

Annual Report

2024 - 2025

United Nations Association
of the National Capital Region



A Letter From Our Leadership

Dear Members and Supporters,

In a year marked by immense domestic and global challenges, we remain inspired by your incredible work bridging global engagement with community involvement here in the National Capital Area.

The United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) community uniquely brings together people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives who are united in building a better world. The world is rapidly changing, and our institutions struggle to keep pace. But if the past year has taught us anything, it's that this community is resilient. From seeing the work of the human rights champions to opening a new world of global engagement for local students, you all have played a role in strengthening our mission and building the next generation of leaders.

UNA-NCA is uniquely positioned in the Nation's Capital as a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization open to all who care about our nation's role in the United Nations. Our membership includes professionals and leaders working to strengthen the multilateral system. We are proud to have an intergenerational membership and bring the best of our foreign affairs community to engage and mentor younger generations. Through our programming, like Global Classrooms Model UN, the Young Professionals Program, and the Graduate Fellows Program, we support high school students, university students, and early-career professionals with the tools to become engaged global citizens.

Together, we connect the global with the local. Our members, across Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia, have come to count on UNA-NCA to deliver services that educate, encourage, and advocate for a strong United Nations.

This Annual Report gives you a glimpse of our joint impact. We welcome your continuing participation and thank you to all for contributing to UNA-NCA's success this year!



Paula Boland
President

Anne Simmons-Benton
Chair, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Amanda Molina
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Christina Hansen*
Desiree Cormier Smith ◇
Jessica Tollette ◇
John “Cal” Williams*
Katherine Boyce ◇
Kristen Hecht
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Thomas Bradley

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* outgoing
◇ incoming

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Barton Edgerton ◇

Sultana Ali *

Young Professionals

Nadjad Nikabou-Salifou ◇

Lanice Williams*

Programs

Audre Park

Student Representative

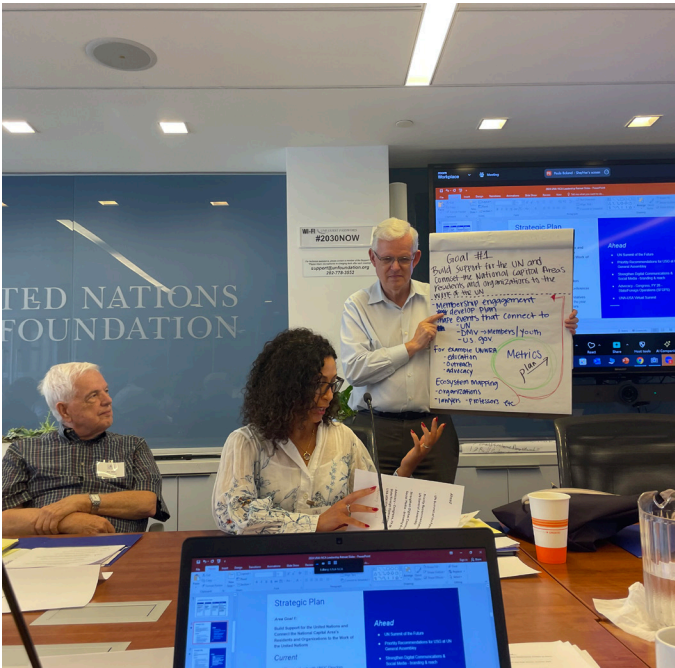
Maya Hadley ◇

McKenzie Mixon*



STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1: Build Support	11,644+ Followers 1,250+ Event Attendees 15 Programs
Goal 2: Enhance Membership	922 Active Members 636 Active Youth Members 28% DC 35% MD 28% VA
Goal 3: Partnership Network	20+ partners Including government agencies, UN agencies, civil society, local and international nonprofits, universities, businesses, and foundations
Goal 4: Financially Stable Organization	Strengthened financial position for operations and long term investments Strengthened Board nominations process Updated Strategic Business Plan



UNA-NCA Board members and staff at a leadership retreat and strategic planning session

GRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The mission of the Graduate Fellows Program (GFP) is to help Fellows develop an understanding of UN issues, policies, and organizations preparing for UN-related careers.

Hosted this past spring, this semester-long program provided 25 students from 11 countries, 10 states and 7 universities with multiple opportunities to discuss modern issues with experts across many relevant topics, all through a UN Lens. This included 13 in-person expert-led discussions, as well as mentoring opportunities, and career development sessions.

“As a medical anthropology student, the UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows Program helped me understand how diplomacy, funding, and politics shape global decisions around health, equity, and human rights. Through engaging seminars and meaningful dialogues, I gained critical insight into the role of representation and accountability in international development. This program showed me why justice and inclusive policy making is very important to address the needs of all people in the world.”

