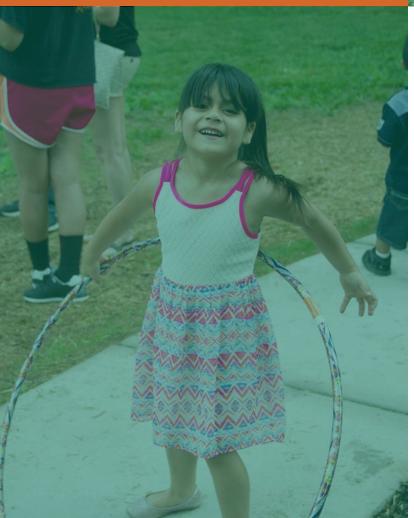
# 50 years IN ARLINGTON







# Fifty Years in Arlington

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### **Our Mission**

The primary mission of the Washington Forrest Foundation is to improve and enhance the quality of life in Arlington, especially South Arlington.

The Foundation invests in programs and organizations that facilitate basic economic development including access to food, health, mental health, housing, and jobs creation. We will support the community through focus on strengthening academic and creative educational programs, within and outside of the school system, especially to support low-income, diverse, learning challenged or high-risk populations of South Arlington.



### **Our Values**

- The community along Columbia Pike, Four Mile Run and other areas in South Arlington where our family has been involved since the late 19th century
- Our history related to our founding board member, Benjamin M. Smith, an early Arlington County Board member, Arlington School Supervisor and Arlington Hospital founder and board member and his values of faith, community, education, health and housing
- Support for organizations and issues which strengthen the community of South Arlington on or around Columbia Pike, particularly Safety Net Services, Education and Community Development.

### **SAFETY NET SERVICES**

- Access to food and food assistance, particularly food for children
- Emergency support for utilities, rent and basic needs
- Housing and support services for families, veterans, homeless, victims of domestic abuse and substance abuse
- Access to basic health services for all members of the community including children, seniors, those with mental or long-term disabilities, and those with substance abuse issues
- Aging in place and senior support services

### **EDUCATION**

- · Access to high quality education at all levels from preschool to workforce education
- Support for afterschool and summer programs
- Programs which address gaps in education such as for literacy, workforce, math and the arts
- STEM/STEAM or other programs that support learning in alternative settings and for challenged learners.
- Educational environments that foster learning, including outdoor classrooms, multicultural programming, and the visual and performing arts

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Support for community and leadership efforts which support South Arlington neighborhoods, children, and economic development
- Efforts which champion the South Arlington community and improve the economic quality of life through the positive recognition of schools, neighborhoods, leaders, and other entities in support of South Arlington

# **Looking Ahead**

Since 1968, the Washington Forrest Foundation has been impacting Arlington's future. While looking at the past doesn't always inform the future, in our case, we believe the work we have done in Arlington over the past 50 years tells us what we need to do next. Our Board, made up of 3 generations of Smith Family members spanning more than 50 years in age between us, has identified several ways in which the Foundation will lead and collaborate with our community going forward.

### NURTURING FUNDER-GRANTEE RELATIONSHIPS

We have been hard at work reviewing and changing our application and communication process, with input from grantees. Exponent Philanthropy cites 5 qualities that are best practices in this area - Trust, Humility, Communication, Shared Expertise and Tolerance for Discomfort. We are working to incorporate these in many different ways to improve our grantee relationships:

- Be present and available having ongoing dialogue with partners outside of the application timeframe
- Review of and revisions to the application process to only ask for what we need.
- Increased focus on granting funds for general operating support to strengthen organizational capacity.
- Providing opportunities to organizations for onetime special campaigns or strategic projects.
- Encouraging "two-way" communications around expectations, our priorities and values, and organizational needs to ensure we support South Arlington programs and organizations.
- Better understanding of local partnerships and efforts both between organizations and with the County or other entities.
- Supporting organizational fundraising challenges by offering expertise.
- Building trust with grantees through understanding their work, valuing their knowledge, and being responsive to their needs
- Advocacy for our grantee partners when opportunities arise to support and raise awareness of South Arlington and their particular issues.





### **Leading in our Community**

We recognize that there are many ways to be a community leader, and the Washington Forrest Foundation seeks to support a wide variety of community needs. Our Founder, B.M. Smith, saw needs and looked for a way to invest in changes. We continue to do that today, and to make sure we are looking for ways to partner and lead.

These are a few, but not all of, the ways we have been involved in leadership initiatives in the community in recent years:

- Arlington Community Foundation's Non-Profit Center & Bridges Out of Poverty
- Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing: Community Progress Network
- Arlington Free Clinic: Investing in Dental Clinic and Program
- Arlington Thrive! Support for Strategic Planning
- Aspire! Learning: Capital investment in Arlington Mill Site to expand Programs
- Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community
   Development Corporation: Organizational
   Capacity Building and Support for Funshine preschool re-location to keep this resource in South Arlington.
- Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization:
   Capacity Support and Program Support
- Leadership Center for Excellence: Investing in Leadership Training for Arlington Non Profit Leaders and Youth and Scholarships for South Arlington Youth
- Phoenix Bikes: Support to enable move to Arlington Mill
- APS: Drew Elementary: Courtyard Renovation for Arts and Music
- APS: Arlington Tech: Multiple STEM and Workforce Development Program Investments
- La Cocina: General Operating and Campaign Support for new Facility on Columbia Pike



# EDUCATING OURSELVES AND OTHERS

We have actively worked to breakdown the power barrier that often occurs between grantees and funders. We know that the best outcomes occur when partners work together to think differently or better about when, where, how and why services are delivered to residents in our South Arlington community. We are actively educating ourselves on the work our organizations are doing, best practices in funding and in fundraising, and working to share those learnings with other funders, community members, and county officials. Our Board is actively pursuing knowledge about grantmaking, community relationships and other events that benefit our not-for-profit partners in our community. This is an ongoing pursuit on which we want your input and ideas.

Thank you for 50 years of partnership. We look forward to 50 more, working with you to impact South Arlington and our greater community.

