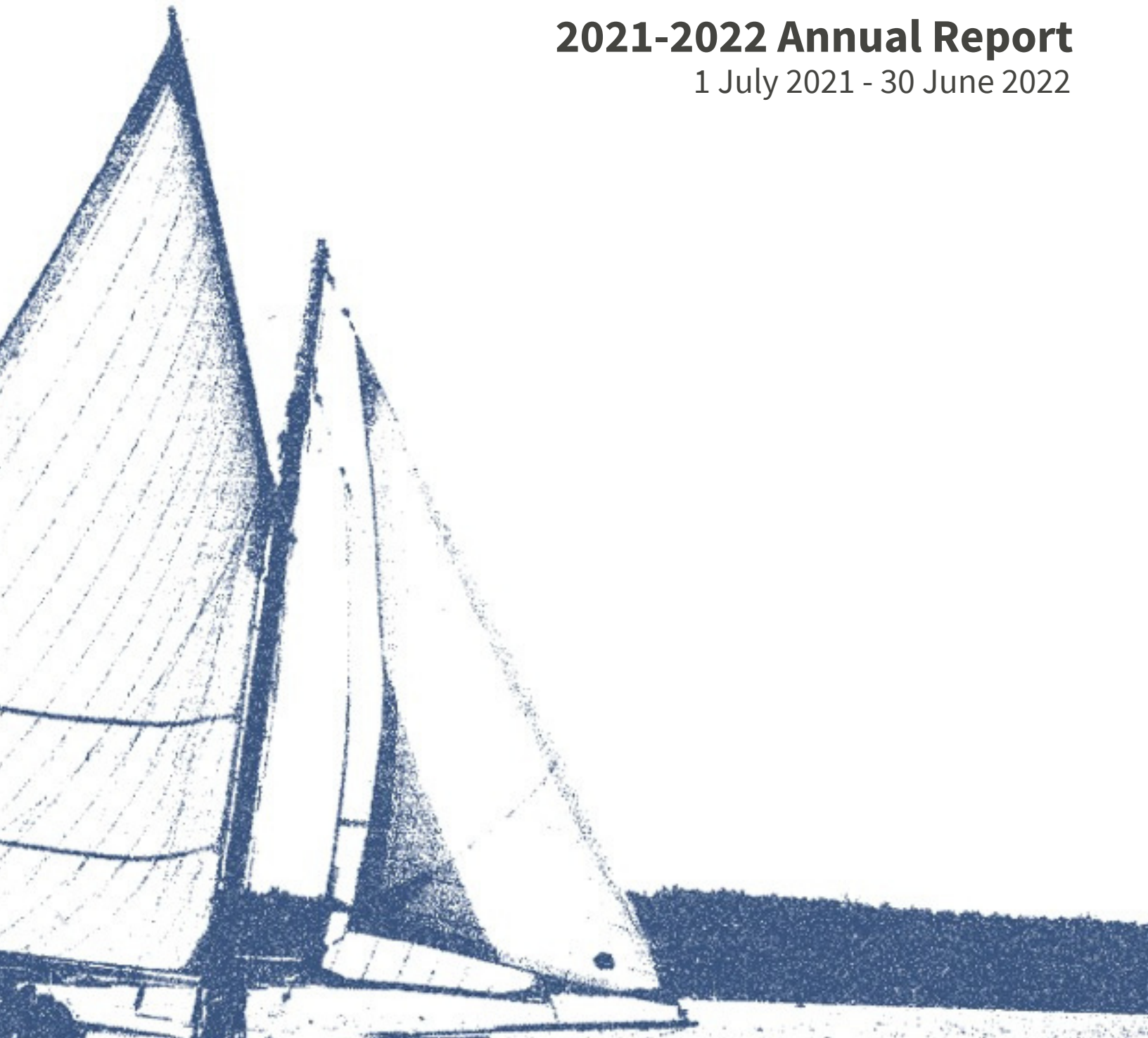


# TheFriendShip

**2021-2022 Annual Report**

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022



**THE FRIENDSHIP'S MISSION IS TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS WHO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN HOMES WHILE MAINTAINING HEALTHY, INDEPENDENT, ACTIVE, AND ENGAGED LIFESTYLES.**

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# Overview of The FriendShip

**The FriendShip** is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping older adults lead healthy, independent, and active lives in their own homes and communities. By joining The FriendShip, members have access to:

## Personalized Assistance Provided by Trained Volunteers

Volunteer services include transportation, errands, home maintenance support, technology assistance, appointment support, home repair, and social engagement.

