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New Housing for Homeless Families Opens in Takoma Park



Representatives from Whole Foods present gift certificates to the new residents.



County Executive Leggett speaks at the ribbon-cutting, joined by Councilmember Leventhal, and resident Theresa H.

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

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 Rockville, MD 20850
 (301) 217-0314 (301) 217-0824 Fax
 www.mcch.net
 mcch@mcch.net

We participate in the following campaigns:



United Way of the National Capital Area:
 MCCH #8569



Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area:
 MCCH #40234

Maryland Charity Campaign Code: 7185

In March, MCCH proudly opened more permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless families in our community. Coalition Homes, the development and property management affiliate of MCCH, opened a four-unit apartment building called Lockney Apartments in Takoma Park with the support of many partners from the public and private sectors.

The formerly foreclosed and vacant property now provides permanent, affordable housing for four families exiting homelessness. The project also provided needed reinvestment in the neighborhood. A wide range of people and organizations made this possible, including the Montgomery County Department of Housing & Community Affairs, the Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF) and Sunrise Home Builders. Sharan London, Executive Director, said that MCCH was “delighted

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A Sunny Celebration at ShelterWalk 'n Roll

The sun shined on *ShelterWalk 'n Roll 2010* on Sunday, May 2, and spirited and enthusiastic walkers filled the Square. So many supporters showed up that we ran out of t-shirts! All of the walkers raised awareness about homelessness during a very busy Sunday afternoon in Rockville Town Center. ShelterWalk was a wonderful opportunity to gather together with our partners and recognize how far we have come in providing services to those experiencing homelessness during this 20th anniversary year.

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Home First

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Partnership for Permanent Housing

Chandra Harris, *Program Director*
Karla Lawrence, *Assistant Program Director*
Marc Bowman, Maria Cueto, Lauren Harper, Esther Ihionu, Cassie Masters, Jerica Randolph, Jequiria Smith, David Yi

Safe Havens

Nili Soni, *Program Director*
Brenda Ames, Bernard Arulnathar, Charlene Bright, Kathleen Bryant, Cynthia Burley, Anne Chapin, Maria Cole, Lisa Cook, Jean Ekpenyong, Stephanie Everette, Lee Jansky, Theodore Lyles, Andrea McClellan, Tesfaye Mekuria, Jameelah Muhammad, Catherine Nzams, Velda Nzams, Mary Olisa, Maria Page, Juanita Reed, David Roberts, James Russ, Rosa Sorrell, Joanne Stubbs, Sharon Taylor, Vanessa Waldrop, Sandra Wallace, Rosemary White, Condola Williams, Lesa Wood

Seneca Heights Apartments

Alice Forcier, *Program Director*
Cynthia Rebholz, *Assistant Program Director*
Maame Addy, Sharleen Andrews, Viviana Aguirre-Torrico, Latavia Graham, Raymond Griffin, Yolanda Hilliard-Cuadra, Salvador Maldonado, Mario Lagman, Leigh O'Donoghue, Nora Parker, Benedicte Tshandiru, Jennifer Ward, Tiffani Williams, Clinton Wilson

Ways to Help

There are new and continuing ways to help those experiencing homelessness in our community. Our community outreach team is ready and eager to work with you. Thank you for your ongoing support of our programs!

School Supply and Holiday Drives

It seems that summer vacation has only just begun, but we are thinking about back to school time... and the tremendous amount of school supplies that families in our programs will need to make sure their children are ready to hit the ground running at the end of August. New backpacks, calculators, and sturdy notebooks are in short supply for these families. Groups may hold school supply drives for us during the summer and make a tangible difference for children experiencing homelessness.

We are also looking ahead to the holidays and will have wish lists from each of our programs available in the early fall. It is not too early to speak with us if you wish to be matched with a client or a program this season.

If your family, swim team, troop or congregation would like to hold a collection drive, please contact Teri Brenits at teri@mcch.net for more information on procedures, target dates for collection and items that are in short supply.

New Classes at Men's Shelter

We are interested in providing cultural diversity classes at the Home Builders Care Assessment Center. There is also a need for aerobics classes for the residents. Do you have skills in either of these areas? Please contact Teri Brenits at teri@mcch.net to discuss how we can work together.