# 50 Years by the Numbers







to Arlington and Northern

Virginia Programs



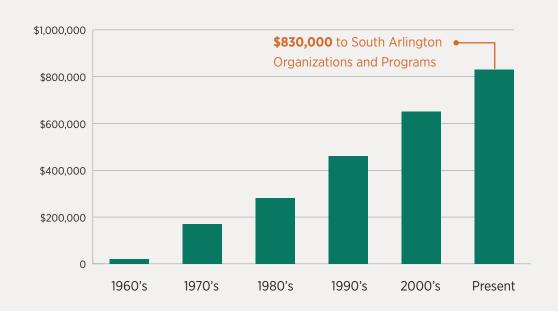
vans we have purchased for grantees



4 offices around Columbia Pike



### **GRANT DOLLARS OVER THE YEARS**





By 1975, WFF was giving away more than \$85,000 a year

Between 1968–1988, the total grants per year grew from \$20,000-\$280,000

Yearly grant totals grow a modest 35% over the decade, from \$280,000 in 1988 to \$380,000 in 1997

1968-1977

1978-1987

1988-1997



# Investments focused on Hospitals and the Faith Community

The nonprofit sector is emerging. WFF gave early support for youth, mental health/health and those in need through giving to churches, religious organization and hospitals.

# INFRASTRUCTURE & NONPROFIT GROWTH

Investments Focused on: Housing, Education, Seniors and Youth

WFF was a key partner and an early funder in such key areas as emergency needs and temporary housing, literacy, eldercare and seniors, and youth; supported Arlington County by investing over \$360,000 in Columbia Pike infrastructure -underground utilities, landscaping and sidewalk improvements. WFF supported the creation of the Drew Model Elementary Kindergarten.

# PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

### Investments Focused on Education, Immigration, Health, Emergency Housing

Identified community needs resulting in expanded support for the arts and after school programs; increased support for the growing immigrant population and South Arlington neighborhoods; invested in mental health, substance abuse, and literacy. Expanded support for shelters. Funded mentor programs and expansion funding for Drew Model program.

### **50 Years of Giving**

The primary mission of the Washington Forrest Foundation is to improve and enhance the quality of life in Arlington, especially South Arlington.

The Foundation invests in programs and organizations that facilitate basic economic development including access to food, health, mental health, housing, and jobs creation, and will support the community through focus on strengthening academic and creative educational programs, within and outside of the school system, especially to support low-income, diverse, learning challenged or high-risk populations of South Arlington.

From 1998-2014, our grant dollars awarded per year more than doubled, from \$380,000 to more than \$800,000

1998-2014

# GROWTH AND EXPANSION

Investments focused on: Arts, Education, Health, Human Services

WFF continued support particularly for immigrant youth in the schools. Began investing in outdoor learning environments at Campbell and other elementary schools. Expanded geographic focus in Virginia to Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax and Alexandria. WFF asset diversification allows more funds, and, therefore, more grants.

2014-Present



WFF contracts number of grants in order to refocus on South Arlington.

WFF adopts updated mission statement and focuses investments in three areas: Safety Net Services, Education, and Community Development. Currently, the number of yearly grant applications has been reduced to approximately 50. The Foundation's smaller focused portfolio allows it to deepen relationships and assess community needs through stronger partnerships both old and new!

The Washington
Forrest Foundation
has awarded more
than \$21 million
since inception.



# A Look Back at our Vision: 50 Years in Review

B.M. Smith began giving charitably long before he established the Washington Forrest Foundation. Local institutions such as the Salvation Army, the YMCA, Arlington United Methodist Church, Virginia Diocesan Homes, Arlington Hospital, and, individually, the people of South Arlington and on Columbia Pike benefitted from his thoughtful focus on making sure the community could take care of itself. A tireless worker himself, he also worked tirelessly for his community. In 1968, he donated a significant piece of property along Beauregard in Alexandria to start the Washington Forrest Foundation.

In an interview for the Northern Virginia Builder's Association newsletter in 1970 he said "..the land his company is involved in developing today was purchased many years ago. He mentioned the 100 acres of land in Alexandria called Washington Forest, for instance, which was purchased 43 years ago before the time it was developed. Today the land that was once farmland has a retirement home on it. Under construction there is a 675 unit apartment building, a new elementary school, and a branch of the Northern Virginia Community College...In addition to donating the land and helping establish the Hermitage and Goodwin House, he established a charitable foundation called the Washington Forest Foundation." In fact, early Alexandria records show this land in the old English as "Washington Forrest."



Early giving from the Foundation benefitted Arlington Hospital, the YMCA

and Arlington United Methodist Church among other local and faith-based institutions. Most giving at the time was made through these type of organizations until the inception of true non-profits starting in the 1980s. Faith and community were hallmarks of B.M. Smith's values. At the heart of the Foundation was always interest in helping low-income community members receive the comprehensive food, shelter, basic needs, health and mental health support they required to support themselves and their families.

### Food, Shelter and Basic Needs "Safety-Net"

WFF first supported "homelessness and housing" with a grant in 1977 for Arlington County's first temporary shelter, later called **Doorways for Women and Children**, which opened in 1978. We continued our support of the temporary shelter and began work with the Emergency Winter shelter, also known as **A-SPAN**, in 2000. In 1981, WFF began working with **Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC)** to support their residents, in particular, children in their after-school programs.

In 1991 WFF provided funds to Arlington Food Assistance Center and in 1993 funds were provided, in partnership with Arlington County, "to establish a food storage and distribution center at Washington Boulevard and 10th Street. The Center plans to open a 3rd site on Columbia Pike. In 1993, AFAC was serving 1200 individuals per month." AFAC is one of our largest grants, and as the "hub" of food access in Arlington we have provided a variety of types of support, including purchase of two vans.

In 1998, we made our first grant to the Residential Program Center on Columbia Pike, now run by Volunteers of America Chesapeake. WFF began supporting Bridges to Independence (formerly Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homelessness) in 1992 with \$300 for bus tokens and fare cards. Our work with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing has, since 1995, been a strong, evolving partnership.



We have provided general operating support but also program support to provide Wi-Fi access for residents, expansion to new sites, resident services. We also gave early to AMEN(Arlington Thrive), Wesley Housing, and more recently to Melwood and A.H.O.M.E (Arlington Home Ownership Made Easy).

