



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

nstreetvillage.org | Spring 2023

## Grateful Beyond Words!



With the incredible support of sponsors and donors, N Street Village raised \$2.5 million at the 50th Anniversary Gala & Auction on March 2! Just as we were announcing that we had reached our goal, an anonymous donor came forward and gave \$500,000. We are grateful beyond words.

Guided by our extraordinary Board of Directors, the evening was filled with joy as we celebrated 50 years of service. We surprised co-founders Gary and Margaret Maring with a plaque commemorating their significant contributions since the founding of N Street Village. We honored the dedicated service of Hillary and Tom Baltimore with the Founder's Award. And we presented Steinbruck awards to three amazing women—Patricia Philip, Wessena

Russell, and Monica Coe—who overcame enormous challenges with the help of the Village. We were thrilled to have the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago Anthony W. J. Phillips-Spencer and his wife Joanne attend in support of Patricia Philip, who is originally from Trinidad and Tobago.

President and CEO Kenyatta T. Brunson shared her vision to expand N Street Village's services to meet the needs of women aging in place, to develop a new housing program for seniors with chronic medical conditions, and to build a literacy program for women. Read an excerpt of her remarks on p. 2.

The significant investment so many of you made in support of the Gala will ensure these new initiatives become a reality. Thank you!



Event photographers: David Claypool, Nikki Herrera, and Tony Powell. Visit <http://bit.ly/3J1jW10> for more photos.

***“You don’t just walk into greatness—there is a process to reach greatness.”***

*Pastor Dr. Rev. Derrick N. Brown*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Over these 50 years, N Street Village has had to adjust our process to address service delivery models when the needs of women changed. To reach greatness, we had to be flexible, to be risk takers in thinking about funding opportunities, to be willing to push the envelope a little more in advocacy, to have difficult conversations, and to be a leader in this fight to end homelessness.

I have a clear vision of what it looks like for N Street Village to continue to build upon our strong foundation and legacy based on the work of leaders who came before me, and I know we can reach new heights of greatness one step at a time.

Forty-nine percent of the women who enter our programs have chronic health problems. After three, five, and 10 years of being homeless, their high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease go unmonitored and untreated. By the time they enter stable housing, many women’s chronological age differs from their biological age—50 feels like 70.

Many women have Certified Nursing Assistants to help with activities of daily living while others need a higher level of care and can no longer reside in their home. Studies have shown that women who enter assisted living facilities or group home settings are dead within three to six months because they typically do not have the level of support and advocacy that loved ones provide.

Though we are all aging, older Americans are one of the fastest growing demographics in the country. By 2034, the U.S. Census Bureau projects there will be 77 million individuals 65 and older compared to 76.5 million under 18.

Knowing this means N Street Village has an opportunity to plan for and create comprehensive dignified senior housing for women. We can develop



a housing program for women 60 and older, who have a qualified chronic medical condition, and want to live in shared housing with supportive services such as personal care, medication management, healthcare, nutrition and meal support, safety and security, and intensive wrap-around somatic services and activities, such as gentle yoga, physical therapy, and intentional social interactions.

Women have the right to age peacefully in their own homes.

Two summers ago, I was rendered speechless when a resident said, “You and the staff want me to get a job to make money, but I cannot get a job if I cannot read.”

Nationwide, on average 79% of adults are literate with 21% of adults being illiterate and 54% of adults have literacy below the 6th grade level.

One of the key performance indicators that social service providers are graded on by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is how quickly women in our programs are increasing their income to exit homelessness. Finding employment or getting an increase in their entitlements are two ways this typically happens.

We have a vocational center at N Street Village where women work with staff on obtaining Social Security benefits, beginning a job search, or writing a resume. We have assisted many women in getting benefits or finding a job, but I believe we can do more to ensure women are indeed self-sufficient and feel empowered.

*Women have the right to age peacefully in their own homes.*

I envision N Street Village building an educational program for women where they can improve their reading, writing, and math

skills. This would allow those who need it, to obtain a GED and enter the job market with an education. By creating a new avenue for women to learn and grow, we as a provider can confidently say we are building bridges for women to exit homelessness, to thrive and be successful.