## Activities & Programs

To support member interests and to facilitate friendship, social connection, and engagement in the community, The FriendShip offers an array of activities and programs, including lunch gatherings, special events, cultural outings, expert guest speakers, and discussions of topics of interest.

The FriendShip opened on October 1, 2015 and is now an ever-growing, vital part of the Columbia community serving the over-50 population. By bringing together members and volunteers, The FriendShip has built a strong network of support to empower older adults to age in place.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The FriendShip is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation registered in South Carolina and governed by a board of directors. The Board acts as the executive director of the corporation and met monthly (the second Tuesday of each month) during FY2021-2022 to attend to the business of The FriendShip.

Although the Board decides on policy and procedure, much of the work and discussion is done by standing committees, which results in recommendations to the Board. Standing committees are: Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Fundraising Committee, Member Committee, Outreach Committee, Personnel Committee, Program Committee, and Volunteer Committee. In addition, various ad hoc committees are formed as the need arises. As stipulated in the by-laws, each committee includes a Board member.

## BOARD ROSTER

Gloria Prevost, President.....	July 2017 - June 2023
Will Brown, Vice President.....	July 2020 - June 2023
Vera Tucker, Treasurer.....	July 2018 - June 2023
Laurie Barnwell, Secretary.....	July 2020 - June 2024
Jeff Hopkins.....	July 2021 - June 2024
Ann Humphries.....	July 2021- June 2022
Janet Jordan.....	July 2018 - June 2022
Chuck Lesser.....	July 2021 - June 2024
Lee Rambo (completed S. Wait's term).....	October 2021 - June 2021
Bill Robinson.....	October 2021 - June 2024
Norah Rogers.....	July 2021 - June 2024
Sam Waldrep.....	July 2021 - June 2024

We also thank Megan Byers, who was able to serve on the Board until February 2022.

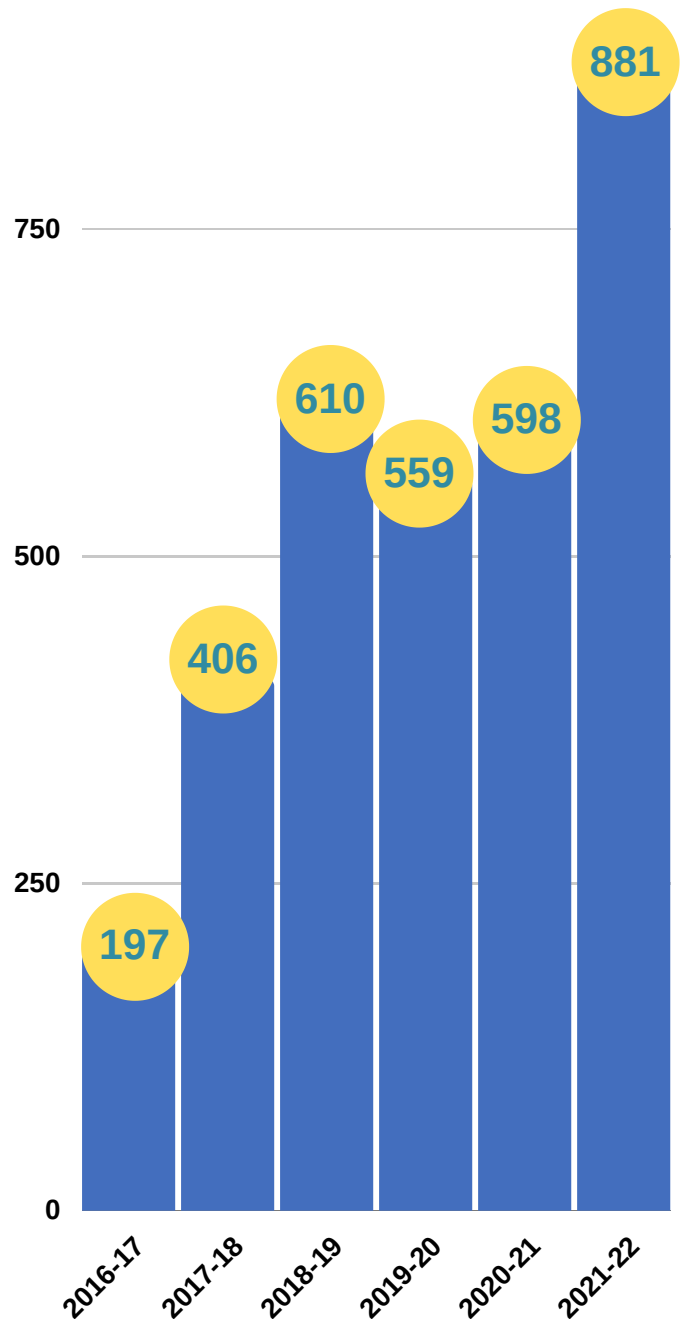
In addition, Sidney Wait served on the Board until she passed away in August 2021. The FriendShip owes her a huge debt of gratitude for all she did as an active member, volunteer, and Board member. She helped start The FriendShip; we would not be here without her dedication and strong spirit.

