



HOUSING UP

LIVING IN THE CITY 2021



A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT HOUSING UP



OCTOBER 5, 2021

Presented by Somerset Development Company





LIVING IN THE CITY 2021

PROGRAM

WELCOME

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

LIVING IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS:

The Families of Housing Up

The Diatta Family

Carlita Walker of Fort View Apartments

WHAT DOES HOME MEAN TO YOU?

LIVE AUCTION



* Videos produced by DMB Pictures

* Program and visuals designed by Design Choice Studio



Revitalizing Communities ...Expanding Affordability





Somerset is a socially responsible real estate development company which focuses on expanding affordability and revitalizing communities. Our expertise in multi-family residential development includes historic preservation; new markets, historic, and low income housing tax credits; new construction, major renovations, market rate and affordable residential development, all in transit-oriented locations in underserved communities.



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OUR CHALLENGE



The 2021 DC Point-in-Time count, which took place on January 27, totaled 1,240 people in 405 homeless families, including 746 children. This count is down 49% from 2020, largely due to rigorous efforts to make sure families stayed safely housed during the pandemic. However, as COVID-19 continues, financial stress on families mounts, and the end of the eviction moratorium approaches, the need for safe, affordable housing and homeless services will only grow in the years to come.



The District of Columbia continues to have the highest rate of homelessness in the country at 90 people per every 10,000.

This is nearly double the rate of New York's homeless population, the second highest in the United States.



African American and Black individuals are disproportionately affected by the drivers of homelessness. More than 86% of

adults experiencing homelessness in DC are Black or African American, yet they comprise 46% of the District's population.



In DC, **students whose families are homeless or recipients of certain public assistance lost five months of math and four months of reading in 2020**, both higher than students

considered not at-risk. In Ward 8, the number of students "far below proficient" in reading increased from 44.5% in 2019 to 64% in 2020.



Sources: [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#);
[The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness](#); [DCist](#)

OUR IMPACT

Thanks to our generous supporters and partners, Housing Up remains an integral part of ending family homelessness in the District. With the powerful combination of safe, affordable housing and supportive services, the families we serve are able to transform their lives.

IN 2020:



98% of rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing families maintained stable housing.



We provided regular meals and grocery essentials to more than 200 families.



We provided a total of 372 affordable housing units, with 415 additional units in our development pipeline.



Volunteers spent 1,293 hours with families (virtually), including virtual tutoring, which brought together nearly 70 tutors and students.



**Norris George & Ostrow PLLC is proud to support
Housing Up and the wonderful work it does
to transition those in need into safe and affordable housing.**

NORRIS GEORGE & OSTROW PLLC

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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Columba's Episcopal Church can trace its origins back to the 19th century, when the first services were held in 1874 on the grounds that now are home to St. Columba's parish. The church was officially named St. Columba's in 1904 and in the more than 115 years since, the church has carried out its mission of strengthening the DC community through acts of service and partnership grounded in social justice.

St. Columba's is a long standing supporter of Housing Up, with members of the congregation serving on our board of directors since our inception in 1990. In 2019, St. Columba's launched a comprehensive initiative to end family homelessness and formalized its partnership with Housing Up, resulting in a stronger relationship with families living at two of our affordable housing buildings, Fort View Apartments and Webster Gardens. St. Columba's support has been instrumental in helping families navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. From rental assistance and virtual tutoring to household essentials and utility bills, St. Columba's congregation provided invaluable assistance to hundreds of vulnerable families. We are honored to celebrate St. Columba's as our 2021 Community Leader.





THE FAMILIES OF OUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITIES

CARLITA WALKER

When Carlita Walker lost her companion in 2007, she also lost the breadwinner of their family. Though Carlita had a job at the time, she didn't have enough income to stay housed and eventually, she found herself at Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter in Southeast DC. Living in a shelter made Carlita feel as though she lost her autonomy.

A few years later when Housing Up's Fort View Apartments were about to open, Carlita's case manager said she may be able to move in. In 2011, she signed a lease for her own apartment and in turn regained her sense of safety, peace, and pride. Over the last 10 years, Carlita has become a staple in the Fort View community. She helps organize cookouts, holiday parties, and tenant meetings, and families have come to know her as a supportive person who fosters a safe space for all.

Having stable housing has also allowed Carlita to give back to the broader DC community. She frequently volunteers (including teaching classes) at N Street Village, and she has become a fierce advocate. In 2014, she testified in front of the DC Council and asked the city to commit more money to the city's Local Rent Subsidy Program, the same program that helped her gain permanent, safe and affordable housing.



THE FAMILIES OF OUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITIES

THE DIATTA FAMILY

In 2010, Marie Noelle Diatta, her husband, and their three daughters immigrated to the United States from Senegal in search of a better life. When they arrived in Washington, DC, the family of five was living in one room - until a friend mentioned Fort View Apartments.

After moving into their own space & becoming one of the first participants in Housing Up's programs, the family identified education as one of their main goals for their children. All of the Diatta children diligently participated in Housing Up's tutoring program, which helped their eldest daughter, Isabelle, go through the college application process and eventually graduate with her B.A. in Psychology.

In addition to the family's education goals, the Diatta family's dream was to own their own home. Housing Up connected the family with resources on credit building and housing counseling to walk them through the journey toward home ownership and in 2019, the Diattas' dream came true.

Having safe, stable and affordable housing allowed the Diatta family to focus on their goals, create a support system, and build a solid foundation upon which their daughters can grow.





2021 LIVING IN THE CITY SPONSORS

Our heartfelt gratitude to our 2021 Living in the City sponsors. Their commitment to improving the lives of DC families and to strengthening our community is demonstrated by their generous donations and support. From the Housing Up board, staff and, most importantly, our clients, we thank you!

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HOUSING UP

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HOUSING FAMILIES. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

Housing Up is a nonprofit organization that strengthens District communities by providing homeless and low-income families with stable, affordable housing and the support they need to transform their lives. We currently serve nearly 900 families in our mission to end family homelessness in Washington, DC.