Message from Executive Director
Michael L. Ferrell
Welcome to the Coalition Connection fall newsletter! Happy Holidays to you and your family. We have several exciting things to share with you regarding the Coalition’s activities. The most powerful service we provide is following our mission to transition homeless and at-risk individuals and families to self-sufficiency through housing programs and supportive services.

The Coalition is GRATEFUL! This year we have seen many individuals and families with children transition from shelter to affordable housing. The Emergency Housing Assistance Program is a life-saver. With funding from the Connors Foundation, Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program, Freddie Mac Foundation, and recently a grant from the T.J. Maxx Foundation we are able to help families with children who were at risk of becoming homeless remain in their home or transition from shelter to permanent housing more rapidly. It feels good to make individuals’ lives whole again.

At the Coalition we often bring you stories of those that have been helped so that you can see how we are making an impact and helping to change lives. We gather the facts, maybe take a photograph, and do our best to relate to you the hope that is inspired in the hearts of people through your generosity. In this issue, we have a few success stories to share with you about courage, hope, and determination.

The Coalition is grateful for the many people who have supported our efforts through the years. Your donations and commitment make a difference. Thank you to the many people who have given their time, talent, and spirit. Please look for our annual report in the mail next year to see more detailed information on the Coalition’s activities and supporters.

Help Save a Life – Know about the Hypothermia Alert!
Hypothermia (hi-po-THUR-me-uh)
HOTLINE 1-800-535-7252
Between November 1 and March 31, when the temperature or Wind Chill is 32 or below, the District of Columbia issues a Hypothermia Alert. On a Hypothermia Alert Day, the District is obligated by law to make shelter available. On those days, your call to the Hypothermia Hotline should result in the dispatch of a van to take the person from the street to an emergency shelter (or to a hospital if needed).

New Director of Finance and Administration Approved
On November 13, 2013, during a Coalition Board of Directors meeting it was announced that Mr. John M. Nwaogbe was promoted to Director of Finance and Administration. John brings a wealth of knowledge of finance and budgetary expertise to the organization. He has been with the organization for over 20 years as the Director of Accounting. In his new position, he will oversee the management of the Coalition’s financial operations. Congratulations John! We wish you well in your new position.

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Stepping Out for the Homeless Dance
Coalition Chairman of the Board Geoff P. Lewis and Executive Director Michael L. Ferrell busting a move!

The First Annual Stepping Out for the Homeless Dance held on Friday, October 25, 2013, in support of the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program was a great success. To get everyone moving and grooving, the dance opened with the Merengue with instruction from Mrs. Guadalupe Rother. She’s the lady in the yellow pants in the picture above.

The Coalition’s Chairperson Geoff Lewis said: This year’s dance was absolutely fantastic and there was a great atmosphere. One of the best parts of the dance is that it was a great way to get in touch with the community. Young professionals came out to party! The DJ played music for all ages.

The purpose of the event was to help raise Emergency Housing Assistance funds to support families with children in the District of Columbia who are a risk of becoming homeless or to help them transition from shelter to permanent housing more rapidly.

We have much to celebrate, meeting our goal of registering 250 people. The event was sold out! Thank you Citi Flowers for the floral arrangements and all our sponsors, volunteers, individual donors, staff, and board members, for helping make this event something special.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! -the 2nd Stepping out for the Homeless Dance will be held on Friday, November 7, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. Francis Hall in Washington, D.C. You don’t want to miss a good time!

Staff and Volunteers Recognized at Annual Meeting

The Coalition for the Homeless held its Annual Volunteer and Staff Reception at St. Francis Hall in Washington D.C. on October 8, 2013. The new Chairman of the Coalition’s board of directors Geoffrey P. Lewis was announced. DeAngelo Wingfield, Homeless Service Specialist at Virginia Williams Family Resource Center was named employee of the year and other staff were recognized for 20, 15, 10, and 5 years of service. Volunteers were given a token of appreciation for the many hours spent volunteering for the agency. This year’s volunteer awards were presented to Kitchen Match, IBM of Metropolitan Washington area, and the Democratic Governors Association. Additional information will be available in our upcoming annual report.
5TH Annual Job Fair

As part of the Coalition’s employment placement assistance program, on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, the Coalition for the Homeless sponsored its fifth annual Jobs, Training and Educational Opportunity Fair at the THEARC Boys and Girls Club; an 110,000 square foot state-of-art campus located in Washington, D.C. THEARC is a home away from home for the many underserved children and adults, enabling them to participate in services at a substantially reduced cost or no cost at all.

The job fair connected homeless individuals, low-income, and veterans served by the Coalition, and other service providers to various employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

Twenty-one employers and 264 job applicants attended the fair, with job opportunities available from Miller and Long Construction, Prince Security, US Postal Service, Big Bus Tours, Metro Staffing, Shoe City, United Planning Organization. This was the best job fair ever! Several participants are now employed and on their way to self-sufficiency!

Free Event...Calling all Employers!
If you are an employer looking to hire or provide training, you are invited to attend next year’s job fair! The Coalition for the Homeless is looking for employers to participate in its Jobs, Training and Educational Fair in September 2014. Please send Linda Fields an email, lfields@dccfh.org with 2014 job fair in the subject line or call her at 202-347-8870 ext., 304.

Around the Program Sites

Client Success Stories

Spring Road Family Apartments
Mr. Mateen Thorton, a single father and his sixteen year old son live at the Spring Road Family Apartments. Although Mr. Thorton has had many opportunities to obtain employment and in some instances actually became employed, he was not able to remain employed due to being homeless and not having support. During the Coalition’s Fifth Annual Job Fair, Mr. Thornton achieved one of his goals of becoming a driver when United Planning Organization (UPO) offered him a job. With a new job he could begin participating in the Coalition’s client savings plan. Mr. Thorton’s next goal is getting an apartment for him and his son.

Ms. Angel Robinson is a 23 year old single parent of a young child who was placed in the Coalition’s Spring Road Family Apartments. She is enrolled at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) working on obtaining her high school diploma. Mr. Jerome Miller, the Coalition’s Employment Coordinator, helped Angel find her first job. After interviewing with a Manager at Denny’s restaurant Ms. Robinson was hired in March 2013 based on her pleasant attitude.

Emery Work Bed Program

When Mr. Mirza Beg entered the Emery Work Bed Program he was unemployed and had no source of income. His commitment to moving ahead in his life was evident. Mr. Beg entered the shelter and found part-time employment at a Sbarro’s Pizzeria within a month. In addition, he was accepted into the Medical Assistant Training Program on August 20, 2013. Mr. Beg has been enrolled in training for the past 4 months and is an “A” student and his attendance is excellent. The staff at the Emery Work Bed Program is looking forward to attending his graduation.
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 12 programs including the Virginia Williams Resource Center (VWFRC), the central intake office for all families in the District of Columbia.

giving opportunities

- Donate through annual giving
- Individual donors or corporations can sponsor or underwrite programs and services offered by the Coalition for the Homeless
- Donate through the United Way of the National Capital Area
- Donate through Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
- Make donation through Network for Good
- Donate through your organization’s workplace giving program