# SERVICES PROVIDED

**More services were provided this year than in any previous year!**

During FY2021-2022, volunteers provided 881 services. We are proud to have offered more services than ever before while continuing to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so thankful to our volunteers for their commitment and persistence.

During FY2021-2022, transportation continued to be the most requested service, representing 70 percent of all requests. In addition to transportation, volunteers provided other kinds of assistance to help members maintain their independence, such as running errands, helping with technology, going for walks, doing small home chores, providing social support, and more.



# 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP

The FriendShip offers two forms of membership. Full Members can request up to eight services each month and participate in social activities all year long. Associate Members enjoy social activities and can request one service over the course of the year.

Membership fees remained constant from previous years:

- Full Membership: \$600 (individuals) or \$900 (dual/household)
- Associate Membership: \$120 (individual) or \$180 (dual/household)

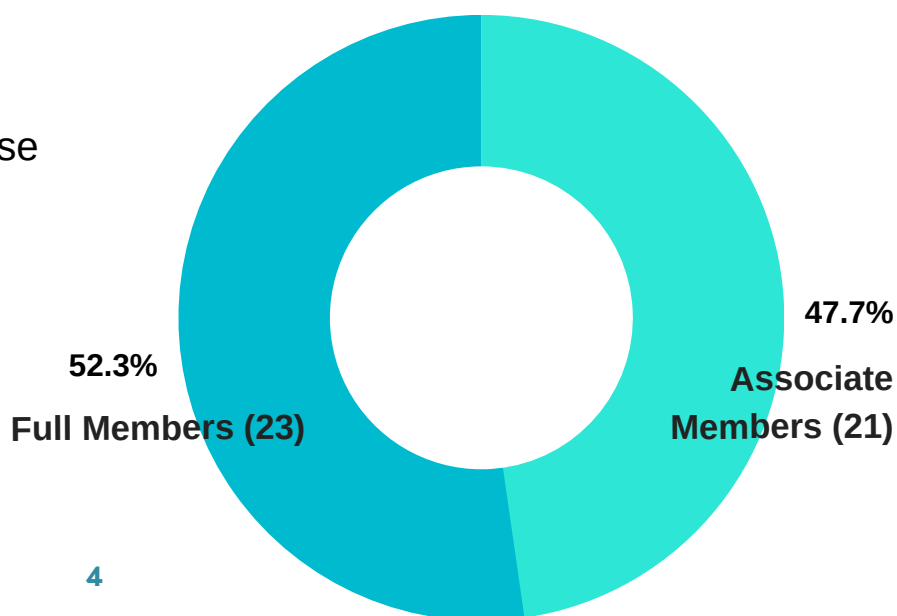
The FriendShip's membership number stayed steady this year. We ended FY2020-2021 with 43 members, and at the end of FY2021-2022, there were 44 members as follows:

- 23 Full Members (a decrease of 4 over the previous year)
- 21 Associate Members (an increase of 5 over the previous year)

Nine new members joined this year, including three Full Members and six Associate Members.