Want to Help Others Learn More About Homelessness?

As part of our mission-focused commitment to public education about the issues of homelessness, MCCH leadership and staff spend a great deal of time in the community speaking to schools, congregations, scout troops and more. We'd love to speak to your group, so please contact Teri Brenits at teri@mcch.net to discuss how we can work together.

Letter from Board Chair Amy Williard



Dear Friends of MCCH,

I am so pleased to write my first letter as chair of the MCCH Board of Directors. First, an introduction. I was recruited to the Board of MCCH in 2007 due to my experience in the

financial industry. My focus has been on the fiscal health of MCCH in order to fulfill our mission - everyone deserves the dignity of a home. Over two decades, we have grown as an organization in the number of people we serve, the staff to administer to their needs and those in the larger community who fight for the cause. We are excited to open a new program soon – Cordell Place, in Bethesda, which will feature 32 units of personal living quarters, shared kitchens, four offices, a community room and up-to-date accessibility features.

As we endure these difficult financial times and make tough decisions to adjust our budgets to accommodate change, we still look forward to the challenge of ending homelessness. Our strength as an organization, and as a community, deepens our resolve to reach out to educate those around us to aid us in this cause. Judging by the wealth and breadth of support for MCCH through the years, you all have been our greatest advocates.

Our success is measured by how many homes we provide and how many people we serve with this advocacy. While our progress over the years has been remarkable, we know more can be done. And we need your help. I hope that you'll plan a Help the Homeless Mini-Walk or coordinate a school supply drive with your neighborhood or church. Maybe you'll hold a "friendraiser" at your home to benefit MCCH or bring a home-cooked meal for the men at the Home Builders Care Assessment Center. Maybe you'll increase your annual gift to MCCH. All are needed and appreciated.

In celebration of our 20th anniversary, we urge you to continue the hard work, to reach out to your friends, co-workers, family members, to draw on the strength we provide as a community and continue the success. My goal for this organization is a call to ACTION for our community. Know that we are forever grateful for your support. Visit our website, talk to our members, listen to the stories of the men, women and children who need this support. They are forever grateful, too. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Williard

"New Housing for Homeless" continued from page 1

to partner once again with the County and Home Builders Care Foundation to provide the dignity of a home to four more families as they exit homelessness." Local interior designers, the Decorating Divas, donated their design services and collected like-new items for the apartments. Whole Foods helped stock the pantries for the families.

MCCH was joined by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, County Councilmember George

Leventhal, and others at the ribbon-cutting event where a key was presented to the first resident, Theresa H., and her baby girl. "This



An interior of a newly renovated apartment.

project represents one of the many efforts we are undertaking in the community to implement a

Housing First strategy and move us closer to our goal of ending homelessness," said Leggett. Leventhal noted that this project resulted from the County Council's commitment to the Housing First approach and "to make sure that a significant part of our Housing Initiative Fund dollars are benefiting the very neediest in our community...there is a need to reduce the incidence

and prevalence of homelessness and to address those needs of people who have no other option."

Good News, Generous Community

100% Increase in Meals for Men's Shelter

We are excited to share that 73,000 meals were donated during the past fiscal year by community volunteers. This represents an increase of more than 100% over last year's donations! At the Home Builders Care Assessment Center, we serve three meals a day, 365 days a year, for up to 200+ men per day. We simply could not do this without your generosity. Not only have the meals become more frequent; they have become larger, more varied and more nutritious than ever before. Good nutrition is vitally important as clients work to stabilize their health and their lives, so please, keep these meals coming!



Church of the Redeemer members serve a meal at the HBCAC.

In addition to everyday meals, a number of wonderful groups provided special meals this year. Thanks to KidzCare, Farmland Families, Esmail Sedeghi, the Lewis family, and the groups organized by Debbie Veliz-Chopas and Joshua Chopas, all of whom donated meals for holidays and events like the Super Bowl. Anna Harbom and County Connections (a group of Montgomery County college and high school students) brought tubs of ice cream and toppings for an ice cream



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church dishes up delicious food for the residents.

party on a hot spring day. Please contact Jacqueline at jhavens@mcch.net or Amanda at amlewis@mcch.net if you would like more information or to schedule a meal.

