This past year has been unlike anything any of us have ever experienced. We faced unprecedented challenges and saw demand for DASH’s safe housing services skyrocket. **And yet, what we will remember when we look back will be not the uncertainty and the fear, but the incredible resilience shown by our staff, survivors, and community.**

The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted every facet of our organization and our work except for one: DASH’s commitment to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, and their families, remains unchanged.

Because of you, bright spots have emerged. Our doors remained open to 234 survivors and children with a safe place to call home, economic empowerment services, and trauma-informed care. Celebrations continued when survivors and families transitioned from our housing programs to independence on their own terms. Our front-line team delivered groceries, PPE, schools supplies, and in-home activities. Above all, we continued to be there for ALL survivors – regardless of gender or immigration status.

As the largest provider of safe housing in our community, we continued with our plans to launch a new and innovative program. Right to Dream, a scattered-site housing program for transitioning youth, ages 18-24, will expand the availability of youth-friendly, survivor-focused, long-term transitional housing in the District.

The shifts needed to respond to this crisis were possible with your support – thank you.

DASH joined the many voices calling for racial justice and equity. As an organization led by a Black immigrant woman, we are deeply impacted by these recent events and by the decades of systemic and structural racism at play.

**We are and will always continue to be committed to providing a safe place to anyone who needs it.**

Throughout this challenging year, we watched support for our work pour in, in the shape of financial donations, in-kind goods, and volunteer aid in unique form. We can’t help but be hopeful when we are surrounded by such caring and support. Thank you.

We are looking to the future with hope, rising resilient together from this past year, and we will not stop until safe housing is a human right shared by everyone.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Koube Ngaaje  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Patti DeBow  
**CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Right to Dream Launch

Every youth deserves more than just the right to survive. They deserve the right to thrive. They deserve the Right to Dream.

This August, DASH launched our newest program, Right to Dream. This scattered site transitional-to-permanent housing program reaches transitioning youth (aged 18-24 years) who are survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence and are experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

Participants will be provided with all the resources they need to do more than just survive, enabling them to grow, achieve their own goals, and move toward independent lives.

This innovative new program will expand the availability of youth-friendly, survivor-focused, long-term transitional housing in the District.

Far too often youth are used to receiving the bare minimum; the resources that are needed to just survive. For many of these young people, the support DASH provides will help break intergenerational cycles of abuse and enable them to build lives free of violence.

ELENA’S STORY

Elena was connected to DASH through a partner organization. For her safety, Elena left another program because a former boyfriend had located her and needed urgent safe housing and support services. As a result of DASH-led training, it was determined that the boyfriend was both emotionally and physically abusive, and that he was coercing the youth into sex work.

Through Right to Dream, Elena obtained a new apartment, prepped specifically for her needs and safety, where she was overwhelmed with joy upon arrival. She kept asking “Are you sure?” She meant, are you sure this apartment is really mine? Are you sure I can stay here for up to two years? Are you sure it’s okay for me to ask for help getting emergency groceries? DASH was happy to be able to answer all these questions with a resounding YES.
Journey Home: Campaign for Cornerstone

DASH’s Cornerstone Program is the largest dedicated safe housing program for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and children in the District.

Cornerstone is at the heart of our work for survivors. It is also home to our vital wraparound services, daily operations, and administrative offices. This building means so much to every person who steps through its doors.

This past year, we launched our Journey Home: Campaign for Cornerstone to secure the future of this building, this program, and this home – and of course, the survivors and children who rely on it and on us.

By 2022, we plan to complete the purchase of the $3.3M building loan on our Cornerstone residence building. The remaining funds will be used to undertake critical renovations and upgrades on our resilient but declining building. These steps will make Cornerstone a lasting home for over 50 adults and 65 children each year and help secure the future of the entire DASH organization.

Contribute to our Journey Home at: www.dashdc.org/capital-campaign/

ALISHA’S STORY

It’s hard to overestimate the impact that our Cornerstone program can have for a survivor of domestic violence. One survivor, Alisha*, moved into a Cornerstone unit with her two school-age children after living through ten years of abuse. ‘Knowing you are safe at night,’ Alisha shared, ‘makes a world of difference. DASH has allowed me the comfort of knowing I had a stable place … to regain control of my life.’”

(*Name changed to protect privacy and safety.)
DASH CONTINUUM OF HOUSING SERVICES

**Virginia Williams Family Resource Center**
Immediate support and assistance for families at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

**Housing Resource Center**
Comprehensive information and support on housing programs and options.

**Survivor Resilience Fund**
Emergency financial assistance to help survivors maintain permanent housing.

**Cornerstone Program**
Site-based emergency-to-transitional housing for up to 24 months.

**Right to Dream**
Scattered-site transitional housing for youth aged 18-24 years for up to 24 months.

**Empowerment Project**
Scattered-site transitional-to-permanent housing for up to 24 months.

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOWPA)**
DV advocacy and housing support for survivors living with AIDS.

**Coming Soon**
A new initiative to eliminate safety gaps due to COVID & move families quickly to safety.

YOUR IMPACT IN FY 2020
10/1/2019 – 9/30/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survivors and Children Supported with Housing Advocacy &amp; Services</th>
<th>Adults Safely Housed</th>
<th>Children Safely Housed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,113</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>623</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survivors Received Survivor Resilience Fund Assistance</th>
<th>Resilience Fund Assistance Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>$107,744</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Volunteers</th>
<th>Total Contributed Volunteer Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### WHO WE SERVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98%</td>
<td>Black and Brown Survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Transitioning Youth (Ages 18-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>Avg Age of Survivor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COVID-19 Impact during FY 2020

3/16/2020 – 9/30/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Staff Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>24-Month Program for Youth Survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>New Survivors Safely Housed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>Safe and Stably Housed during COVID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Of Housing Services Continued and Expanded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>New Partnerships to Increase Community Resources</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Ongoing Delivery**

**Of PPE, Groceries, and Critical Needs**
Elder Survivors

49 ELDER SURVIVORS (AGE 50+)
CONNECTED WITH SAFE HOUSING THROUGH DASH’S HOUSING ADVOCACY

18 NEW LANDLORD PARTNERS ESTABLISHED FOR SENIOR LIVING AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

» Reduced barriers that elders experience if they have dependent children or need more flexible housing options with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs.