There were eight people who dropped or did not renew their memberships this year: seven Full Members and one Associate Member. Of those, five moved to assisted living facilities/continuing care retirement communities, two moved in with or nearer to family, and one member passed away.

The FriendShip kept a waitlist for new Full Members over the course of this year to ensure that volunteer capacity could keep pace with demand for services. Slots were opened as capacity allowed. Bringing on board new volunteers is critical to our ability to serve new Full Members moving forward.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Member Committee

**Committee Members:** Jane Blair, Cindy Corbett (Chair), Julianne Hurst, Chuck Lesser, Lee Rambo (Board Liaison)

### **Activities & Accomplishments:**

The Member Committee conducts interviews with potential members to answer questions and process new applications. Over the course of the year, the committee helped bring on board nine new members. (See the previous section in this report entitled “2021-2022 Membership” for additional details on member numbers.)

In addition to its primary work of processing new applications and meeting potential members, the committee met with representatives of the Ad Hoc Mobility Committee to provide input for updating member mobility guidelines. Also, the committee made some helpful administrative adjustments this year, including setting aside a regular time to be available for new member interviews and deciding to meet more regularly (approximately every six weeks) during the second half of the year. Committee meetings were used to discuss new member applications and plan for member interviews, as well as to talk over a range of issues that come up for us and our current members related to aging in place (e.g., how to help members when they begin to need additional support beyond volunteer services, how to help members stay active through volunteering and other opportunities).

### **Additional Notes of Interests & Looking Ahead:**

In past years, The FriendShip has asked new members to complete a survey when signing up and has asked current members to complete a survey on an annual basis. The former mechanism for storing and tallying member surveys with the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health is no longer available due to changes in priorities/workload for the involved department faculty. New survey processes should be explored in order to have an ongoing assessment of members and a feedback mechanism for our offerings.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Fundraising Committee

**Committee Members:** Will Brown (Chair/Board Liaison), Dana Turner, and Vera Tucker (who serves in her capacity as Treasurer as liaison to the Finance Committee)

### **Achievements & Activities:**

While The FriendShip works to keep our expenses low and benefits greatly from the generosity of St. John's Episcopal Church (which donates office and program space as well as allowing access to the internet, phone, and other equipment), donations are critical to filling the gap between the revenue generated from membership fees and our expenses.

To raise funds this year, the Fundraising Committee completed the following activities:

- **Holiday Raffle** – The Holiday Raffle was held in December and offered two great prizes, a griddle and a Gift Card Tree. This raffle brought in over \$3,400.
- **Midlands Gives** – The Midlands Gives campaign brought in over \$19,000, including almost \$9,000 in matching funds. This amount is a record for The FriendShip thanks to the generosity of our loyal supporters and to record-setting matching funds. We were also very fortunate to win one of the drawings for a Midlands Gives prize. However, while we celebrate raising more money than ever before, we also note that we did not meet our goal of increasing the number of donors. 71 individual donors gave online, which is eight fewer than the previous year.

### **Additional Notes of Interest & Looking Ahead:**

The Fundraising Committee conducted two successful activities this year but recognizes the importance of expanding the committee's membership and building capacity with additional fundraising expertise and events. Moving forward, it is critical that The FriendShip expand our base of support beyond longtime "friends" of the organization to meet future fundraising goals.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Outreach Report

**Committee Members:** Will Brown, Tina Burke, Eileen Schell, Gordon Schell, Sam Waldrep  
(Chair/Board Liaison)

### **Achievements & Activities:**

During our previous fiscal year (FY2020-2021), The FriendShip's outreach activities were on hold due to the pandemic. This year, we were able to re-form the committee and focused our efforts largely on reaching new volunteers, given the crucial need to build capacity to support current members and grow.

