social justice activist Candice Carawan, who with her husband made “We Shall Overcome” the protest song it is today. That night she led us, hand in hand, in song, and at once we were shrouded with love, and filled with humble gratitude for this activist’s life-long work.
Outreach

65

Outreach Performances

$19,451

Income from Outreach
The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.

From singing the National Anthem at DC United games and Night OUT at the Nationals to leading the Equality March for Unity and Pride, GMCW continues to raise its voice for equality and inclusion whenever and wherever we can.

During the 2016-2017 Season, members of GMCW performed 65 outreach performances at venues all around the area including the Rally Against Gun Violence, Capital Pride, the FBI, National Walk to End HIV, Capital Pride, the National March for Equality & Unity, and many others.

GMCW also lends support to other local charities like Food & Friends, where each month members turn out to help prepare meals for those who are home bound or ill. GMCW also continues annual traditions like the annual holiday toy drive to benefit Community Life Family Services and Christmas caroling on Christmas Eve at the National Institutes of Health.

From pop-up concerts in Raleigh, NC to protest their HB2 laws, to candlelight vigils at the Supreme Court, to concerts in Ukraine, GMCW is taking its message on the road and making a national name for itself. When the news of the Pulse nightclub shootings spread, GMCW was at the first vigils at the Supreme Court and the White House, once again bringing a voice to the LGBTQ community. Later that summer, the Chorus traveled to Denver, CO for the 2016 GALA Choruses Festival where they joined with over 200 other LGBTQ choruses from around the United States and overseas for a week-long celebration of the LGBTQ choral movement.

As always, GMCW is at the forefront of the LGBTQ+ movement and is raising its voice for equality for all.
WHO WE ARE

250 SINGING MEMBERS

100 SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS
Under the direction of Dr. Thea Kano, we spend thousands of hours each season opening and changing hearts and minds. Our members hail from all across the United States and from abroad. Some have been singing with GMCW for a year, and some have been here since Day One. We sing music from a wide range of genres — classical, Broadway, popular, songs of justice and peace, and choral works — and each time we do, we move the needle toward justice for every person. We raised our voice high and proud through the HIV/AIDS crisis, in honor of Matthew Shepard, against Don’t Ask/Don’t Tell, for marriage equality, in memory of the victims of the Pulse Nightclub massacre, and more. And we will continue to do so until every person is treated with dignity, regardless of who they are and what they believe.
GENOUT CHORUS

GenOUT

21 Students
15 Schools
7 Performances
In 2016-17, the GenOUT Chorus reached a milestone of performing membership, with 21 students (from 15 area schools) onstage for the holiday show, *Naughty & Nice*. Since the ensemble’s founding in January 2015, 46 students from 29 DC-MD-VA schools have participated in the GenOUT Chorus. For fall 2017, there already are 17 students from 13 schools signed up, with rehearsals starting September 24, 2017.

In February 2017, the GenOUT Chorus presented its first stand-alone concert, with special guest the Arlington Children’s Chorus. GenOUT presented 11 pieces on its own, and joined ACC for two joint works. Additionally, two current GenOUTers and one GenOUT alum performed solos. Three GenOUT alumni joined the current membership to sing “I Was Here.” GenOUT sang at Spring Affair and at the *And the Tony Goes To* concerts (which featured one of our GenOUTers in a much-loved solo performance of “Ring of Keys,” from Fun Home), and they marched with GMCW in the National Equality March and the Capital Pride Parade.

In July, GMCW hosted their third annual GenOUT Camp, held for the second year in a row at Clarendon Presbyterian Church (one of GMCW’s Partners in Harmony churches). This year’s Camp was entitled “He/She/They/We,” and explored themes of identity and community. Camp activities included rehearsal and choreography sessions, panel discussions, a screening of *I Am Jazz*, a presentation of research conducted about GenOUT, a meet-and-greet with LGBTQ staffers at the Wilson Building, and a cooking demonstration at the American History Museum.

New for the GenOUT Chorus in 2017-18: a student leadership corps (to be elected by the second rehearsal), inclusion of GenOUT in outreach performances such as the Walk to End HIV, and an increased focus on community-building between GenOUTers and GMCW members.