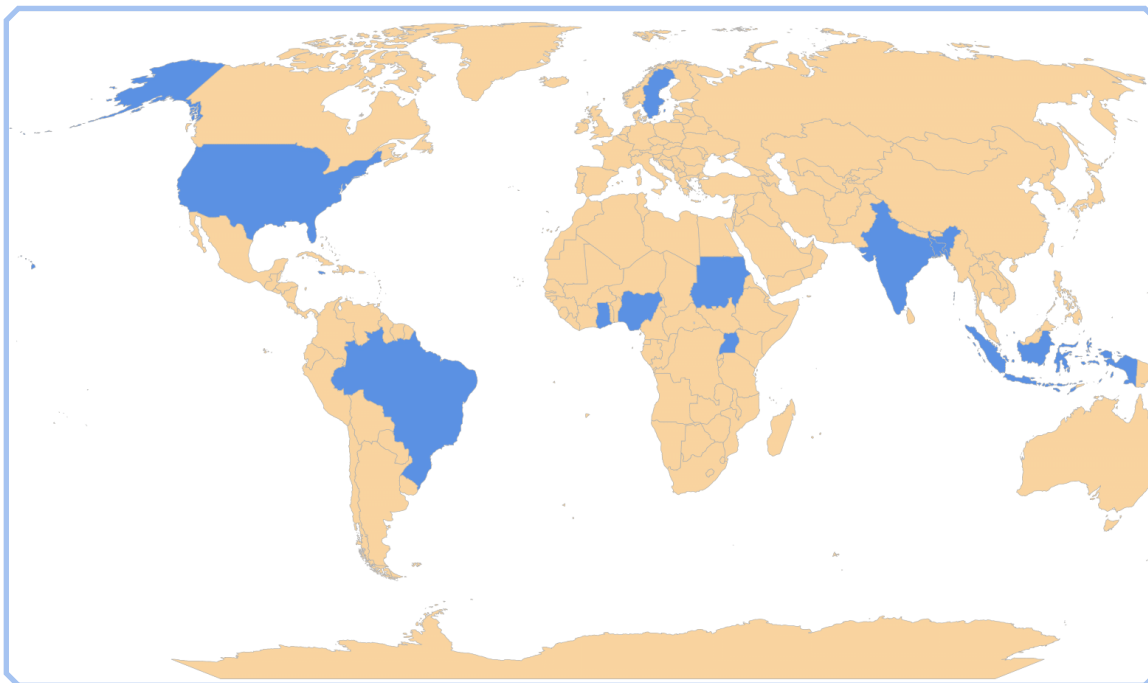
- Intan Kumbayoni
University of Maryland



Fellows deliberate on policy topics during W20 simulation presented by guest speaker, Anne Simmons-Benton.

“Being a UNA-NCA Graduate Fellow was a deeply rewarding experience for me. It offered insight into the inner workings of the UN system and its global impact. But more importantly, it allowed me to build a network of passionate professionals committed to shaping a more equitable world together.”

- Layma Murtaza
American University



2025 Graduate Fellows Origins Map with 11 countries represented and 10 U.S. States

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Tom Bradley
A. Edward Elmendorf
Andrew Hyde
Katherine Marshall
Stephen Moseley
John “Cal” Williams

Keegan Mobley
Bassel Bashour

The UNA-NCA Advocacy Committee strives to increase public understanding and support for the United Nations, encourage constructive US leadership in strengthening the United Nations, and prepare present and future leaders to work for a better world, both globally and locally.

UNA-NCA collaborates with its parent organization, UNA-USA, as well as the Better World Campaign, to educate and advocate on behalf of a strong partnership between the United States and the United Nations. UNA-NCA serves as a constituent liaison to Members of Congress, offering resources on a number of related policies and practices that pertain to the UN's agenda. Advocacy engages with members in many ways including connecting them with their Congressional and state legislature representatives, host advocacy workshops, and produce original research.



Mrs. Kathryn Kross in conversation with UNA-NCA President, Paula Boland, and Advocacy Manager, Sarah Bassil.

In the lead-up to the pivotal 2024 U.S. Presidential elections, the Advocacy Committee hosted a coffee chat discussion on October 22, 2024, titled “The Importance of International Engagement in the 2024 Presidential Elections.”

The event featured Mrs. Kathryn Kross of the Better World Campaign, who offered valuable insights into

the role of international institutions, particularly the United Nations, in shaping U.S. foreign policy discourse during the election cycle. Her remarks emphasized the enduring importance of global cooperation and the ways in which international engagement remains a vital consideration for American voters and policymakers alike.