» Increased awareness about services and alternatives for elder survivors

» Increase in knowledge from providers and first responders on how to best serve elder survivors.

» When the pandemic started, DASH staff participated in weekly calls for single and family homeless services to ensure that the unique vulnerable needs of elder survivors were not neglected.

Housing Opportunities for Survivors Living with HIV/AIDS

12 of 13 PARTICIPANTS TRANSITIONED TO PERMANENT HOUSING

DASH was awarded a three-year grant to provide our Empowerment Project housing model for survivors living with HIV/AIDS. The final year of the grant concluded this fiscal year with incredible results to stabilize housing, increase empowerment, and improve health for homeless or unstably housed survivors.

» 100% of participants were connected to consistent medical care, resources to pay off debts, worked to overcome trauma, and return to the workforce

» Many survivors stated that DASH services were more accommodating than other city housing programs which included long waiting lists and paperwork requirements.

» Distributed PPE to ensure those that are medically vulnerable have all supports needed and can navigate around the city while maximizing personal safety.

» A few survivors experienced gender-based discrimination and transphobia during their housing search. Through technical assistance and training, DASH tripled our goal of increasing landlord partners that offer affordable units with care and understanding to survivors.

PATRICIA’S STORY

Patricia had endured nearly two decades of abuse and living the cruel, but common, story of ensuring her children were able to safely move on before turning to her own safety and comfort where she declared “no more” and turned to DASH for support.

During the pandemic in May, DASH connected Patricia with her new apartment at our Cornerstone safe housing program; supplied PPE and cleaning supplies; and setup regular grocery deliveries.

Patricia has quickly become a mentor to some of the young mothers on her hall and we will all be sad and simultaneously proud when it comes time for her to transition.”

NICKI’S STORY

When Nicki went to sign her new lease, the landlord unexpectedly changed the security deposit requirements. During that same time, DASH’s Advocate was inspecting the apartment and found multiple issues in terms of cleanliness and unit safety. The DASH Advocate worked diligently with Nicki to identify a new dignified and safe home. Right before the holidays, Nicki received the great news that her new home was ready. Nicki was able to move in and have her first Christmas in her safe apartment and DASH connected her with new furnishings. Nicki has since exited the program successfully with her own permanent home.”
Volunteer Highlights

In total, we worked with 83 volunteers who provided 355 hours in FY20.

Our volunteers wonderfully shifted with us to virtual tutoring services during COVID-19; to wellness activities; to meal deliveries and donation drives!

The pandemic paused a lot, including sporting events like marathons. But when Noah’s first ever marathon in Chicago was cancelled, he decided to run one anyways and fundraise for DASH.

I’m reaching out because of a fundraiser I want to plan for DASH. I was planning on running my first ever marathon in Chicago next month. Sadly, due to coronavirus, it’s looking like the event will be cancelled. I’ve decided to organize my own ‘race’ in DC and in the process raise some money.”

His original goal was to raise $2,500 and in just a few weeks he surpassed that goal and raised over $5,500 to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our care!

Marie and Marwan, two DASH volunteers, stood out to surprise us with meal deliveries. With the help of St. Francis School, they picked up and delivered meals to our Cornerstone safe housing program three times a week for several weeks to ensure that families could continue to have access to food and nutritious meals. Marie shared...

Supporting DASH is my way of empowering women in the DC area. Their holistic approach of providing support in terms of family, career, and community connections is a recipe for healing and growth. I am proud to be able to be part of such an inspiring cause!”

THANK YOU NOTE FROM A SURVIVOR

I just want to start by saying thank you for the patience and professionalism throughout this whole process. Me and my daughter were in a toxic and risky environment. I called the hotline not knowing what to expect. Mr. Tem worked with me every step of the way throughout unexpected changes. Me and my daughter are now safe and beginning again with a new slate. Again, thank you.”
*Stated here are unaudited FY20 financials. Completed audited FY20 financials will be available in 2021 and posted at www.DASHDC.org.

The financials stated is preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications after audit completion.
Thank You for Standing with DASH and Survivors

Visit us at: [www.DASHDC.org](http://www.DASHDC.org)

As a donor, it’s important to me that an organization continues to grow to serve more people, meet its mission, and to be effective. DASH does just that, and I am proud to be a loyal donor since 2017.”

— KIM HONOR, LOYAL DONOR

I’ve worked with DASH as both a volunteer and member of the board for the past 4 years including riding the wave of the COVID-19 impact. I have been incredibly impressed with their resilience, focus on survivors and passionate and thoughtful approach to filling desperately needed housing needs for survivors of domestic violence. DASH is a great organization, led by an incredibly passionate and talented team.”

— DONNA SHERARD, BOARD MEMBER

I volunteered and interned with DASH years ago, as an undergraduate student. The residents and staff at DASH are such wonderful people, and I learned so much working alongside the Resident Advocates. My time at DASH eventually inspired me to pursue a Masters in Social Work, which I am currently in school for.”

— CAROLINE OSBORNE, MONTHLY DONOR