

HYACINTH'S PLACE - Finding a Way Home: FY 2014 Annual Report



**Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness Starting on the Path to
Independence**

A Note From Our Executive Director

**Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted
Is the most terrible poverty**

Mother Teresa.

We have completed yet another year of challenges and we are entering the fourth year of our work with homeless women who have a mental health diagnosis. We look to 2015 with more experienced eyes, hope and continued enthusiasm. The lessons learnt in 2014 have provided us with encouragement and the inspiration to continue our work. This past year brought us an even share of success & disappointments.



2014 was the year when the District of Columbia Mayoral candidate, Muriel Browser found the time to meet with us and listen to our concerns. It was the year Hyacinth's Place was featured on the National Broadcast Company (NBC) evening news for its work with the mentally ill. It was the year that Hyacinth's Place women distinguished themselves beyond our expectations. Ms. T, in her first year at Westwood University, was placed on the University's President's List and publically recognized for all A's in every subject. Ms. K recently graduated from our program and moved into her own new apartment that she shares with a roommate. Now this is reason to be proud of our work here at Hyacinth's Place. We are returning emotionally stable and productive women to the community and to society.

The doors of Hyacinth's Place have been kept opened by God's grace, our dedicated volunteers and a number of new and old committed funders. We continue to be disappointed in the lack of funding for mental health and although the issue of homeless continues to pervade our communities, the inner city and our streets, it is not claiming the attention it deserves. The charitable hearts that presented themselves at Hyacinth's Place on Mother's Day, Thanksgiving and at Christmas, full of warmth, gifts and good home cooked meals confirmed for our women there is goodness and happiness in giving and in receiving.

We welcome 2015 with hope of continued growth at Hyacinth's Place and hearts full of thanks for our supporters.

Urla Barrow
Executive Director

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A Place to Call Home.

Hyacinth's Place was honored to be featured as part of the NBC4-Washington *Changing Minds* series. The series is a yearlong effort to help

“WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ISSUES THAT BROUGHT THEM TO HOMELESSNESS. THE WOMEN ARE RECYCLING IN THE SYSTEM AND ADDRESSING THOSE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IS AS IMPORTANT TO US AS THE HOUSING.”

Urla Barrow,
Executive Director of
Hyacinth's Place

combat the stigma surrounding mental illness. To do so, the *Changing Minds* series shines a light on mental health awareness by providing education, information and hope.

As part of this effort, Anchorwoman Pat Lawson Muse visited Hyacinth's Place and met our Executive Director Urla Barrow and Dynise Coogler, a resident. Ms. Barrow explained that the purpose of Hyacinth's Place is to break the cycle of homelessness and start our clients on a path to independence.

Ms. Coogler told her story of redemption. She recounted how a few years ago she was homeless and battling schizoaffective disorder. “I would have a very high high (sic) and automatically go to a very low within an hour,” she said. She knew something was wrong and sought help from Hyacinth's Place. Fast forward to today, Ms. Coogler is doing well and feeling great. She now works part time as administrative assistant for Hyacinth's Place and writes award winning poetry to heal her mind, body, and spirit.

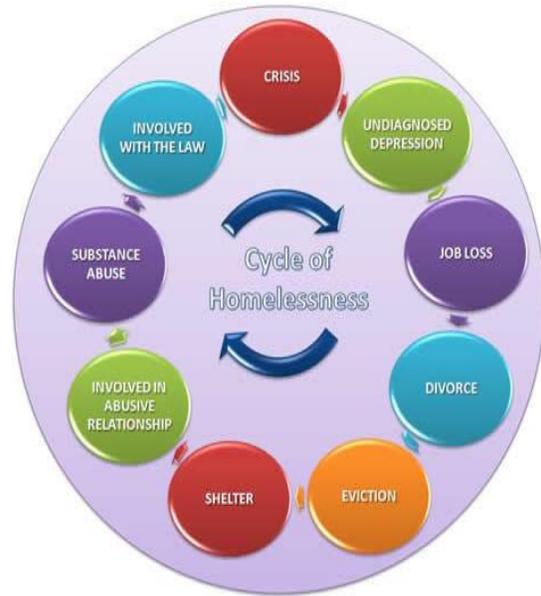


(Urla Barrow (HP-Exec Dir.), Tina X, (HP Resident), Pat Lawson Muse (NBC4 Anchor))

Our Services.

