



HOMELESS NOT HOPELESS

HYACINTH'S PLACE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Hyacinth's Place

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

From The Desk of The CEO _____	3
Ten Years of Service _____	3
COVID 19 _____	3
Hyacinth's Way _____	3
Campaigning for the Cause _____	4
Mental Health and Covid _____	5
Diane's Story _____	6
A Friend to the End _____	7
Fun in Fundraising _____	8
From Old to New _____	9
A New Beginning _____	10
The Whirlwind Around Us _____	11
Our Board _____	12
Our Donors _____	13
Financials _____	15



FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

Friends, Donors, Board Members & Staff

First, please accept my gratitude and appreciation. As I ponder of what to say that can really express how truly grateful I'm feeling, a very humble song came to mind...." Wind Beneath My Wings". I say to you all "You are my hero", we could not have achieved such accomplishments thus far without your support and dedication and would not be able to continue our work with the homeless mentally ill without your commitment. To each of you, please accept my sincerest gratitude. To those who donate, thank you for all of your time, talents and treasures. A special thanks to the Board of Directors, who continually gives me the strength and motivation to continue on, and lastly to the staff of Hyacinth's place whose dedication was unconditional, please know you have made a difference in the lives of women who needed what you offered.

In 2011 when Hyacinth's Place opened its doors, we did so knowing there were going to be challenges ahead if our program was going to grow and fulfil its mission. These challenges were never insurmountable largely because of the kindness and generosity of others. We approach this New Year complete in the knowledge that our good work will come to fruition because of the benefits to so many deserving individuals.

This New Year marks our 10th year of service elevating the quality of life for homeless mentally ill women, drawn from all corners of the District of Columbia. This journey has been a wonderfully complicated and unforgettable experience. Over this time, we have worked with a variety of women whose circumstances and dreams dispelled myths about this population. Our success is measured by the number of women who were reintegrated into the community and who have been able to remain out of the cycle of homelessness.

Gentrification in the nation's capital, prior to COVID 19, was one of the main contributing factors to homelessness. However, with unprecedented loss of employment due to the pandemic, there is every reason to assume there will be an increase in the homeless population. Currently, the women of Hyacinth's Place who have attained their goal of emotional, financial and vocational stability, are unable to leave the program for lack of affordable housing in the wider community of the District. For this and a number of other reasons, IUL-Hyacinth's Place Board of Directors have embarked on a project to increase the affordable housing units the organization can offer to those graduating our program and other special needs population e.g. the elderly, veterans and the physically/mentally disabled. This project is called "Hyacinth's Way" and will be located in Ward 8 of the District of Columbia.

We ask for your continued support.

Urla Barrow
Chief Executive Officer

10 years



*"Solve the problem, or leave the problem.
Do not live with the Problem"*

Campaigning the Cause

Social problems are considered difficulties which affect groups or categories of individual, they can include homelessness, child abuse, bullying, and hunger. The purpose of social change, through social policies, is to address inequalities or gaps in welfare service delivery that will help improve the lives of those that are affected by those social problems that keeps them at a disadvantage. A decline in

affordable housing, loss of rental assistance and decrease in personal income growth in the 1980 brought about the beginning of widespread homelessness (American Planning Association 2020). According to the State of Homelessness: 2020 Edition, for every 10,000 people in the United States, seventeen of them, roughly 56,7715, experienced homelessness in January 2019. These statistics are used to gauge the severity of homelessness within a certain jurisdiction. The District of Columbia (DC) for example, where affordable housing for low-income residents and the homeless is almost non-existent, is among those with the highest rates reported, 93 out of every 10,000, a startling fact in contrast to the current state of city revenue growth. Cities like The District of Columbia, New York City and Boston whose rate of homelessness is 2.7 times higher than any other city, are subject to right-to-shelter laws that pledges accessibility to shelter of a given quality. However, this approach may not be the best cost-effective method to guarantee housing (State of Homelessness in America 2019). The fundamental caused of homelessness varies from demographic to demographic to include a lack of resources, low income, history of incarceration, severe mental health, and a history of substance abuse. According to a report by the 2018 homeless point-in-time count, severe mental illness makes up 20% of the homeless population and those suffering from chronic substance abuse makes up an additional 16% (HUD 2018).

