



NEWS RELEASE

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***THC – HOUSING FAMILIES, TRANSFORMING LIVES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED
BY MAYOR VINCENT GRAY TO SERVE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING
STRATEGY TASK FORCE***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Mayor Vincent Gray announced the formation of the DC Comprehensive Housing Strategy Task Force (Task Force) and the appointment of key housing leaders that will help city leaders ensure the creation of more affordable housing for residents of the District of Columbia. Polly Donaldson, Executive Director of THC – Housing Families, Transforming Lives (THC), was one of thirty-four housing leaders appointed by Mayor Gray, representing organizations that provide supportive housing and services. As head of THC, Ms. Donaldson is responsible for the implementation of the housing programs and comprehensive supportive services for more than 300 families in transitional, permanent supportive, rapid re-housing and affordable rental housing in the District of Columbia. Ms. Donaldson also serves on the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness and is the in-coming President of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED).

“I am honored to have been appointed by Mayor Gray to this important Task Force that will help create more quality affordable housing for DC residents. THC is committed to helping meet the growing need for affordable housing, especially for families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and working with both the District government and the private sector,” stated Ms. Donaldson.

The Task Force will be comprised of working groups that will explore the following issues: funding; regulatory environment; collaboration among housing developers, service providers, job training programs and educational institutions; roles and functions of DC Housing Agencies; and new tools for housing developments. The Task Force will begin its work in March 2012. It will seek citizen input at public engagement meetings that will be held during the spring. A draft report is due in the summer 2012 and a final report will be issued in the fall 2012.

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THC – Housing Families, Transforming Lives (THC) is a twenty-two year old faith-based non-profit that provides housing and comprehensive supportive services to homeless and at-risk families so that they can make transformational changes in their lives. THC is a lead agency in providing DC homeless services serving low income and at-risk homeless families, offering transitional, permanent supportive, rapid re-housing, and affordable rental housing programs. Comprehensive supportive or resident services are offered as part of all housing programs, tailored to the needs of the families served. THC operates housing facilities with on-site services at 935 Kennedy Street NW, 4506 Georgia Avenue NW, and 342 37th Street SE and at scattered housing sites in Wards 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. In 2011, THC Affordable Housing (THCAH), an affiliate of THC, opened the Fort View and Webster Gardens apartments in Ward 4, with 114 units of mixed income housing, 1/3 of the units for very low income families. Learn more about homelessness and how THC’s programs contribute to permanent housing and effectively move families out of homelessness by improving self-determination, employment and life skills, and mitigating barriers to stable housing at www.thcdc.org.