The GenOUT school visit program was not robust in 2016-17, with only eight schools requesting visits (two were successfully scheduled, at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School and Cardozo Education Campus). In many cases, schools requested visits but did not follow up on our suggestions of specific dates. In 2017-18, we anticipate an increase in school visits, with Paul transitioning to full-time status and having schedule availability to lead visits and even meet with teachers and GSAs individually. About a half-dozen schools requested visits in 2016-17, and we look forward to increasing this number in 2017-18!
Ensembles

**POTOMAC FEVER**
a cappella tight harmony group

**ROCK CREEK SINGERS**
chamber ensemble

**SEASONS OF LOVE**
gospel and inspirationally-focused vocal group

**17th STREET DANCE**
dance ensemble
Leadership

Board of Directors 2016 — 2017
William Moran, Jr. .................................................................Chair
Gene Robinson...........................................................................Vice Chair
Steve Herman..........................................................................Secretary
Kelly Johnson...........................................................................Treasurer
Tim Atkin, J. Max Barger, Charles Berardesco, Russ Capps, Chipper
Dean (ex officio), Suzette Derrevere, Howland Hartley, Matt Holland,
Marsha Holloman, Michael Hughes, Janene Jackson, Derrick Jones,
Greg Kubiak, Rob Serpa, Chris Thomson

GMCW Officers
Chipper Dean................................................................................President
Jay Gilliam..........................................................Vice President for Membership
Sidney Jowers..............................................................Vice President for Events
Iván Dávila............................................................Vice President for Communications
Greg Plavcan........................................................Vice President for Volunteerism
Jami Rodgers.................................................................Vice President for Outreach

Fun Facts
DID YOU KNOW?

48
Pairs of heels worn during the 2016 – 2017 Season

193
GMCW board meetings since its inception in 1981
THE GMCW AUDIENCE

GENDER
- Men: 66%
- Women: 33%
- Other: 1%

ORIENTATION
- Gay: 84%
- Lesbian: 7%
- Bisexual: 3%
- Straight: 4%
- Other: 1%

INCOME
- <$25K: 2%
- $25-49K: 5%
- $50-99K: 30%
- $100-149K: 26%
- $150K+: 37%

AGE
- 18 – 24: 1%
- 25 – 34: 11%
- 35 – 44: 13%
- 45 – 54: 25%
- 55 – 64: 25%
- 65 – 74: 20%
- 75+: 5%

ETHNICITY
- White: 84%
- Black: 7%
- Asian: 3%
- Hispanic: 4%
- Middle Eastern: 1%
- Native American: 1%

from 2016 Audience Intrinsic Impact Survey
10,000 PATRONS

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK
number nine
GMCW’s annual black-tie fundraiser was a smashing success as always. Led once again by event co-chairs Derrick Jones and Romm Gatongay, this year’s theme was “A Night in Paris,” and the glorious Mayflower Hotel was transformed into the City of Lights at the turn of the 20th Century.

The event was a huge success raising over $250,000 for the Chorus in one evening. The area’s first and only LGBTQ youth chorus, the GenOUT Chorus, performed at Spring Affair along with all three adult vocal ensembles.

Emcee Wendy Reiger retuned once again to host the evening. Three Harmony Awards were presented — to NLGJA (the Association of LGBTQ Journalists), GMCW member Jack Reiffer, and posthumously to John Moran.

In addition to a silent auction and live auction, there was a live appeal which raised over $40,000. The evening was capped off with a raucous after party led by DJ Jarrod Bennett.

Guests were treated to entertainment that included a performance by GMCW soloist Sam Brinton, who opened the evening’s program with a sultry rendition of “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend.”
# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AUGUST 31, 2017 AND 2016

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<tr>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>59,110</td>
<td>31,651</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment, Net</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>10,050</td>
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<td>Deposits</td>
<td>2,254</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>153,272</td>
<td>94,596</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
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<td><strong>NET DEFICIT</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>30,276</td>
<td>(28,288)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Deficit</strong></td>
<td>30,276</td>
<td>(28,288)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$153,272</td>
<td>$133,016</td>
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# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUG. 31, 2017

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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Ticket Sales and performances</td>
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<td>Special events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>411,868</td>
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<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>93,400</td>
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<td>Merchandise sales, net</td>
<td>30,228</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>24,003</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>1,068,867</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Program Services:</td>
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<td>Concerts/performances</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td>722,596</td>
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<td>Supporting Services:</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
<td>173,340</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td>278,335</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>1,000,931</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>58,564</td>
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<td><strong>Net Deficit (beginning of year)</strong></td>
<td>(28,288)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Deficit (end of year)</strong></td>
<td>$30,276</td>
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GMCW is pleased to honor former members of the Board of Directors who have made multi-year commitments to continue their legacy of leadership within the Chorus by joining the Directors Circle.

