



LIVING IN THE CITY 2022

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6
AT 7 PM

Presented by
Somerset Development Company





LIVING IN THE CITY 2022

PROGRAM

WELCOME

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Hearts of Empowerment

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Felicia Holmes of Weinberg Commons

WHAT DOES COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

LIVE AUCTION

* Videos produced by DMB Pictures

* Photos by Rebecca Drobis Photography

* 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 2022 DC Point-in-Time count, which took place on January 26, totaled **1,007 people** in **347 homeless families**, including **594 children**. This count is down 14% from 2021, largely due to rigorous efforts to make sure families stayed safely housed during the pandemic. However, as financial stress on families mounts and the end of the eviction moratorium continues, 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 93% of adults experiencing homelessness in DC are Black or African American**, yet they comprise 46% of the District's population.



In DC, only 40% of Black and Latino students in the lower elementary grades were reading on grade level in the spring of 2021. That's compared to nearly 81% percent of white students and 82% of Asian students.




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 2021:




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



1800 meals have been provided to our affordable housing families by Support + Feed / PLNT Burger. This has enabled us to provide dinner to 100 families every month.



We provided a total of **426 affordable housing units**, with 369 additional units in our development pipeline.



Volunteers spent 1,013 hours with families, including 423 hours of virtual tutoring, which has brought together over 70 tutors and students since 2020.



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.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

HEARTS OF EMPOWERMENT

Founded in 2018, Hearts of Empowerment (HOEP) is a nonprofit that exists to equip communities with tools and resources not easily or readily available to organizations across the DC metropolitan area. HOEP holds the belief that every community and the organizations that serve them are important and deserve the right to fight for positive change.

HOEP's work with Housing Up centers around The Housing Hearts Program, which strives to provide the families we serve with essential services and assistance, and to help them maintain their independence and dignity. Once per month, HOEP visits the 52 families at our Webster Gardens community to build relationships and have fun.

HOEP believes that by investing in equitable opportunities for all, we can create more inclusive environments where everyone feels like they belong. By valuing diverse voices and perspectives, HOEP can build stronger relationships and better understand the needs of our community. HOEP's vision aligns with Housing Up's in that they are committed to creating communities that are thriving and equitable for all.



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

FELICIA HOLMES

In June 2013, due to changes in Felicia's income, she was unable to continue affording her market rate apartment and after a long eviction process, she became homeless. With no income, no education, and few skills to obtain employment, Felicia sank into a deep depression and was unable to care for herself or her children.

Felicia struggled until she received a call from Housing Up offering her a fully furnished apartment at Weinberg Commons on October 3, 2015. This call allowed her to find new motivation and take control of her life. She enrolled in hospitality classes and completed her GED in February 2018. Felicia took it upon herself to learn how to write a resume and cover letter, gain job searching techniques and learn job interviewing skills.

Though the road to success has not been easy for Felicia, safe, stable and affordable housing has provided her a foundation upon which to grow. In the past few years, Felicia started a candy store out of her apartment at Weinberg to give back to her community. Each month, she takes the proceeds from her sales and gives them to another family in need. Although she has accomplished so much, Felicia says there is still much more she wants to do and thanks Housing Up for being her "dream team".



2022 LIVING IN THE CITY SPONSORS

Our heartfelt gratitude to our 2022 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 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 more than 900 families in our mission to end family homelessness in Washington, DC.

