



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michelle M. Bailey – [michellebailey@michellebaileymedia.com](mailto:michellebailey@michellebaileymedia.com)

### The award-winning Arlington (VA) Links Host Annual Holiday Party with a Purpose, Presenting \$30,000 in Community Partnerships



Arlington (VA) Links present \$30,000 in grants to community partners. L-R: Lavern Chatman, Arlington (VA) Links Partnership Grants Committee chair; Darlene Akers, Donna M. Saunders Foundation; Daisha Mshaka, Dress for Success DC; Bronte Montgomery, Donna M. Saunders Foundation; Gina Wood, National Coalition of 100 Black Women NOVA Chapter; Suzanne Walker, Arlington (VA) Links President; Alexandria J. Maloney, Black Professionals in International Affairs; Jan-Michael Sacharko, Doorways; Portia Clark, CARE, Inc. Gardening Apprenticeship; Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, OAR; Brenda Martin and LaJuanna Russel, Partnership Grants Committee members (Photo: Daryl Canty, Canterbury Photography).

December 21, 2024 (Arlington, VA) - The award-winning Arlington (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated hosted its annual holiday party with a purpose on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. This year's "Holiday Jingle & Mingle" themed affair was an intimate yet vibrant afternoon celebration featuring a lavish full-course brunch, festive musical entertainment and more. Hundreds of civic-minded guests gathered in the spirit of fellowship and giving to usher in the holiday season.

Central to the event's mission was the presentation of seven grants totaling \$30,000 to deserving nonprofit organizations serving Northern Virginia. This significant investment reflects the Arlington Links' unwavering commitment to making an impactful difference in the NOVA community. Notably, this marks the second consecutive year of \$30,000 in grants.

Grant recipients were on hand to receive their awards and share brief remarks about their organization's mission and impact:

- Black Professionals in International Affairs – Alexandria J. Maloney, President

- Donna M. Saunders Foundation– Darlene Akers, Board Secretary, and Bronte Montgomery, Treasurer
- Doorways – Jan-Michael Sacharko, Director of Development
- Dress for Success DC – Daisha Mshaka, Board Member
- CARE, Inc. Gardening Apprenticeship – Portia Clark, President
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women, NOVA Chapter – Gina Wood, President
- OAR – Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Executive Director

Suzanne Walker, Arlington (VA) President of The Links, Incorporated reflected on the chapter’s ongoing commitment to community partnerships, stating that “The Arlington Links Chapter is proud to support these outstanding organizations that are making a meaningful impact in Northern Virginia. This event celebrates the season and also embodies the spirit of giving, which is at the heart of who we are.”

Lavern Chatman, Community Partnerships Chair for the Arlington Links, added: “This is about more than grants—it’s about building relationships and creating pathways for change. We’re honored to partner with organizations that align with our mission of community service and empowerment.”

Founded in 1966, the award-winning Arlington (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has proudly supported numerous non-profit organizations in Arlington and Alexandria, VA. Each year, its members collectively volunteer thousands of service hours to advance programs and initiatives that foster education, health equity, and community enrichment. For more information about the Arlington (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated’s transformative community initiatives, and ways to support their powerful mission, visit [www.arlingtonlinks.org](http://www.arlingtonlinks.org).

#### **ABOUT THE LINKS, INCORPORATED:**

The Links, Incorporated, founded in 1946, is an international organization of over 17,000 professional women of African descent dedicated to community service and cultural preservation. With chapters across the U.S., the Bahamas, and the U.K., members contribute over 1 million service hours annually through programs in youth services, the arts, health, and economic empowerment. Recognized for its impactful work, The Links continues to enrich and uplift communities worldwide.

###