Our roots with the **Arlington Community Foundation** originate with its founding in 1991, when Washington Forrest Foundation Board Chair, Leslie S. Ariail, was part of a group of founding community members. We invested early through ACF in the Greenbrier Learning Center (now Aspire! Learning). Our recent partnership has supported the collaborative work of Arlington non-profit organizations to raise awareness and change the way that Arlington County Department of Human Services and our non-profits serve their clients. The Bridges Out of Poverty initiative, now in its 4th year, has had a dramatic impact on how we move families out of poverty partly by changing how our community is engaging with low-income families. Our foundation is now also proud to be investing in the ACF's Shared Prosperity Initiative and utilizing the knowledge we gain through this partnership to make grant decisions to support affordable housing, childcare affordability and access, supporting job access and training, and access to healthcare. All of these are matching values to our own mission. Since 2015, we have awarded \$60,000 toward these ACF initiatives.

## In our 50th year, the Foundation supports these Safety Net resources:

- The Arlington Community Foundation
- Arlington Food Assistance Center
- A.H.O.M. E.
- Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC)
- Arlington Thrive
- APAH (Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing)
- A-SPAN
- Bridges to Independence
- Doorways
- Volunteers of America Chesapeake Residential Center
- Melwood (formerly Linden) serving veterans, and
- · Wesley Housing.

Since 1968, we have awarded more than \$2,473,869 to meet safety net needs, including housing, emergency needs, and food in Arlington and Northern Virginia.



# Health, Mental Health, and Aging

The Foundation has always had a focus on health access, mental health support, and support for seniors, aging in place and residents with long term disabilities.



Since 1969 we have given \$379,350 to support APC and VHC. In 1969, one of the first grants made by the Foundation was to Arlington Hospital, now known as the Virginia Hospital Center, for the Building Fund and continued regularly throughout the years for medical equipment including x-ray machines, defibrillators and other programs. In 2003,

we also made our first grant to the Arlington Pediatric Clinic(APC). Today, we give to support low-income patients and their needs at both APC and VHC.

Another special resource to Arlington is Hospice, now known as **Capital Caring**, to which we have supported funds for end of life care for those who weren't able to afford care since 1979. In our 42 year partnership, we have granted \$533,366 to Capital Caring.



We have partnered with AFC for a total of \$418,450.

For 25 years we have worked closely with the Arlington Free Clinic, from its early days operating at night out of Thomas Jefferson High School. Today, we provide general operating and also helped launch their in-house dental program.

In the early 2000s, we began work with CrisisLink (now PRS) and other organizations with a focus on mental health. The Foundation is committed to mental health resources, and had long worked with Drew Elementary and other neighborhoods and Arlington County to ensure these resources are present. These included support for students at Wakefield High School, and Patrick Henry Elementary. We focused on substance abuse through our work at the Volunteers of America

In our 50th year, the Foundation is partnered with the following organizations to provide health, mental support and aging resources to the community.

- Arlington Free Clinic
- Arlington Neighborhood Village
- Arlington Pediatric Center
- Capital Caring
- · Community Residences
- · The Fenwick Foundation
- Phoenix House
- Virginia Hospital Center, and
- Washington Aids Partnership

Residential Program Center, Phoenix House and funding substance abuse counselors to support families at APS schools.

In 2006, we initiated support for varying organizations including L'Arche to support homes for individuals with long term developmental disabilities in Arlington.

We have provided ongoing support for grants for seniors and aging in place via the Hermitage, Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation (Culpeper Gardens), and, more recently, The Fenwick Foundation and Arlington Neighborhood Village.



### Education

The Washington Forrest Foundation has long focused on grants for education, especially after-school programs and integrated curricular arts programs, for students at South Arlington schools. We have a long history of partnership with individual schools from elementary, middle to high school ages. In addition, we have worked diligently with arts organizations and other out-of-school and in-school providers to ensure that we support all types of students and the way they learn.

While our grants to educational institutions and children began early in the Foundation's life, our first investment in Arlington Public Schools and its children began in true in 1987 with the funding of the inception of the Drew Model Elementary School Kindergarten for at-risk children with a \$12,800 grant, and subsequently a grant for a substance abuse counselor on site and in partnership with Abingdon School. We provided ongoing funding for a mental health therapist for schools, particularly at Drew Elementary and in partnership with Arlington County. We continued working with Drew to support at-risk 1st grade and Extended Kindergarten, providing support for field trips that otherwise would not have been possible. In recent years, we partnered with the PTA to build out the learning garden on the upper courtyard and the interior courtyard into a performance venue.

In 1994, we made our first grant to APS -Patrick Henry, the Foundation's "neighborhood" school, and have supported their counseling program as well as the 4th



### **Arlington Public Schools**

Over the over 30 years of partnership with individual Arlington Public Schools we have focused on support for gaps in programs or support that either the schools themselves, local organizations or Arlington County identified. Sometimes, we gave through organizations and other times directly to the schools. While these programs and needs have changed over the years, we are most proud of our work on the following:

- Facilitation of the Drew Extended Kindergarten and First Grade "At Risk" Programs in the 1980s
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention for children and families in the 1980s
- Early HILT Program support for bilingual students in the 1980s
- Outreach for Parenting Teens in the 1990s
- Outdoor Learning Experiences and Environments for APS Elementary Schools in South Arlington (numerous)
- Pilot Program for Challenged Math Students at Kenmore
- STEM Program support at Arlington Tech
- SAT Program and Counseling at Wakefield in the early 2000s
- Summer Programs at Thomas Jefferson and other schools
- Support for CPR Training for students at Wakefield High School
- Investment in a refurbished community gym at Wakefield High School
- Our small but mighty program, the Gunston Eldermentor Program, pairing seniors with classroom support for new language learners.



