



D A S H

DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Rising Resilient Together

UNTIL SAFE HOUSING IS SHARED BY EVERYONE

A Letter From our Leadership

After several years of challenge and hardship, 2022 allowed us to begin emerging from crisis response mode and looking ahead to the future. We leapt at the opportunity to take a step back from the day-to-day demands of keeping survivors safe, both from violence and from COVID-19, to examine our existing programs and make strategic decisions about where to grow and invest our resources.

Our goal was not just to meet the existing needs of survivors and their families, but to develop programs and support that would allow them to thrive.

This past year has been a wonderful opportunity to both expand our services and reap the rewards of public recognition for the quality work DASH has been consistently executing. And we couldn't have done any of this without the incredible support you have provided us.

Donors, supporters, and volunteers like you are the ones who have made this transition from crisis management to expansion and healing possible – thank you!

In the wake of the upheaval of the past few years, we made a conscious choice to prioritize wellness at DASH. To achieve this goal, we hired a full time Wellness & Spirituality Coordinator who has taken on the responsibility of designing collective wellbeing initiatives, including workshops, classes, and individual wellbeing plans, while fostering community partnerships that also promote wellness.

We also chose to focus on family. In 2022, DASH housed 62 children across our various programs. Our commitment to survivors includes their children, and we are committed to the whole family's health and wellness. To that end, we expanded our staff to include a full-time Child and Family Specialist who works with parents and children to co-create care plans for the family, focusing on identifying the child's needs and improving the child's wellbeing. We know the impact that violence can have on children, and we are putting in place the supports these young, developing minds need to overcome their past experiences, heal, and thrive.

As you read on, you'll see that DASH was honored and acknowledged for our innovative programs and impact with four 2022 Purple Ribbon Awards from DomesticShelters.org. This is the continued impact of your support for survivors and families. Award-winning programs that help survivors and their families find safety, and then heal and prioritize wellness.

Thank you for helping us execute our longstanding services and launch new, innovative initiatives to improve the quality of life for survivors and their families.

Here's to health, happiness and, most of all, safety in 2023.

With much gratitude,

Koube Ngaaje
PRESIDENT
& CEO



Patti DeBow
CHAIR, BOARD
OF DIRECTORS



Purple Ribbon Award

This year DASH was honored with four honors from DomesticShelters.org's Purple Ribbon Awards.

The Purple Ribbon Awards is 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. This is the second year the annual program was held.



Thank you for joining us at the virtual celebration and for continuing to support our innovative programs and services and dedicated staff!

Program/Shelter of the Year:

Cornerstone

Cornerstone provides low-barrier housing and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families from underserved communities, allowing them to rebuild their lives on their own terms.

Outstanding Youth Initiative of the Year:

Right to Dream

DASH launched its Right to Dream scattered site housing program to support transitioning aged youth (18-24) who are survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Right to Dream is the first program of its kind in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas, expanding the availability of youth-friendly, survivor-focused, long-term transitional housing and support services.

In addition to the four honors, our Right to Dream program received a \$7,500 award. The program was selected by the Board of Directors and DASH was one of six recipients to receive a financial award.

Employee of the Year:

Kandice Louis, Senior Director, Programs

Yeabsira Mehari, Senior Director, DISC

Kandice & Yeabsira have worked in tandem to shepherd a passionate, reliable program for survivors. They are two outstanding visionary leaders who have moved DASH to the next level, and together, they are transforming systems for survivors and creating a greater collective of care.

Outstanding Advocate Training Program:

DASH Academy

Providing top-quality trauma-informed services requires ongoing training and exposure to cutting-edge techniques. The DASH Academy is our internal capacity-building program for DASH Coaches—front-line staff. For the last year, it has offered trainings twice a month with top-tier presenters. The Academy is raising the bar for staff development in the domestic violence field.

Programs & Services

Wellness & Healing

This past year, DASH expanded its Wellness & Spirituality and Child & Family programming and services.

Our goals were to:

1. Strengthen and expand children’s services through advocacy, systems navigation, and developmentally appropriate educational and enrichment activities that focus on wellbeing, healing, and improving parent-child relationships.
2. Enhance resources and foster community partnerships that will help DASH elevate wellbeing and faith/spirituality-focused initiatives for survivors and families.

