



Pathways Post

Spring 2016

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The Power of a Cup of Coffee



Robert spent the majority of his adult life on the streets of Downtown, struggling with substance abuse, untreated mental health symptoms, and debilitating physical ailments. When our DowntownDC BID Outreach team met him, Robert was in his 50s, extremely overweight, and experiencing mobility challenges that prevented him from accessing traditional support services. Robert was losing hope that his life would ever change—**until he met Pathways DC.**

Robert was skeptical the first time he met Stephanie, a Pathways DC Outreach Specialist. For months, the only service

that Robert allowed Stephanie to provide was a cup of coffee. Morning after morning, Stephanie and Robert sat outside, finding refuge from the chilly fall air in their hot cups of coffee. Their conversations were short and superficial at first, but with each new day and cup of coffee, Robert began to reveal more about himself. Stephanie saw that Robert's angry exterior served only as a mask to conceal his immense pain and insecurity. **Like all of us, Robert just wanted to feel like he belonged.**

As Robert gained emotional insight, his physical health deteriorated. He cycled in and out of hospitals and soon found himself in need of a serious health procedure. Following his surgery, Stephanie was with Robert every step of his recovery. While hospitalized, Robert began attending substance abuse groups and learned more about his addiction. Stephanie worked with Robert to apply for Social Security Disability Income and complete a vital housing and service assessment. Though he was tempted many times to leave the hospital and go back to the streets, **Robert found a resolve and a new sense of confidence that he hadn't felt in decades.**

Robert worked with the Pathways to Housing Permanent Supportive Housing team to locate an apartment in his preferred section of the city that met his mobility needs. They arranged for a move-in date that coincided with the end of his rehabilitation program so that he could start fresh with the tools he needed to be successful. Today, Robert not only has the safety and stability of a new home, but also his health, his sobriety, and most importantly, a renewed sense of hope. Robert's team is working with him day-in-and-day-out to help him maintain his recovery, better understand and manage his mental illness, and build a healthier and fuller life in his new home and community. Robert's first priority, after moving into his apartment, was to learn how to use his new coffee machine. **He now feels that sense of belonging for which he had always yearned, and he wants to ensure that when he hosts visitors in his home they feel it too - one sip of coffee at a time.**



Christy's Corner

An Update from our Executive Director

There truly is nothing like spring in Washington, DC: cherry blossoms in bloom, flowers popping up in every corner of green grass, sidewalk cafes and front stoops filled with people soaking up the sun. Spring is also a time of new beginnings, filled with hope and possibility. Here at Pathways to Housing DC, our staff and program participants are experiencing many of these new beginnings. In the last 6 months we have doubled our outreach program through contracts with the DC Department of Human Services and the DC Department of Behavioral Health. This unparalleled investment ensures that people experiencing

street homelessness in all Wards have access to the critical "front door" street outreach services they need. But it's not enough to provide outreach services- we need adequate housing resources to end homelessness. To that point, we are excited to share the news that Pathways DC has just been awarded a highly competitive federal HUD grant to end chronic homelessness for 65 individuals living with serious mental health challenges this year! We are also pleased to announce that Pathways DC is partnering with MidAtlantic Realty Partners, LLC in the creation of a new building that will add 146 units of affordable housing for District residents, 15 of which will be set aside specifically for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Pathways DC will provide the critical tenant support services in this new endeavor. Thanks to this wonderful community, our spring is filled with so much hope and possibility! I look forward to updating you on our progress on these and other new beginnings in the upcoming months.



Your Generosity...

...makes our work possible! You've donated coats, hats, and gloves during winter chills, provided fresh produce for Martha's Market, collected household items, and created Welcome Home Baskets. You've taken the time to pitch in at events, host Opening Doors Tours at your workplace or place of faith, and have come out to our Q Street office to help stuff envelopes and make trail mix bags for our Outreach teams. We are humbled by all of the ways that this community continues to join us in our mission of bringing Home, Health, and Hope to those in need.

