Welcome to our 2018 spring issue of the Coalition Connection. Our staff and board of directors are sincerely grateful to have the opportunity to be of service to those in need in our community. Thank you for supporting us, for supporting our clients, and for being a vital part of the process of creating the opportunity for people to continue on their journey to make a better life.

The Coalition has the opportunity to impact individual lives, improve the local community, and help create social change. The talented staff we work with every day are passionate about their work. See the story about our Case Managers on page 3. Our board of directors have great insight and a deep commitment to making impactful decisions about the vulnerable homeless men, women and children we serve. I am inspired every day by the kindness of the volunteers and donors who give of themselves so that the lives of others may be improved.

Our 2017 Annual Report is available on the Coalition’s website. Please take a moment to learn more about our impact and accomplishments.

Have a safe summer and look for more information about our upcoming Masquerade Party in October to help the homeless.

Take Care.

Message from Michael L. Ferrell
Executive Director

THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS GEARS UP FOR BIG MASQUERADE PARTY TO HELP THE HOMELESS!

This fundraising event will raise funds to benefit individuals and families currently in our transitional housing programs and need supportive services. You will be able to register at www.dccfh.org starting April 23, 2018. This event is expected to sell out early! You don’t want to miss it! New this year, you will be able to pick your own seat. Register early, premium seating will go fast.

It is all about the mask! Get creative! An exciting Masquerade Party at a beautiful venue with the added elegance of an all-black dress theme. You’ll experience a dazzling fusion of colors, dinner and dessert buffets, complimentary signature drink, open cash bar, and photo booth to capture this special evening.

Looking forward to seeing you at Stepping Out for the Homeless on Friday, October 26th.
SUCCESS – OUR IMPACT!

Cheryl Britt, a client from a family shelter in the Washington, D.C., saw a flyer advertising the Coalition for the Homeless’ Ninth Annual Job Fair. She made a point to attend the job fair on September 27, 2017 because she was unemployed. Ms. Britt, a mother of two, went from vendor to vendor during the job fair but could not find anything similar in the field of culinary arts. When she was about to give up, Aramark, one of the vendors at the job fair referred her to a headhunter. The organization requested she submit her resume and an application for employment. Two weeks went by before she received a call to come in for an interview. Ms. Britt was hired part-time at the American University in the Cafeteria. Ms. Britt feels that she is on the right track in fulfilling her goal of becoming self-sufficient. She is glad that she attended the job fair and believes that through this event she got a hand up instead of a hand out. Ms. Britt recently informed the Coalition that she moved into permanent housing in January 2018.

Gregory Duvall became homeless as a result of substance abuse. On November 10, 2016, he entered the Coalition’s Park Road Transitional Housing Program. Mr. Duvall received support and encouragement. He has learned to accept help and take advice. He is employed as a waiter/team leader, saving money, and continues to be focused on his recovery. November 2017, he moved to permanent housing.

Michael Peoples was accepted into Emery Work Bed Program in January 2017 because he was unable to find permanent affordable housing. Mr. Peoples was already employed as a maintenance man prior to entering our program. He started working a second job at Express News Papers and saved enough money to secure an apartment. November 3, 2017, he moved to permanent housing through So Others Might Eat (SOME), an interfaith community-based organization that offers affordable housing.

THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS JOB FAIR TARGETS HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS, LOW-INCOME, AND VETERANS!

The Coalition for the Homeless hosted its 9th annual job fair on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at the ARC Boys and Girls Club in Washington, D.C. We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone for coming out to the Job Fair and making it such a successful event! Some of the vendors who participated were the Department of Employment Services, Giant and MGM National Harbor.

The Job Fair has been renamed the Linda Fields Job Training and Educational Opportunity Fair in honor of Linda’s commitment and leadership over the last 9 years. Linda Fields passed away on July 19, 2017.

The job fair is intended to serve homeless individuals, low-income households and veterans, but is open to all persons seeking employment and other resources. The Coalition works with great organizations that help people find resources and employers who want to help people get back to work! Having a job changes lives. The Job Fair is an integral part of the Coalition’s mission to help people living in the District of Columbia become self-sufficient and independent.

10th Annual Job Fair
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
AT THEARC Boys and Girls Club
1901 Mississippi Avenue, S.E.
More information coming soon to our website.
SPOTLIGHT - CASE MANAGERS AT THE COALITION WEAR MANY HATS!

What Does A Case Manger Do? They wear many hats! Case Managers at the Coalition for the Homeless are required to have a B.A. Degree in Human Services or Social Work. Case Managers are an integral member of the interdisciplinary team, made up of Case Managers, Social Workers, Substance Abuse Counselors, Employment Specialists, and Housing Specialists.

The primary function of case managers is to advocate for clients/support systems. Case managers understand the importance of achieving quality outcomes for their clients and commit to the appropriate use of resources and empowerment of clients in a manner that is supportive and objective. Besides the cases they manage they are often acting as the point person for several different service providers, organizations, and agencies.

During the intake process when individuals and families enter the Coalition's program, goals are established and care plans put in place. Case Managers meet with clients at least once a week to discuss their progress towards their goals and try to alleviate any obstacles standing in the client's way.

The goal of case management is to empower people, to help them draw on their own strengths and capabilities and promote an improved quality of life. The end goal is to help clients become self-sufficient and transition to permanent affordable housing.

Individuals and families are supported from the moment they enter the Coalition for the Homeless, right through to the solution stage, and then a 6-month follow-up after they have moved to permanent housing. The Coalition wants to make sure they continue on their path to self-sufficiency and independence.

We take our hats off to all of the Coalition's dedicated and hard-working Case Managers.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS TAKE A TOUR OF THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS AT THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

(L to R) New Board members Andrew Grimaldi, Cecilia Calvo, Nancy Gephart, Megan McConville, Delese Harvey and Tiffany Hughes, Program Director at 50th Street Family Program.

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, accompanied by Michael L. Ferrell, Executive Director and James Freeny Director of Operations, our new board members visited some of the Coalition's transitional housing programs at 50th Street Family Program, Mickey Leland, LaCasa, Park Road, and the Emery Work Bed Program. Board tours help new board members gain a greater understanding of how the various programs operate. They can ask questions and get to meet clients and staff. The Coalition is pleased to welcome our new board members. Their skills and experience will be an asset and we look forward to their contributions and new ideas. To learn more about the Coalition's board of directors, please visit our website.
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.

HELPING OUR CHILDREN – THERE IS POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), in partnership with the Coalition for the Homeless (CFH), was awarded a $27,000 grant from the Junior League of Washington (JLW) to improve the literacy levels for the youth served at the Coalition’s 50th Street Family Program. The literacy program will serve 50 children annually under the JLW three-year grant. For nearly 50 years, RIF has been working with teachers, educators, and parents to improve children’s literacy and subsequently overall educational outcomes.

RIF will include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) themed activities as a part of the project to help to directly tie literacy development to college and career readiness. Each child will be given the opportunity to choose and own 10 books to build their own home libraries.