Over 30 years, we have given more than \$1,120,288 in grants to Arlington Public Schools, 18% of our entire funding.

grade's Jamestown field trip for many years. We built a learning garden at Campbell School, improved the track at Randolph, provided mentoring support at Gunston Middle, piloted math support at Kenmore Middle School, supported numerous programs at Thomas Jefferson, and had a longstanding relationship with Wakefield High School for SAT test prep and in support of the HILT Program. More recently, we partnered with Wakefield to build out a student and community gym and workout facility. At the

Arlington Career Center/Arlington Tech, we partner annually for needs there that meld with their hands-on learning and STEM programs. We facilitated the pilot and expansion of a film program at H-B Woodlawn that engaged students across multiple schools.

"Most of the students who came in September to this class could not write their name and had few school skills. When the year was over they were extremely proud of what they had learned. These photos show what words cannot tell about many experiences the children had as well as how focused the children are when provided with materials and activities that engage them fully."

### DIANNE CARROLL, KINDERGARTEN LEAD TEACHER, DREW MODEL SCHOOL, 1999

For almost 20 years, we have also encouraged the work of **Aspire! Learning** (formerly Greenbrier Learning Center). Since their days in a church basement and our grant via the Arlington Community Foundation, to their partnership with numerous schools, organizations, their literacy programs make the difference for upper elementary school readers, leading them to greater success in middle, high school and beyond. We have been their partner every step of the way, giving more than \$536,000 to support their efforts. We are proud to have been instrumental in funding their move to the Arlington Mill Community Center in 2018 and their new chapter.

### **EDUCATION AND THE ARTS**

Over our 50 years, the Foundation has remained committed to giving to the Arts. Early on, our focus was on performing arts and helping arts, theater and dance organizations get started. Lindsey Peete, Executive Director 1985-1996, "loved the Arts- theatre, dance and visual

with equal zest and critical eye."

We have evolved in recent years to look at funding the arts in support of transpiring a different type of learning in schools and in the South Arlington community. It is estimated we have given more than \$2 million to organizations either directly enriching our community or to arts organizations providing a different lens for learning in APS classrooms and after school. Our numerous grants to arts organizations supporting learners of all styles in and out of school today include Arlington Arts Center, Bowen McCauley Dance, Educational Theatre Company, Jane Franklin Dance, Signature Theater, Synetic Theatre, Teatro de la Luna and WSC Avant Bard.







Over the last 20 years, we have given more than \$536,000 to Aspire! Learning



### **EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE**

By 1991, our cousin and the Executive Director at the time, Lindsey Peete, had begun writing to the Board about the changing cultural landscape and the language barriers and challenges facing immigrant families in the schools and in South Arlington. South Arlington has been a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds and countries. We first funded bilingual mental health support at Wakefield High School. We have worked closely with the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Escuela Bolivia/Edu-Futuro, and most recently BU-GATA to strengthen learning, support community and foster services that help families not only feel a part of the community, but help them thrive in work, school and life.

### **EDUCATION - IN SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL**

While several of the above organizations working in the arts and with immigrant communities are critical, our main focus has always been to make sure that kids are supported in school and out-of-school to their full potential. Our partnership with Phoenix Bikes is longstanding and shows a special connection between technical learning, workforce development, cultivation of dreams and after school mentoring support. The YMCA, one of our oldest grantees, has consistently adapted to support kids after school. Edu-Futuro, Bowen McCauley, Educational Theater Company, Gunston Mentoring Program are all providing critical programs for students and their needs. Newcomer Baroody Project is working with us to make sure that no child gets left out of the programs that they want to do, regardless of income. Communities in Schools is providing wrap around support for students and families to ensure they are accessing services they need.



# In our 50th year, we are working with these education grantees:

- · AHC Inc.
- Arlington Arts Center
- Arlington Partnership for Children Youth and Families Foundation
- APS- Gunston Middle School
- APS-Patrick Henry
- APS-Gunston Middle School
- · APS-H-B Woodlawn
- Aspire Learning!
- · Bowen-McCauley Dance
- · Communities in Schools
- Computer C.O.R.E.
- · Edu-Futuro
- Educational Theater Company
- La Cocina
- Phoenix Bikes
- The Girl Scout Council
- Signature Theatre
- Shirlington Economic and Employment Center
- · Synetic Theater
- Teatro de La Luna
- The Baroody Project
- · WSC Avant-Bard
- YMCA Arlington



### **EDUCATION AND WORK**

The Foundation has long had a commitment to supporting individuals to achieve gainful employment no matter their education or income level. In recent years, we have been staunch supporters of the tech training and workforce development programs at the Arlington Career Center, now Arlington High and Arlington Tech. We have granted to Shirlington Economic and Employment Center(SEEC) to improve and professionalize their support of day-laborers and other immigrant workers to access and train for jobs. And we facilitated Computer C.O.R.E.'s expansion to Arlington and their work teaching low-income adults technological and life skills to transform their career aspirations. Most recently, we began working with La Cocina which works with low-income populations in the area, particularly immigrants, refugees, minorities, victims of trauma and domestic violence, returning citizens, veterans and other underserved groups, to secure them a culinary training degree, better paid jobs, improved language skills and success in life.









# Community Development & Investment

The Washington Forrest Foundation, since its beginning, has been embedded on Columbia Pike. B.M. Smith grew up on the Pike in the late 1800s when it was just a two lane dirt road. Family offices, from their start in 1908, along with Foundation offices later, were also on the Pike. While there is not a lot documented about the work B.M. Smith did prior to the Foundation's founding in 1968, it is clear that Columbia Pike was his hub and ours today.

Before the existence of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO), B.M. Smith, his sons Edward M. Smith and Benjamin M. Smith Jr., his daughter Margaret S. Peete, as Board members of the Washington Forrest Foundation, led the investment, in partnership with Arlington County, to underground utilities, clean up trash on the Pike, and provide funding for street widening, sidewalk reconstruction, traffic signal installation and landscaping. From 1977 to 1992 the Foundation provided more than \$500,000 for these community improvements.

Since the inception of CPRO, the Washington Forrest Foundation has been in lock step with them, not only providing funding, but offering venues for community events. We have supported the Blues Festival from the beginning, assisted in starting the Summer Movie Nights, supported marketing, website, street banners and more over the last 20 years.

