

Top Corporate Executives Support Job Readiness at the Village

The N Street Village Marj and Mak Vocational Center (MMVC) recently partnered with our Flagship staff and Village champion Stephanie Linnartz to bring representatives from Home Depot and Marriott International to speak with clients about job readiness.

A key goal of the MMVC is to increase housing stability by supporting women in their goals related to education and employment. For many clients, the event was an important step as they endeavor to improve their overall financial health.

Stephanie Linnartz was introduced to the Village several years ago through N Street Village Board Vice Chair Ruth Sorenson and her late husband, Arne Sorenson, with whom Stephanie worked closely at Marriott International. Stephanie and her husband, Daren, have also previously supported the Village by attending the annual winter fundraiser.

“Stephanie’s recent involvement with the Village brought practical, actionable advice to the women we partner with as they explore new pathways to employment,” said Sorenson.

Linnartz is a highly accomplished executive. She currently serves on the board of Home Depot and has held positions such as President of Marriott International and CEO of Under Armour.

“Throughout my career, the most meaningful moments



Bridgett Price and Stephanie Linnartz at “Meet the Employers”

have not been tied to the next promotion or professional accolade. What most energizes me is seeing first-hand the real difference we can make in the lives of the people in our community,” Linnartz said.

During her tenure at Marriott International, Linnartz worked alongside Bridgett Price, who served as Global Human Resources Officer. Linnartz and Price spent months collaborating with Village staff on the “Meet the Employers”



Office Depot and Marriott International employees speak at “Meet the Employers” event which featured knowledgeable employees who shared relatable career information with more than two dozen women at the Village.

As the event kicked off, clients arrived prepared, curious, and ready to engage – their focus on the future shining through in their attentiveness. What unfolded was a genuine exchange between the women and leaders from two globally recognized and respected companies.

“It was inspiring to watch our clients look beyond the barriers they are facing. Having direct access to these executives – hearing their stories and seeing the outcomes of investing in yourself – created a sense of real, long-term possibility,” said Zorka Cordova, an Economic Empowerment Specialist at the Village.

After the panel discussion, which was skillfully moderated by a client, the women had the opportunity to speak directly to the panelists about job-seeking skills and strategies.

Residents report that these interactive moments were especially meaningful. Not only did they have the opportunity to ask questions about real-life issues, but they were also able to share their own stories and receive real-time guidance that met them exactly where they were on their employment journeys.

This is one of the many partnerships N Street Village is building through the Marj and Mak Vocational Center as we work with women to make meaningful gains in their education and employment goals.

A Message From the CEO

Dear Village Friend,

In times like these, when our community, our city, and the world at large feel unsettled, it would be easy to solely focus on what is broken or uncertain. But at N Street Village we are continually reminded that even in the midst of navigating challenges, real progress is happening, and that is possible with your backing.

Your steadfast support has allowed N Street Village to remain a place of grounding and possibility, even during tumultuous times. Every day, we see how your belief in our mission translates into tangible change in women's lives, sometimes in quiet ways and sometimes in transformative ones. With your engagement, we can continue to provide housing, healing, and hope.

Housing: A Step Toward Growth

In one of the Village's journaling classes, last summer, a participant named Larissa shared a reflection that has stayed with me. She wrote about feeling as though she had been stuck in a "frozen plateau" and that she was "struggling to grow" and move forward. But with the Village's assistance, she said, the ground was beginning to thaw. Her roots were starting to grow.

Larissa subsequently moved from sleeping in a tent to our emergency shelter at Patricia Handy Place for Women. She now resides in permanent supportive housing at the Village's Flagship location and reports that she is eating healthier, exercising regularly, and participating in jewelry-making classes at the Village. During the holiday season, Larissa proudly gifted bracelets she made with her own hands. It may seem trite, but seemingly small moments of pride, creativity, and connection are indicators of the power of being a member of the Village. With safe, stable housing, Larissa can focus on growth and long-term stability.



Larissa, a client at N Street Village, makes art in the community courtyard

Healing: The Quiet Work that Turns Shelter into Stability

The wide array of supportive services provided at the Village provide a pathway toward stability. N Street Village delivers impactful programming on a systems-level, including tackling mental health as a root cause of homelessness with intentionality by embedding licensed behavioral health professionals within our housing and day programs. Our Behavioral Health Services (BHS) team has implemented an internal referral process so case managers across our programs can connect clients directly to mental health support. To date, the team has received hundreds of referrals, primarily from our day center and low-barrier shelter. By providing comprehensive, compassionate, and accessible mental health services within the Village's ecosystem of care, unhoused women are better able to engage, to make connections, to build trust, and to make progress.

Hope: The Spark that Ignites a Brighter Future

Throughout the day-to-day activities and bustle at the Village, there are poignant moments that make you stop, smile, and take a deep breath of gratitude. Recently, the excitement was palpable as a client, DeAndra, shared news that she had been accepted into the Peer Case Management Institute, which is housed at Howard University. DeAndra will be working toward getting credentials that will allow her to build a career as a case manager. She proudly talks about being able to help other women find their way forward. That is the domino effect of hope in action at N Street Village.

Despite navigating unprecedented external pressures on the continuum of support we provide, the Village continues to keep our doors open, providing housing for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. We continue to invest in providing impactful supportive services that provide a pathway toward healing. We, and the women we serve, continue to embrace the hope that fuels growth and development.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in our community, and helping ensure that even in difficult seasons, we continue to welcome women to our doors where meaningful progress can and does happen. We are fortunate to see it at the Village every day.



NSV client, DeAndra, addresses attendees at the 2025 N Street Village Gala

Gratefully,



Portia

Portia Robertson Migas
President & CEO, N Street

The Village Shines With Your Support!

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a community of empowerment
and recovery for women

1333 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
info@nstreetvillage.org

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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With the commitment of donors, volunteers, and community partners like you, meaningful change continues to take shape at N Street Village. This year-in-review captures the impact of that shared effort.

Scan the QR code to learn how your support advanced opportunity and stability for the women we serve.