During the first half of the year, the Outreach Committee and the Volunteer Committee spearheaded a successful Fall volunteer recruitment campaign. This included three joint committee meetings, updating written materials for the campaign, and developing an action plan to guide "ambassadors" (i.e., current members, volunteers, and other friends) to reach out to neighbors, friends, and co-workers as potential volunteers. Ten volunteer applicants were recruited during this campaign.

During the last six months of the year, the committee developed a realistic work plan of action items:

- Developing a committee goal statement, with emphasis on ongoing volunteer recruitment and ways to establish partnerships in spreading The FriendShip's message;
- Taking steps to formalize our speaker's bureau and reach out to neighborhood organizations;
- Developing our volunteer recruitment reach on social media and websites; and
- Identifying two potential grant opportunities to apply for in the next year.

Also, as more organizations resumed in-person meetings, four speaking engagements were completed for church and community groups in March and April.

### **Additional Notes of Interest & Looking Ahead:**

The committee will continue to implement ideas from the work plan developed this year and to focus on outreach to potential volunteers. Moving forward, the committee also would like to identify more people willing to assist with our outreach activities, particularly those interested in helping provide outreach presentations.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Program Committee

**Committee Members:** Jane Blair, Ann Humphries (Board Liaison), Barbara Mullen, Ruth Smith, Dana Turner (Chair)

### Achievements & Activities:

The Program Committee works to arrange interesting experiences to encourage intellectual stimulation and provide opportunities for socialization which are incredibly important at every stage of life. Just as the older adults we serve rely on the transportation and other services The FriendShip's volunteers provide, opportunities to gather and participate in our activities are crucial to the well-being of those who wish to live independently at home.

During the previous year (FY2020-2021), most of our programs had to be offered via Zoom due to the pandemic. This year, COVID-19 did continue to impact how/what activities we offered to a certain extent, but we were able to meet in person with precautions in place. Working within our safety guidelines, the committee was creative and offered a broad range of engaging programs, outings, and social events. Attendance at activities varied, with an average attendance of ten people at each event.



The committee planned a series of programs looking at the idea of “flourishing” from multiple perspectives. Marsha Ward set the stage with an overview of the topic. Jane Blair led us in a discussion of healthy mental practices. We did exercises with Lisa Smarr from Richland County Recreation Commission and explored the concept of “spiritual flourishing” with Father Nicholas Beasley and Rabbi Jonathan Case. We built on the theme by coordinating group walks and organizing social hours with a focus on promoting well-being.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Program Committee (Cont.)

Following that series, the committee continued the year with a range of other programs/outings, including:

- Meet Tomorrow's Doctors Today – Panel discussion with USC Medical School Students
- Holiday Floral Arranging & Spring Floral Arranging – Sam Waldrep, Volunteer
- 20th Anniversary of the Village to Village Network Livestream Celebration
- Reminiscences of an English Childhood in WW2 – Shelagh Montes, Member/Volunteer
- Tour of the historic gardens at Hampton Preston Mansion
- Visit to the Anne Frank Center at USC
- Group walks at Congaree National Park, Riverbanks Zoo, Saluda Riverwalk

The committee held monthly social hours and identified a topic at each to generate conversation and sharing. Discussion topics ranged from memories of the SC State Fair to important women in our lives, funny vacation stories, and more. Other opportunities to socialize included getting together for lunch when COVID-19 safety precautions permitted. We hope to continue lunch gatherings more regularly in the future.

### Additional Notes of Interest & Looking Ahead:

Our presenters gave their time generously without any honorariums. Gifts given to speakers were funded by the committee members, and food, flowers, or other treats offered at picnics and social hours were donated as well. We owe a big thanks to all those who provided their time and resources to make our programs successful.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Volunteer Committee

**Committee Members:** Jeanette Bodie, Angela Everett, Janet Jordan (Board Liaison), Jamie McCulloch, Patricia Rock (Chair), Ann Ruderman

### Achievements & Activities:

Volunteers are the backbone of The FriendShip, providing a variety of services to members. The Volunteer Committee's role is to bring on board new volunteers and support current volunteers. During FY2021-2022, the committee met monthly to conduct its work. The committee interviewed, vetted, and trained new applicants as follows: 16 prospective volunteers were interviewed and 14 completed the volunteer training. Of those who completed training, 10 were actively providing services for members by year's end.