ADVOCACY

In the spring of 2025, the Advocacy Committee spearheaded a robust series of Congressional meetings to champion the critical need for strong U.S. funding for the United Nations. These high-level discussions underscored the UN's pivotal role in addressing today's most urgent global challenges, including delivering life-saving humanitarian aid and maintaining peacekeeping operations, combating global health threats, and driving climate action. At every turn, we powerfully highlighted how sustained U.S. support for the UN directly advances international peace, security, and shared prosperity.

Meetings included two with Maryland representatives, April McClain Delaney and Jamie Raskin, and two Virginia representatives, Suhas Subramanyam and Gerry Connolly.



Congressional meeting with Virginia Representative Suhas Subramanyam's office on April 9th, 2025, accompanied by three of our graduate fellows, Shawn Baker Garcia a Director-at-Large, one of our interns, and Advocacy & Digital Outreach Manager Sarah Bassil.



GLOBAL GOALS AT HOME



Global Goals at Home (GGH) is reimagining how we understand, measure, and create social impact.

Through the creation of a groundbreaking online dashboard, the Global Goals at Home program is cataloguing, localizing, and contextualizing progress towards achieving the SDGs across Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The SDGs offer an interconnected blueprint for sustainable and inclusive change.



Global Goals at Home partnered with Accenture's Data Science for Social Good team to track progress towards the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

The teams collaborated to create an automated, filterable, publicly accessible dataset that empowers local communities to track and report

progress towards regional sustainability goals while leveraging the GGH Localization Framework. This collaboration was announced at a Summit of the Future side event on Advancing the SDGs with GenAI in September 2024, cohosted by UNA-NCA partners, Accenture, Bay Area Global Health Alliance, Net Hope, and SID-US.

GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC



Global Classrooms DC (GCDC) is UNA-NCA's flagship education program. It introduces students in grades 5–12 to international affairs and the work of the United Nations through Model UN simulations, original global education curriculum, and annual conferences. GCDC fosters skills in public speaking, negotiation, research, and writing, preparing students to become globally aware citizens.

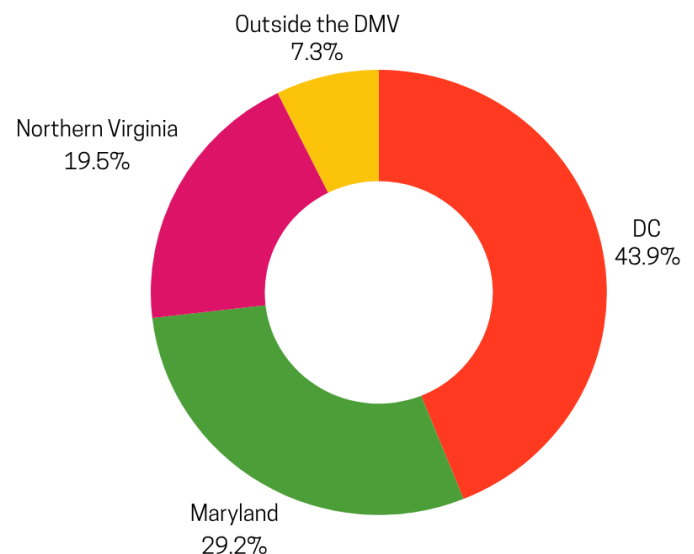
This year GCDC held two conferences, its Winter Model UN Training Conference and their Spring Model UN Conference. The Winter Model UN Training Conference was hosted at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Designed for beginner and intermediate Model UN students in grades 5–12, the conference provided hands-on training in public speaking, resolution writing, and the rules of procedure. It helped students build confidence and skills before participating in more advanced Model UN simulations.

The Spring Model UN Conference is GCDC's culminating event of the year, held annually in the U.S. Department of State. The conference brought together 400 hundred students and educators from the DC metro area and beyond to simulate UN committees and debate pressing global issues. The conference enables students to apply key skills in a real-world setting, fostering global awareness and youth engagement.



Young delegates at the Spring MUN conference showcasing their diplomacy, collaboration, and public speaking skills.