In addition to CPRO, the Board has supported other community development efforts that provide and develop leadership in South Arlington. An evolving partnership with the Leadership Center for Excellence has enabled us to develop leaders who are familiar with South Arlington, and provide access to their programs for both non-profit staff and youth from the community. With our long history and relationship with the Green Valley area of South Arlington, we are excited to have renewed our work in the neighborhood by partnering with The Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Foundation. BU-GATA and the Ethiopian Community Development Council continue their efforts to support immigrant communities in South Arlington. Additionally, we think of our work with the Girl Scouts Council, and our funding to support their work at nine South Arlington schools as part of our early training in community development and leadership.

In our 50th year, we are working with the following organizations to promote community development in South Arlington.

- Arlington Community Foundation
- Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing
- The Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Foundation
- BU-GATA
- Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization
- · Ethiopian Community Development Council
- · Girl Scout Council
- Leadership Center for Excellence

# **Our Founding Family**



### **B.M. SMITH - FOUNDER**

B.M. Smith was born in a home on Columbia Pike. He founded his real estate business in 1908 which stands as the longest still operating business in Arlington. He was always interested in his church and his community. He was an early chairman of the Arlington County Board, served on the Arlington

Public Schools' Board and long served on the board of the Arlington United Methodist Church. He served as President of the Northern Virginia Builders Association, on the Board and Executive Committee of Arlington Hospital at its inception, and on the Arlington YMCA Board.



Known for his "fair dealing" in business and generosity with his wealth,

he was known for using his money to benefit others. His philanthropy was designed to help others help themselves. This is evidenced by how he established the Washington Forrest Foundation and his thoughtfulness to his giving. "Many institutions, both church and secular, owe their beginnings to his belief in helping others help themselves. Among these are United Methodist and Episcopal facilities such as Hermitage House in Richmond and Northern Virginia, Goodwin House, Washington House, United Methodist District offices, Northern Virginia Community College, St. James Church, Randolph Macon Academy expansion and Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music" Arlington Uniter newsletter, April 4, 1975



According to staff and family, the early days of the Foundation were really driven by B.M. Smith himself. Although his two sons, Edward and Ben, served on the Board with him and Carolyn Dameron served as recording secretary, by-in-large, he made the grant decisions. One time, though there was a questionable \$12,000 grant that Ed Smith chose to put his foot down and refused to sign the check. His work with the Foundation at times crossed lines of business, usually to the benefit of the community. B.M. Smith worked with local African-American builders, George Eliot, James Gaskill, Clarence Hammond, to loan them funds to build homes in the local community. Smith built a lot of the houses in Arlington Heights, between what is now the Penrose Square apartments and Route 50, as well as supported building in what is now (and then) called Green Valley.

There is also told, that during the depression he would allow people to pay interest only until they got through hard times. Staff recall when a family got so behind in rent that he almost had to evict them, but fortunately, they found a payment and he was happily able to keep them in their home. It was said he could read a tenant well and was always willing to work with someone to keep them in their home. He disliked when he started having to run credit on tenants as he felt he was a better judge of their ability to pay or not. He had a love for family and community and his legacy lives on today through the Washington Forrest Foundation. Today, B.M. Smith's son Benjamin M. Smith, Jr. serves on the Board of the Foundation in his 50th year of service.

"My grandfather considered the ministry at one point in his life. He had a deep commitment to serving others, and the Foundation reflects it."

# QUOTE BY LINDSEY PEETE IN REFERENCE TO HER GRANDFATHER, B.M. SMITH



B.M. Smith at his desk on Columbia Pike.



### **EDWARD M. SMITH**

Edward M. Smith, son of the founder, B.M. Smith, approached his father about establishing a foundation. Ed Smith served on the Foundation Board of Trustees from 1968 to 1985.

His service on the board was marked by leadership, compassion, vision and knowledge of community needs and issues. He recommended the employment of the Foundation's first Executive Director, who increased its professionalism. His contacts with members of the community and county government resulted in strong grants, such as the Foundation's work with African-American churches in South Arlington. He initiated the Foundation's support of the large and effective project to underground utilities and repave sidewalks along Columbia Pike.

Some proposals held special interest for Edward M. Smith. He was devoted to his alma mater, Christchurch School, and support for other Virginia Diocesan schools. His giving was not confined to grantmaking through the Foundation. He gave substantial gifts of time and personal money to individuals and organizations. He had a deep faith and concern for his fellow man. Today, Edward's daughter Leslie S. Ariail, and granddaughter, Allison A. Erdle, serve on the Board.

"Of special note and importance are the contributions he made through the Washington Forrest Foundation and the revitalization of Columbia Pike. His concern for low-income citizens and his personal interest in the Arlington Community Action Program will always be remembered. As I travel on Columbia Pike, I am reminded of the contrast between the areas where the undergrounding and streetscape improvements have occurred and where we still have work to do...The citizens of the County will always be grateful for his contributions to the community."

LETTER FROM ELLEN M. BOZMAN, CHAIRMAN, ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD TO LESLIE S. ARIAIL IN REFERENCE TO EDWARD M. SMITH'S COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS, APRIL 10, 1992



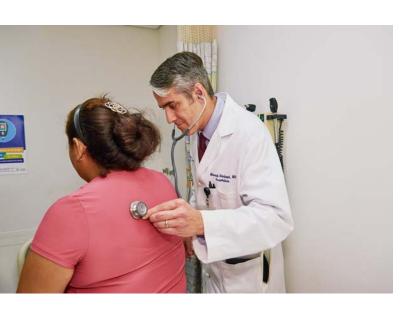
### BENJAMIN C. GRAVETT

Ben Gravett served on the Board from 1996 until his passing in 2014. Ben served as President and a financial leader to the Board.

He was dedicated to giving back and helping those in need throughout his life, especially to programs for those needing job skills and training or those who had lost everything and were in need of support services.

He was a formidable leader, and brought the Board together through his charisma, humor, and straightforward way of looking at life and its decisions. His financial acumen and involvement helped grow the Foundation and steward its resources so that later generations of the Smith Family will continue to witness its generosity toward the Arlington community and beyond.

Today, Ben's daughter Rachel G. Mrad and son Benjamin M. Gravett, Jr. serve on the Board of Trustees.