I have outlined three goals for NSV to reach new levels of greatness:

1. Addressing the needs of women aging in place.
2. Developing a new housing program for seniors with chronic medical conditions.
3. Building a literacy program for women.

*Continued on page 4*



# We Can't Do This Work Without You

**We are grateful to our volunteers and corporate partners for their commitment to supporting the Village community.**

In January, the **Hamilton Hotel** presented us with \$13,500, raised through their Impact Fee, which is collected from guests to support local nonprofits like ours. The hotel has spent time learning about our work and contributed to our holiday



gift

We were honored to host a group of **Washington Ireland Program** students on St. Patrick's Day. The program develops promising leaders through personal development, policy debate, and community service.

During their visit, students chatted with CEO Kenyatta T. Brunson and learned how the Village works to end homelessness for women in D.C.



Members of **Studio Theatre** staff made two visits to N Street Village in March to help clean and organize our clothing closets for residents and clients at our Day Center. Group volunteers are an integral part of the work we do!



Members of **Global Giving's United Program Team** came to the Village's Flagship location in January to sort clothing, while a second group remained at their offices and assembled toiletry kits for our emergency shelter programs.

The **N Street Village Board of Directors** hosted a "Toast to the New Year" in January to celebrate the nonprofit's 50 years of service to women experiencing homelessness. **Wiley Rein** provided a lovely space for the event for the many who attended in support of N Street Village.

**Zeta Phi Beta** and the **Ambassador's Council** each hosted a Bingo Night in February for residents at Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. Both groups created memorable nights that included tasty food and drinks.

**GEICO** honored the women of N Street Village in March by assembling feminine hygiene kits and providing a \$9,000 grant to ensure our residents receive the support they need. We greatly appreciate this partnership!



Residents at Phyllis Wheatley YWCA showed off their vocal skills, thanks to **Faria Management**, which hosted an afternoon of karaoke and pizza. We had some serious singers sharing their talent and enjoying time together!

## Mark Your Calendar!

- **Family & Friends Garden Day**, May 6
- **Mother's Day**, May 14
- **SHERO Community Walk**, October 21

In honor of Mother's Day, N Street Village is highlighting five "Mothers of the Village"—women who, over the organization's five decades, were instrumental in establishing the Village as the largest agency providing housing and services for women experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. Our deep gratitude goes to: **Erna Steinbruck, Joan Dodek, Carol Marsh, Sharon Hart, and Evelyn Green.**

Read about these extraordinary women on our website and social media platforms leading up to Mother's Day on May 14.



a community of empowerment  
and recovery for women

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**United Way #8281 | CFC #90946**

**N** Street Village is a community of empowerment and recovery for women experiencing homelessness, housing instability, or low income in Washington, D.C. With comprehensive services addressing both emergency and long-term needs, N Street Village partners with women to achieve stability and make meaningful gains in their housing, income, employment, mental health, physical health, and addiction recovery.

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## Excerpt of Kenyatta T. Brunson's remarks at the 50th Anniversary Gala & Auction

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These goals allow us to continue to focus on the very precise and specific needs of women.

To reach new levels of greatness, we must develop new strategies and initiatives that ensure homelessness for women is rare, brief, and non-recurring. We must embrace change and take collective action: to give, engage, and collaborate.

- Give of your time, talents, skills, and funds to ensure we are continuously improving our ability to meet the changing needs of women.
- Engage by reaching out to board members, staff, or volunteers to see how you can make a difference for the Village.
- Collaborate with us as we continue to provide a safe, respectful, and dignified community, where "radical hospitality" is at the root of everything we do.

As we fulfill our legacy of healing and create a future of dignity, we thank you for continuing to stand with us on the promises of hope, diversity, and genuine

joy, because those are the elements that help bring a divided nation into a unified one.

In gratitude and in service,

**Kenyatta T. Brunson**  
President and CEO, N Street Village

### Your Ongoing Support Gives Women a Safe Place to Call Home

Help be one of the many building blocks of N Street Village! When you become a Community Builder you provide long-term stability for the Village and help us sustain our programs and services. Visit [www.nstreetvillage.org/community-builder](http://www.nstreetvillage.org/community-builder) to make your monthly commitment and receive updates on your impact!