Rising Resilient Together
UNTIL SAFE HOUSING IS SHARED BY EVERYONE
A Letter From our Leadership

Your early and continued support from the previous year set us up with a steady path forward, and even as the pandemic crisis dragged on, it allowed us to expand our services to meet the needs we saw around us.

This past year, our front line staff saw emergency shelters all around us reach their capacity limits. New families fleeing violence and seeking support were turned away, with nowhere else to go. So, as we have always done, we responded to the unmet need we saw in our community with innovation.

Because of your generous support, we used our tried and tested Survivor Resilience Fund as a blueprint and created the Safe Nights Fund to provide an emergency hotel stay while our staff worked to connect families in need to more stable housing.

We also held our first ever Virtual Baby Shower to support moms-to-be who came to DASH to find a safe place to live as they brought their new baby into the world. We collected donations of gift cards, diapers, formula, and essential baby equipment, for new moms in our care facing the monumental and sometimes overwhelming task of having a child and becoming a parent for the first time while also fleeing violent and unsafe homes.

Your support for these programs allowed us to care for survivors who come to us for safety and help and care for our incredible staff who pour their souls into their work every day. They are the very beating heart of our organization, and without them, none of our work would be possible.

In 2021, DASH fulfilled 4,205 service requests for adults and children through our continuum of housing services, providing access to safe housing, advocacy, and resources to live safely away from the threat of violence. This represents a 35 percent increase from 2020 and a 94.5 percent increase from pre-pandemic levels.

Thank you for supporting DASH and joining us in our commitment to investing holistically in our staff so that they can support our survivors. This continuum of collective care, championed by you, is what keeps us going every day. We are so grateful.

With you, we are creating a community where every home is a safe place.

With much gratitude,

Koube Ngaaje
PRESIDENT & CEO

Patti DeBow
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

DASH is expanding and strengthening longer-term housing options for marginalized survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families in the District to:

1. Stabilize
2. Achieve economic empowerment, and
3. Ultimately have the freedom to lead lives free from violence on their terms

We aim to transition survivors and their children into long-term safe housing as quickly and seamlessly as possible so that they can start rebuilding their lives.

Vision

We envision the day when domestic violence and sexual assault are not tolerated, and every home is a safe home.

We work for the day when survivors are respected as independent, are provided the resources for their journey out of abuse and are given understanding and support instead of blame and judgment.

Values

As our work continued into another year of the pandemic, DASH mobilized to innovate a new initiative, our Safe Nights Fund.

Through our new Safe Nights Fund, DASH can swiftly provide emergency funding for a hotel stay for a family fleeing violence - $500 can support a family fleeing imminent violence for a 5-night hotel stay.

In one case, a survivor's abuser found her at a shelter and DASH was the only organization that could mobilize to move her, within hours, to a hotel. In another case, we provided a few nights in a hotel for a survivor who was immunocompromised and could not take the risk of entering a shelter.

Thank you to the MGM Foundation who provided a $10,000 grant to support this new critical initiative for our community and to our generous donors for supporting this Fund.

The overall goals of this intervention are to:

1. Quickly remove survivors and their families from violence,
2. Give them a safe, stable, private place to stay before they can be moved into longer-term safe housing, and
3. Connect families to additional services

SAFE NIGHTS FUND LAUNCH: MARCH 2021
WELCOMED FIRST FAMILY IN APRIL 2021

SURVIVOR STORY

*Barbara*, is a survivor of domestic violence and stalking. During the pandemic, her abuser found her in a new location. She was afraid to stay in her apartment because of the high risk that her abuser would come to her home. Barbara and her daughter were connected to DASH and immediately placed in a hotel the same day.

Through the Safe Nights Fund, they remained safe in the hotel for two weeks before she and her child moved into their new home.

*Name changed to protect privacy and safety
Who We Serve
Across Our Safe Housing Programs

57% ADULTS
43% CHILDREN
25% TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH (18-24)
95% BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES

In 2021, DASH fulfilled 4,205 service requests for adults and children through our continuum of housing services, providing access to safe housing, advocacy, and resources to live safely away from the threat of violence. This represents a 35 percent increase from 2020 and a 94.5 percent increase from pre-pandemic levels.

Survivors in our programs reflect regional diversity: they are from DC (as well as Maryland and Virginia) or recent immigrants, represent all genders and racial/ethnic backgrounds, and range in age from children to elders.