David & Eric Akridge  
John Benton & David Briggs  
Fred Boykin & John Killen  
Larry Cohen  
Joaquin Fajardo  
Jack Gerard & Craig Arnold  
Michael Hill  
Matt & Kyle Holland

Tom Mounteer  
John O’Brien  
Jack Reiffer  
David Shotwell & Erin Short  
Gordon Tanner & Robert Patlán  
Jim & Barbara Tozzi  
Lee Voegler

As of August 31, 2017

**DIRECTORS CIRCLE**

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**
Charles Berardesco & Jeffrey Thurston  
Ron Collins  
DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities  
Rob Hall & Chris Behan  
A. Howland Hartley & William Lee  
Andrew Hastie  
Mark Hegedus & Chris Wilson  
Michael Hughes  
William Moran  
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation  
Roger & Jeane Samuelsen

Robert Serpa  
David Shotwell & Erin Short  
Chris Thomson

**STAKEHOLDER**
Jim Arshem  
John F. Benton & David W. Briggs  
Russ Capps & Ken Yazge  
Bob Dragosett  
Jack Gerard & Craig Arnold  
John-Paul Hayworth  
Matt & Kyle Holland  
Janene Jackson  
John Knapp  
George Kresslein  
John O’Brien  
Lawrence Poole & Steve Oatmeyer  
Kate Wilber

**PRODUCER**
David & Eric Akridge  
John Max Barger  
Suzette Derrevere & David Lietz  
Jay Gilliam & Kevin Sweitzer  
Steven J. Herman & John DiBenedetto  
Kelly Johnson & Todd Gerdes  
Greg Kubiak  
Jim Orrell  
Jack Reiffer

**BENEFACTOR**
Mike Allen & David Karnick  
Anonymous  
Jason Babcock  
Sherri Bale  
Curtis Bell  
Bob & Carl
DONORS

Thomas Bonsaint
Phillip Carson
The Caulfield/Riggs Family
Duane Cipollini & Robert Makinen
Cory Claussen
Chris Cochran
Larry Cohen
David & Holly Mendel Fund
Chipper Dean
James Ellzy & Francis O'Malley
Joan Fina
James T. & Judeth M. Finn
Groundswell Group
James Gruschus
Ben Harris
IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program
Robert Jamroz & Jordan Morganstern
Rich Harrison & Steve Johnson
Derrick Jones
Thea Kano
Tom & Doris Kelley
Mike Kemper & Meredith Hendrickson
John Kirk
Cathryn & Fred Krebs
Betsy Libretta
Bill Lipsett & Eric Bolda
Rinaldo Martinez
Phil Melemed & Brian Feit
Tom Mounteer
Rob Neighbour
Tom Nichols & Dan Chadburn
Derek Orr
Facebook Payments, Inc.
John Perkins
Gary Regan
Peter S. Reichertz
Bishop Gene Robinson
Jami Rodgers & Scott Morgan
Kenneth Roraback
Doug Sellers & Mark Eubanks
Ed Senn

Vernon Skinner
Carl Wayne Smith & Michael Burke
Thomas Spinelli
Jeff Sponaugle
Jim & Barbara Tozzi
Tammy Truong
United Way of the National Capital Area
Terry Vick
Christopher Villar
Lee Voegler
James Weinstein
James W. Williams
Rick Yarborough

SUPPORTER
Robert M. Agnello & Gerard Pape
Suzanne Allan
Anonymous
Dr. Christopher R. Armstrong
Dr. Steven Aurecchia
Michael Aylward
William Fuchs & Gerald Beaulieu
Tom Boeke
Tom Bonderenko
Michael Brinkman
Brother Help Thyself, Inc.
Charles Clayton
Rose Ann Cleveland
Rick Davis
Don DeGeorge
Michael Dumiao & Daniel Arrieta
Michael Dunty
Thomas Emig
Joe Enright
Jeremy Esperon
Jocko Fajardo
Thomas P. Finn & Family
Joel Goldstein
Michael Gottlieb
Don Griesheimer & Kelvin Nance
Bill Hillegeist
Raymond Hoffman
Vincent J. Kensil & PA Chattaviriya
John LeBedda
Sam Lee
David Lietz
Scott Linder
Ivan May
David McAuley
Andrew Mcllroy
Thomas Mienk
Michael Milano & Wayne Sartis
Kevin M. Morris
Shawn Morris
Giraud Muntz
Billy Newell & Byron Stevens
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