Mental Health & COVID

Over the past year, just hearing the word “COVID,” evokes fear, anxiety, stress, visions of hospitalization, isolation and possibly death...Now imagine you are already struggling with trauma, depression, paranoia and all those factors that characterize mental illness. This is the challenge for the women of Hyacinth’s Place, during these most uncertain times.

Similar to so many, the adjustments to the “new normal” had to be rapid. These challenges brought out the best in the staff in spite of curfews, and restriction our staff at Hyacinth’s Place recognizing the critical need for support to the residents during these frightening times and did not waver. As well as members of the Board of Directors who supplied our PPP on a consistent basis, but also encouraged friends and family to do the same.

As we progress beyond the initial shock of this pandemic, we have learnt lessons that will allow us to fight whatever this disease produces in the months ahead of us. Our policies have constantly changed and will continue to do so, in keeping with the CDC requirements and the effects of congregate living. We recognize the need to move the organization and our residents into the virtual world of communication. We take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the individual donors who have made financial contributions to assist us in doing so and we encourage others to get involved in our continued fundraising efforts through our website, Hyacinths.org, our Facebook page; Hyacinth’s Place and on Patreon; www.patreon.com/HyacinthsPlace/posts



DIANE'S STORY



Self-described as “a big girl” Diane is confident in who she is, but as she admits, this title comes with its difficulties. Not only dealing with her mental illness, as a result from her self-proclaimed title, Diane also has to contend with concerns with her physical health, diabetes, high blood pressure, degenerative bone problems affecting her spine and knees. Diane came to us through the re-entry program after servicing 15 years, she was an extremely angry young woman. Diane, one of six children whose mother was slowly succumbing to an autoimmune disease, grew up in the DC area where survival of the fittest was the norm. In spite of the hand she was dealt, Diane made it clear that her immediate goal was to earn her high school diploma. During the first year of residing at HP, Diane not only took full responsibility of her mother’s health care ensuring that all her appointments were met, she also registered for and attended classes for her high school diploma. Despite her struggles; personal, financial and emotional, she remained persistent and dedicated to her mother’s health care and as well as her studies. Diane graduated with her High School Diploma on time, she was beyond “ecstatic”. As all the ladies hugged and congratulated her as she smiled from ear to ear and stood tall and proud. As a show of our support, Hyacinth’s Place throw Diane a huge celebration with all her favorite dishes and lots of gifts. Diane’s accomplishments were noted and she was placed on the housing list with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to transition into independent living, her very own one-bedroom apartment within the wider community. Her drive did not stop there, her next goal was to enroll at the University of the District of Columbia to become a certificate “Nursing Assistant” and that she did! Facing another challenge amidst COVID Diane tragically and unexpectedly loses her younger brother. Standing as the family pillar, Diane knocked on every door of her community, and visited every Church in her community until she was able to collect enough money to give her brother a decent homegoing ceremony. In September 2020 when the Government re-opened for business, an appropriate apartment was identified for Diane. As she packed to move out of Hyacinth’s Place, I gathered the staff and ladies to let them know that “hard work and dedication does payoff”.

Diane: A woman with a kind heart who is prepared and determined to face the challenges of life.”

A FRIEND TO THE END



Once in a lifetime, if you are fortunate, will you have the chance to meet somebody who epitomizes kindness ... in its purest form. Hyacinth's Place was that lucky. One year after opening our doors a threatening letter with an astronomical bill was received from the District of Columbia Tax & Revenue office, who holds the power to dissolve an organization.... particularly when you are a small non-profit. While pondering our recourse, we received notice that our property was being published for tax sale by the District Government. Now, pondering has given way to absolute panic. The Board President guided me to the DC Pro Bono Bar Association who steered me to one of DC's most reputable Law firm that specializes in taxes. This is where I met Jim. Our first meeting was memorable. He was very pleasant and such a calm demeanor. He listened, he was reassuring and he promised to help Hyacinth's place. Over the next year, Jim and his team addressed all the formalities and opened a Binder with the DC Department of Tax & Revenue. They worked diligently keeping me informed of every significant development. I felt safe with Jim at the wheel. The hard work of his team, if billed could never have been paid by this organization. Years of work culminated in a request for the DC Council to approve a Bill that would waiver this fee to allow the organization to continue its work with the homeless mentally ill. As the Attorneys worked, I met with Jim less frequently. We spoke by phone and almost a year passed before I saw him again. Once again, we had a good conversation and I am so glad I had the opportunity to tell Jim how grateful the organization was that he had dedicated his time and skills to saving this it. This was the last time I saw and/or spoke with him. Jim was a friend to this organization and played a significant role in allowing our doors to remain open. It really was a shock to learn of his passing. He will be missed and remembered by a grateful Board of Directors, staff and residents.