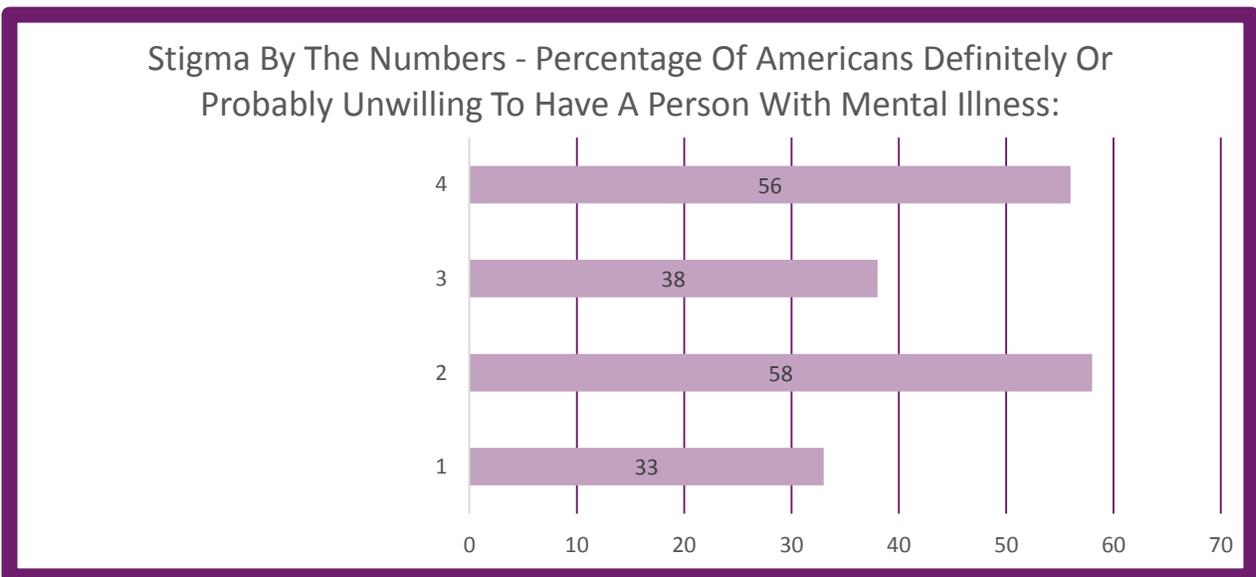
Our Goals.

We believe that every person should live to their full potential unhindered by the bounds of homelessness, mental illness, and stigma. To facilitate this process, we have two main goals. First, our goal is to break the cycle of homelessness for mentally ill women. To do so, we focus on the underlying roots of our client's homelessness. Without addressing these causes, clients cycle in and out of homeless shelters and friends' homes.



Our second goal is to reduce the stigma and prejudice that homeless persons with mental illness face. This goal is crucial because

stigma impedes our clients from promptly seeking services – they don't want to be seen as "crazy" or "one of those people." Stigma also becomes another hurdle for our clients to overcome as they seek to become independent. Employers are reluctant to hire those with mental illness and workers are wary of working with sufferers of mental illness.¹