Child & Family

DASH takes a whole-family approach to the recovery from trauma and path towards long-term stability.

DASH’s new Lead, Child and Family Specialist met with parents and their children to co-create care plans for the family, focusing on identifying the child’s needs, improving the child’s wellbeing, assisting the child adjust to a new environment within DASH, and locating resources such as tutoring and extracurricular activities that would support the family.

New programming included:

1. A kid-friendly Domestic Violence Care Bear Questionnaire to promote awareness about healthy boundaries.
2. A Community Grocery Event for 30 families. We received positive feedback from families about the high quality of the groceries that they received.
3. An event with the DC Public Schools Early Stages Pre-K program to connect parents with young children to the free program.

Parents have shared that they are especially appreciative of the onsite children’s programming offered, which allows them “adult time” each week.



HOSTED
10
WELLNESS ACTIVITIES
AND SESSIONS



90%
OF PARTICIPANTS
HAD AN INCREASE IN
UNDERSTANDING OF
THE TOPICS PRESENTED



AFTER ATTENDING A
WELLNESS ACTIVITY,
PARTICIPANTS FELT:
**RESTORED
HAPPY
VALIDATED
SUPPORTED**

JORDAN'S STORY

***Jordan** has been on an amazing transformative journey. They faced many barriers including their mental health and trauma from violence before being connected to our Right to Dream program for young survivors.

With little to no support from their family or friends, Jordan traveled to DC to begin their Journey with DASH. It was difficult for them to effectively communicate, trust anyone, or work on their goals. DASH met Jordan where they were at and continued to support with kindness, patience, and understanding.

Today, Jordan is balancing school, work, and focusing on transforming their life. They have overcome the crippling and debilitating effects of trauma, and now have overwhelming amounts of motivation to meet their goals!

“DASH’s Coaching style and support provided me with the resources to not let past trauma define me.”

KIARA'S STORY

***Kiara** came to DASH seeking assistance due to domestic violence and stalking. She had been experiencing violence for years but didn't know how to leave as she was financially dependent upon the abuser. After a physical assault, Kiara feared for her life and left the relationship and residence for good.

Kiara went from shelter to shelter, while being stalked by the abuser, causing her to lose employment.

She connected to DASH and was placed into our Cornerstone program. Now, Kiara is safe and has returned to work.

Kiara has expressed her gratitude for the DASH program and the staff for providing trauma-informed services that allow her to heal and pursue her goals in a way that works for her. Kiara shared,

“I love Cornerstone, it’s helping me get myself in order. It’s peaceful.”

Who We Serve

Everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

34%
ADULTS

41%
CHILDREN

25%
TRANSITION-AGED
YOUTH (18-24)

