

## An Appreciation: Doris Gwaltney

Doris Gwaltney, a long-time friend of PHS, died in January. Doris was an inspiration to all those who work to make their communities safer, healthier, and more beautiful.

Together with a group of her West Philadelphia neighbors, Doris created the Carroll Park Neighbors Advisory Council, which was one of the first groups to participate in a partnership between volunteers, PHS, and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to revitalize neglected urban parks.

When Doris and her group began, Carroll Park was not only a neighborhood eyesore, but also a haven for criminal activity—a place that local residents avoided. But through hard work, courage, and determination, the volunteers turned the park into a wonderful asset for their community. Under Doris's leadership, Carroll Park Neighbors acquired the resources for a new playground, a walking track, entrance gardens,

and tree care. The group also launched a variety of programs for people of all ages, including summer camps for children, a concert series, and movie nights.

Doris served on the PHS Council and the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, as well as the boards of the Philadelphia Parks Alliance and Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. She earned a PHS Certificate of Merit in 2009, and her story was featured in the nationally broadcast PBS documentary, *Edens Lost & Found*, which celebrated urban greening efforts in Philadelphia and three other American cities.

"Doris will always remain one of the most inspirational people I have ever known," says Tammy Leigh DeMent, PHS sustainable communities program manager, who worked closely with Doris on park projects. "Her commitment to her community and dedication to Carroll Park is an example of the big difference one person can make."

—JC



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