Program Spotlight: Outreach



Front: Jordan Gulley, Kevin Valentine, Charmaine Cardoza, Emily Whitcomb, Sandra Flores, Juanita Williams
Back: Drew Smith, Hunter Scott, Stephanie Lyons, Rachel Preloh, Jerod Lee, James Tenenbaum

Pathways to Housing DC's Street Outreach Program staff are on the front lines in the battle against homelessness. In partnership with the DowntownDC and Golden Triangle BIDs (Business Improvement Districts), our Outreach staff works to meet people experiencing homelessness where they are - building relationships of trust and instilling hope. Staff offer basic needs such as food, clothing, and important documents, while partnering with each individual to connect them with vital life-changing services such as housing and healthcare. Their work has been so successful, that the District recently gave Pathways DC the resources to expand to reach twice as many people. The Pathways Outreach Program now has 22 staff spread across 5 teams, making it the largest outreach effort in DC.

In 2015, the program worked with 953 unique individuals, consisting of 8296 face to face contacts, leading directly to permanent housing for 31 people experiencing chronic homelessness. One of the many people Outreach has helped find home is Victor, who was formerly homeless in downtown DC. Today, he is sharing his story with the community and using his experience to advocate for others who remain without permanent housing. Most recently, Victor participated in the Fulfill the Promise Rally as part of The Way Home Campaign's effort to end chronic and Veteran homelessness in DC (see "Advocacy in Action" on opposite page).

The Mission of Pathways to Housing DC is to Transform Individual Lives by



Thank You for Making These Smiles Possible!

In 2015, your compassion and generosity helped make it possible for us to give 72 individuals a place to call their own. These smiling faces are just some of the many individuals who moved into their very own apartment - the first in years, sometimes decades, after a life on the streets. We are so grateful to have been able to help so many and to continue to provide Home, Health, and Hope to more than 2,500 others every year. But our work is far from finished. We hope that you continue to work alongside us in making sure that every person in our community has the stability and dignity of a home to call their own.

Needs List

- Toilet paper
- Basic cleaning supplies (bathroom & kitchen)
- Laundry detergent
- Dish detergent
- Radios
- Pots & pans

For a full list of our needs, including a link to our Amazon Wishlist (you can have them ship directly to us!) www.pathwaystohousingdc.org/our-wish-list



Victor, Pathways DC participant and advocate, with Mayor Bowser at the Rally to Fulfill the Promise

Advocacy in Action



Pathways DC welcomed homeless service providers from Tokyo, Japan to shadow our staff and discuss best practices in Housing First in preparation for their implementation of Japan's first Housing First pilot program.



Pathways DC Executive Director, Christy Respress, with Mayor Bowser and other community advocates, after being sworn onto the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness

Witness Your Impact!

Opening Doors Tours are opportunities for community members to tour our organization, meet our team, and listen to client and staff stories. Join us and witness, firsthand, how Pathways DC provides Home, Health, and Hope to those we serve. Not only are tours available at Pathways DC, but we can take our show on the road and come to you! This is the perfect chance for you to see the impact of your generous support. Every person who attends a Pathways DC Opening Doors Tour leaves informed, inspired, and ready to take action!



For more information, including dates for our next tours, visit: www.pathwaystohousingdc.org/opening-doors-tours

Spread the Word... Become an Ambassador!

The number one way you can help us is to spread the word. Change starts with conversation, and where homelessness is concerned, that conversation is only just beginning. Do you have people from your family, social, faith, or professional networks that would benefit from learning about the state of homelessness in the District and the work of Pathways DC in ending it? Host a tour and become a Pathways Ambassador today! For more information about our Ambassador program, including dates for the next Ambassador Orientation, contact Kat Matus, Development Assistant, at kmatus@pathwaysdc.org or 202-529-2972 ext. 113

Ending Homelessness and Supporting Recovery for People with Disabilities.

Pathways to Housing DC

101 Q Street, NE, Suite G
Washington, DC 20002

 Pathways to Housing DC

Housing First Works!

Since 2004, we have

**ended chronic
homelessness**

for



individuals

**89% OF CLIENTS SERVED BY
PATHWAYS DC STAY IN HOUSING**

Average annual savings per client
using Housing First

\$22,995

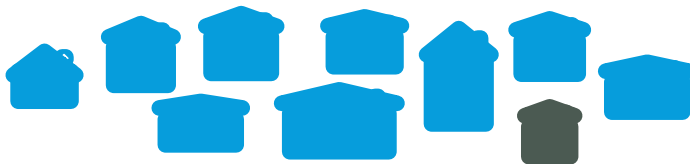
OVER BEING HOMELESS

\$36,500

OVER JAIL

\$296,275

OVER PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION



**Thank you for helping us build a community where everyone
has a home and a life filled with meaning and hope!**