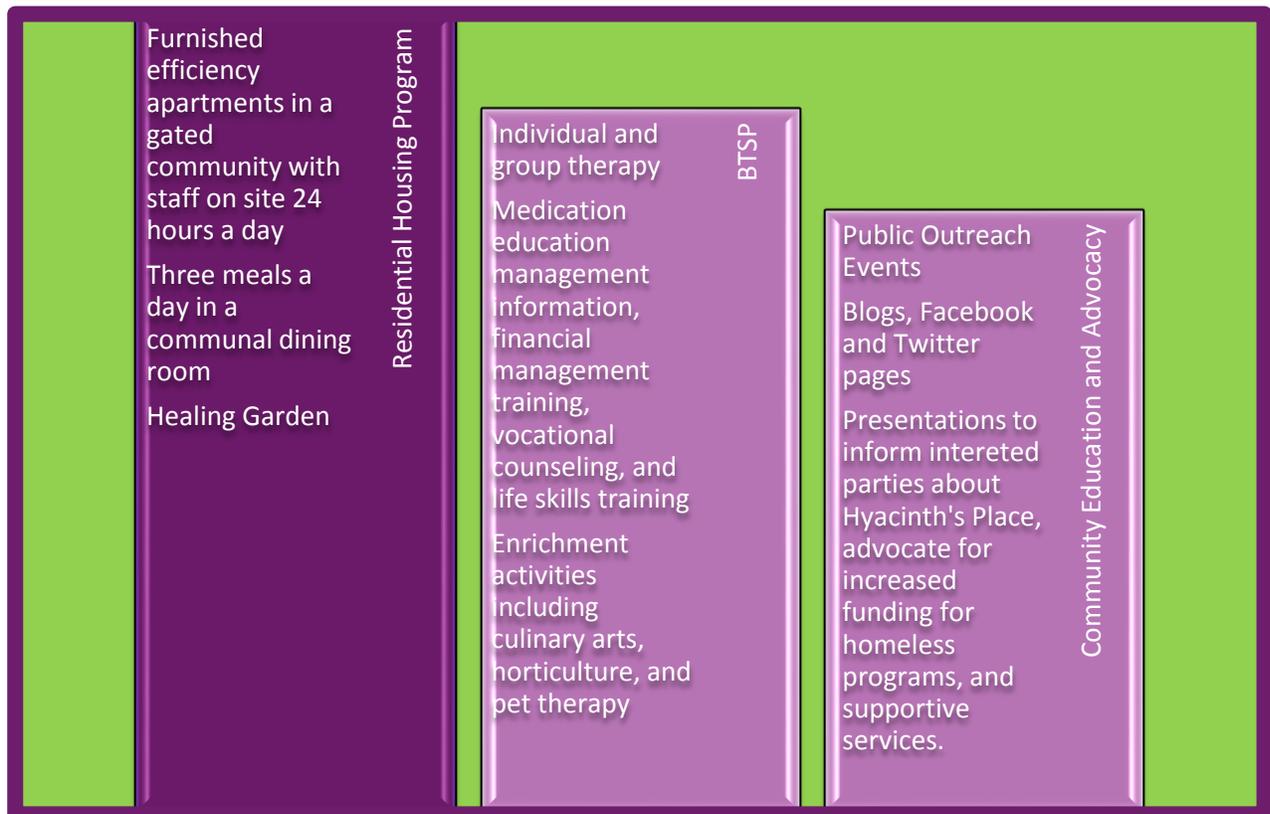
¹ (Dingfelder, S. *Stigma Alive and Well*, Monitor on Psychology, Vol. 40, No. 6. P.56 (2009))



Our Services

To achieve these goals, Hyacinth's Place provides three main programs. Our **Residential Housing Program** provides the necessary platform of safe, affordable housing so that our clients are able to focus on their emotional issues. Through, our **Behavioral and Therapeutic Services Program (BTSP)** clients receive the essential therapy and skills to assist them in becoming productive members of society despite their sustained histories of abuse and mental illness. Our **Community Education and Advocacy Program** is designed to combat the stigma associated with mental illness,

homelessness, and domestic abuse. As demonstrated by the graph below, these three programs provide services to our clients, their families, and the general community.



