



Hello, Community:

I hope everyone had a great summer and spent time with family and friends. I just wanted to say hello and update you on some community news. Once again, this year has been anything but ordinary, and continuing changes to our work and home lives are an ongoing conversation. Everyone at the Coalition is grateful considering the Coalition's ongoing support since the beginning of COVID-19. Thank you for your donations, messages of encouragement, and loyalty to the Coalition's mission. Through your monetary support, donated items, and volunteering, you have enabled the Coalition to guide men in D.C. out of homelessness.

Sheila M. Baker, Development Director

New Shelter Opens for LGBTQ+ Adults Experiencing Homelessness



On Thursday, July 13, 2022, Mayor Bowser was joined by community members to cut the ribbon on the District's first LGBTQ+ shelter for adults who are experiencing homelessness and identify as LGBTQ+. The shelter is located at 400 50th Street, Southeast. Coalition staff Michael L. Ferrell, Executive Director, James Freeny, Director of Operations and Sheila Baker, Development Director were there in support of the event.

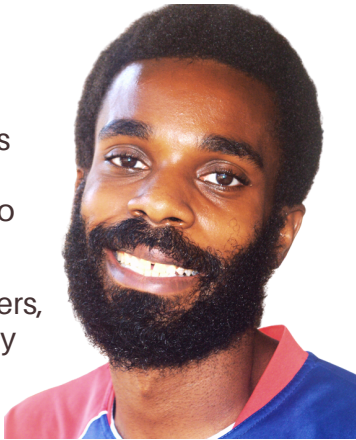
Coalition Program Updates

- We now have two Work Bed Programs at Mickey Leland House and Frederic Davison House that are designed for currently employed men.
- Blair House is an emergency shelter and serves men from 7 pm to 7 am. Services include food, case management, showers, and beds.
- The men who migrated from Texas to DC have been welcomed at Blair and benefiting from all services offered. Thank you to people who have been donating items. We appreciate your support!

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The "Working Homeless" Demographic



Mr. Robert Avery's struggles with homelessness began in 2017 when he, his mother, and his brother lived in Washington, D.C. The neighborhood they lived in underwent significant renovations, followed by rental increases his family could not afford. His family was forced to leave their home and go their separate ways. It was heartbreaking; their family split apart.

When Mr. Avery first became homeless, he slept on park benches, stayed at homeless shelters, and rented rooms—all temporary solutions. It was an almost-impossible situation to try to stay safe, let alone thrive.

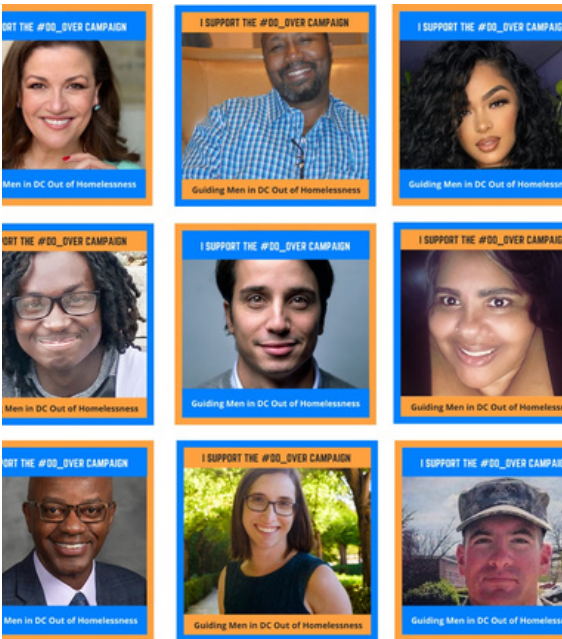
Mr. Avery became a part of the "working homeless" demographic. During this time of uncertainty, Mr. Avery was a night shift manager at a CVS Drugstore. Despite his lack of housing, he remained a good worker. He kept up appearances and did not let anyone know he was experiencing homelessness. Behind the scenes, Mr. Avery was struggling. He could not get enough sleep due to not having protection from the outside elements he slept in every night. His job performance declined because it was challenging to work and keep up his energy.

Throughout Mr. Avery's journey, he took other jobs and lived in different places to manage his homelessness. His mother, Carolyn, provided Mr. Avery with a list of shelters in DC. He interviewed at Webster House and was accepted into the program on March 9, 2020. Sadly, the relief Mr. Avery felt being off the streets was overshadowed in the summer of 2020 when he received the devastating news that his mother had unexpectedly passed away. The staff at Webster House was very supportive, understanding, and encouraging.

Nearly two years later, on September 1, 2022, Mr. Avery moved into his own apartment. He is now self-employed as a freelance food delivery worker for DoorDash. On his days off, he perfects his work to produce digital artwork that people can purchase online.

Mr. Avery thanks the Coalition staff for their support. He says that the program helped him by being understanding of the struggles a black man goes through and not having a support system of people to fall back on in times of trouble.

He adds people need supportive services to help find steady work and permanent housing. During homelessness, there are so many negative thoughts that fight against your will to think positively. He advises men facing homelessness to keep fighting while only thinking of success, to create their own opportunities and that every decision you make must move you closer to self-sufficiency.



#DO_OVER CAMPAIGN

What would you do over if you could?

Did you know the majority of people that experience homelessness are men?

The Coalition is guiding men out of homelessness by helping them get a Do-over. How can you help? [CLICK THIS LINK](#) to visit the campaign page and add your photo to a digital frame. Next, you can share your photo with your friends and family on social media. We are hoping to get 5,000 people to support our campaign. Send the link to family and friends so they can add their photos to support the campaign.