

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Spring 2025

nstreetvillage.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear N Street Village Community,

When we reflect on the challenges in our lives—whether personal, professional, or societal—we're reminded that even the heaviest burdens grow lighter when we face them together. At N Street Village, we see this truth come to life every day through the strength and spirit of our Village community.

On Tuesday mornings, Knitwell volunteers host a gathering where women proudly share the beautiful patterns they're creating—each stitch a symbol of resilience. On Wednesdays, our Yoga and Meditation class offers space for healing, where women take steps toward their physical and emotional well-being. And any day of the week, the courtyard blooms with spring flowers, conversation, and quiet acts of kindness—like one woman helping another to her feet. These moments may seem small, but they're powerful reminders of what community makes possible.

For over fifty years, N Street Village has provided more than just shelter—we've offered a community built on love, respect, and dignity. A sanctuary to heal from trauma, to take a hot shower, to simply breathe. We see the power of the Village community every day, and the tremendous impact on the lives of the women we serve.

Women like Lynorre, who recently reflected on her experience at the Village. "My spark reignited. I built friendships. I learned how to budget and prepare for independent living," she said, "And I rediscovered my first love—cooking." Lynorre went on to add, "I started mending my relationships. Bridges that I thought were burned beyond repair were rebuilt—sometimes with something as simple as an 'I love you.'"

The housing and wraparound services Lynorre accessed at N Street Village made a profound difference in her life. She has secured a job in the culinary field and has successfully moved out of the Village and into her own apartment. Your support has opened doors for Lynorre and countless other women, and we are deeply grateful.

We're proud of all we've accomplished together—but we know there's more to do. Unfortunately, the road has grown far more difficult. Funding fluctuations across public and private sectors are placing unprecedented strain on N Street Village and many nonprofits like ours. In this critical moment, we're leaning into the strength of our community for your support.

Thank you for standing with us—not just as a supporter, but as a true partner in change. Your belief in our mission drives everything we do and empowers the women we serve.

With gratitude,



Portia

Portia Robertson Migas
President & CEO, N Street Village

EXPANDING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE

As part of our strategic priority to address mental illness as a root cause of homelessness, we are expanding our mental health support by launching 24/7 crisis consultation services. These expanded services will include on-site crisis support during business hours and after-hours consultation staffed by our behavioral health team.

“Around-the-clock access to care allows us to meet women where they are—with urgency, compassion, and continuity,” said Adebukola Olufotebi, Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Services.

Additionally, we are working in partnership with Jordan House, a community alternative to hospitalization, to provide clients with access to residential psychiatric crisis stabilization services. “Expanding our crisis response services is a critical step in addressing mental illness as a root cause of homelessness,” said Olufotebi.

N Street Village is also proud to announce that this spring we became a new affiliate of Mental Health America, a leading national nonprofit dedicated to advancing mental health, well-being, and prevention. Mental Health America CEO Schroeder Stribling says the affiliation “not only highlights the profound congruence between N Street Village’s mission and the foundational tenets and core values supported by MHA National, but it also reflects a broader commitment to advancing mental health initiatives that resonate with community-driven support.”

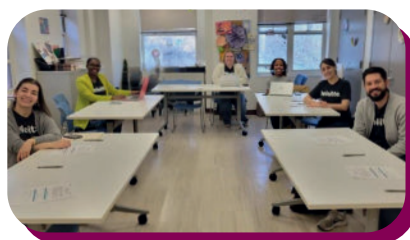


In May, Village staff hosted a wellness fair, connecting women with a variety of information, resources, and support networks.

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES, POWERING PROGRESS



In April, we hosted our annual **Friends & Family Garden Day**, bringing together volunteers and staff to plant flowers and transform our community garden into a peaceful, welcoming retreat for the women of N Street Village.



Deloitte hosted an empowering **resume-building and career workshop** for the women of N Street Village, supporting our strategic priority to support functional literacy.

Interested in volunteering? Email info@nstreetvillage.org to learn how you can get involved.

LYNORRE DISCOVERS FREEDOM BEYOND DIAGNOSIS

by Marina Lopes

Living with Bipolar II has been a journey of extreme highs and devastating lows for Lynorre. For years, she carried an unbearable weight on her chest—so heavy that she gave it a name: Ellie the Elephant.

Ellie was every negative thought, every piece of self-doubt, every whisper telling her she wasn't enough. It drove her to contemplate suicide just when she was ready to give up—until she heard her grandmother's voice in her ear: "You go and become the woman I know you can be."

So, she did. She drove herself to a psychiatric hospital, looked the receptionist in the eye, and spoke the words that changed her life: "I admit myself voluntarily."

She knew at that moment everything had to change—her environment, her mindset, her circumstances. The first shelter she went to felt cold and isolating, like she was back in the psych ward. Then she found N Street Village.

"Even before I stepped through the doors, I knew it was different," Lynorre says. "I was treated with respect, encouraged to ask questions and explain what I needed," she said. At N Street, Ellie the Elephant was gone. She was surrounded by a community eager to support her mental health journey and learn the skills she needed to get back on her feet.

"At N Street, I learned that my diagnosis doesn't have to define me. I can redefine what it means to live with Bipolar disorder."



A PATH OF PURPOSE: CINDY ARON'S N STREET VILLAGE JOURNEY

This year, we proudly honored Cindy and Mark Aron with our Founders' Award, celebrating their deep commitment and years of impactful service.

Cindy first connected with the Village in 2010, following a nearly 30-year career as a professor of American history with a focus on women's issues. When she retired, Cindy knew she wanted to stay engaged with women's issues. Soon after, a friend introduced her to N Street Village. Cindy says that from her first visit, she was struck by the range of supportive services available as well as the dignity and respect shown by staff to every woman who walked through the doors.

She began as a volunteer tutor, supporting women who wanted to strengthen their reading skills. The women she partnered with left a lasting impression—offering insights into the complexities of adult learning and the resilience of those who have experienced homelessness and trauma. That experience deepened Cindy's connection to the Village and inspired her continued involvement.



Over time, Cindy's role expanded, and she became one of the co-founders of the Ambassadors Council. The Ambassadors Council offers the opportunity for members to better connect and engage with N Street Village clients, to provide advisory support, and to help ensure all of DC is familiar with the work of the Village. Cindy also served on the N Street Village Board for more than a decade, chairing key committees. Today, Cindy remains an active part of the Village community—committed to walking alongside women who are rebuilding their lives.



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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YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION

\$20

Provides a warm meal
for a woman in need

Supports one night
of safe shelter

\$100

\$250

Funds job training
& career coaching

Covers essential
medical care

\$500