950+
students
reached year
round

60
educators

45
volunteers

50
schools



**THE HONORABLE
VOLKER TÜRK**
**Louis B. Sohn Human
Rights Award**
*United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights*



DANIEL KRONENFELD
**F. Allen “Tex” Harris
Human Rights Award**
*Director of the Office of Human Rights
and Humanitarian Affairs in the Bureau
of International Organization Affairs
at the U.S. Department of State*



MEGAN E. CORRADO
**Perdita Huston Human
Rights Award**
*Director of Policy and Advocacy at
the Alliance for Peacebuilding*



TEACHING FOR CHANGE
**Community Human
Rights Award**
*“Building social justice starting
in the classroom.”*



ALEXANDRIA J. MALONEY
**Emerging Human
Rights Leader Award**
*President of Black Professionals
in International Affairs (BPIA)*

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

On December 11th, 2024, UNA-NCA hosted its annual Human Rights Awards Ceremony at the United Nations Foundation. The celebration marked the 76th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 79th anniversary of the United Nations. We were incredibly delighted to present awards to four outstanding individuals and one organization



who are working to improve human rights in their communities and around the world. Overall the night provided wonderful remarks and insights from the honorees about their experiences including a moving speech from recipient Alexandria J. Maloney about significance of collaboration, education, and equality, alongside the imperative to hold human rights abusers accountable globally, to foster a more just and equitable world. We thank all of our sponsors, our Human Rights Committee, and our staff for making this evening special. We congratulate all of our wonderful honorees and continue to celebrate their accomplishments together as a community.

LEAD AND ENGAGE



In May 2024, UNA-NCA President, Paula Boland attended the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya (first one to take place in the continent of Africa) and other UNA chapter leaders and representatives from the World Federation of UN Associations joined her. The conference was an important platform for civil society to provide feedback for the Summit of the Future and Pact of the Future adopted in September 2025.

From January 28-31, 2025, UNA-NCA Board Member Kristen Hecht proudly participated in the Sixth International Conference, “For World Balance,” in Havana, Cuba. This inspiring global gathering, centered on “Strengthening Multilateralism as an Indispensable Mechanism for Global Balance,” brought together hundreds of international civil society leaders committed to advancing peace, security, human rights, and global cooperation.



Anne Simmons-Benton, Chair of Board of Directors attended Women20 South Africa (W20SA) from May 21-22, 2025. This year marked the tenth anniversary of the W20 which was founded by the G20 with the long term aim of reducing the gender employment gap by 25 percent by 2025. The event united leaders, change-makers, and visionaries to explore solutions to pressing challenges women face today through high level interventions, impactful panels and discussions, including outreach with rural, township and business women in agriculture.

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79) held the Summit of the Future from September 22-23, 2024 and both President Paula Boland and Board Chair Anne Simmons-Benton were in attendance. It was an exciting week in New York City which involved a meeting with Senator Ben Cardin and side event focusing on Advancing the SDGs with GenAI, featuring several innovative projects, including our very own globalgoalsathome.org collaboration with Accenture’s Data Science for Social Good team.





Professor Justin Hansford from Howard University, and Ms. Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur.

On October 11th 2024, UNA-NCA held an event focused on **Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Professor Justin Hansford and Ms. Mary Lawlor led the conversation exploring the challenges facing HRDs around the world, with over 300 HRDs were killed in 28 countries in 2023 according to Front Line Defenders, and also the extraordinary stories of success. Mary Lawlor took up the mandate of United Nations Special Rapporteur

on the situation of human rights defenders on May 1st, 2020. In October, she presented her 4th Report on the topic of HRDs and the SDGs to the UN General Assembly in New York City.

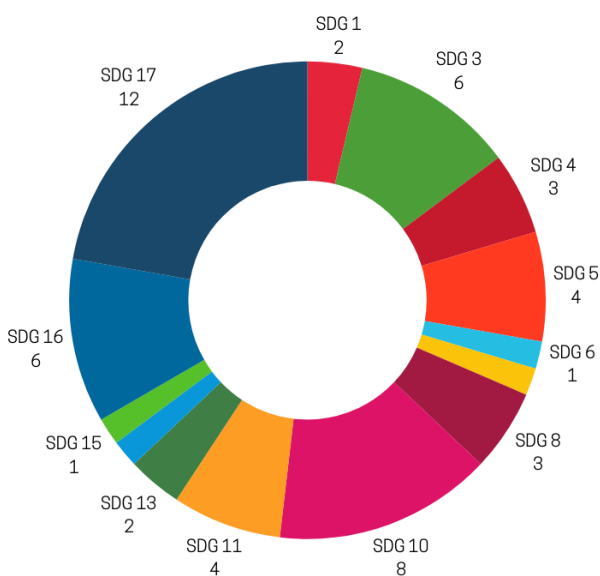
Past annual reports have focused on youth HRDs, women HRDs in situations of conflict, HRDs working on the human rights of refugees, and HRD successes.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals



In celebration of **Black History Month**, UNA-Atlanta Chapter and UNA-NCA joined Congressman Hank Johnson and His Congressional Colleagues to Celebrate the 2nd Annual United Nations-Designated International Decade for People of African Descent (2025-2034) and the Importance to the United Nations on February 24th, 2024.