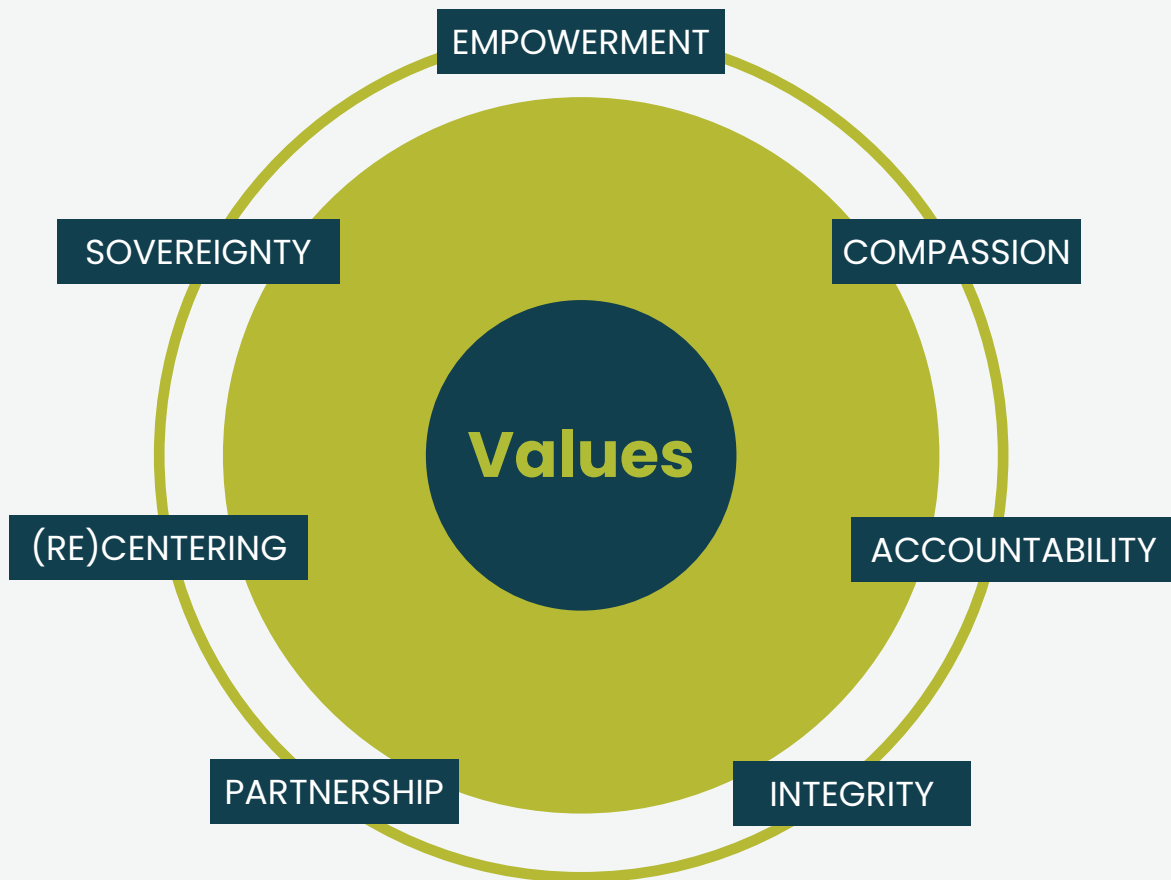
DASH has a deep belief that survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and their families are worthy—that they deserve the highest-quality services and resources to counteract the assault on their dignity that they experienced due to abuse.

We also believe in uplifting people from marginalized experiences who encounter additional obstacles when working towards their goals.

At DASH, all are welcome, including those who identify as male, immigrant, elder and LGBTQ+ survivors.

HOME MEANS SAFETY





3 Pillars of our Programs

**Safe &
Sustainable
Housing**



**Holistic
Wellbeing**

**Economic
Empowerment**



Your Impact in FY 2022

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

CORNERSTONE

Emergency to Transitional Site Base Program



69

ADULTS (38) & CHILDREN (31) SERVED IN FY22

8

NEW INDIVIDUALS
WELCOMED

12

INDIVIDUALS
EXITED

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Transitional to Permanent
Scattered Site Program



54

**ADULTS (26) & CHILDREN (28)
SERVED IN FY22**

9

NEW INDIVIDUALS
WELCOMED

8

INDIVIDUALS
SUCCESSFULLY EXITED

RIGHT TO DREAM

Transitional to Permanent Scattered Site
Program for Transition-Aged Youth



25

**YOUNG ADULTS (22) & CHILDREN (3)
SERVED IN FY22**

3

NEW INDIVIDUALS
WELCOMED

5

GRADUATED FROM
THE PROGRAM

Virginia Williams Family Resource Center



889

**SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES RECEIVED HOUSING RESOURCES
VIA DASH STAFF CO-LOCATED AT THIS CENTER**