A Busy Spring for Volunteers and Supporters

Many volunteers made a difference at MCCH during the spring. Volunteers ran the games, painted faces, and provided music at ShelterWalk 'n Roll in May. Thank you to KidzCare, Church of the Redeemer, Chesapeake Landscaping, and the North Chevy Chase Christian Church youth group led by Daniela Helton for helping us with landscaping projects at MCCH sites throughout the spring. Helena Myers-Wright researched new grant funding sources for us and Trudy Orgel and Harold Wilson assisted with important data collection.

Lindsey Capitelli, Shelbie Fishman, Sara Keller, and Emma Strauss held a joint twelfth birthday party and asked guests to make donations to MCCH in lieu of gifts. The girls delivered a generous cash donation, as well as gift cards, summer toys and sporting supplies for children in our programs.



Frank Hedgepath collected new or gently used shoes for his Bar Mitzvah in support of the Holocaust Shoe Project. He donated close to 100 pairs of shoes to the HBCAC.

We appreciate all of our volunteers!

Volunteers Matter at MCCH



MCCH volunteers mix and mingle with staff at the breakfast.

Volunteers from the community are vital to our work with those experiencing homelessness and we want to make volunteering with us a rewarding experience. We hosted our first volunteer meet and greet event on June 22nd. Everyone who attended had an opportunity to meet MCCH executive staff and fellow volunteers, to share details about their various volunteer positions, and to learn more about MCCH in general. Plus, we had a delicious breakfast and gave away souvenir MCCH mugs! We look forward to getting to know even more of you in the coming months.

We also introduced our first volunteer e-newsletter in May, with up-to-date news about MCCH volunteer activities and needs. If you would like to receive the e-newsletter or more information on volunteer opportunities (some are listed on page 2), please contact Teri Brenits at teri@mcch.net.

During his welcoming remarks, Montgomery County Councilman George Leventhal stated that the annual count of those experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County was down this year due to the increase in permanent housing including housing provided by MCCH. The JDN Band featuring Jack Worthington, Denise D'Amico and Neal Herron played a mix of crowd-pleasing rock. Meanwhile all ages enjoyed the face painting and snack table courtesy of Giant, Honest Tea and Whole Foods Rockville while the



Laura and Guy Cecala from Benefactor Inside Mortgage Finance join other supporters to lead off the walk.

kids played games and made some home-themed crafts. After the walk, Montgomery County Council President Nancy Floreen gave a message of support.

We are thankful to our sponsors who made the event so successful. We are especially grateful to our longtime benefactor for ShelterWalk, Inside Mortgage Finance Publications and Guy and Laura Cecala, who welcomed everyone and led the one-mile walk past stores and parks around Rockville Town Center.

Shelter WALK 'n ROLL

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- Honest Tea
- marked promotions
- New Wave Discount Beauty Supply
- Robeks Rockville Town Center
- Whole Foods Rockville

Thanks to our volunteers at SWnR:

Brittanie and Danielle Baughman, Gaby Boozer, Sophie Brenits, Jamie Brown, Edin Garza, Sara Grantham, Chad Griffiths, Kalia Jordan, Efrain and Sender Mendez, Elizabeth Pereira, Jessica and Stephanie Prussick, Katie and Gabby Spann, Allaire Tetrault, Katrina Young, and Helana Zagami.

Welcoming New Board Members

Three new members joined the MCCH Board of Directors and our mission this spring.

Ellen Copley, Executive Director at The Ellington Fund in Washington, D.C.; Craig England, founding partner and CEO of England & Company in Washington, D.C.; and Marty Evans, Manager of Procurement Operations at Bechtel National Inc. in Frederick, MD joined our work. We welcome all three of these outstanding community members to the MCCH family.

We would also like to congratulate several current board members on their new appointments: Amy Williard, Board Chair; Laura Cecala, Vice Chair; Jean

Hochron, Secretary; and John Cresham, Treasurer.