A Home for ALL

DASH welcomes the most vulnerable populations that experience multiple barriers when accessing shelter programs.

» Elder survivors
» LGBTQ+ Survivors
» Male Survivors
» Survivors with disabilities

SURVIVOR STORY
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:

When *Lisa joined our Empowerment Program, her first goal was to increase her income. Having an apartment of her own in the community and the rental subsidy support from DASH, Lisa was able to focus on her employment goal. She began working a new full-time career with an increased monthly income that allowed her to save and achieve independent housing on her own with her five children. After 18 months in this 24-month program, Lisa was ready to explore a new home for her family.

Lisa and her five children successfully moved into their new single-family home.

This two-year program provided Lisa a safe home and support from her Coach to navigate new employment and achieve her own goals.

*Name changed to protect privacy and safety
Your Impact in FY 2021
October 1st, 2020 - September 30th, 2021

CORNERSTONE
Emergency to Transitional Site Base Program

96 INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN FY2021

21 NEW INDIVIDUALS WELCOMED

70% IDENTIFIED SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT

100% CREATED INDIVIDUALIZED GOAL PLANS

43 INDIVIDUALS EXITED

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM
Transitional to Permanent Scattered Site Program

21 NEW INDIVIDUALS WELCOMED

44 INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN FY2021

11 EXITED WITH STABLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

100% ON TRACK TO IMPROVE INCOME

RIGHT TO DREAM
Youth Transitional Program

19 YOUTH SURVIVORS

22 AVERAGE AGE

9 FACING HOMELESSNESS

1 YEAR SINCE LAUNCHING

RIGHT TO DREAM SURVIVOR STORY

*Letitia* was one of the first youth survivors welcomed into our Right to Program. Prior to entering the program, Letitia was homeless and found herself couch surfing, staying with friends/family, and when she could afford it, hotel stays. Letitia often faced unsafe situations. Despite her housing circumstances, her resilience allowed her to continue working her full-time job. She leased up within a month of entering the program and had a smooth transition into her new home. For Letitia, having her own safe space, means she can focus on her overall well-being and no longer deal with toxic individuals from her past. With stable housing, Letitia has thrived in her new environment - she has transitioned into new employment, and actively working on her goals, which include enrolling in driving school.

*Name changed to protect privacy and safety
Financial Statement*

**FY 2021 Revenue**

$5,194,936

- 75.9% - Government Grants & Contracts
- 8.97% - Foundations
- 5.8% - Corporate
- 5.58% - Individuals
- 1.77% - Other Revenue
- 1.98% - In Kind

**FY 2021 Expenses**

$5,167,603

- 76% - Programs
- 18% - General & Administration
- 6% - Fundraising

* Stated here are unaudited FY 2021 financials. Completed audited FY 2021 financials will be available in 2022 and posted at www.DASHDC.org.

The financials stated are preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications after audit completion.
Volunteer & Community Highlights

We have so much gratitude for all of our volunteers - who work diligently behind the scenes to help ensure that survivors and families not only have a safe place to call home, but also to reach their goals.

Callie is one incredible example. She has put so much time and energy into tutoring one of our middle schoolers who has been struggling with the challenges of virtual learning. In the few months Callie has been working with her, she has shown so much progress, and we can't thank Callie enough!

I have spent the last few months tutoring a middle school student through DASH. I was inspired to get involved because of a section in the vision at DASH: We celebrate the strength of the human character that enables all survivors to recognize that they are empowered and whole.

I believe that young people should find empowerment and confidence through their education successes. As a former teacher I realize that middle school is 50% academics, 30% organization, and 20% confidence in yourself—through that I’ve watched this young woman become a 100% student.

Thank you to the DMV Chapter of Umu Igbo Unite who volunteered their time, energy, and skills to plan, promote, and execute Ride for Change - a day of fitness fun in honor of Women’s History Month for DASH at Posh Cycle Fitness. They not only collected essential items for survivors, but also raised $500 for DASH’s safe housing programs.

Thank you to Clark Construction Group volunteers who visited our Cornerstone program to support our back-to-school drive. Volunteers helped to sort and inventory the school supplies and prepped backpacks for our back-to-school lunch event for families in our programs.
This past year brought great progress on our Journey Home: Campaign for Cornerstone, a $4.5M capital campaign to purchase and renovate our Cornerstone residence. More than a building, Cornerstone is the foundation for our vital work serving survivors and their families.