FUN IN FUNDRAISING

You must believe in the mission for which you are raising funds because fundraising can be challenging. Who wants to consistently ask friends, family, colleagues and at times perfect strangers for their money? Whichever way you twist it, turn it or flip it, asking for financial donations is an uncomfortable task for most people. So, we invent a variety of ways to ask the public to support “good causes”. We’ve ran marathons, staged dinner parties, balls, concerts etc. and exhaust ourselves in an effort to execute “fundraisers”.

Effective fundraising sometimes comes from a personal place. If your life’s experience or that of somebody close, mirrors an organization’s mission and you can relate to the goals of that organization, then it becomes easier to embark on fundraising with energy, no inhibitions and genuine interest. This is when the flood gates of ideas open.

The Members of our Fundraising Committee are women who are putting the “fun in fundraising”. In 2019 in the midst of all the unbelievable changes worldwide, our fundraising committee said, “let us do a fundraiser on “What Crazy looks like”. This was the beginning of putting the fun in fundraising. We drew artists’ rendition of this theme from California to New York. We attracted poets from various states and enjoyed an evening of music, laughing and sharing.

In the age of the “New Normal” please join us as we “SIP FOR A CAUSE” with our virtual wine tasting fundraiser. In Honor of our ten years of service to the community and the homeless mentally ill, we are staging a fundraiser each month for the next ten months. Currently we are asking the public to donate \$1 and ask ten other people to donate \$1 each. Next month we will give you tips which will help you to mentally rejuvenate through



“Mindfulness with Tamarah”, as well as hosting dinner with us as we partner with Boston Market for an affordable and tasty dinner. These are just a few fundraisers we have in store for you. Please follow us on www.hyacinths.org and on Facebook as well as <https://www.patreon.com/HyacinthsPlace/posts> to put the “fun in fundraising”.



From the Old to The New

Final Word from Our Outgoing President



For the past three years I had the privilege of serving as President of the Board of Directors. When asked to describe my presidency in two words, the thought springs to mind “do more.” I wanted to “do more.” I wanted the Board to “do more” and I wanted Hyacinth’s to “do more.”

With that desire to “do more” I worked with the Board to establish a Board Donation so that Hyacinth’s could count of a minimum Board contribution of \$10,000 per year. We created various Board committees to increase board member involvement and activism. Broadening our fundraising outreach, we established a fundraising group at Howard University, held happy hour events with local businesses and held a visual and vocal performance fundraiser that introduced new donors to Hyacinth’s and could become an annual event.

Of course, I want Hyacinth’s to do more. We were able to purchase land that will become “Hyacinth’s WAY”. At completion it will offer over 50 affordable homes which will ensure Hyacinth’s continued financial viability and be a safe place for its residents to call home.

To Kweku, our new President, my humble advice is to do what I did not, focus. There are amazing

opportunities around every corner but with your leadership to keep us focused, we can make the most of each opportunity and continue to help Hyacinth’s bloom.

A New Beginning

From the President- Board of Directors:

I am Kweku-Muata Osei-Bryson. I am a founding member of the Board of Directors of Hyacinths Place (HP), and after serving as Board Vice-President was elected in December 2020 as Board President. Previously I served as a volunteer in the Urban Prayer Breakfast Program of the Third Street Church of God, Washington, DC from 2004 - 2007. Professionally I currently serve as a Full Professor of Information Systems at Virginia Commonwealth University, and have also served at universities in the Caribbean and Africa.

