

THE VILLAGE VIEW

nstreetvillage.org | Spring 2024

25th Annual Gala Raises \$2M



with geriatric-focused care, to address the mental health vulnerabilities of unhoused women, and to focus on literacy initiatives.

“First, we believe in the power of amplifying the voices of those affected – the women we serve – to drive the creation of solutions,” she said. “Secondly, we recognize that our impact is strengthened by the collective investment and accountability of all stakeholders.” [See page 2 for Portia’s full remarks.]

The significant investment so many of you made in support of the Gala will ensure these important initiatives help women transform their lives.

The night’s raffle for four nights for two at The Ritz-Carlton in Turks & Caicos went to Sang Lee (pictured). Our online giveaway winners were Jacqui Michel, who won dinner for six at Compass Rose, and Bina Surgeon, who won dinner with *Washington Post* Food Critic Tom Sietsema.

We appreciate everyone who entered the raffle and giveaway drawings. Every dollar raised goes to support women seeking help from our various programs.

A special thank you to: our many Gala sponsors; The Ritz-Carlton in Turks & Caicos, Compass Rose, and Tom Sietsema for donating prizes; and photographer Tony Powell and his team for capturing the occasion— to see photos, visit our website: nstreetvillage.org/updates/gala-2024.



With the support of our incredible sponsors and donors, N Street Village raised more than \$2 million at this year’s 25th Annual Gala. Thank you!



Long-time Board Chair Peter Shields and his husband Ace Werner received the Founder’s Award for their commitment to the Village. And we presented Steinbruck Awards to three phenomenal women:

Faith Strong, a resident of the Step-Up Rapid Rehousing program, India Frazier and Symphony Terrell, both permanent supportive housing residents at our Flagship location.

Interim President and CEO Portia Robertson Migas shared the organization’s plans to find ways to integrate N Street Village’s affordable housing



Gala Remarks from Interim CEO Portia Robertson Migas



Patricia's story is just one of many that illustrate the profound impact of the Village.

Over the past 50-plus years, N Street Village has evolved to meet the changing needs of women experiencing homelessness in our community. Our strategic goals remain consistent, driven by a commitment to providing shelter, housing, and supportive services that empower women to rebuild their lives with dignity and respect. As we adjust our strategies and services to address emerging challenges, we remain guided by a few key principles:

From many different capacities over the last 30 years, I have witnessed, firsthand, the profound difference our collective efforts make in the lives of the women we serve, and the difference we make in our community.

I want to share the story of how one N Street Village resident, Patricia, touched my life. I first met Pat at the N Street Village Overnight Shelter, and she subsequently moved to one of the Village's eight locations—Miriam's House. Miriam's House provides supportive housing for women living with HIV. But, when Pat moved there in the mid-90s, most of the women at Miriam's House were there to wind down their lives in a place where they could receive loving care. Essentially, they went there to die.

But I want to talk about how Pat lived. She loved to sing, and she had an irrepressible smile. She was kind, thoughtful and caring. And in 1996, when I was pregnant with my first child, Pat presented me with a gift. She'd made a little quilt for the baby I was expecting. That baby turned 28 years old a few days ago, and I am still trying to wrap my head around how Pat – a person with so few material resources – could be so generous. Despite her circumstances, she radiated joy and kindness.

First, we believe in the power of amplifying the voices of those affected – the women we serve – to drive the creation of solutions. Secondly, we recognize that our impact is strengthened by the collective investment and accountability of all stakeholders.

One of the critical areas we're focusing on is the intersection of aging and homelessness. Studies suggest that current models of Permanent Supportive Housing are insufficient in addressing the unique needs of aging homeless populations. That's why we're investigating ways to integrate N Street Village's affordable housing with geriatric-focused care. Through partnerships and collaborations, we aim to develop best practices that can be scaled and replicated.

Additionally, we're taking strides to address the mental health vulnerabilities of unhoused women, recognizing that mental health is often the root cause of homelessness. We want to provide intensive behavioral health support to ensure our clients are better able to obtain and maintain safe and stable housing.

But our work doesn't stop there.

Your Support Serves Women in Many Ways

We are deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, and corporate partners for your commitment to the Village community. You ensure women in the District receive vital resources and services in a safe community environment.



JANUARY

N Street Village's Board of Directors hosted a Toast to the New Year at the offices of **Wiley Rein**. The Board welcomed new members and discussed priorities for the year ahead. Many thanks to board members, staff, and volunteers who made the evening possible.

Student volunteers from **William and Mary** helped fold clothes and organize our Clothing Closet.

FEBRUARY

The **Ambassadors Council** hosted a joyous and creative "Palentine's" Day event. Clients played Bingo for an array of prizes, created heart-inspired items, and enjoyed sweet treats. Artistic events like this are a great way to reduce stress and inspire joy in our Village community!



American University College of Law volunteers helped organize our Clothing Closet.



Bianca A. Ward of **ViiV Healthcare** chatted with clients at the Wellness Center, exploring how society views power as it relates to social identities. Participants were challenged to identify their "superpower" and consider how they might use that

superpower to support their health and the health of others. In addition, **Grapevine Health** offered a \$25 gift card to attendees who participated in an onsite survey about healthcare access.



Boston Consulting Group (BCG) volunteered at our March Community Dinner. The team set up the space, helped prepare food, and served lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and fresh fruit for dessert to our permanent supportive housing residents.

MARCH

Felicia Marsh of **Lincoln Property Company** brought a team to serve breakfast at **Bethany Women's Day Center**. We are always in need of volunteers to serve breakfast and lunch. Contact **Donna-Marie Thompson** at dthompson@nstreetvillage.org if you're interested and available.



Steinbruck Center volunteers from **Bridgewater State University** and the **University of North Carolina—Greensboro** helped with last-minute preparations for the 25th Annual Gala. The BSU team created gift packs and loaded items onto the truck for delivery to the event, and the UNC team helped set up the auction room at the hotel. We greatly appreciate our volunteer groups for ensuring our activities run smoothly.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Beta Zeta Chapter returned to host **Bingo Night** at the **Phyllis Wheatley YWCA**, providing drinks, snacks, and fun!

NCMinistries hosted a "Purses with Purpose" donation drive. They collected 50 pocketbooks and filled each one with travel-size toiletries, as well as donated full-size toiletries and cleaning supplies for our clients. We appreciated their time to learn more about our work and tour the Flagship location.





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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Interim CEO Remarks at the 25th Annual Gala

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We're also focusing on literacy initiatives. As many of you know, N Street Village has a rich history of educational programming. For instance, Village residents wrote about some of their harrowing experiences and the resulting play, "How I Got Over," was performed at the Kennedy Center (2014). It later became a compelling documentary film.

We are fortunate to have the MARJ & MAK Vocational Center, which helps residents with jobs-focused literacy. An N Street Village working group – which includes Chief Program Officer Leora Braden Ibraheem (pictured) and members of the Board – is working to develop additional programming. The process will involve listening to the women in

our community and tailoring programming that responds to their needs.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for supporting our mission to end homelessness among women. Your support fuels our efforts and inspires us to keep pushing forward.

With your support, we can make a difference and create a future where every woman has the opportunity to thrive.

With your support, we can create real and lasting change.

Thank you,

Portia Robertson Migas
Interim President and CEO
N Street Village