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Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund to close

Washington Business Journal - by [Jennifer Nycz-Conner](#) Staff Reporter

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The Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund will close its doors later this year, due to economic strain.

In an e-mail to supporters, founder Susie Kay explained that during a June 22 meeting its board of directors decided to dissolve the organization and bring it to a "planned close" during the coming months.

"For the past several years, we've been deeply concerned about the sustainability of our organization. Each year we continue to add new students, mentors, volunteers and many others to our HDSF network," Kay stated in an e-mail sent Friday. "Our ability to raise funds to continue providing our students with resources to serve them in the way that has made HDSF so impactful and special has declined drastically in this particular economic climate."

Kay started the organization in 1996 while a teacher at H.D. Woodson High School in D.C.'s Ward 7. Since then, the organization has provided mentoring and scholarship assistance to more than 1,000 students from wards 7 and 8.

The board determined downsizing was not a feasible option.

"Eliminating certain programs, whether it's our extensive mentoring component or our intensive career preparation courses would drastically alter the very foundation this program was built on," Kay said. "HDSF has always worked to empower students and provide them the best possible chance to achieve their hopes and dreams of attending college and entering the workforce. We would not feel comfortable compromising the mission of the organization, which provides academic and career support to the more than 1,000 students who make up the Hoop Dreams family."

Enough funds remain to support HDSF's scholarship obligations, Kay continued, but it was not likely that they could support scholarships beyond the 2009-2010 school year.

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