Both my professional and volunteer endeavors are motivated by the desire to use my skills and knowledge to contribute to the human development and living situations of others. My continued involvement with Hyacinths Place is because it has a similar motivation, and its CEO & other staff, volunteers and board members have consistently over the years displayed levels of commitment in the use of their time, talents, and treasure to the human development and living situations of the HP residents that is both humbling and inspiring.

From the Vice President- Board of Directors:

I have served on the Board of Directors for Institute for Urban Living (IUL)-Hyacinth's Place for a little over two years, and was recently elected to serve as the Vice-President of the Board of Directors. I began as a volunteer at Hyacinth's Place. I was drawn to the organization because of the solid person-centered approach to serving the residents, with the goal of ending the cycles of incapacitating mental illness that contribute to chronic homelessness and unhealthy, unsustainable coping mechanisms. When I was recruited to serve on the Board I saw it as another way to support the mission and vision of IUL. I am exceptionally honored to serve as the new Vice-President, particularly at this time as IUL gets closer to realizing its goal of expanding to include Hyacinth's Way, and enabling more people to have safe, stable housing. The women of Hyacinth's Place continue to get needed support and nurturing to move towards long-term stability. I have no doubt the residents of Hyacinth's Way will benefit from the same nurturing and care.

The Whirlwind Around Us:

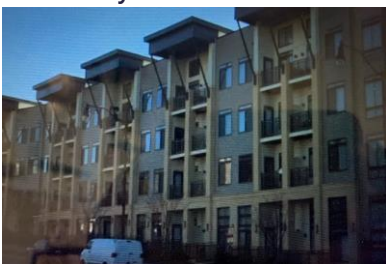


Twelve years ago, when the Institute of Urban Living purchased a plot of land on Bladensburg Rd. to construct Hyacinth's Place, the pictures below is an accurate reflection of the immediate community. The completion of construction of Hyacinth's Place herald incremental improvements in the immediate community which has now grown to a whirlwind of reconstruction from one end of the Bladensburg corridor to the other. Progress is always good. Gone are the days when the women of Hyacinth's Place sat on the balcony and watch the drug dealers hide their packages in the tall grass at the back of our

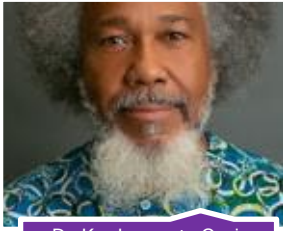
building and the police chase that ensued. That tall grass which was our responsibility along with the Methodist church next door to keep cutting, has been replaced with two beautiful high-rise family homes. The ally always strewn with garbage and the neighborhood dumping ground for everything is now the garage entrances for a number of new homes that line the area. There is still a great amount of work to be done to improve our immediate community, but change is coming to Bladensburg Road NE.



Not only is the construction of a Walmart promised to the immediate community, but a number of the new construction appears to be mixed income housing. It is our intention to develop a partnership with this housing complex for placement of some of Hyacinth's Place's graduates.