### **MARGARET S. PEETE**

Margaret S. Peete, daughter of B.M. Smith, joined the Board in 1974 and served on the Board of Trustees for 31 years, 22 of which she served as Board Chair. She was dedicated to the Foundation.

and had a keen interest in the nonprofits it supported. Through her leadership, support for many new, Arlington-based nonprofits were funded. She was truly focused upon and honored to serve the Arlington community throughout her life. She was particularly focused on serving those in poverty, the health care community, the arts and children with disabilities.

Personally, she had a quick wit and warmth, which she was able to share at Board meetings, as she was genuinely interested in those around her. She was also detailed and her keen sense of numbers helped the Foundation make smart funding decisions throughout her years on the Board. Today, Margaret's son David D. Peete, Jr. serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.

"The Foundation's continued support of programs that enhance the quality of life for Arlingtonians, especially your support for educational efforts, health services and meeting human service needs, is greatly appreciated. The Washington Forrest Foundation has truly touched the lives of many of our residents who, as you know, often lack access to much needed services and to cultural opportunities. I take this opportunity to wish you continued success and to salute the Foundation for its generous support of the people of Arlington."

LETTER FROM STATE SENATOR MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE TO MARGARET S. PEETE, AUGUST 12, 2002

### LINDSEY D. PEETE

Lindsey Peete, Executive Director from 1985–1996 was taken from this world early, but her mark on the Washington Forrest Foundation was profound.

In 1993, in a request to the Board, she assessed the mission and vision of the Foundation. She stated "the pool of Northern Virginia human problems may be roughly the same today as they were five to ten years ago..but we should spend more time discussing and determining which are the most important needs at this time." She said "We also should be identifying emerging needs and problems and to address them as quickly as possible. Emerging needs are similar to a disease. If you attack it early enough, you might be able to stop it before it spreads and becomes incurable." In our 50th year, the Foundation is still focused on supporting organizations as they identify new and emerging needs for which a creative and thoughtful way is needed to address them.

Lindsey was devoted to her family, friends and professional associates, the Foundation and the people of Arlington County. She constantly presented research and reports on the Foundation's work to its Board, her family, encouraging them to gain knowledge and understanding of the issues the County and the Foundation's grantees were tackling at the time. She served on the boards and committees of various Arlington and regional organizations such as the Junior League, the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers, the Arlington Community Foundation and volunteered



### **BOARD CHAIRS 1968-2019**

1968-1975	Benjamin "B.M." Smith
1976-1984	Benjamin M. Smith, Jr.
1985-2006	Margaret S. Peete
2007-2013	Deborah G. Lucckese
2014-2014	Benjamin C. Gravett
2014-present	Leslie S. Ariail

for many other causes in our community. She gave personally to the many organizations she loved, particularly in the arts, to her church and to the Foundation's grantees.

Lindsey also recommended ways the Foundation could be more of a leader in grantmaking and in the community through initiating new programs, supporting major renovations and expansions, and actively seeking proposals. Today, the Foundation supports new programs, provides consistent general operating support, actively seeks new proposals and manages the proposal process to the benefit or our partners. We seek to provide responsive funding that anchors our South Arlington community, and bolsters our partners for the future as they address needs, expand into new buildings and plan for their future.

"Though our relationship was not of great length, it was critically important to the success—indeed the very establishment—of the Arlington Free Clinic...I communicated with Lindsey on several occasions to discuss the Arlington Free Clinic, to convey the urgency of the need of Arlington County residents for such a service...Lindsey immediately placed her enthusiastic support behind the project."

LETTER TO THE BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON FORREST FOUNDATION FROM NANCY PALLESON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARLINGTON FREE CLINIC, MAY 11, 1996

### **FAMILY AND LEADERS**

There were several important individuals, both family and unrelated, that served the Foundation over its long history. Berryman Davis, was the first Project Officer/Executive Director for the Foundation. He was hired in the early 1970s to "professionalize" the giving of the Foundation, including preparing minutes, grant reports and accepting and organizing grant requests. In addition to serving as Executive Director, Lindsey Peete served as a grants officer prior to being named Executive Director. James E. McKinney, friend of founder B.M. Smith and the family, served the Foundation on its Board of Trustees from 1966 to his death in 1990. He was dedicated to his church, Arlington United Methodist Church, and persons and organizations within the community.



Charlotte S. Gravett

A large portion of the estate of Charlotte S. Gravett, daughter of B.M. Smith, was contributed to the Foundation in 1975, allowing increases in grants to take place. Today, Charlotte's granddaughter, Rachel G. Mrad, serves as Treasurer for the Foundation, and grandson, Benjamin C. Gravett, Jr. is on the Board. Charlotte's daughter, Deborah G. Lucckese, served on the Board of Trustees from 1989-2013 and as Executive Director from 1996 through 2012, and as Board Chair from 2007–2013. Debbie took on the task of making sure the Board was educated around our responsibilities and ensuring the Board's particular interests in issues such as seniors, after-school programs, etc were being informed. Debbie actively organized site visits for Board members to our grantees. She was also responsible, along with Margaret Peete and Ben Smith Jr., for facilitating the Foundation's transition from real estate assets to investment assets and mak-

ing decisions that grew the Foundation to the size it is today. Today, Debbie's son Daniel J. Lucckese serves on the Board.

Virginia "Betsy" Smith, wife of Edward M. Smith, contributed part of her estate to the Foundation upon her death in 1990. William A. Owens, served as the Foundation's CPA from 1968 to 2017. Allison A. Erdle, board member since 1996, began serving as Executive Director in 2012. Betty Lee, and currently Judy Robb Rinaman, collectively have helped manage all grant checks and bookkeeping for the Foundation. Carolyn Dameron, longtime employee of B.M. Smith & Associates, served diligently as Recording Secretary in the early years of the Foundation. She recalls the line out the door for individuals seeking help with funding from B.M. Smith and his support to help individuals in Green Valley get loans to build their homes. Carolyn continues to work with the family on various projects today.

We are grateful to David Miranda and Cristina Vera for their support of the Washington Forrest Foundation and to Barbara Field Rose, cousin and unofficial family historian, for the newspaper clips in this report.





# Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

On December 10, 2018, more than 70 representatives from our partner organizations and our colleagues came together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Washington Forrest Foundation.





### In thanks to the Washington Forrest Foundation

Adapted remarks from Nancy White, Arlington Free Clinic at the 50th anniversary celebration

Congratulations to the Washington Forrest Foundation on your 50th anniversary and on 50 years of making our community a better place for all. Thank you for your commitment to the south Arlington community where your family has its roots. I wish you all could see, like I do, the impact of your family's generosity on access to food, employment, enhanced education, safety, and health care. Because of your giving, Arlington is able to be a more diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.

I hope I speak for my nonprofit colleagues when I say how much I appreciate working with Washington Forrest Foundation. There are many reasons—I will share four of them with you today:

- Partnership: The WFF board trusts its nonprofit partners to understand and share with them the needs of the communities they serve and trusts these partners with the greatest gift of all—unrestricted, general operating grants. They understand that there are infrastructure needs as basic as lights and heat—and that in order to change the world, staff is needed, including staffing in development, finance and IT. The fact that WFF trusts the nonprofit organizations to determine where the funds are most needed is indeed a treasure.
- Reliability: WFF began supporting Arlington Free Clinic during its first years of operation— 25 years ago—when doctors and nurses showed up at TJ Middle School one night a week with their boxes of charts and stethoscopes. Like many of my nonprofit colleagues here today, Arlington Free Clinic starts its fiscal year every July 1 at zero—with no guaranteed sources of funding. Having WFF as a reliable source of general operating support is a great comfort to us—and gives other funders the confidence to invest in our work because of the long-standing commitment.
- Responsive to needs: WFF cares about the needs of the community and is willing to step in to support new, important projects for our community. For example, this past year, AFC was presented with the opportunity to bring our dental clinic onsite and more than triple the number of individuals we can serve. WFF stepped in with an additional grant to help support the construction of the clinic—and this week we celebrate its opening. I can't wait to show the trustees the impact of their gift.
- Innovative: And finally, innovative.... There is a lot of exciting work going on among nonprofits in the South Arlington community these days, and the great thing is that it's collaborative. Working together sounds great but it's hard—we are all busy with our own missions—hard to do and hard to measure. But WFF has been innovative and bold in supporting initiatives that have the potential to bring about systems change in ways that none of us could do alone.

So thank you WFF for your commitment to our South Arlington community. You are doing much more than "supporting nonprofits". You are helping individuals build better lives and helping our community be healthier, safer and better for all. When it comes to making a difference, there is no better partner than WFF. Congratulations on your 50 years of making a difference.



# What Grantees say about the Washington Forrest Foundation

In 2018, we surveyed our grantees and received responses from 49 partners representing the full diversity by longevity of relationship, size of grant, size of organization, type of and issue addressed by the organization. Here is what they had to say about the Foundation.

Can you share one thing that the Washington Forrest Foundation does really well?



Grantees felt that the Foundation has always been consistent, reliable, flexible, intentional and understanding of our partners.

"They are a generous, consistent, community minded funder."

"The Foundation is helping us to make a difference in Arlington."

"It is a reliable source of revenue, but revenus with flexibility."

"The impact is significant because it's been intentional."

"The Foundation's understanding of South Arlington as a community is a key factor in our relationship."

"WFF has a great understanding of the severity and range of hardships that low income residents of South Arlington experience."



# **50th year Accomplishments** 2018-19

In FY2019 (June 30, 2018 through July 1, 2019), the Washington Forrest Foundation's 50th year, we continued our tradition of investing in the South Arlington community, while also identifying new issues and areas of interest where we could have an impact. We refined and strengthened partnerships with existing grantees, and began working with two new organizations (to us). In this, our 50th year, we granted \$825,500 to 53 unique Arlington non-profit organizations and schools.



### Important milestones included:

- Supporting and celebrating Aspire! Learning's new build out in the Arlington Mill Community Center. Now even more students will have access to their excellent and successful programs
- Supporting and celebrating Phoenix Bikes move to Arlington Mill Community Center
- Helping La Cocina work to achieve their dream space in the redeveloped Arlington Presbyterian Church building on Columbia Pike
- Begin work with Communities in Schools and support of their model to work with low-income families through school channels
- Special grant to expand a new curriculum at Bowen McCauley Dance
- Expanded support with Leadership Center for Excellence to include Scholarships for Youth from South Arlington

- Continued our 4th year of support for the Arlington Community Foundation's Bridges Out of Poverty work in partnership with Arlington non-profits and Arlington County Department of Human Services
- Capacity Building Initiative and Implementation for Arlington Thrive
- Support for Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing's Community Progress Network, listening and advocating for low-income residents of Arlington
- Edu-Futuro's Program Expansion

In addition, more than half our annual funding continues to go toward General Operating Support for Arlington non-profits. We consider this support to be critical for the small and even big organizations to which we grant.







### **SAFETY NET**

In FY 2019, we gave \$415,500 in grants to Safety Net organizations in the areas of food, shelter, health, mental health and other basic needs.

### **EDUCATION**

In FY 2019, we awarded \$280,200 to Arlington Public Schools and organizations working in schools.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

In FY 2019, we granted \$129,500 to organizations working to develop community through their efforts.

