



D A S H

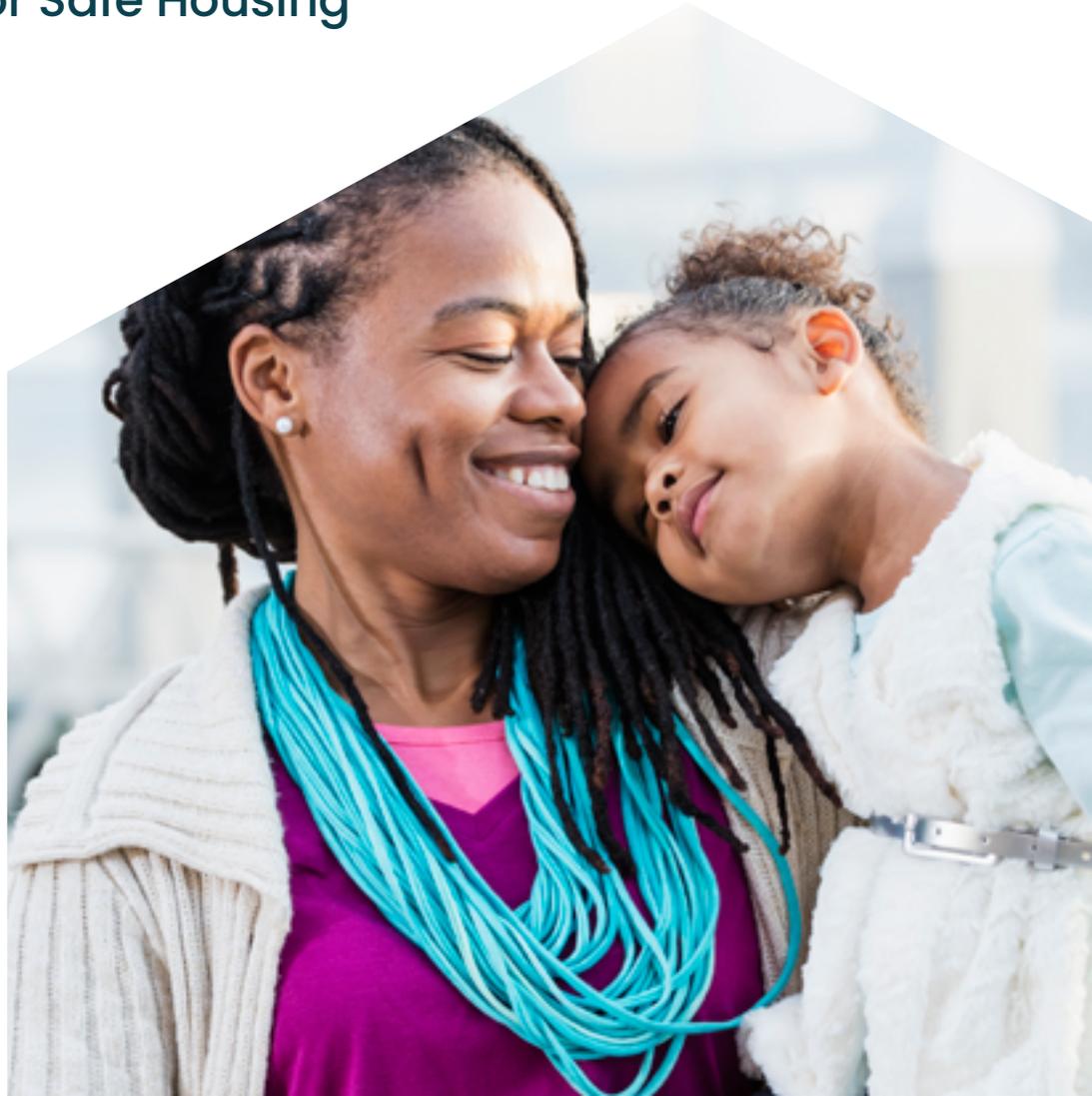
DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Rebuilding Lives Free from Violence

District Alliance
for Safe Housing



A letter from our leadership

Dear Friend,

Since DASH's founding in 2006, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault have been the center of our mission and programs.

Through a grassroots campaign, we learned firsthand from survivors the challenges they experienced when trying to access safe housing in the District. This is why we created a low barrier program model to welcome survivors who faced challenges accessing traditional shelter programs – survivors with male children over the age of 12, immigrant survivors, LGBTQ+ survivors, or survivors with multiple barriers including mental health and addiction issues.