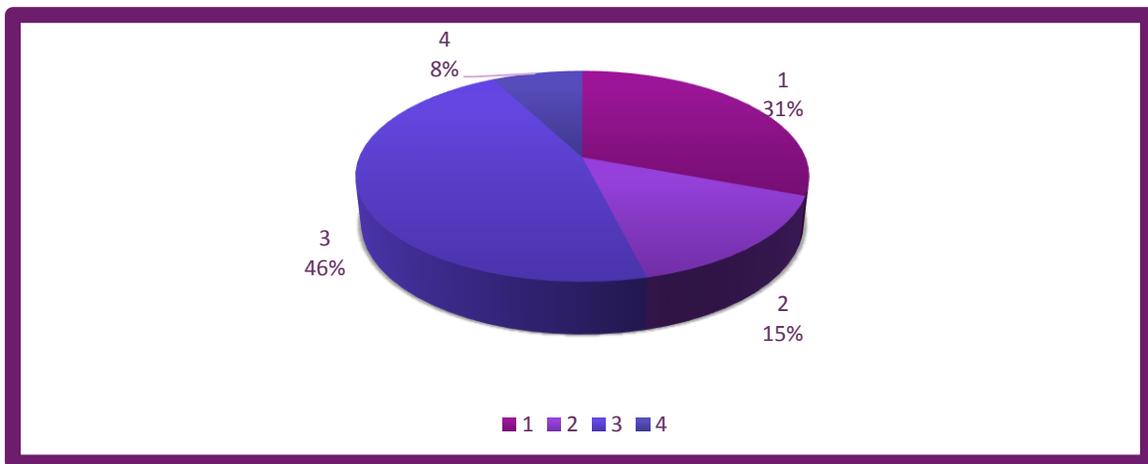
2014 Service Highlights.

Residential Facilities: Some highlights of this year are:

- Eight volunteer chefs cooked on site over 3,900 nutritious and delicious dinners for our residents.
- One Chef worked with the women to creation an herbal garden of basil, thyme, sage, rosemary, chamomile and mint.
- None of our clients have returned to a homeless state.
- With the exception of one of our residents, all of our residents were able to be treated for their mental illnesses outside of a hospital setting, thereby, significantly reducing medical costs for the District of Columbia.

The **Behavioral and Therapeutic Services Program** has thrived.

- As we end 2014, 61 % percent of our residents have become mentally stable enough to work and are either working part time or are in a vocational training program or school.



We provided over 2300 hours in therapeutic and enrichment services this year:

- over 1,352 hours of individual and group therapy
- 948 hours of substance abuse counseling
- 350 hours of financial management training
- 144 hours of pet therapy
- 260 hours of nutrition and culinary training
- 130 hours of horticultural enrichment activities
- 320 hours of medication education

The **Community Education and Advocacy Program** has blossomed. Some high points of this year include:

- Our Blog, Facebook and Twitter followers have doubled - increasing from approximately 130 followers to 288 followers
- Began a monthly electronic newsletter.
- Partnered, with other housing-rights organizations, and worked with lawmakers, to advocate for funding programs that will end homelessness in the District.
 - Presented information regarding our services and needs to Councilwoman (and now Mayor) Muriel Bower.
 - Urla, our Executive Director, and one of our ladies testified before the DC City Council regarding the need to keep \$100M in the budget for the DC Housing and Community Development, Productive Housing Trust Fund. It was this funding that helped to build Hyacinth's Place.



(Left to right- Vanessa Wellbery (HP-Govt. Rel); Joi Nolen (HP-Dev. Dir); Councilwoman (now Mayor) Muriel Browser; and Urla Barrow (Exec. Dir. HP))



(Dana at work in the Hyacinth's Place Library).

She Made the Dean's List!!

Dana has lived at Hyacinth's Place for two years. She struggles to walk the straight and narrow road. In spite of her struggles, the changes and transformation to her life, since being at Hyacinth's Place, are outstanding. She could not find employment after completing a national information technology training course with the highest grades and perfect attendance. Therefore, she decided to enroll in University and pursue an Associates of Arts Degree in Business Administration. Many nights as staff conduct bed checks at curfew (10 p.m.), Dana is at the computer in the library doing her research or homework. She studies in the dining area on her "off" days from school, with books and papers spread over the table. Well, it paid off. Perfect attendance and all "A" grades, she made the "President's List" her very first semester. Congratulations, Dana. We are proud of all your hard work!!

