



Volunteers  
of America®

CHESAPEAKE & CAROLINAS

*125+ Years Strong*

**HOPE**<sup>™</sup>  
HAS A HOME

HOUSING & CARE FOR THE  
DISTRICT'S HOMELESS WOMEN

# HOMELESS WOMEN IN DC NEED YOUR HELP

Did you know that over 32% of those experiencing homelessness in the District of Columbia are women<sup>1</sup>? That means over 1,585 women are living on the streets of DC on any given night of the year. Not only are these mothers and daughters without a roof over their heads, many are victims of gender-based violence, and more than half have a mental illness, addiction or other serious health condition.

What's worse is mental illness and addiction among women has been on the rise<sup>2</sup>. Housing is only the first step to freeing someone from the grips of homelessness for good. Serious mental and physical illnesses can make staying housed in the long-term very difficult. That's why addressing both housing and health related needs is so important. But in DC, there are currently more resources and support available for men than women.

## But there is hope.

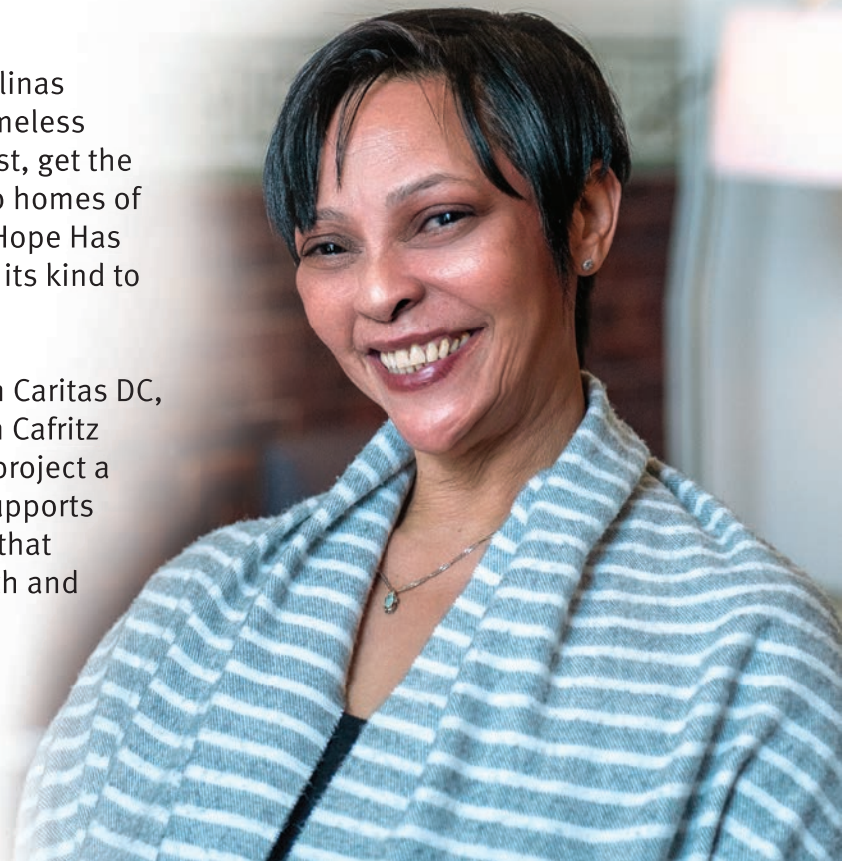
In 2019, Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas launched **Hope Has A Home™** in DC to provide homeless men too sick to be on the streets a safe place to rest, get the mental and physical care they need, and move into homes of their own. Building off of our success, we opened Hope Has A Home™ for Women in January 2024 – the first of its kind to support women like Kyra in DC.

We are fortunate to have our partners, AmeriHealth Caritas DC, Developing Families Fund, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and others to make this \$2.25 million project a reality. The program will offer the same care and supports as the men's version while also addressing needs that are unique to women, including reproductive health and trauma caused by intimate partner violence.

