



DASH DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

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District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) to be Honored at 2022 Purple Ribbon Awards

Recipients of \$35,000 in Grants to be Revealed Live on Sept. 21

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The District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) has been awarded four international awards for its exemplary work in providing critical services to victims of domestic violence in the DC-Virginia-Maryland region. DASH's residential program, Cornerstone, was awarded *Program/Shelter of the Year*. Two of DASH's leaders—Senior Director of Programs Kandice Louis and Senior Director of the Data, Impact, Systems, and Coaching department Yeabsira Mehari—were awarded *Employee of the Year*. Right to Dream, a transitional housing program for youth, ages 18-24, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, was awarded *Outstanding Youth Initiative of the Year*, and DASH Academy, the in-house training program for professional development of staff, was awarded *Outstanding Advocate Training Program*.

"This is an incredible honor and a testament to the caliber of DASH's programs, the inspiring leadership and innovation of our staff, and the cutting-edge and transformative services we provide to survivors of violence in the DMV region. We are also grateful to our numerous donors and philanthropic partners as well as DC's Department of Human Services and the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants for providing the funding and necessary support so that DASH can provide excellent services. I would also be remiss if I did not express appreciation for Congresswoman Norton in her steadfast support of DASH, as she advocated for us to receive Community Project Funding through the fiscal year 2022 appropriations," said Pierre Berastain, Chief Strategy & Operations Officer for DASH.

DASH received these honors from DomesticShelters.org, which announced the winners of their 2022 Purple Ribbon Awards across 28 categories, as judged by a national panel of respected professionals from the domestic violence field. The Purple Ribbon Awards is dedicated to ensuring all heroic efforts to help victims of domestic violence receive acknowledgment and applause. This year marks the second year of the Purple Ribbon Awards, presented by Theresa's Fund, the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that operates DomesticShelters.org. The Purple Ribbon Awards are the first comprehensive awards program honoring the countless heroes of the domestic violence movement, including advocates, programs, shelters, survivors and members of the community support system. Winners include entries from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

"I am proud of the excellent services DASH brings to vulnerable communities across the District of Columbia. I have seen, firsthand, the positive impact of DASH's services on the lives of hundreds of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. I am honored to support DASH's lifesaving work," said

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, who represents the District of Columbia in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A virtual celebration will be hosted by DomesticShelters.org on September 21, 2022, to honor this year's Purple Ribbon awardees and \$35,000 worth of grants will be awarded to stand-out recipients. The celebration will follow the Purple Ribbon Awards Inspire Webinar, a free-to-attend virtual conference where winners will tell their success stories, share advice for other domestic violence professionals and celebrate the work being done to help victims and survivors of abuse.

Registration to attend the Inspire Webinar and/or Purple Ribbon Awards Celebration is now open at www.purpleribbonawards.org.

DASH will be hosting a community conversation event in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To register and join the conversation, please visit <https://dashdc.org/>.

About DASH

The District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) is the District of Columbia's largest dedicated safe housing provider for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, helping survivors and families rebuild their lives on their own terms. DASH is a unique organization that functions at the critical nexus between domestic and sexual violence and housing. DASH envisions the day when domestic and sexual violence are not tolerated and every home is a safe home.

For more information about DASH and ways to get involved, visit <https://www.dashdc.org/>.

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