

# Karuna Charities Scholarship

Offering UDC Students a Fresh Start

BY DIANNE HAYES

**R**egardless of life's challenging circumstances, The Karuna Charities Washington, Inc. Endowed Scholarship provides UDC students with a fresh start through education. As a major donor, The Karuna Charities offers financial support for students who might otherwise not be able to continue.

"I hope that it helps them, and as they use their education and stand on their feet and gain a sense of achievement and pride for themselves, it is my hope that they will give back to the community," said Amrit Kalotra, president of Karuna Charities.

The non-profit assists people with a broad range of needs, but it is especially interested in women who have been the victims of domestic violence, poverty or illness, requiring assistance to get their life back on track.

"We may not have walked in their shoes, but we can walk beside them and give them a helping hand," Kalotra said. "I do believe that if you educate a woman, the whole family is helped."

The non-profit, which was founded in 1998, also engages in community service including feeding the homeless, providing medical supplies to HIV patients, and supporting



Felicia Murphy-Phillips, Executive Director of the UDC Foundation and Amrit Kalotra, President of the Karuna Charities.

orphanages. Karuna provides assistance in natural disasters including the tsunami in India, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Haiti's earthquake and recently provided support for flooding survivors in the Philippines. In addition, the non-profit established a fund for firefighters after the 9/11 attack in New York.

Karuna Charities has 130 members and raises money through its Diwali Gala, modeled after the Indian festival of lights representing the victory of good over evil. Endowed Karuna Scholarships have been set up at UDC, Northern Virginia College, Montgomery College, and the Universities at Shady Grove.

"It is a great pleasure to give the money to those who need it."

The University of the District of Columbia Foundation's Endowed Scholarship Program provides an opportunity for donors to make a significant gift of \$50,000 or more to the University. Because endowed scholarships are permanent, a named endowed scholarship is a way for donors to have their name, or their loved one's name, tied to a productive cause and an institution that is important to them. Donors set the criteria for their respective endowed scholarships.

The following list of endowments are representative of donors who have made a major commitment in the lives of our students through scholarships. We welcome others to invest in our students today.

1. James E. Joseph Endowment
2. Charles Horsky Scholarship
3. Alva Lorna Also Brooks
4. Charles & Pamela Ogletree Fund
5. Phyllis C. Newsome Memorial
6. Karuna Charities Endowment Fund
7. Robert and Helen Bonds
8. Julia P. Marshall
9. Charles & LaVerne Earley
10. Tri-State Association