Our Board



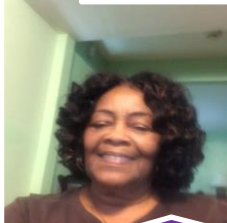
Dr. Kweku-muata Osej-bryson
President



Michelle Batchelor
Vice resident



Oke Anyaegbunam
Treasurer



Ann Daniels



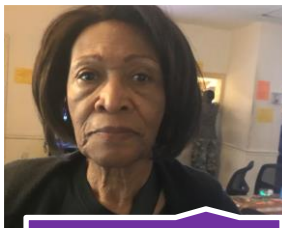
Teresa Ferrante



Derin
Abass-Teniola



Rev. Dr. Jaylene Chase-Sands



Barbara Gross



Tamarah Teixeira



Laura Ehle
Secretary



Our Donors and Partners

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them - John F. Kennedy

IUL-HYACINTH'S PLACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

NANCY BECKAVAC

DEITRA JACKSON

ROBERT LYNN

DR COLIN RYAN

HALLET SMITH

ANNE BADER

RESHESA DELOATCH

BARBARA GROSS & FRIENDS

Thank you



The Institute of Urban Living, Hyacinth's Place

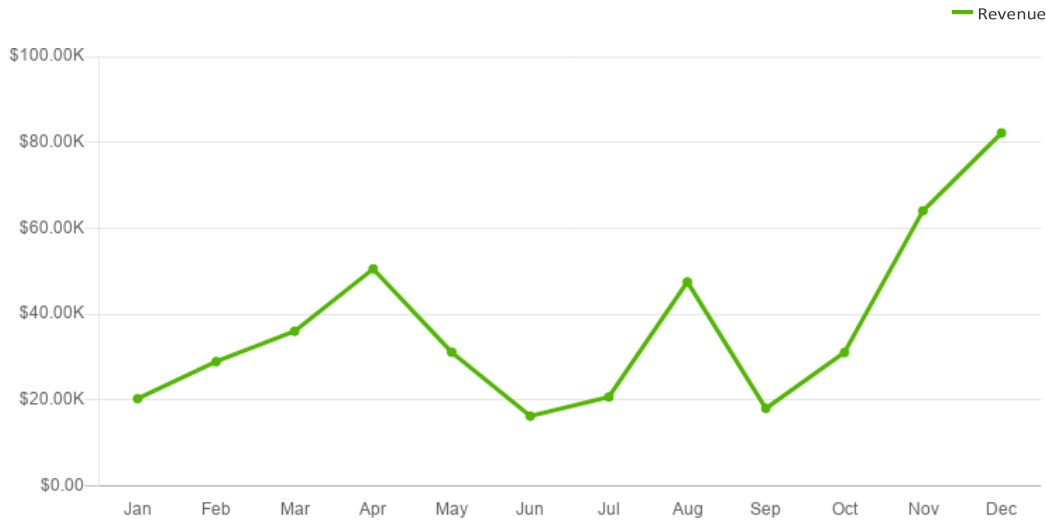
REVENUE OVER

TIME 2

Last year

\$446,815.74

Total revenue



Time period	Revenue
Jan	\$20,320.90
Feb	\$28,947.11
Mar	\$36,026.57
Apr	\$50,541.24
May	\$31,140.09
Jun	\$16,263.25
Jul	\$20,716.62
Aug	\$47,510.45
Sep	\$18,060.62
Oct	\$31,056.62
Nov	\$64,051.65
Dec	\$82,180.62

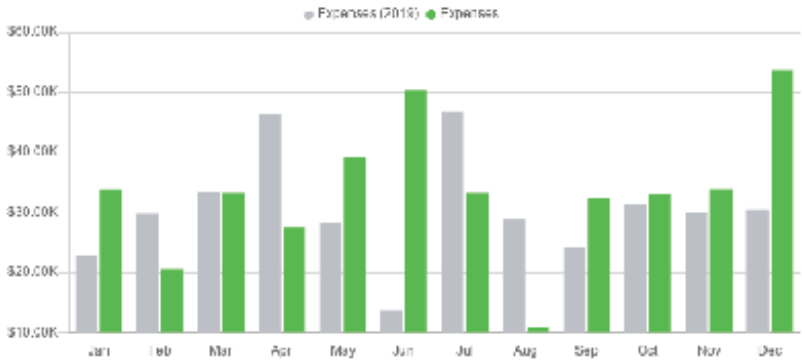
Accounting method: Accrual basis

The Institute of Urban Living, Hyacinth's Place

EXPENSES BY TIME
Last year

\$402,105.51

Total expenses



Time period	Expenses (2019)	Expenses
Jan	\$22,724.87	\$33,912.87
Feb	\$29,828.83	\$20,628.78
Mar	\$33,512.79	\$33,273.40
Apr	\$46,390.91	\$27,555.85
May	\$28,401.95	\$39,230.32
Jun	\$13,755.70	\$50,400.33
Jul	\$46,875.52	\$33,267.32
Aug	\$28,815.19	\$10,917.39
Sep	\$24,256.08	\$32,401.42
Oct	\$31,440.48	\$32,995.05
Nov	\$30,069.03	\$33,934.06
Dec	\$30,508.94	\$53,588.72



THANK YOU