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating this group of community members who bring great passion, leadership and commitment to MCCH.



Ellen Copley



Craig England



Marty Evans

MCCH Joins Nonprofit Energy Alliance

An exciting development in MCCH administration took place this spring when we joined the Nonprofit Energy Alliance. The Alliance is comprised of twelve nonprofits, including MCCH, and was organized by Nonprofit Montgomery, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light.

The twelve participants use their collective purchasing power to not only secure competitive electricity supply at lower cost but to protect the environment. "We are proud to join this group of like-minded nonprofits to save energy and money and



to reduce MCCH's carbon footprint," said Sharan London, Executive Director. "We anticipate that using this alternative energy buyer will save us \$40,000 a year."

Our energy purchase is from Clean Currents, a leading independent green energy company providing affordable, renewable wind electricity. The contract is for two years and includes electricity for all Coalition Homes sites, Seneca Heights Apartments, Home First and Safe Havens houses, as well as our new site in Bethesda opening soon.

Investor Spotlight: Building Community The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

MCCH relies on a diverse array of funding support, including individual donors, government, corporations, and foundations. We receive program-specific grants which are critical to serve people in our programs but unrestricted, general support is vital in order to maintain our overall organization. That is why we were so pleased to receive a general operating grant last year from one of the region's foremost funders, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. The foundation is the largest private, independent, local foundation focused exclusively on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The Foundation is the legacy of Morris Cafritz, one of Washington's leading commercial and residential

builders from the early 1920's to the mid-60's. Since 1970, awards totaling more than \$338 million have been granted. Leaders in the DC-area funding community, Cafritz program staff participate at high levels in regional funding collaboratives, as well as issue-specific working groups.

MCCH was enormously gratified to receive this grant for operating support, which is so critical to community-based organizations such as ours. This funding allows us to maintain our range of housing and supportive services while also focusing on our efforts to ending homelessness in the community. We thank the Cafritz Foundation for their support!

Twentieth Anniversary Retrospective

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary this year, we are looking back at our accomplishments achieved with your support. In the spring newsletter, we gave an overview of our work in the 1980s and 90s. Here are highlights from the 2000s at MCCH.



montgomery county coalition for the homeless

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
1990 - 2010

In 2000, a major shift occurred in the organization's philosophy and its approach to addressing our community's housing crisis – we no longer sought to manage the problem of homelessness; instead, we became determined to effectively end it. This shift in perspective fostered an MCCH-led effort to develop a comprehensive ten-year plan to end homelessness in the County, leading countless community meetings and dialogues to assess system needs and to concentrate on the development of permanent housing options. In 2002, MCCH released *Homelessness in Montgomery County: Beginning to End*, a blueprint to house all county residents, which was quickly endorsed by the County Executive and County Council. This was among the first ten-year plans in the country and the first to be initiated by a nonprofit organization.

With the new emphasis on developing permanent housing, MCCH partnered with three other organizations in 2002 to launch Hope Housing, a permanent supportive housing program for homeless families and individuals with disabilities. Another important collaborative effort led to the creation of the Partnership for Permanent Housing, the county's pilot "Housing First" program, in 2003. Initially serving 50 households, PPH grew over the years, serving over 180 households in 2009. In 2004, MCCH, with a dedicated team

of community members, spearheaded the creation of Seneca Heights Apartments. A former motel located in Gaithersburg was renovated and is now home to 40 single adults and 17 families. This innovative housing has garnered numerous national and local awards.

MCCH's innovative approach to addressing our community's homeless problem continued in 2005 with the creation of Coalition Homes, Inc., an affiliate organization that owns and manages property providing permanent homes to formerly homeless families and individuals. Coalition Homes now owns 50 scattered-site units.

In 2007 MCCH launched Home First, which provides permanent supportive housing to 30 chronically homeless adults. In 2008, in an effort to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of permanent supportive housing, MCCH introduced the Creative Housing Initiative Pilot Project (CHIPP).