Opening Our Home:

FALL COMMUNITY EDUCATION & DINNER FUNDRAISER EVENT: "GIVING & GIVING BACK FOR A DAY...."

It was a wonderful 70 degree day with a cool breeze. Staff, volunteers and our women mingled in the garden while our volunteer, Chef Randy, prepared the "party wings" for sale. Others were below the balcony with our long-time southern volunteer who fried the fish the way "grandma" did.

As our colorful helium balloons floated overhead, people stopped and enquired. We told them that alleviating homelessness and addressing mental health was worth supporting. They left with one of our flyers on the support services we offer and a tasty dinner and we rang up the change.

We even impressed a funder who promises to match any amount of money we raised. So it is on folks, fried chicken with all the side orders (collards, mac & cheese; fries and potato salad) twice each month during the spring and fall. Please come out and support our efforts as we promote our work and raise the funds to assist in its implementation.



(Ms. Dynise C. Resident, Chef Randy, and Ms. Urla Barrow, Exec. Dir.)

"There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help."

-- Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9th District)

Our Finances.

Hyacinth's Place-IUL Balance Sheet (As of December 31, 2014)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
Cash-In-Bank M&T	2,609.33
Cash-In-Bank Operating PNC	293.02
Total Checking/Savings	2,902.35

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable-DCHA	75,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	75,000.00

Total Current Assets 77,902.35

Fixed Assets

Furniture and Equipment	169,747.99
Total Fixed Assets	169,747.99
Other Assets	
Other Assets	1,000.00
Total Other Assets	1,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS 248,650.34

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	42,141.00
Total Accounts Payable	42,141.00

Other Current Liabilities

Accrued	127,217.16
Line-of Credit M&T	20,976.54
Total Other Current Liabilities	148,193.70
Total Current Liabilities	190,334.70

Long Term Liabilities

Other Liabilities	30,413.21
Total Long Term Liabilities	30,413.21
Total Liabilities	220,747.91

Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets	45,028.97
Net Income	-17,126.54
Total Equity	27,902.43

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 248,650.34

How Do We Spend Donations?

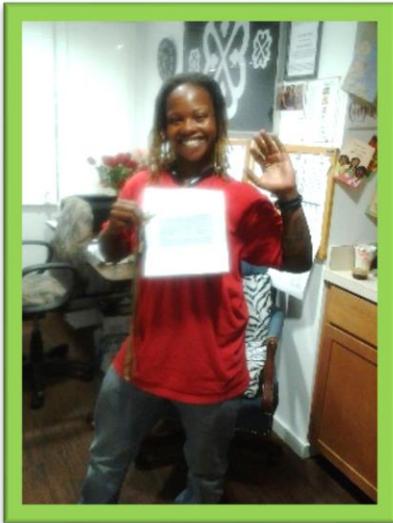
At Hyacinth's Place, we frugally use our monetary assets and we maximize the talent of our volunteers. For example, the majority of our fundraising and development work are performed by volunteers. In addition, a cohesive unit of volunteers and paid staff provide coverage 24 hours a day to answer our phone, provide support to our residents and man our reception area. Therefore, because of our efforts, very little is spent on overhead.

YOU CAN GIVE ONE WOMAN...

- A SmartTrip card for one week's commute: \$25
- Groceries for one week: \$20
- One week's electricity bill: \$30
- Cleaning supplies: \$25
- Groceries for one month: \$80

#GivingTuesday
www.hyacinths.org/donate

Her New Home.



(Ms. K with her new lease.)