SURVIVOR RESILIENCE FUND

Emergency Financial Assistance



57

**SURVIVORS PROVIDED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO PREVENT HOUSING INSTABILITY**

SAFE NIGHTS FUND



34

**INDIVIDUALS AND
CHILDREN CONNECTED
TO SAFE NIGHTS**

211

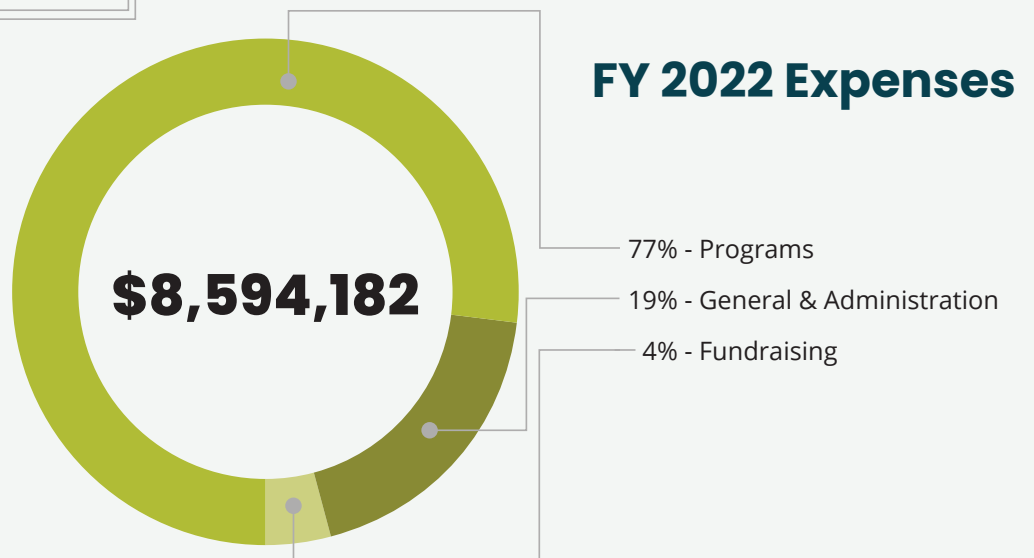
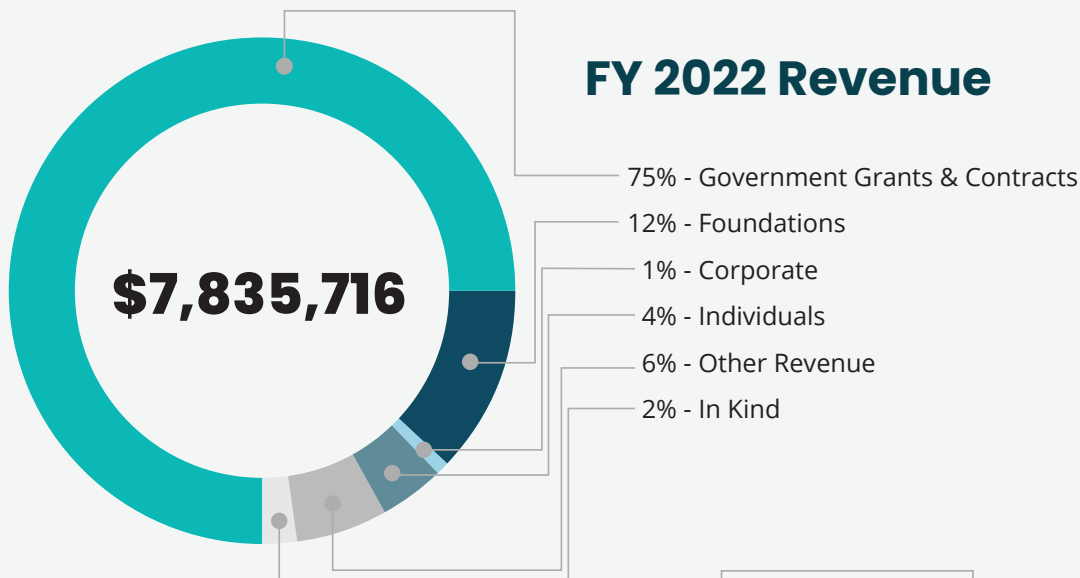
**SAFE NIGHTS THROUGH
EMERGENCY HOTEL STAYS**

Financial Statement*

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. This past fiscal year was a significant year of growth including a major expansion of programming to address unmet community needs.

We welcomed 12 new positions at DASH to build the organization’s capacity to fulfill gaps in service needs for underserved survivors and families. Our Cornerstone building underwent significant renovations to modernize 28 apartment units in the 42-unit building to match the quality of care and services.

Our mission remains to innovate survivor-centered programs and services that reach underserved communities in need of a safe place to call home.



* Stated here are unaudited FY 2022 financials. Completed audited FY 2022 financials will be available in 2023 and posted at www.DASHDC.org. The financials stated are preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications after audit completion.