Home Builders Care Assessment Center

In 2009, the renovated Gude Drive Complex opened, which included a 3780 square foot addition to the Men's Emergency Shelter, now renamed the Home Builders Care Assessment Center, offering additional beds, new laundry, bathroom and shower facilities, two medical exam rooms, and a vocational lab. It also included the construction of another building that is home to Adrienne's Safe Havens and the administrative offices for MCCH and Coalition Homes.

“This is the story of a community responding”

A conversation with founder Reverend Adrienne Carr

One of our “Twenty for Twenty” honorees during this 20th anniversary year, Adrienne Carr was a driving force behind the inception of MCCH. She resides now in Vermont. We spoke with her about the beginning of advocacy and services for the homeless in Montgomery County.

How did things get started?

In the 1980s, homeless people started to appear on the streets of the County. Mental health facilities closed and many people had no place to go. There were also a number of Vietnam veterans suffering and families evicted from their homes. It really was rather like ‘there they are!’ It just began to be an issue in the community and the idea of people being outside in the winter really hit everyone hard.

What was it like in the beginning?

It was a unique time. People were letting their imaginations flow about how to serve people experiencing homelessness, children, people with mental illness.

There were so many wonderful people and organizations involved early on, including Mary Canapary, Priscilla Fox-Morrill, John Eckenrode, Charlie Eisenhauer, and people from Gaithersburg Presbyterian and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches, plus people I worked with at what was then Community Ministry of Montgomery County and Community Ministries of Rockville. They were the sparks that generated a lot of what went on back then. These people gave their hearts and souls to provide, first, a safe place for the homeless, and then, comprehensive ways to address their needs.

I have to say that early on, and it’s continued over the years, we were lucky to have a high level of support from the County government. I also remember that back then, it was easier to get Section 8 vouchers. But we found that people needed more support to succeed in that housing.

What about community support and otherwise?

There was definitely a lot of NIMBYism (Not-in-my-backyard) but also a great deal of support. Even

with neighbors who had anxiety about housing the homeless in their neighborhood, we had folks bringing meals and volunteering.

Any little opportunity for housing for the homeless—we just grabbed it! There were overflow shelters in congregations and we bussed people around. We followed dumps around, and by that I mean that several times houses and shelters were built on or near dump sites.



Tell us about the first big grant that MCCH received.

We had been talking constantly about getting a grant to serve both men and women with mental illness. We saw the grant announcement from HUD and just knew that it was meant to be. It was a real opportunity for us. We first opened a house in Laytonsville. The opportunities presented after we got the HUD grant were incredible. We hired [current Executive Director]

Sharan London to administer the grant and that was, as you know, a wonderful thing.

Any particular memories you would like to share with other supporters, both longtime and new?

During the winter storm of early 1996, Lynn Valcourt, John Eckenrode and I commandeered a bus and went around to parking garages in the County to bring people into shelter. We took them to County office building lobbies to make our point!

Another fond memory is of taking men from the Gude Drive shelter to “Homeless Day” in Annapolis. We had a great experience lobbying for funding for the homeless, complete with singing hymns.

Any final thoughts?

This is really the story of a community responding. County people, folks from Unitarian, Christian and Jewish congregations, all coming together to talk about unmet needs. First focusing on basic needs and then evolving to a more strategic focus... ‘what needs to happen next to best serve these folks?’ What we have now is fantastic.

It's Help the Homeless Time Again!

MCCH Ready to Work with Community and Schools to Raise Critical Funds

MCCH is proud that we were selected again as a beneficiary organization for the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless Walkathon and Mini-Walk program this summer and fall. Each year these walks are a very large part of our fundraising and public education efforts to end homelessness in our community.



Board Vice-Chair Laura Cecala, Executive Director Sharan London, and longtime supporter Corinne Stevens join thousands on the National Mall.

MCCH has already started to recruit walkers and host schools and organizations for Mini-Walks. It's an easy process of filling out a few forms and setting a date and we help you every step of the way. If your school, church, organization or business is interested in helping us reach our goal of 3,000 participants, let us know. This event is open to walkers of all ages so

parents join with your kids if you can and enjoy this rewarding experience.

There are a number of ways to support our Help the Homeless Activities. We know that there is something here that fits you or your organization perfectly!