The discussion offered attendees the chance to celebrate the successes of the first International Decade and discuss what challenges still lay ahead for realizing equal and quality education, access to economic opportunities, and other rights as we transition into the Second Decade.

SDG 1 - No Poverty

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

[11]

Each individual SDG targeted by a program.

UNA-NCA's Young Professionals Program returned to hosting their Career Dinners this past spring! They also hosted their Fall 2024 Career Connections which provided a discussion with experienced professionals along with a mixer and fireside chat to provide encouragement on the job and career hunt.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 4 - Quality Education

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 13 - Climate Action

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals



Attendees in the Career Connections event listening to the guest speakers, Ms. Amber Barth from the ILO and Ms. Jessie Ainslie from the UNHCR.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



On April 2, 2025 the **UNA-NCA's Sustainable Development Committee** hosted a Climate Justice Symposium with the DC Department of Energy and the Environment, the Anacostia Waterway Society, and Resilient Earth Capital to speak about areas equitable climate justice which are being addressed through local, state and federal priorities, as well as those areas of which exhibit room for growth in access.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 13 - Climate Action

SDG 14 - Life Below Water

SDG 15 - Life of Land



Speakers Erin Garnaas-Holmes, John Paul "JP" Moscarella, Christopher E. Williams, and Moderator Caroline Sorge.

2024 Donor Recognition

Global Goals Achievers (\$10,000+)

Anonymous
Don and Nancy Bliss
Edison W. † & Sally Dick
Dick Family Foundation
Florence & Murray Schott Family Foundation
USA for IOM
World Bank Group

Ambassadors Circle (\$5,000-9,999)

Emily L. Carnes †
Billie Ann Day
International Labour Organization
Stephen F. Moseley
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USA for UNHCR

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Tim Barner and Kathy Guthrie
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Lassine Cherif
Shawn Baker Garcia
Rajesh and Nidhi Gupta
Christina Hansen
Kristen Hecht
Brian Heilman
Thomas Liu
Karen Mulhauser

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Audre Park
PEW Charitable Trusts
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United Way of the National Capital Area
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Adam Wolf
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Citizens Circle (\$200-499)

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Richard Gregory
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Anne Howard-Tristani
Elizabeth Hume
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Richard Seifman
Richard Stern
Iqbal Unus
Lanice Williams
Melissa Wolfe

2024 Donor and Partner Recognition

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 Jill Christianson*
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 A. Edward Elmendorf
 Evelyn Falkowski †
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 Richard and Anne Griffiths †
 Tim Barner and Kathy Guthrie
 Christina Hansen*
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 Ellen McGovern
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 Andrew E. Rice †
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 Markley Roberts
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 Cherie Settle
 Anne Simmons-Benton*
 Dr. Iqbal Unus*
 Henry Webster-Mellon*
 Tim Wierzbicki
 John C. Williams*
 Melissa Wolfe*
 Sam Worthington*

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 Judith Edstrom
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 Richard Gregory
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 Deane Jordan
 Jeffrey Katz
 Katherine Marshall
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 Marie de Pelet-Colaco
 Shirin Rateshtari
 Daniel Ritchie
 Miriam Schneidman
 Alexander Shakow
 William Steel
 Richard Stern
 Hasan Tuluy
 Frank Vogl
 John C. Williams

In Memory of Edison W. Dick

Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (Ret.)
 A. Edward Elmendorf

★ monthly
 sustainer
 † deceased

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 American University School of
 International Service
 Black Professionals in International Affairs
 George Washington University
 Greater Washington Community Foundation
 Howard University's Ralph Bunche
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 USA for International Organization for Migration
 USA for UNHCR
 National Council of United
 States Arab Relations
 Office of the UN High Commissioner
 for Human Rights
 Society for International Development USA
 Stimson Center
 United Nations Association of the USA
 United Nations Foundation
 United Nations Information
 Center, Washington Office
 United Way of the National Capital Area
 U.S. Department of State – Bureau of
 International Organization Affairs
 Young Professionals in Foreign Policy

Assets		Net Assets	
Investments	806,391	Undesignated	266,308
Total Assets	806,391	Board Designated	294,553
		Total Unrestricted	560,861
Liabilities		Temporary Restricted	337,343
Accounts Payable	5,785	Permanently Restricted	61,582
Total Liabilities	5,785	Total Net Assets	959,786
		Total Liabilities & Net Assets	965,572

Note: FY24 Financial statements have not yet been audited.



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