At the end of FY2021-2022, The FriendShip had approximately 40 volunteers "on the books". This number has stayed steady since the last fiscal year. On average, 30 volunteers provided at least one service each month.

Over the course of the year, the committee also:

- Worked with the Outreach Committee on the Fall volunteer recruitment drive;
- Participated in outreach presentations to spread the word about volunteer opportunities (and as a result of one of these presentations, the host organization made a generous donation to The FriendShip); and
- Sent birthday cards to volunteers.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

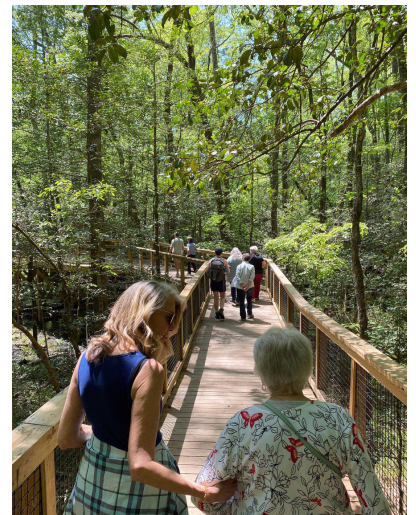
## Volunteer Committee (Cont.)

### *Ad Hoc Sub-Committee Coordinating Holiday Deliveries/Visits*

In the Fall of 2021, the Volunteer Committee established an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee, including committee representatives and three members of The FriendShip, to discuss, plan, and distribute Thanksgiving and Christmas treats to members who were in town for the holidays. Pies were delivered at Thanksgiving to 16 members who requested one. For Christmas, treats were purchased to assemble goody bags that were delivered to 16 members.

### **Additional Notes of Interest & Looking Ahead:**

Moving forward, the Volunteer Committee would like to continue building its membership and find more opportunities for volunteers to gather, get to know one another, and discuss issues of interest. Also, the committee recommends that the work it spearheaded on holiday deliveries/visits be continued and that possibilities be explored for that work to move to another committee or be structured as a standalone project



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Special Projects & Ad Hoc Committee Work

**StrongerMemory Program** - The Board offered a special program during FY2021-2022 called StrongerMemory, which we learned about at the national Village to Village Network conference. The StrongerMemory curriculum is designed to improve brain health. Participants are asked to perform simple exercises (e.g., easy math problems, writing/journaling, and reading aloud) for 30 minutes a day to stimulate the part of the brain that retrieves memories. Three volunteers—Jane Blair, Sam Waldrep, and Faxie Watt—agreed to be facilitators for the 12-week session, which was offered to members/volunteers via Zoom in the Spring.

**USC Service Learning Class Collaboration** - Board member and volunteer Will Brown collaborated on various projects with USC students in Dr. Mary Waters's service learning class. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce these young adults to issues facing older adults, and it was especially great to have them join our programs and take photos of our work.

**Ad Hoc Health & Safety Committee** - This committee monitored COVID-19 for The FriendShip and developed guidelines responding to changes in the situation. These guidelines sought to balance the need for safety precautions and the need to continue to provide services and programs that are so vital to our members. The committee also shared information about variants, vaccines, etc., and helped staff address individual situations/questions as needed.

**Ad Hoc Mobility Committee** - This committee met to update our policy related to mobility assistance. The goal of the committee was not to significantly change current practice but rather to provide more clarity and guidance in our written policy, particularly related to issues such as the use of assistive devices and the importance of our members being able to transfer independently. After input was sought from other committees, the new policy was approved by the Board in March and then incorporated into our Member and Volunteer Handbooks.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

(unaudited)

Financial Report for The FriendShip

Fiscal Year

2021-2022

FY to date activity

Total

Receipts:

**Contributions:**

Board	\$ 7,553.75
Individuals	26,843.89
Business/Other	1,887.34
Designated gifts	15,000.00
Less: Addition to Sustainability Fund	(3,413.46)
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<u>\$47,871.52</u>

