

**NEWS RELEASE** Media Contact: Joyce McDonald/Kathleen Brenneman

**Hold for Release until** media@savannahdna.org

**April 16, 2019**  912.236.8362

**Downtown Neighborhood Association Announces**

**2019 Community Grant Award Recipients**

*Funds Raised by the DNA’s Holiday Tour of Homes Awarded to Community Groups*

Improving literacy, teaching children about healthy food, enhancing bike safety, sponsoring summer camps, providing food and shelter for the needy, tree planting and care, Forsyth Park preservation, youth conflict resolution, and counseling for women who have experienced trauma. These are just some of the activities that the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) will support with its 2019 Community Partner Grant Program.

DNA’s Board of Directors announced today the recipients of this year’s grants. They are:

Bike Walk Savannah $1,500

Deep Center $3,000

Emmaus House Soup Kitchen $1,000

Flannery O’Connor Childhood Home Foundation $1,500

Forsyth Farmer’s Market, $1,000

Frank Callen Boys & Girls Clubs $5,000

Friends of Massie $500

Heads Up Guidance Services $1,000

Inner City Shelter $1,000

League of Women Voters of Coastal Georgia $1,000

Loop It up Savannah $1,500

Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire $2,000

Savannah Association for the Blind $500

Savannah Children’s Choir $2,000

Savannah Tree Foundation $1,000

Thomas Park Food Pantry $1,000

Trustees Garden Club $5,000

Urban Hope, Inc. $5,000

WRUU-LP $500

Each year, the DNA bestows grants to community organizations that have an impact on the greater downtown area, particularly those that help or enrich the residential quality of life. Each recipient goes through an application process and before the DNA Board of Directors for selection.

“Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Historic Landmark District, protect Savannah’s unique downtown environment, and advocate public policies which support these

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objectives,” said Melinda Allen, president of the DNA. “With that in mind, our grant programs are geared to protecting the Landmark District’s architectural heritage and encouraging restoration & beautification. We also support local organizations that enhance the community through aid to Savannah’s citizens, education, safety, music, and youth development. We’re very proud of supporting these organizations and the outstanding work they do for the community.”

The funds for the grants are raised each year through the DNA’s Holiday Tour of Homes and Inns. Members and supporters of the DNA open their homes and inns for visitors to tour and learn about architecture, home décor, and the history and culture of the South. Close to a hundred volunteers supported the day-long event held last December. The DNA sold more than 800 tickets and raised $45,000 from the event. With two-thirds going to grants, the additional $10,000 will support community initiatives that address livability issues for downtown residents.

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Note to editors/reporters: A description of the activities funded by the grants is provided in a separate document, “2019 Downtown Neighborhood Association Grantees” sent with this news release.