## Only you can ensure this program remains open.

We are in need of \$50,000 to maintain this new safe haven for women. Only Beacons of Hope like you who believe that every woman deserves safety and care can make that happen.

By giving to the program, you will ensure that at least 30 women can safely recover from their illnesses and not return to the streets each year.



**I was the victim of abuse and became homeless after my divorce. VOA gave me a home and a doctor to help me heal.**  
– Kyra

To watch Kyra's story, scan the QR code or visit [voachesapeake.org/kyra-story](https://voachesapeake.org/kyra-story).



<sup>1</sup> *The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness: 2023 Point-In-Time Count*

<sup>2</sup> *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

# HOPE HAS A HOME™ – HOW & WHY IT WORKS

Homeless individuals are four times more likely to visit an emergency room and five times more likely to be hospitalized - typically involving a longer than average length of stay at a cost of roughly \$3,000/day<sup>1</sup>. For most patients, and certainly those with stable housing, the primary criterion for hospital discharge is health status. In other words, *is the patient well enough to go home?*

The situation for homeless individuals is very different. Even if they are well enough by medical standards for discharge, care providers often have no place to arrange for them to heal in a safe and supported environment. Medical respite is designed to provide that safe, supported and recuperative environment.

A partnership among VOA Chesapeake & Carolinas, AmeriHealth Caritas DC, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Unity Health Care and Pathways to Housing DC, Hope Has A Home™ for Men relies on the Housing First Model. It's also low-barrier, meaning that we take on individuals whether they are actively working on recovery or not.

The goal of the program is to meet homeless individuals where they are and provide them the individualized support they need to progress through the program, regain their health and transition into housing.

The current program has two phases. Phase 1, “Medical Respite”, provides individuals discharged from hospital the medical and mental health support they need to recover. Phase 2, “Step Down”, is designed to prepare individuals who have recovered from their conditions to move into their own home and address any other social barriers they may have for success.

**I had been in and out of the hospital several times and this program gave me a place to get back on my feet. I think this program would be great for women.**

– Gregory

## PHASE 1 MEDICAL RESPITE | 30 days

- 8-bed home located at 4515 Edson Pl, NE
- Daily meals, laundry services, transportation
- Medical care
- Mental health & substance use recovery
- Assessment for housing & other needs

## PHASE 2 STEP DOWN | 90 – 180 days

- 8-bed home located at 6520 First St. NW
- Daily meals, laundry services, transportation
- Mental health & substance use recovery
- Connection to community services
- Housing navigation & placement



# A LOOK INSIDE

**Phase 1: Medical Respite**  
4515 Edson Pl, NE

Catch a glimpse inside Hope Has A Home™ for Men while listening to a resident share how the program has been a blessing to them. Visit [www.voachesapeake.org/gregory-story](http://www.voachesapeake.org/gregory-story) or scan the QR code.



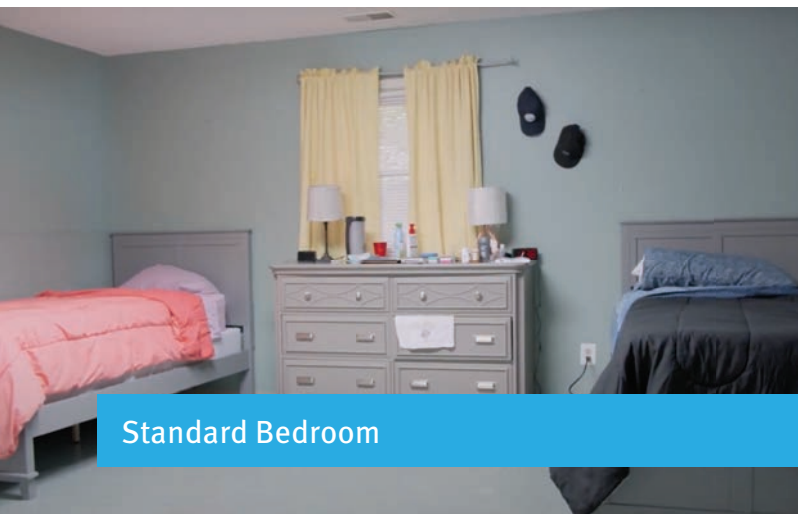
You could make a home like this for women.