Volunteer & Community Highlights

We are extremely grateful for our community of volunteers who donate their time, goods, and services to further our mission.



The Mission Continues' Women Veterans Leadership Program

Thank you to The Mission Continues' Women Veterans Leadership Program who purchased, assembled, and donated 30 care boxes of laundry, kitchen, and bathroom cleaning supplies for our programs. Each box included a handwritten card with heartwarming messages of strength and resilience. Many of the women shared their stories of living through and overcoming domestic violence.



CREW DC

Each year our friends at CREW DC prepare wellness gift bags for survivors in our programs to celebrate Mother's Day. Wellness has been a major theme in our programs over the last two years due to Covid as many survivors seek more connection and healing. These gift bags are a welcome gift to honor Moms who are rebuilding their lives with their children at DASH.



Whiting-Turner Construction

After years of play and activity, the playground at DASH's Cornerstone property needed a restoration. Thankfully, our friends at Whiting-Turner Construction were there to volunteer on this project. They donated their time and materials to repair and upgrade the playground to keep kids, and their imaginations, busier than ever.



JOURNEY HOME
CAMPAIGN FOR CORNERSTONE

DASH's flagship program, Cornerstone, is a brick-and-mortar building that can house up to 42 survivors and families in their own furnished apartment for up to twenty-four months as they rebuild their lives and transition to new housing.

Through our Journey Home Capital Campaign for Cornerstone, we made great strides to complete significant renovations to the 90-year-old building in FY 2022.

Thank you to everyone who supported the campaign during our quiet phase. DASH is grateful for your support to preserve our home. With additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, we were able to fully renovate 28 apartment units in the building in FY 2022.

Residents at Cornerstone have been elated at the state of their new units. One resident was so overwhelmed that she started crying when she saw her new apartment at Cornerstone.



More than a building, Cornerstone is the foundation for our vital work serving survivors and their families and is the largest safe housing residence in DC.



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

www.dashdc.org/capital-campaign/

Overview of DASH Programs

Having a stable place to live and daily living essentials is life-changing for survivors, many of whom have been in crisis for a long period of time, in some cases living out of a car with their children.

DASH's low-barrier and longer-term housing programs coupled with trauma-informed wraparound and holistic services work to meet each survivor's unique needs to ultimately achieve greater economic and housing stability and lives free from violence.

Housing Programs & Services



Cornerstone

A site-based program with 42 furnished units of low barrier emergency-to-transitional housing with on-site wraparound services up to 24 months. The largest safe housing residence in DC.



Right to Dream

Providing 20 affordable apartment units and supportive services for transitioning youth survivors ages 18-24 as they work to meet their economic and educational goals in order to live safely and stably away from the threat of violence.



Empowerment Program

22 units of Housing First transitional to permanent housing in the community with economic empowerment services to maintain housing upon program exit.



Safe Nights Fund

Connecting families with immediate safe nights through hotel stays while providing ongoing support to help families transition to new and stable safe housing.



Survivor Resilience Fund

Providing emergency financial assistance to help survivors address needs which might threaten their permanent housing, help them achieve safety, and gain the support they need to move forward with their lives.



Virginia Williams Family Resource Center

Through this partnership, DASH has staff co-located here to support families seeking safety and housing resources. Staff also provide training to facilitate coordinated systems and trauma-informed services.

SYLVIA'S STORY

Sylvia* came to DASH's Cornerstone program without documentation and in a legal dispute against her abuser's attempt to gain full custody of her children. DASH connected her with free legal representation and helped Sylvia obtain her documentation, which allowed her to apply for other housing programs. Sylvia experienced a lot of upheaval in her life, and she expressed a strong preference for staying in the city where she felt comfortable and where her children were attending school. DASH helped her find longer-term housing in her preferred neighborhood. She successfully exited Cornerstone, transitioned to her new program, and has since shared that she and her family are safe and thriving in familiar surroundings.









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

-  /DistrictAllianceforSafeHousing
-  @dashdc
-  @dash_dc
-  /company/district-alliance-for-safe-housing



D A S H
DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)

PO Box 91730
Washington, DC 20090

PHONE: 202-462-3274
EMAIL: info@dashdc.org



United Way #9391 / CFC #99008 / Tax ID #71-1019574