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Celebrating Women at THC

In 1990, DC was a very different city. The crack epidemic was at its peak. After returning from rehab and being reunited with their children for the first time, many mothers found themselves homeless immediately. While there were case management and rehabilitation programs in the city, there were not many transitional housing programs available that would allow families to stay together. That is when volunteers from local Episcopal and Lutheran churches and nonprofits came together to found Transitional Housing Corporation.

While our programs have grown over the past 25 years to better serve homeless and at-risk families in DC, women have remained integral to the work that we do. Women and girls make up the majority of the residents in our programs, our staff is mostly comprised of women, and our volunteers are primarily women.

In celebration of International Women's Day and National Women's History Month, our Transitions Newsletter this month will celebrate Women at THC!

Khandra's Story

Khandra grew up in a turbulent home environment where arguments were constant. The hope of a better life, one where she and her siblings could be safe, was what got her through it. At the young age of 18, Khandra moved out of this hostile environment along with her younger sister Khameron and her daughter Raz'jah. They joined their grandmother in a scattered site apartment with THC's Permanent Supportive Housing program.

From the beginning, Khandra knew that she wanted something different. She didn't just want to survive, she wanted to thrive. She wanted to have a happy family, financial security and to pursue her passion for fashion.

As her Case Manager Deitra Fant said, "Khandra is driven, motivated, and committed to being different from how she was raised... She is working very hard to no longer be reliant on the system because she wants to be fully independent."

Now, 6 years later, Khandra is 24 years old, and her hard work is paying off. She has completely transformed her life and the lives of her children. She is currently working two jobs (one in retail, and the other as a manager of a local restaurant) while also studying at the Fashion Institute of Washington. Beyond her career, Khandra recently purchased a car and became engaged! Now, she and her fiancé are looking forward to buying their own home, ready to start the life she had only dreamed of before.



STATS ON WOMEN AT THC

76% of THC's families are headed by a single mother.

52% of THC's single moms are in their 20s or 30s.

770 women and girls benefit from THC's programs

60% of THC residents are women and girls.

Women volunteered for over 2,000 hours in 2014



Women make up the majority of volunteers with THC. There are currently 41 women and girls serving as youth tutors, adult tutors, board members, interns, Adopt-An-Apartment Coordinators and garden volunteers. In 2014 alone, women served over 2,100 hours in volunteer roles across the organization.

Nora O'Brien, a THC youth tutor, reflected on her experience volunteering at THC's Webster Gardens Apartments:

From day one I've loved watching and interacting with the many female age groups brought together under THC's roof. You have young girls learning how to read and write, teenagers mastering more complicated subjects as well as the challenges of adolescence, and young women working hard to better themselves

professionally. It provides a great snapshot of the different stages we all go through as women. I believe THC provides an awesome environment for everyone - girls, residents and THC staff or volunteers - to get to know each other, to acquire new skills, and then to support one another. It represents the true meaning of the word "community" in the best possible way.

Women make up 70% of staff at THC

As Director of Programs, Danielle Mulack said,

"The reality is that poverty and family homelessness disproportionately affect women. The majority of our families are headed by a single mother. It takes a great deal of strength and resilience to keep your family together and rise above these challenges to achieve stability. I am proud to be a leader within an organization with strong, passionate, dedicated staff who support these women in harnessing their strengths and talents to create better futures for themselves and their children."



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