Medical Exam Room



Living Room



Standard Bedroom



Medical Respite Bedroom

# A PROGRAM LED BY WOMEN, FOR WOMEN

Some of the key barriers and challenges that homeless women face include higher rates of victimization due to domestic and sexual violence.

**If you think that's bad, then this is the program for you.**

Homeless women are also at risk of poor health during their reproductive years due to a lack of preventive care such as prenatal, mammograms and other tests. They also often lack access to menstrual products. Also, in general, women often need greater care and time than men to recover and get connected to services. Therefore, they often need more intensive support and time to recover from a medical condition.

Here's how Hope Has A Home™ will be a game-changer for women:

- **Led by women, for women**  
An all-female staff of nurses, service coordinators and housing specialists will provide the full range of support vulnerable women need to heal and be successful.
- **Access to care women need**  
All medical services, including gynecology, prenatal, mammograms and other primary care services will be provided by Unity Health Care, our nonprofit medical partner.
- **Addiction support from those with personal experience**  
Women will receive help overcoming addiction from our trusted and trained peer recovery specialists who have lived experience with addiction and sobriety themselves.
- **Direct linkage to housing**  
Our nonprofit housing partner, Pathways to Housing DC, will ensure the women are placed into housing by the end of the program and remain housed.



Kitchen

## OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

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# HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By joining our campaign, you can give hope to women in need for years to come. We are fortunate to have AmeriHealth Caritas DC, Developing Families Fund, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and others to provide the funding needed launch the program. But only givers of hope like YOU can help us cover a \$50,000 gap needed transform the front and backyards of the program homes into spaces were residents can recreate, meditate, experience peace and build a sense of community.

## FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN OF \$2.25M

**\$2M**

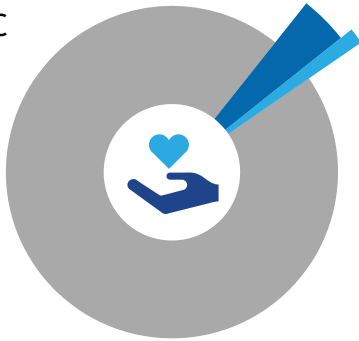
AmeriHealth Caritas DC

**\$203,122**

Grants & Individual  
Donations

**\$50,000**

Funding Gap



## GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

Become a Beacon of Hope to a woman in need by helping us reach our \$50,000 goal in donations. Donate now using the URL or QR code below!

[www.voachesapeake.org/give2women](http://www.voachesapeake.org/give2women)



### Please make checks checks payable to:

Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas  
Attn: Development  
4601 Presidents Dr., Suite 300, Lanham, MD 20706

## Other Ways to Give

Throughout the year, women in the program will need important resources like feminine hygiene products, fresh undergarments, toiletries, hair care products, clothing, and more! You can donate items directly to the program using our Amazon Wishlist!

### View our Amazon Wishlist:

[www.voachesapeake.org/hhah-wishlist](http://www.voachesapeake.org/hhah-wishlist)

### Please deliver items to:

Pia Hinton  
508 Kennedy Street, NW, Floor #2  
Washington, DC 20011

For questions, please contact **Dominique Scott** at [dscott@voaches.org](mailto:dscott@voaches.org).



# BECOME A SPONSOR

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By becoming a Hope Has A Home™ for Women sponsor, you will be joining our area's corporate and philanthropic leaders to provide critical funding needed to maintain the program beyond its initial start up phase. Please answer the call, so that more women can experience hope today and into the future.

## **Hope Grows Here Sponsor – \$10,000 (4 available)**

Funds the landscaping, outdoor furniture, and other amenities for the frontyard/backyard of one of the program homes.

