Since 2006, the District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) has innovated longer-term safe housing options for survivors of domestic and sexual violence to move forward with their lives, with safety and stability, away from the threat of violence.
Our History of Service

When DASH was formed, homeless services were focused narrowly on battered women’s shelters, and there were only 50 shelter beds available for survivors and children fleeing violence.

Through an intensive, grassroots effort, DASH formed strong alliances with survivors, victims’ services, and other housing and homeless service providers to create sustainable, safe housing options wherever survivors and families turn for help across the housing spectrum.

DASH made a commitment to innovate a new, survivor-centered safe housing program that met the needs of ALL survivors and families in need of a safe place to heal and rebuild their lives. In 2010, DASH partnered with the DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) to invest in Cornerstone, a 42-unit safe, confidential apartment building in the District available to all survivors.

Keys to Independence

Cornerstone is the largest dedicated safe housing program in the District and accounts for over 50% of the available units for survivors and their families.

Cornerstone provides survivors and their families with a key to their own furnished apartment, on-site advocacy, and trauma-informed services for free for up to two years.

We believe survivors and their children can live free from violence when they receive access to respite, refuge, and resources, regardless of their circumstances.

Cornerstone’s safe home and supportive services allow survivors to rebuild their lives and find a path to independence.
Campaign for Cornerstone

DASH’s Cornerstone building is at the heart of our work for homeless survivors of abuse. Not only does it give a safe place to people rebuilding their lives, but it is also home to our vital wraparound services, daily operations, and administrative offices.

Since 2010, generous support from our partnership with the DC Office of Victims Services and Justice Grants has allowed DASH to operate at Cornerstone. However, owning the Cornerstone building outright will allow us to better respond to the increasing need for our services, renovate the 80-year-old building, and innovate for the future to welcome more survivors.

Your support of the Journey Home: Campaign for Cornerstone will help to secure the future of this home—and the survivors who rely on us—by raising $4.5M over the next two years. By 2022, we plan to complete the purchase of the $3.3M building loan and undergo critical building renovations and upgrades to make this a lasting home for over 50 adults and 65 children each year.

Your Gift at Work
$4.5M

- $1.7M Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Gift (Secured)
- $2.8M Fundraising Goal

Cornerstone’s Impact Each Year:

- 50 Adults housed safely
- 65 Children housed safely
- Over 75% Survivors and families transition into their own homes
- 306 Hours of education and arts programming for adults and children

“It is just more freedom here. At Cornerstone, you don’t really feel like as if you’re in a program. It feels like home.”
—Cornerstone Resident
The Journey Home—Together

Our Cornerstone building is the foundation of the vital work we do every day. We need your help to firm up that foundation by completing the purchase of this building and rebuilding its structure to ensure our life-saving work continues. Together, we are creating a community where every home is a safe place.

Your investment in the Journey Home: Campaign for Cornerstone is an investment in the future of each person we serve and is empowering lives. Please consider a meaningful gift today.

All campaign gifts above $5,000 will be included on a special donor wall. Select naming opportunities are available for gifts above $20,000.

All gifts and pledges must be received by Dec. 31, 2021.

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In its ten years, Cornerstone has been a lifeline for more than 1,000 survivors and children.