- Designate MCCH by using agency code MD023.
- Join our MCCH walk team and meet us on the National Mall on November 20th.
- Personalize your own webpage through the Help the Homeless Website and upload e-mail addresses to your address book, e-mail friends and family to make a donation, and monitor your team on your fundraising success.
- Organize a Mini-Walk at your school, organization or business. See below for more information on Mini-Walks.
- Host a Denim Day at work to raise awareness and support walkers who might not be able to participate.
- Be a sponsor. MCCH can receive a sponsor incentive award by recruiting sponsors who make a financial contribution and for each of the top five sponsors recruited; MCCH will receive an additional 20% of that commitment.

For more information on any of these options, please contact John O'Brien at jobrien@mcch.net.

Help the Homeless Mini-Walks: A MCCH Tradition

More than 10 years ago, MCCH reached out to Fannie Mae to find a way to involve more youth in their annual Help the Homeless program. We knew that many more young people and their families wanted to support the homeless than those that took part in the Walkathon on the National Mall. Fannie Mae took our idea to heart and started the Help the Homeless Mini-Walk program at schools and congregations. These local walks have engaged thousands of people each year to raise awareness about homelessness and funds for our programs.

Last year we worked with wonderful parent volunteers and school staff on 18 Mini-Walks. We are looking for new schools and congregations to hold "mini's" before November 7. Mini-Walks are a great way to teach children about social issues and encourage

lifelong community involvement. Organizing one is easy. We would love to work with you!



Westbrook Elementary School students walk for the homeless at their successful 2009 Mini-Walk organized by volunteer Elizabeth Kirkpatrick and guidance counselor Randi Vogel.



Announcing the 4th Annual H.O.M.E. Conference “Helping Our Members through Education”

Thursday, September 16, 2010

8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

St. Rose of Lima, 11701 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg

The H.O.M.E. Conference offers a unique day of education, knowledge-sharing and coalition-building for homeless service providers and other community stakeholders.

Register online at www.homeconference2010.eventbrite.com by Friday, September 10.

MCCH members \$28

Non-members \$38

Please see our website www.mcch.net for more information on registration and payment options. CEU's will be provided for attendance at the entire conference.

MCCH thanks the following donors for their generous contributions.

MCCH is only able to include donations of \$100 or more made between April 11 and October 15, 2009.

All donors are truly appreciated, and each gift makes a real difference in lives of people experiencing homelessness.

Congregations/

Community Groups

Bethesda Jewish Congregation
B'nai Israel Congregation
Christ Episcopal Church
Congregation B'nai Tzedek
Covenant Life Church
Damascus United Methodist Church - Harwood House
Dayspring Church of the Savior
Episcopal Church of the Ascension
First African Methodist Episcopal Church
First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg
Global Mission Church of Greater Washington
Holy Cross Catholic Church
Interfaith Committee for the Homeless
Islamic Center of Maryland
Laytonsville Lions Club
Mill Creek Parish UMC
Millian Memorial UMC
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
New Hope Presbyterian Church
Our Lady of Grace Church
River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Salem United Methodist Church
Sisters of the Holy Cross
St. Francis Episcopal Church
St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. Mark Presbyterian Church
St. Raphael's Catholic Church
Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists
The First Congregational Church
Tikvat Israel Congregation
Trinity United Methodist Church

Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville
World Bank Community Connections Fund

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Mental Health Association of Montgomery County
Montgomery Alliance for Community Giving
Montgomery Avenue Women's Center
Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee
Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
Shepherd's Table, Inc.
St. Luke's House
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Community Foundation for National Capital Region
Freddie Mac Foundation
Home Builders Care Foundation
Keker Family Foundation
Neighbors In Need Montgomery Fund

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The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation
The Pettit Companies
Viragh Family Foundation
William S. Abell Foundation, Inc.

Government Agencies

City of Gaithersburg
City of Rockville
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Maryland Department of Human Resources
Housing Opportunities Commission
Maryland House of Delegates

Individuals

Joan A. Aebig
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Anonymous
Gloria Aparicio Blackwell
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