We are pleased to announce that Ms. K recently graduated from our program and moved into her own new apartment that she shares with a roommate. When she came to Hyacinth's Place in 2012, she struggled with both physical and mental health challenges and needed a new beginning. While living at Hyacinth's Place, Ms. K. began to consistently take her medications. As she became stronger, she began to come into her own. We discovered that she is artistically gifted and that her dream is to own a hair salon. Recently, Ms. K moved into her own new apartment that she shares with a roommate. Congratulations, Ms. K. We are proud of all your hard work!! Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers who faithfully worked with Ms. K so that she was able to achieve her goal of independence. If you are inspired by her story, we need you to tell the story of Hyacinth's Place to your friends and family.

How the Cycle of Homelessness Is Broken



Our Volunteers Make Hyacinth's Place a Home.

Hyacinth's Place is not a building, it is a home filled with caring people united in achieving a purpose. We are thankful that our volunteers help make it a home.

In 2014:

- Our BTSP volunteers over 2,300 hours of service.
- Our Residential Program volunteers provided over 1,040 hours of service
- Our development and advocacy departments received over 500 hours of volunteer service.
- Our administrative section received over 312 hours of volunteer service.

We are truly grateful to them because their efforts have allowed us to provide a diverse set of services to our clients as illustrated in the chart below.



Our Future Plans.

Hyacinth's Place's future plans center around our financial sustainability; the growth of our therapeutic services program, the BTSP; and community education to reduce the stigma surrounding homelessness and mental illness.

Fundraising. This is a priority established by the Board of Directors because it is critical to the agency's growth. We will continue fundraising activities since this is an opportunity to earn revenue and allow exposure with unknown possibilities. Through our website, we offer our individual supporters opportunities to donate to our program and/or purchase a commemorative stepping stone for our healing garden. As part of our fundraising efforts, we host an annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance that is well attended by the community. We also gain funding through agreements with EBay, PayPal, and Amazon whereby Hyacinth's Place receives a small portion of the profits generated from sales to our supporters.

Community Education. Through publicizing the work of returning once homeless women to society, it is our intention to educate society about homelessness and mental illness. We will continue to provide these education opportunities through a variety of mediums including our monthly electronic newsletter; social media pages; events geared toward educating the general public; and positive media coverage.

Behavioral and Therapeutic Services Program. We intend to continually expand our Behavioral and Therapeutic Service Program to serve other mentally ill homeless women. This expansion will jump start our DC Department of Behavioral Health Housing Waiting List clients' quest for mental stability and prepare them to enter our residential program or other housing programs as soon as a vacancy arises. Finally, over this year, we will continue to refine our work according to the changing needs of women, the community and the workplace. We encourage you to stay in touch and help us as we continue to nurture and grow our home, Hyacinth's Place.

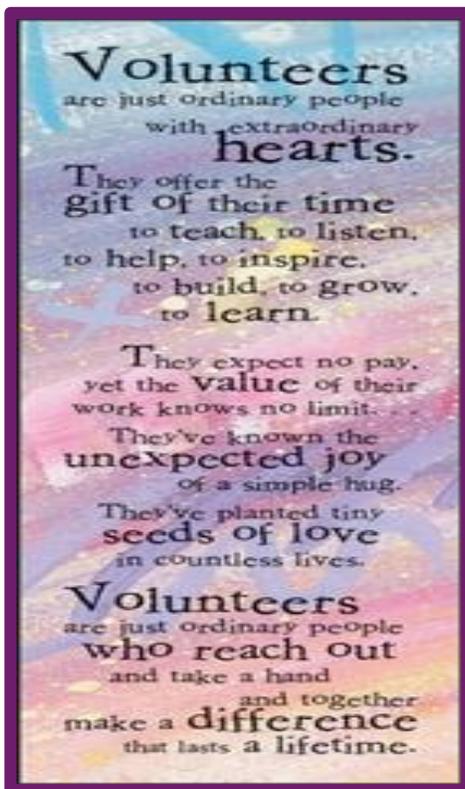


Our human compassion binds us the one to the other - not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.

-- Nelson Mandela (Former President of South Africa, Writer, Activist)

How You May Help.