- Verbal recognition from the podium at March 2024 ribbon cutting
- Opportunity to be included in program promotional video
- Dedication plaque at the program recognizing contribution
- Logo placement on program webpage
- Social media mentions

## **Path to Recovery Sponsor – \$7,500 (3 available)**

Funds one (1) medical respite bedroom, including medical beds, bedding, dresser, furniture, and other decor, for two women at the Phase 1 home.

- Verbal recognition from the podium at March 2024 ribbon cutting
- Dedication plaque outside bedroom recognizing contribution
- Logo placement on program webpage
- Social media mentions

## **Independent & Thriving Sponsor – \$5,000 (4 available)**

Funds one (1) non-medical bedroom, including beds, bedding, dresser, furniture, and other decor, for two women at the Phase 2 home.

- Verbal recognition from the podium at March 2024 ribbon cutting
- Dedication plaque outside bedroom recognizing contribution
- Logo placement on program webpage
- Social media mentions

## **Mind, Body & Soul Sponsor – \$2,500**

Funds the replenishment of medical supplies, food, toiletries, and beauty supplies for women in the program.

- Verbal recognition from the podium at March 2024 ribbon cutting
- Name placement on recognition wall inside program

## **Come As You Are Sponsor – \$1,000**

Funds welcome kits, including linens, clothing and personal computer for women entering the program.

- Verbal recognition from the podium at March 2024 ribbon cutting
- Name placement on recognition wall inside program



# SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

## Sponsor Information & Primary Contact

Organization/Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(As name should appear on recognition materials.)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Media Tags: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide any social media tags you would like us to use to promote your sponsorship)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## YES! I want to support Hope Has A Home™ for Women through the below sponsorship:

Hope Grows Here Sponsor - \$10,000

Path to Revoery Sponsor - \$7,500

Independent & Thriving Sponsor - \$5,000

Mind, Body & Soul Sponsor – \$2,500

Come As You Are Sponsor – \$1,000

## Billing Information

If paying by check, please complete form below and mail with payment to:

VOA Chesapeake & Carolinas Inc.

Attn: Development

4601 Presidents Drive, Suite 300

Lanham, MD 20706

Checks must be made payable to Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas.

Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CSC: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

To pay for your sponsorship online, visit [www.voachesapeake.org/give2women](http://www.voachesapeake.org/give2women).

## OFFERING A HELPING HAND – THEN & NOW

Volunteers of America is a national, faith-based nonprofit made up of over 30 independently operating chapters that collectively support, house, treat, and care for underserved communities across the country. VOA strives to fulfill the pledge of our founders, Ballington and Maud Booth, to: “Go wherever we are needed and do whatever comes to hand.”

At Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas, supporters like you have been helping us create **Healthy Communities for All** for over 125 years by aligning health, housing and human services. We actively pursue health equity by filling the gap in housing and care for underserved populations, including those who are homeless, low-income, underinsured or uninsured, justice-involved and veterans. Across Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas, we are the safety net for more than 10,000 men, women and children in need of housing and care each year.

We are proud of how far our communities have come and now look to our future, in the face of immense challenges plaguing our country. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate the need for low-barrier, wrap-around services that address the underlying issues impacting the homeless, especially the chronically homeless.

With your support opening the Hope Has A Home™ for Women program, more people in need will be able to access the integrated support they need to be well and thrive.



### Homeless Services

- Eviction prevention
- Shelters & emergency housing
- Transitional housing
- Financial assistance



### Housing

- Family & Senior Housing
- Veteran Housing
- Housing for those with disabilities
- Housing for those experiencing homelessness



### Mental Health

- Crisis counseling
- Peer support
- Medication management
- Child & family counseling
- Telehealth



### Substance Use Recovery

- Outpatient Services
- Opioid addiction treatment
- Medical respite



### Veterans

- Supportive Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment Resource Assistance
- Mental Health & Addiction Treatment



### Employment & Training Services

- Youth training & certification programs
- Adult literacy
- Job Placement



### Correctional Services

- Residential re-entry centers
- Job training & resource assistance
- Family reintegration



### Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

- Housing & in-home support
- Day programs
- Community integration