**Membership Fees**

Full Member: new	\$ 2,295.00
Associate Member: new	660.00
Full Member: renewal	11,125.00
Associate Member: renewal	1,492.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 15,572.00</u>

Grants	\$ -
Funding Events	\$ 3,960.00
Scholarship Fund	\$ -
Credit Union interest	\$ 252.65
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u>\$ 67,656.17</u></u>

Balance as of June 30, 2022

# FINANCIAL REPORT

(unaudited)

Expenses:

**Administration**

Insurance	\$	5,663.00
Other		2,418.81

**FundRaising:**

General		399.89
Sp Events & Ann Mtg		-

**Program Services**

Educational/Cultural/Social Services		74.80
--------------------------------------	--	-------

**Full Member Services**

Salaries & Benefits		19,373.03
Other		171.17

**Communications**

385.24

**Volunteer Support:**

Salaries & Benefits		19,373.03
Other		171.17

**Outreach**

27.00

**Total Expenses**

\$ 48,057.14

Revenue over Expenses from All Operations

6/30/2022

\$ 19,599.03

Balance as of June 30, 2022



# THANKS TO OUR DONORS

## 2021-2022 Financial Contributors and Gifts

Abacus Planning Group  
Anonymous Donors  
Gayle Aycock  
Mary K. Bagnal  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Baker  
Carol Barnett  
Laurie Barnwell  
Mr. & Mrs. P.T. Blackwell  
Jane & Steve Blair  
Eddie Bogan  
Caroline Bokesch  
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Margaret Cain  
Emory & Christina Clark  
Margie Click  
Mary Wallace Coleman  
Jacqueline Cominotti  
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Ralph Lamar  
Sandie Lanham  
Layman Poupard Publishing, LLC  
Charles H. Lesser  
Mary Willa Roper Lowry

# THANKS TO OUR DONORS

## 2021-2022 Financial Contributors and Gifts

Debra Martin  
Stacy McCloghry  
Jamie McCulloch  
Paul McCullough  
Troy McLaughlin  
Galen S. McWilliams  
Men of St. John's  
Faye Mixon  
Kathryn Moore  
Barbara Mullen  
Michele Osenga  
Francis & Sandra Polanski  
Sherwood Preece  
Gloria Prevost  
James Prevost  
Jeff Prevost  
William & Lee Rambo  
Margie Richardson  
Rachael S. Richardson  
Mary Moore Roberson  
Mary K. Roberts  
Terri Robertson  
Patricia Wise Rock  
Norah Rogers  
Rotary Club of Columbia East  
Ann Ruderman & William Keane  
Eileen & Gordon Schell  
Silicon Solutions  
Ruth B. Smith  
Ed & Dixie Smith  
Charles & Elizabeth Smylie

St. Andrews Woman's Club  
Eve Stacey  
Eleanor Stein & Brian Glavey  
Mary Stewart  
Martha & Rodger Stroup  
Kerry Stubbs  
Gloria Talley  
Jane Teas  
The FriendShip's Volunteer Committee  
Margaret H. Jennings Todd  
Jane W. Trinkley  
Joy Tucker  
Vera S. Tucker  
Dana Turner  
Thomas L. Wagner III  
Sidney Wait  
Samuel T. Waldrep  
Lucille Walters  
Dr. Mary Baskin Waters  
Fairfax Watt  
Suzanne Way  
James & Georgianna Wheeler  
Beronica Whisnant  
Rose T. Wilkins  
Sarah Williams  
Tommie Wingate  
Lorelle & Harry Wise

# HOW YOU CAN HELP



## Spread the word.

Help The FriendShip grow by telling others about how we support older adults in Columbia and about our volunteer opportunities.



## Become a volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities are both rewarding and very flexible.



## Join.

We are always looking for more members.



## Donate.

Every little bit helps. Donations may easily be submitted on our web site.

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Columbia, SC 29205  
(803) 602-6434  
[contact@thefriendship.org](mailto:contact@thefriendship.org)  
[www.thefriendship.org](http://www.thefriendship.org)  
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