In fiscal year 2019, thanks to our generous supporters, we connected to 2,162 adults and children to provide safe housing, advocacy, and resources. Your investment in DASH is ensuring their safety and a path to independence to rebuild their lives on their own terms free from violence.

This last year was a testament to our approach. DASH was one of twenty-four organizations selected from across the country to receive a \$2.5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. This program grant is being leveraged to launch a capital campaign in 2020 to secure our Cornerstone safe housing building and to support our efforts to expand our Empowerment Project and Survivor Resilience Fund programs to serve more survivors and children in the years to come to meet the growing need in our community.

Thank you for supporting this innovative organization in order to meet survivors where they are and eliminate all barriers that prevent them from accessing safe housing in our community.

With gratitude,

Koube Ngaaje
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



Patti DeBow
CHAIR, BOARD OF
DIRECTORS



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DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

DASH is the largest dedicated safe housing provider for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and children in the District.

Thanks to your support, we're building a world where no one has to choose between staying in a violent home and becoming homeless. DASH's services are here for every survivor who needs them.

Your Impact in FY2019

+2,160

LIVES OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN CHANGED



142

ADULTS SAFELY HOUSED

75%

OF SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES TRANSITIONED TO NEW HOMES

44

WEEKLY WALK-IN CLINICS HOSTED

101

CHILDREN SAFELY HOUSED

1,858

CALLS SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER (13% INCREASE FROM PRIOR YEAR)

306

HOURS OF SUPPORT GROUPS FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN

61

SURVIVORS RECEIVED EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SURVIVOR PROFILE

25-29

AVERAGE AGE OF ADULTS

79%

AFRICAN AMERICAN



Financials

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, DASH's critical services are available to over 2,000 survivors of domestic and sexual violence and families in need of a safe place to call home. In FY19, our individual giving grew by 50% welcoming new donors and sustaining our services year-round with new monthly donors.



The \$2.5M investment from the **Bezos Day 1 Families Fund** in FY19 demonstrates

the strength of DASH's infrastructure and dedication of our resources and investments to our safe housing programs and services.



FY2019 Revenue

- 45% - Government Grants
- 39% - Foundations & Corporations
- 12% - In-Kind Contributions
- 2% - Individuals
- 2% - Other Revenue



FY2019 Expenses

- 85% - Programs
- 9% - Management & General
- 6% - Fundraising

**Stated here are unaudited FY19 financials. Completed audited FY19 financials will be available in 2020 and posted at www.DASHDC.org. The financials stated is preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications after audit completion.*

Survivor Story

Karen is a single mother of three boys. She first arrived at DASH's Cornerstone safe housing program owing over \$6,000 in back pay and car notes due to years of financial abuse by her husband. Karen's abuser had complete control over all finances. Under the coercion of her abuser, Karen purchased a new vehicle under her name and was forced to make payments for a vehicle she was not able to afford. Her abuser handled the rent payment and, unknown to Karen, was not paying rent.

When Karen left her abuser, she was left with nothing but debt. With the support of her DASH Advocate at Cornerstone, Karen set out her own goals for herself and her three boys. She began to pay off her debt through a new career with the DC government.

Through DASH's on-site children's programs Karen was able to have respite time to plan her new life and was comforted by the supportive programs for her sons.

After two years, Karen and her three boys moved out of Cornerstone into their first home. She walked into DASH with several thousand dollars of debt, along with physical and emotional pain, but walked out safely housed, debt free, and healthy.



My time here has truly jump started my new chapter in life. From the moment I entered DASH, it has been a true blessing. Every staff member was ever so kind and always anticipated my every need. They greeted me with a smile every day and always made me feel welcomed and safe."

FROM SURVIVOR'S EXIT LETTER TO DASH



I support DASH because the organization provides victims of domestic violence a safe harbor and a place to restart a new life. In the time I have spent at DASH, it has been encouraging to see young kids gain confidence, joy, and a sense of responsibility being around our dogs. We are delighted to support DASH's mission."

SANDY GRADY
PEOPLE ANIMALS LOVE VOLUNTEER



We are amazed by the great work DASH has done, by providing domestic violence victims with a safe place they can call home. CREW DC enthusiastically supports their mission and looks forward to continuing our work with the survivors, while raising awareness of DASH's programs."

LYNN STITH BENNETT
2019 CREW DC PRESIDENT

Find out how you can help families in need of a life away from abuse find sanctuary, safety, and a path to self-determination.

Visit us at www.DASHDC.org

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