A Celebration and Fundraising Reception

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
WASHINGTON, DC
For more information visit our website at www.dccfh.org

Message from Executive Director
Michael L. Ferrell

Welcome to the Coalition Connection Spring newsletter. It's 2016, another year for new beginnings. I take inspiration from the people that use our services. People like Marcus, whose determination to overcome the issues that gave rise to his homelessness and who wanted desperately to improve his own life. There are also snapshot stories from Marvin, Steven, Shade and Deplotide in this newsletter. They are stories of how they have used their strengths and resilience, and found their own way to address the barriers and issues they came up against in finding and securing permanent housing.

I am humbled by the way many of the people we help not only cope but in many cases solve the issues that are preventing them from having the safe secure and affordable housing they deserve.

I want to thank the staff for their commitment to making a difference and the skills they bring to the challenging work they do. Thank you to the many volunteers, foundations, corporations, businesses and individual donors who have supported the Coalition in one way or another. We are very grateful to our board of directors for their time and talent. Welcome again to our two newest board members Mike Wilson, Director of Hotel Operations Washington Marriott Georgetown and Dyonicia "Dy" Brown, Executive Director, Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

In memoriam:
Ms. Brigid Quinn, former Board Vice Chair who passed on March 1, 2016.

Message from Executive Director
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HOUSING VACANCIES — PASS THE WORD!

Are you a homeless male 18 years or older, who needs transitional housing and supportive services (i.e., counseling, case management, job readiness & life skills training, employment and housing placement assistance) to get back on your feet? You may qualify for immediate placement at one of Coalition for the Homeless’ transitional housing programs listed below. You must be a District of Columbia resident and willing to participate in structured programs.

Call today for additional information and eligibility requirements!

Blair Transitional Rehabilitation Program
635 I Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-727-2832/33

Emery Work Bed Program
1725 Lincoln Road, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-635-1041

La Casa Transitional Rehabilitation Program
1131 Spring Road, NW
Washington, DC 20010
202-882-1237

About the Coalition for the Homeless

Our mission is to help transition homeless at risk individuals and families to self-sufficiency through housing programs and supportive services. We fulfill our mission by operating and managing 11 programs including the Virginia Williams Resource Center (VWFRIC), the central intake office for all families in the District of Columbia.

Our apologies The Coalition thanks Ms. Teanna Sullivan for her donation and supporting the United Way Workplace Campaign. We apologize for not recognizing her in the 2015 Annual Report.
Congratulations to our clients who secured permanent housing and are on a path to independence and self-sufficiency.

**SWORN IN BY MAYOR BOWSER, INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH)**

Congratulations to Coalition Executive Director, Michael L. Ferrell, (5th from the left) on his reappointment to the Mayor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). The ICH is a group of cabinet-level leaders, providers of homeless services, advocates, homeless and formerly homeless leaders that come together to inform and guide the District’s strategies and policies for meeting the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless in the District of Columbia. Mr. Ferrell has served on the ICH since 2006.

The swearing-in ceremony was held on March 17, 2016 at the Old Council Chambers at 441 4th Street, NW. More than 180 other citizens were sworn in by Mayor Muriel Bowser at the swearing-in ceremony. Mayor Bowser thanked everyone for volunteering their time, talent and service to citizens of the District of Columbia.

**WEBSTER HOUSE / Marcus Carter**

Marcus found himself homeless after many unresolved family issues. He entered Webster House on August 12, 2014. He was not on drugs, nor did he have any prior substance abuse problems. Like so many homeless people, he was working but needed a roof over his head and supportive services. Marcus wanted desperately to improve his life and wanted to learn how to manage and save his money. Marcus has plenty to smile about these days: he moved to permanent housing on February 17, 2015. He was approved for a new car, works full-time for the Department of Homeland Security, and has a second job at Capital One Bank as a Security Officer. Marcus joined the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve and will start basic training during the summer of 2016.

**VALLEY PLACE FAMILY APARTMENTS / Shade Benton**

Shade Benton and her family stayed at Valley Place Family Apartments for two years. Ms. Benton remained employed during her entire stay and paid off her debt to her previous landlord. She and her family moved to permanent housing in May 2015.

**BLAIR HOUSE TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM / Steven Martin**

Steven Martin was at Blair Transitional housing program for 16 months. With the support and guidance of case management and a stable secure place to stay, he was able to start making changes in his life. He moved to permanent housing November 7, 2015.

**EMERY WORK BED PROGRAM / Deplotide Guenaman**

In 2010 Deplotide Guenaman relocated to the U.S. from the Ivory Coast to live with a family member. The family member later decided to return to Africa. Mr. Guenaman packed his bags and headed to Washington, D.C. to stay with a friend. Unfortunately, staying with his friend did not work out and he had to move again. This time, he moved into the Emery Work Bed Program, a transitional housing program for men. He got a second full-time job and worked very hard to save money. On November 24, 2015, he moved into permanent housing.

**7th ANNUAL JOB FAIR**

Giving People Hope

The Coalition for the Homeless is giving people hope by helping people find a job. Under the leadership of Linda Fields, Director of Employment and Training, the Coalition’s 7th Annual Jobs, Training Opportunities and Educational Fair had a record number of local employers and hundreds of job seekers who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless looking for career and job training opportunities. Over 50 employers packed the gym at THEARC Boys and Girls Club in Washington, DC on September 24, 2015. The job fair is an integral part of the Coalition’s mission to help people living in the District of Columbia break the cycle of homelessness.

On November 6, 2015, over 200 people joined us for the Coalition for the Homeless’ 3rd Annual Stepping out for the Homeless® Dance. A fundraising event to help raise funds to support our transitional housing programs. This was a great event! E.U. (Experience Unlimited) featuring Go-Go artist Sugar Bear, an icon in DC, did a great job of keeping everyone on the dance floor. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of an award to Jake Moyer, the youngest supporter of Coalition for the Homeless. There is no one size fits all when helping people to stabilize their life and get back on their feet. Almost $50,000 was raised and will be used to help homeless households with rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, and other expenses to help them move into permanent housing.

SEE BACK PAGE for this year’s Save the Date!