Washington Forrest Foundation Arlington Grants June 30, 2018—July 1, 2019



- **50%** Safety Net Services
- **34%** Education
- **16%** Community Development

# \$415,500

# Safety Net

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT NAME	YEARS WITH WFF
A-SPAN (Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, Inc.)	\$ 17,000	General Operating Support	24
AHC Inc	\$ 10,000	Better Social Services Outcomes	38
Arlington Food Assistance Center	\$ 30,000	General Operating Support	28
Arlington Free Clinic	\$ 25,000	General Operating Support	24
Arlington Home Ownership Made Easier, Inc. (AHOME)	\$ 5,000	Achieve Your Dream	19
Arlington Neighborhood Village	\$ 5,000	General Operating Support	3
Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing	\$ 15,000	Resident Services - Columbia Hills & Gilliam Place	24
Arlington Pediatric Center	\$ 25,000	General Operating Support	16
Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation	\$ 12,500	Assisted Living for Needy Seniors	24
Arlington Thrive, Inc.	\$ 15,000	Capacity Building/Program Opportunity Project	34
Arlington Thrive, Inc.	\$ 25,000	Daily Fund Program	34
Bridges to Independence	\$ 17,000	General Operating Support	22
Capital Caring	\$ 25,000	Patient Care Fund	40
Community Residences	\$ 10,000	CRI Enhancements for Residents w/ Mental Illness	39
Doorways for Women and Families	\$ 25,000	General Operating Support	42
L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.	\$ 20,000	General Operating Support	14
Melwood	\$ 15,000	Integrated Day Support Programs - Arlington	8
Phoenix House	\$ 10,000	Demeter House	18
PRS	\$ 25,000	CrisisLink	27
SCAN of Northern Virginia	\$ 20,000	General Operating Support	20
The Fenwick Foundation	\$ 10,000	General Operating Support	7
Virginia Hospital Center Foundation	\$ 16,000	Outpatient Clinic Prescription Assistance Program	50*
Volunteers of America Chesapeake	\$ 20,000	Residential Program Center	21
Washington AIDS Partnership	\$ 3,000	Ending HIV in the Washington Region	27
Wesley Housing Development Corporation of Northern Virginia	\$ 15,000	Summer Camp 2019	32

\$280,200

### Education

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT NAME	YEARS WITH WFF
AHC Inc	\$ 15,000	Academic Outcomes for Youth K-12	38
APS Patrick Henry PTA	\$ 5,000	Fourth Grade trip to Jamestown/ Yorktown/Williamsburg	24
APS—H-B Woodlawn	\$ 4,500	Year-round Initiative 2019-20 Arlington Student Filmfest	4
Arlington Arts Center	\$ 7,000	General Operating Support	34
Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families Foundation*	\$ 2,200	Gunston Intergenerational Mentor Program	21
Aspire Learning	\$ 40,000	General Operating Support and Building Campaign	35
Bowen McCauley Dance	\$ 5,000	Lissajous Educational Curriculum Project	12
Bowen McCauley Dance	\$ 15,000	General Operating Support	12
Communities in Schools of Northern Virginia	\$ 10,000	General Operating Support	1
Computer C.O.R.E.	\$ 7,500	Computer Literacy for Self-Sufficiency	12
Edu-Futuro	\$ 25,000	General Operating Support and Program Expansion	18
Educational Theatre Company	\$ 25,000	Theatre Programming for Schools in South Arlington	4
Jane Franklin Dance	\$ 8,000	General Operating Support	15
La Cocina VA	\$ 30,000	General Operating Support & Capital Campaign	4
Patrick Henry Elementary School	\$ 6,000	Student Scholarship and Enrichment	25
Phoenix Bikes	\$ 20,000	General Operating Support	10
Signature Theatre, Inc.	\$ 10,000	Signature in Schools	27
Synetic Theater	\$ 10,000	Education and Outreach Programs	20
Teatro de la Luna	\$ 5,000	Experience Theater Program	15
The Baroody Project	\$ 5,000	Scholarships for Afterschool Programs in South Arlington Schools	2
WSC Avant Bard	\$ 10,000	General Operating Support	4
YMCA Arlington	\$ 15,000	YMCA Arlington Afterschool Enrichment Program	44

# **Community Development**





\$129,750

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT NAME	YEARS WITH WFF
Arlington Community Foundation	\$ 20,000	General Operating-Nonprofit Center	35*
Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing	\$ 10,000	Community Progress Network	23
Bonder & Amanda Johnson Community  Development Corporation	\$ 10,000	General Operating Support	3
BU-GATA	\$ 15,000	General Operating Support	4
Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization	\$ 5,000	Columbia Pike Street Banner Program	42
Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization	\$ 10,000	Columbia Pike Blues Festival	42
Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization	\$ 10,000	Communications and Marketing Upgrade	42
Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization	\$ 18,250	Columbia Pike Movies Nights	42
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.	\$ 10,000	General Operating Support	29
Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital	\$ 10,000	Girl Scouting in South Arlington	38
Leadership Center for Excellence	\$ 11,500	General Operating, Scholarship and LA Neighborhoods Session	19

### **New Organization Profiles**

### **COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS**

In FY19, CIS NOVA will reach 4300 low-income, immigrant students/ English Language Learners and 691 families in S. Arlington Title I schools.

CIS surrounds the most at-risk students with accessible academic and career/college services, and a community to help them achieve in life. Whether it's food, health care, counseling, or a role model, we are there to help. Our Site Coordinators work with Arlington Public Schools (APS) to assess the needs of the Whole Child, Whole School, and Whole Community. We provide:

- 1. Case management for 176 students
- 2. Family engagement to empower parents to advocate for their child
- 3. Holistic school-wide and small group programs to help partners boost existing services and new CIS NOVA initiatives to bridge gaps



www.cisofva.org

### THE BAROODY PROJECT

The Baroody Project was started to make sure any child, regardless of their abilities or financial capabilities can attend Baroody Camps' year-round camps in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. This non-profit organization allows all kids to experience great programs and activities such as Lego Engineering, Science, Dance and Music as well as cultural field trips and weekly adventures.

Pete Baroody—out of his love for athletics and personal calling to service—established the Baroody Project to close the "activity gap" and change the outcome for children from low income families to have the opportunity to attend camps and enrichment classes. He knows first hand how much kids love participating in them. Through the Baroody Project, you are invited to help bring Pete's vision into a reality, making enrichment opportunities available for all children and level their playing field.

The Baroody Project, with Washington Forrest Foundation funding, is serving several school communities including Patrick Henry, Claremont, and Campbell Elementary through funding financial aid and special needs assistance for afterschool programs and summer camps for students who live in and around South Arlington.



www.baroodyproject.org



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Leslie S. Ariail, *Chair* 

David D. Peete, Jr. Vice-Chair

Rachel G. Mrad, Treasurer

Allison A. Erdle, Secretary & Executive Director

Benjamin M. Smith, Jr.

Daniel J. Lucckese

Benjamin C. Gravett, Jr.



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