Donate: Small or large, your donation will make a difference in the lives of our residents, from supporting a commute to work to providing a meal for a week. Your contributions help us pursue our goals. Because of our low overhead costs, you have the confidence of knowing that your contribution will go to help those most in need. All contributions to Hyacinth's Place are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donate monthly through our automatic deduction program or donate your spare change – every little bit helps. See if your employer provides matching funds if you donate thereby maximizing your donations. <http://hyacinths.org/donate.html>.



(Artwork by Cary Heath; Verse by Kimberly Rinehart)

Provide material or in-kind donations such as gifts and services that are non-monetary. Hyacinth's Place accepts donations of food, clothing, bed linen, towels, and certain furniture items. For more information on where and what to donate, please contact Hyacinth's Place Executive Director or Development Coordinator at (202) 618-3344 or fax (301)494-5219.

Donate your time. Become a volunteer! There are lots of ways you can donate your time and talents. In particular, we have volunteer opportunities in our Hyacinth's Place Behavioral and Therapeutic Services Program, Residential Program, Community Outreach, and Administrative Services.

Join our Network. Learn more about efforts to eradicate homelessness and the stigma against mental illness. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, sign up for our electronic newsletter, and read our blog.

Tell your friends! Spread the word about our program on social media. Join us in speaking out against the stigma surrounding mental illness and increasing community

awareness on issues affecting homelessness and mental health.

Our Leadership Team

Board Members

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Grantson (President)

Caryl Bryson (LCSW) (Board Member)

Dr. Charles Howard, PhD (Social Work) (Board Member)

Tamarah Teixeira MA:NCC:LPC: LCPC – Clinician (Board Member)

Dr. Kweku-Muata (Board Member)

Mr. Darren D'Ateno (Board Member)

Laura Ehlepp (Board Member)

Our Key Staff Members

Ms. Urla Barrow, Executive Director

Ms. LaTonia Davis, Assistant to the Executive Director

Mr. Gaster Hunter, Financial Manager²

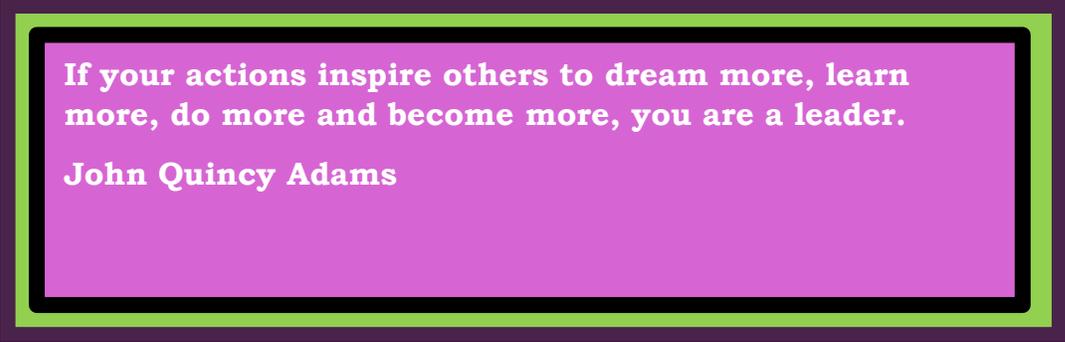
Ms. Carolyn Byars, Behavioral and Therapeutic Services Clinical Co- Manager

Ms. Jenna Casey, Behavioral and Therapeutic Services Clinical Co- Manager

Ms. Joi Roberson Nolen, Development Coordinator

Ms. Vanessa Wellberry, Government Relations and Advocacy

Ms. Deitra Jackson, Web Site Developer and Manager



If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams

² Hyacinth's Place is independently audited by Romano & Mitchell, Charter.