» Cornerstone is the largest dedicated safe housing program in the District, accounting for over 50% of the available units for survivors and their families.

» Cornerstone provides a safe home to 50 adults and 65 children each year.

» Survivors and their families receive a key to their own furnished apartment, on-site advocacy, and trauma-informed services for free for up to two years.

Securing the Cornerstone building for the future will ensure that survivors and families can reach safety for years to come.

Through the ups and downs of this past year, our generous community of supporters have donated critical funds toward our Journey Home Campaign. Thank you to donors who committed early gifts during the Quiet Phase! Your early support allowed us to pivot and complete urgent COVID-related renovations, which have been received positively by survivors, families, and staff. Stay tuned for the public phase launch in Summer 2022!

Invest in DASH’s safe housing program by contributing to the Journey Home Campaign

www.dashdc.org/capital-campaign/

CORNERSTONE SURVIVOR STORY

With the support of her DASH coach, *Kenya was able to get a new job working at a medical facility as an aid for an elderly patient. Her DASH Coach describes her as a “very self-sufficient go-getter,” but Kenya was struggling with dividing her attention between work, taking care of her daughter, and her search for long-term housing. Kenya has expressed her appreciation for the tools provided by her Coach at DASH to help her identify her next housing steps. The supports she is receiving are helping her to create more financial stability and prepare her for transitioning out of the program.
PAMELA’S STORY

*Pamela is a 35-year-old female with 2 children. She experienced domestic abuse with her children’s father, and he abandoned the home leaving Pamela to be financially responsible for all the bills during the pandemic. Due to safety and financial reasons, she needed to find new housing and was able to locate another property and relocate. Pamela has no support system and needed a moving company to assist with moving her and her children’s belongings. At the time, she did not have the funding available to support this cost as her money went to the unexpected costs of setting up a new home. Through our Survivor Resilience Fund, we were able to swiftly cover the balance from the moving company. Pamela and her children are comfortably moved into their new home. She and the children are well and feel safe.

*Name changed to protect privacy and safety

LEENA’S STORY

*Leena was referred to DASH after courageously fleeing an abusive home and relationship. The domestic violence left Leena in debt due to circumstances outside of her control.

Understandably, Leena was concerned about her future and how her credit might impact her ability to obtain a loan, buy a car, or even rent an apartment. Leena was working diligently on her university degree and navigating life after trauma, but she did not know how to solve the problem of owing rent on an apartment that was not safe for her to remain in or return to. After connecting with DASH, Leena was relieved to learn that the Survivor Resilience Fund was available to pay her debt in full, preventing her credit from being affected. During a six month follow up, Leena shared that she is currently safely housed and still on track to earning her degree and pursuing a career in her field.

Leena stated that the Survivor Resilience Fund ...

Was very helpful, very supportive. It will benefit me to move forward and be able to rent on my own without having bad credit.
Thank You

Your belief in DASH has helped us do great work this year despite ongoing challenges from the pandemic. Many survivors enter our programs with severe trauma and are working to overcome additional obstacles such as job loss and food insecurity due to the pandemic. Because of you, we increased our wraparound supports and resources to help survivors overcome what can otherwise seem like insurmountable barriers to becoming independent.

Thank you for continuing to be there for those in need – survivors and families.

Today, we continue to provide innovative emergency-to-transitional and permanent housing options, holistic and trauma-informed case management and support services for survivors, emergency financial assistance, and technical assistance and training to other DC safe housing providers and housing systems.

“I never knew life could be like this. I have so much hope now.”

– Simone

SURVIVOR RESILIENCE FUND

62 SURVIVORS RECEIVED EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

VIRGINIA WILLIAMS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

920 SURVIVORS RECEIVED RAPID REHOUSING VIA DASH STAFF CO-LOCATED AT THIS CENTER
Thank You

There are many ways to make an impact with DASH!

» Become a monthly donor in our Empowerment Circle
» Double your gift through employer matching gifts
» Stock Gifts can benefit families for years to come
» Leave Your Legacy with Planned Giving
» Volunteer
» Join the conversation – follow us on social media

Visit us at: www.DASHDC.org

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