



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, September 18, 2012

COH Contact: Staci Gorden, (202) 407-7754, sgorden@cohdc.org
THC Contact: Margaret Thaxton, (202) 291-5535, x.403 mthaxton@thcdc.org
DHS Contact: Reggie Sanders, 202.374.9473, reggie.sanders@dc.gov

COMMUNITY OF HOPE AND THC AWARDED MAJOR GRANT TO SERVE HOMELESS FAMILIES IN DC

Funds to help 150 families move out of homelessness this winter

Washington, DC – Community of Hope and THC – Housing Families, Transforming Lives are pleased to announce that they have been awarded a total of \$1 million by the Freddie Mac Foundation to serve 150 homeless families in Washington, DC. These funds will be used to provide supportive services – which otherwise would not be available - for families as they move out of shelter and into permanent housing. Funds will also be used to develop and implement a coordinated assessment process to best identify the appropriate supports needed by families. The D.C. Government, as part of this initiative, has committed to provide the matching rental subsidies. In total, grant funds will provide supportive case management for 100 families receiving short-term subsidies and 50 families receiving long-term subsidies from the D.C. Government.

DC Department of Human Services Director David A. Berns says, “This is a wonderful and important gift for the District and the many residents that we now serve. Last year, we saw an 18% increase in the number of families who presented as homeless and we predict the same or higher numbers for this winter. These much needed funds will fill a critical gap. It is a perfect example of a public-private partnership for the District of Columbia.”

THC’s Executive Director Polly Donaldson says, “Without this grant, many families would not receive the supportive services they need to remain stably housed after leaving homelessness.” Community of Hope’s Executive Director Kelly Sweeney McShane adds, “We are thrilled to be able to partner with the Foundation, the city, and our sister nonprofits in order to be able to expand services for families, especially with predictions of a significant increase in need this winter.”

Freddie Mac Foundation Executive Director Wendell Chambliss says, “The Freddie Mac Foundation is pleased to invest in two highly effective grantees to achieve our goal of creating stable homes and stable families.”

The 2012 Point in Time Count showed an 18% increase in the number of families, with 511 families being in emergency shelter on January 25, 2012. This year’s Winter Plans calls for a 23% to 30% increase in the demand for family shelter.

Founded in 1980, **Community of Hope** works to improve the health and quality of life for low-income, homeless, and underserved families and individuals in the District of Columbia by providing healthcare, housing with supportive services, and educational opportunities. Last year, Community of Hope served 250 families in temporary shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. Community of Hope was recognized by the *Washington Post* for the 2012 Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management.

THC is a 22 year-old, faith-based non-profit that provides housing programs and comprehensive supportive services to homeless and at-risk families so that they can make transformational changes in their lives. THC’s housing programs include transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and affordable rental housing. THC’s services and 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.

The mission of the *Department of Human Services* (DHS) is to coordinate and provide a range of services that collectively create the enabling conditions for economic and socially challenged residents of the District of Columbia to enhance their quality of life and achieve greater degrees of self-sufficiency. The agency's two main service areas are the Economic Security Administration (ESA) and the Family Services Administration (FSA).

-end-