Our Partners

Organizations and Foundations

- | | |
|---|--|
| Anchor Mental Health | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America |
| Capitol Area Food Bank | Ewing Foundation |
| Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations | Green Door |
| Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development | Hillcrest Children & Family Center |
| Community Connections District of Columbia | Idylwood Presbyterian Church |
| Department of Behavioral Health | Life Stride |
| District of Columbia Housing Authority | MBI |
| District of Columbia Rehabilitative Services | McClendon Center |
| District of Columbia State Mental Health Planning Council | My Girlfriend's House |
| Effie Barry Foundation | Washington Hospital Center |
| | Behavioral Health Services |
| | Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless |
| | William S. Abell Foundation |
| | Women of Saint Albans District of Columbia |
| | Workforce Investment Council |

THE BENEFIT OF PARTNERSHIPS

Financial institutions, the corporate world and civil society - all must uphold high standards of probity in their working. Only a genuine partnership between the Government and its people can bring about positive change to create a just society.

-- Pratibha Patil

Individual Donors

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Dr. Christeen Allen | Mr. Aubrey Charles | Ms. Rose Hacking |
| Ms. Lisa Parks-Balogun | Ms. Linda Clark | Ms. Sylvanita Hendricks |
| Ms. Joan Barrow | Ms. Juliet Cole | Ms. Graciela Howell |
| Ms. Alexis Barthlett | Mr. Femi Cole | Ms. Judy Simon-Inniss |
| Ms. Claudette Johnson-Berry | Ms. Betty Cottrell | Ms. Sandra D. Johnson |
| Mr. and Mrs. Rashleigh and Carol Brown | Ms. Ann S. Daniels | Ms. Christine Jones |
| Dr. Kweku-Muata Osei-Bryson | Mr. Bart Epstein | Mr. Aubrey Kubetin |
| Ms. Annette Campbell | Ms. Veronica Eyenga | Ms. Elda M. Lambert |
| Mr. and Mrs. Garry and Pansy Carter | Ms. Judith H. Ewing | Ms. Camille McKenzie |
| Ms. Regina Cash | Drs. Judy and Edward Fisher | Ms. Susan Morris |
| | Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Grantson | Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan and Leslie Nesbitt |
| | Ms. Ellie S. Grantson | Ms. Aishar D. Pinnock |
| | | Ms. Yamina Pinnock |

Individual Donors continued

- Ms. Wilma Pinnock
- Ms. Janet Rehnquist
- Ms. Gwendolyn Rucker
- Ms. Kevi Shadding
- Rev. Kendall B. Summers
- Ms. Tamarah Teixeira
- Ms. Mairead Viegas
- Ms. Jearsel Watson
- Ms. Arlene White
- Ms. Cristina Young

Volunteers

- Ms. Carolyn Byars
- Ms. Jenna Casey
- Ms. Beth Ceryak
- Ms. Debby Deliezer
- Ms. Stephanie Edwards
- Ms. Randy Fullard
- Ms. Rose Hackett
- Mr. Christopher Harrison
- Mr. Benjamin Hirschman
- Ms. Deitra Jackson
- Mr. Kelly Jamerson
- Ms. Julia Moore
- Ms. Joi Roberson Nolen
- Ms. Shadoe Williamson
- Ms. Sandy Ogunfolu
- Ms. Quantina Pringle
- Mr. Mika Rautainen
- Mr. Anna Roblin
- Ms. Katherine Greeson-Schappert
- Ms. Diane Tafazoli
- Ms. Sophie Trick
- Mr. Shaan Wade
- Ms. Vanessa Wellbery
- Ms. Ebony Wilder
- Ms. Kay Williams

Contact Information.

Hyacinth's Place,
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1060 Bladensburg Road, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Tel 202-618-3345
Fax 301-494-5219



Website: www.hyacinths.org

Who was Hyacinth?

Hyacinth's Place is named for Viola Ernestine Barrow, aka Hyacinth, a teacher who believed that education, hard work, and sacrifice were the ticket out of poverty.

Hyacinth raised, and taught many children throughout her life and opened the doors of her home to those in need.

Her desire to provide shelter and care to those who need it lives on today in Hyacinth's Place.



Viola "Hvacinth" Barrow